



CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY SHELTER

2018-2019 Annual Report



May 5, 1995

The Emergency Shelter Community Board held its first meeting at the FSM Chamber of Commerce.



July 25, 2003

The Reynolds Foundation awards \$25,000 and the CDBG awards \$50,250 for improvements to the CES.

June 2009

The CES averaged 17 children each day, with the majority of the residents ranging from ages 10 to 14 years old.

November 2010

Gerdau Macsteel funds and installs new playground area, including fencing, pavilion picnic tables, swing set, slide and climbing apparatus.

July 2015

GetREAL24 is established with a mission of equipping foster youth, ages 18 and older, with life skills needed to successfully transition into adulthood.

August 2018

CES awarded Angel in Adoption.

February 1, 2019

CES dedicates flag pole to Major General Charles W. Harris, USAF.

January 17, 1994

Junior League of Fort Smith (JLFS) conducts a feasibility study for an emergency shelter.

September 9, 1996

The mission statement of the CES is approved.

November 1, 1997

Children's Emergency Shelter opens; takes in first 5 children.

March 28, 1998

1400 South Boston is purchased. The children's playground, pavilion, and the CES Foundation office are currently located on this property.

May 13, 2004

Ami Curry is hired as the Social Services Director.

January 21, 2010

Title I funds are used to purchase 16 laptops, and to hire a second after-school tutor.



2017

20th Anniversary Celebration; more than 3,752 children have been provided a safe home at the CES.

November 5, 2018

GetREAL24 is awarded \$240,000 through the AHP Federal Home Loan grant, endorsed by Simmons Bank.

October 1, 2019

CES becomes a Q RTP (Qualified Residential Treatment Program).

LETTER FROM THE

Executive Director

The Children's Emergency Shelter (CES) name is very descriptive of the organization's purpose for the last 22 years. We shelter children on an emergency basis. That mission will soon be simplified to "We shelter children."

For twenty-two years, our beds were reserved for children ages 6-17 in the custody of the Department of Human Services (DHS) to be placed with short notice for a short period of time. The placement was limited to 45 days in a 6-month period, with the length of stay averaging about 25 days for the last few years. Limiting the amount of time a child could stay here ensured that beds did not become permanently occupied by children who were difficult to place in foster homes. This increased the likelihood that a bed was available when DHS needed it on short notice.

The beginning of the end of this long-standing emergency shelter format occurred in February, 2018 when Congress passed the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). The purpose of this new law was to force the child welfare agencies in each state to lower the number of children placed in shelters, and federal funding for foster care was restructured to ensure this objective was met. There was a lot of uncertainty about how the FFPSA would affect the CES, but what we knew for sure was that funding from DHS for emergency shelter services would go away.

What we now know is that the FFPSA created a new shelter format called Qualified Residential Treatment Program (Q RTP) and we are in the process of changing to that format. This new format is for longer-term care, up to 12 months, for children ages 10-17 in the custody of DHS who cannot successfully be placed with extended family or in a foster home. We understand this new format will present new challenges for us, but it also allows us to address a huge area of need that we have been unable to address as an emergency shelter.

Every single child that is taken into DHS custody has experienced trauma. The process of being taken into care itself is traumatic. Because of the very nature of emergency shelters and the short lengths of stay, providing counseling to the children we serve was not feasible. We worked with Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center (WACGC) on a number of occasions attempting to streamline the paperwork necessary for treatment consent to provide therapy to our kids. By the time the paperwork was completed, the kids were soon-to-be or had already been placed elsewhere. The Q RTP format is structured so these traumatized children can get the help they need on a long-term basis. CES has contracted with WACGC to provide the treatment element of the Q RTP, while CES will provide the residential piece, allowing each of our respective agencies to do what we do best. The bottom line is that our kids need therapy, and now we can provide it for them.

The FFPSA also requires that every organization providing Q RTP services be accredited. We are currently seeking accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). This is a lengthy, arduous, and expensive endeavor, but we expect to receive our CARF accreditation in October, 2019.

