

# **The Children's Emergency Shelter** **2017 Annual Report**



**The Children's Emergency Shelter allows our kids in crisis the opportunity to "Just Be Kids!"**



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# letter from the executive director

## 20 Years of Shelter from the Storm

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It's hard to believe the Children's Emergency Shelter has been in Fort Smith for the past 20 years. During that time, we have served more than 3,700 children in crisis. It's exciting to see the different ways we've evolved and the new programs we've added, but the basic need of caring for children still exists. This past year alone we served more than 200 children who were removed from their homes by DHS due to abuse and neglect. Foster children in these situations are often referred to as "invisible children," but our community did not allow our children in crisis to go unseen. The contribution of time, money, and supplies from each and every one of our donors, volunteers and board members allows us to meet the needs of every child that walks through our doors.

Increased community support has allowed us to do more. In addition to the warm beds and hot meals we have always provided, we can now buy new shoes and clothes for each and every child. We used to have to give them used clothing and make do with what we had on hand, but now they get to shop for brand new outfits that not only fit them physically, but also fit their individual personalities. This year we spent more than \$3,000 on back-to-school clothes alone - from the mall, y'all! Words cannot describe how excited and proud our kids are to wear their new clothes.

In October 2016, we expanded our mission and implemented an independent living program, GetREAL24, to rally around the children that have "aged out" of the foster care system. We purchased a 24-unit apartment complex to provide these young adults with safe and stable housing while they learn life skills. Budgeting their finances, helping them buy their first cars, finding jobs, and enrolling in college are just some of the ways we have helped them on their journey to become contributing members of society. The program provides them with something perhaps even more important than any of these things...HOPE...hope for the future when the people who were supposed to love them continually failed them. The support from mentors, sponsor families and volunteers in this program gives the residents in GetREAL24 the potential to thrive.

We have been fortunate to have received some special recognition for our efforts over the past several months. We were awarded the Best Local Nonprofit for the Times Record "Best of the Best" and we were named "Nonprofit of the Year" by Arkansas Business. We received a grant from Tyson Foods for the third straight year that covers our entire food budget, and we celebrated our 5th Annual Havana Nights, which was also nominated at the Best Annual Event by the Times Record readers. This recognition sheds light on the compassion and generosity of this community. We are simply the community's mechanism of providing care to these children who are in State custody due to no fault of their own. Thank you for your continued support and for being a part of our team. We are excited to see what the next 20 years will hold for the Children's Emergency Shelter.



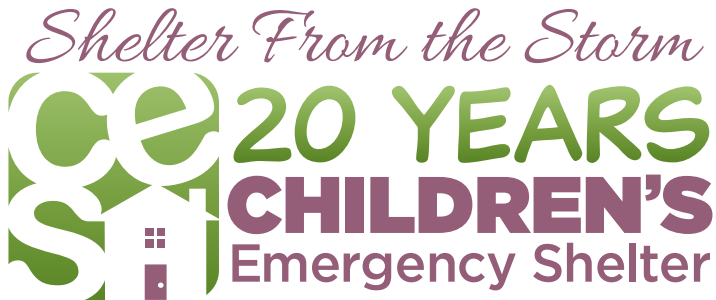
Sincerely,

Executive Director Jack Moffett



# 2017 shelter statistics

## 3,752 children served since 1997





# GetREAL24

## Independent Living Program

**6 current residents, 11 residents served**  
**3 female, 3 male residents**  
**4 successful mentor pairings**  
**2 sponsor family pairings**



**Counties served: Sebastian, Faulkner, Washington, Randolph, Logan & Perry**

**Jobs aquired:**  
**Sales Associate at Abercrombie & Fitch, Walmart**  
**Cook at Sparks, KFC, Covington Court**  
**Shop Assistant at Jim Grizzle**  
**Receptionist at Fort Smith Medical Center**



**\$35,000 in UAFS scholarship money**

**1 residents enrolled at UAFS**

**2 high school graduates**

# UAFS

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS - FORT SMITH





# 2017 highlights

## Arkansas Business 29TH ANNUAL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

### Nonprofit of the Year awarded by Arkansas Business

Since 1988, Arkansas Business has honored the state's top executives, small businesses and nonprofits with the annual Arkansas Business of the Year Awards. Readers make nominations and an independent panel of judges selects the winners. The CES was awarded "Business of the Year" due to its hard work and expanded mission, GetREAL24, which is an independent living program designed to support foster children that have "aged out" of the system.

### Tyson Foods, "Happy Plate" Food Program

Many of our children are food insecure, but thanks to a \$50,000 grant from Tyson Foods, we will be able to serve more than 40,000 meals. Our *Happy Plate* food program allows us to serve our kids 5 meals a day, have fresh fruit available at ALL times, the children can help prepare meals, learn kitchen basics AND we are able to take the kids out to eat. Tyson Foods team members from Van Buren, Fort Smith and Waldron also went above and beyond to paint the exterior of our shelter as part of their generosity.



### RLI Partnership & Support

As one of Havana Nights' featured supporters, RLI sponsored 6 children during the average stay of 22.5 days as well as provided the underwriting support for the event's online auction. RLI is also the premier sponsor of the shelter's 20 year anniversary - raising \$20,000 for 20 years - by sharing the CES mission and rallying support from their vendors and business partners. RLI is a national provider of unique 3rd party logistics solutions including specialized transportation, warehousing and distribution, and management of pallets, containers and other recyclable shipping materials.

### First Christian Church Remodels GetREAL24

First Christian Church spent 60 days and approximately \$4,800 this summer completely renovating 3 GetREAL24 apartment units. Team leaders, Dan Marshall and David Williamson, organized 25 core volunteers to make the makeover a success. Renovations included new carpet, updated backsplash, fresh paint, bathroom updates and new carpet donated by a community member. The church created homes to support our young adults in GetREAL24. Once renovations were complete, the congregation returned to bless the apartment complex, the program and all of its young adults.





# outreach

## 5th Annual Havana Nights

Our 5th annual Havana Nights raised more than 1/3 of our annual budget to support our kids in crisis! We partied with a purpose and were able to fully fund 117 children for the average stay of 22.5 days at the shelter and this year we also raised support for 2 residents in our GetREAL24 program. Thanks to United Federal Credit Union for their continued support and for all of our underwriters and sponsors.

*Save the date for next year's Havana Nights - June 2, 2018!*



## River Valley Corporate Challenge

**"Where work comes to play!"**

The River Valley Corporate Challenge gives corporations the opportunity to work together through a series of athletic events that promotes inner office teamwork, business networking, and community awareness for the Children's Emergency Shelter and the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club. Presented by United Federal Credit Union, the Challenge takes place in the spring and includes 11 games ranging from dodgeball, flag football, pool, and bowling. All proceeds benefit the CES and the FSBGC.

## Body Tailors "Push-up for a Cause"

Quickly becoming a favorite among those that like a challenge, the BodyTailors "Push-up for a Cause" event encourages people of all ages and fitness levels to rally around the mission of the CES by pushing themselves to the limit for 1-minute. To raise money for the CES participants are encouraged to solicit "per push-up" sponsorship pledges from co-workers, friends, and family members. From 24 cents per push-up to \$10 per push-up, the partnership that Body Tailors and their clients have provided the CES has help raise almost \$20,000 in two "push-up for a cause" events.



## Community Strikes Back

With the support of the Commissary Kiwanis Club and presenting sponsor, First National Bank, the Community Strikes Back bowling tournament welcomes bowlers of all ages and skill levels to participate in "striking out child abuse." Teams consist of 4 bowlers with 3 games played tournament style. Whether you come for the bowling or to snap a picture with the Strom Troopers, the Community Strikes Back is an opportunity to give back in a family friendly environment. All proceeds benefit the CES.



# donors & volunteers

## the WHY behind their support

**"Our family is passionate about supporting organizations like the CES that fulfill our biblical mandate to care for children in their times of need (James 1:27). We are so thankful for the CES and the love and compassion they show to our community's children when their worlds are turned upside down. We truly believe we are helping the CES staff to be the hands and feet of Jesus by supporting their mission!"**

**- Melissa Eckart & Family, CES donors**

**(Our kids know them as the family that brings the "good cereal")**

**"After working with foster children for many years,**

**I realized the only way we would ever break the cycle and slow down the number of children entering foster care, was to meet the needs of young adults leaving the foster care system.**

**Through volunteering with GetREAL24 and serving on the CES Board of Directors, I have had the opportunity to offer these young adults experiences that will lead them to a stable and healthy adulthood where they can create the families that they missed as a child."**

**Rita Young, CES board member & GetREAL24 mentor**

**"The Children's Emergency Shelter is a great organization. Run by caring individuals that provide a needed service for our community."**

**- Sammy Fiori, CES Donor**

**"Yesterday, our middle daughter spent the day alongside my husband and his team painting the children's shelter. The shelter houses up to 24 kids at a time. It's a locked facility that provides shelter and care for kids that have been removed from their homes due to neglect or abuse.**

**This experience really impacted my daughter, and she was still tearful last night as she recounted her day. My daughter's world has been changed overnight. She has seen the world in a different light. She has seen why volunteering is so important.**

**'Do you think they know Jesus?' she asked me last night.**

**'Hmm, I don't know. But I do think they saw a glimpse of Him in you today.'"**

**- Millie Meyers, OK Foods family member & CES Volunteer**

# board members

## board of directors

Chuck Stanick- President  
Cheryl Anderson- Vice President  
Rita Young- Secretary  
Lianne Forsey- Treasurer  
Brent McGruder  
Tina Meek  
Kayla Moschner  
Mark Schluterman  
Captiles Vick  
Rodney West  
Jennifer Yaffe  
Devan Engster (JLFS Liason)



## foundation board

Sam Terry- President  
Kerri Taake- Vice President  
Megan Goins- Secretary  
Heather Ketter- Treasurer  
Brian Delung  
Allyn Donaubaauer  
Josh Kilgore  
Tammy Jo Nolan  
Noel Sanger  
Sam T. Sicard







**The Children's Emergency Shelter provides shelter and care in a safe and structured home-like environment for children age 6 to 17 who have been removed from their home by the Department of Human Services due to abuse and/or neglect.**



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**Arkansas Business**  
**29TH ANNUAL**  
**BUSINESS**  
**OF THE YEAR**