As you can imagine, all of these changes have resulted in an extremely challenging year for the CES staff. What has not changed, though, is the Children's Emergency Shelter's mission to shelter abused and neglected children. Our need for this community's support also has not changed. Due to the need for higher staffing ratios, our million-dollar annual operating budget will increase to about \$1.4 million. Our contract with DHS for Q RTP services will cover about a third of that amount, so fundraising will continue to be imperative for the CES to sustain. I want to thank all of our supporters because we depend on your generosity, which will allow us to continue to fulfill our mission of serving the children of this community.

Sincerely,



Jack Moffett





Our Mission

- ➔ "The Fort Smith Children's Emergency Shelter provides shelter and care, in a safe and structured home-like environment to area children ages 6-17 who have been removed from their home by the Department of Human Services due to neglect and/or abuse. In addition, the CES has expanded its mission to include an independent living housing program, Get REAL 24, for foster youth ages 18 and older who have "aged-out" of foster care."
- ➔ Allowing kids in crisis the opportunity to "just be kids!"

\$1,600

CES cost to care for each individual child for an average stay of 21.3 days

Over 200
new pairs of shoes *that FIT!*

\$12,651.52 spent on new clothing and shoes

20,000 Miles on Our Van

to extracurricular activities, back-to-school trips, to and from school, doctor appointments, and more

189

Children called the CES their safe home

\$5,700

on Christmas gifts and Christmas trip to Branson

2,600

Loads of laundry

\$23,218
on utilities

32,000
Meals served

350
Lifeskills Classes

Education & Training

- ➔ Tyson Foods provided a fundraising scholarship for Ms. Ashley to attend a continued education course at the Lily School of Philanthropy [#Tysoncommunities](#)
- ➔ Director of Operations, Ms. Ami, attended CARF training. The CES set a goal to become CARF accredited in efforts to advance and improve the quality of care and standards provided to our children each day.
- ➔ The CES Safety Committee created an emergency procedure plan and trained the CES staff.
- ➔ Ms. Ami became a CPI instructor for Non-Violent Crisis Intervention and trained the CES staff. This new training taught prevention and deceleration strategies towards aggressive and violent behavior, and how to take appropriate measures to avoid, decelerate, and/or de-escalate crisis situations. The CARE, WELFARE, SAFETY, AND SECURITY of our children and staff will always be top priority! (CPI- Crisis Prevention Institute).

2018 Highlights

CES was awarded the "Angels in Adoption" award

on behalf of Senator John Boozman and the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI). Angels in Adoption Program has a tradition of celebrating the extraordinary efforts of individuals, couples, and organizations who work tirelessly to advocate for children in need of a family.

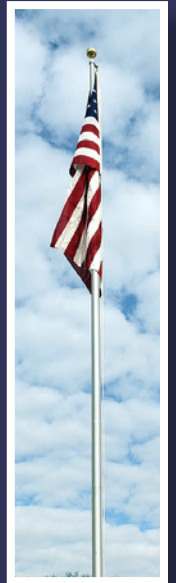


Joshua Rinehard received his Eagle Scout after constructing a pergola for our GetREAL24 residents.



The CES installed a flag pole and monument dedicated to Major General Charles W. Harris.

The project was funded by RLI Services and constructed by Forsgren Inc. Boy Scouts from Troop 2316 assisted the Color Guard from Robert Jack VFW Post 1322 in posting the colors and raising the flag at the dedication.



Senator John Boozman was in attendance, Pastor Sean Sloan of Harvest Time gave the Invocation, and the retired members of the 188th Fighter Wing ("Old Guard") attended the dedication in memory their Commander.



Happy Plate

Tyson Foods continued support of the CES by funding "Happy Plate" food service program.

The CES is the chosen philanthropy of the Zeta Rho Chapter of Kappa Alpha Order at UAFS.

These gentlemen dedicated hundreds of hours having cook-outs and playing sports with our children, as well as volunteering at fundraisers like Havana Nights and Sip Shop Support.



The youth group from St. Paul United Methodist Church planted a Dogwood tree in memory of our sweet Ms. Christine.

Christine worked for the CES as a Direct Care Staff member for over 8 years. She was dedicated to her job, improving her community, and providing love and hope in children...(Christine Hardin, May 16, 1959-December 11, 2018)



Back to School trip to Magic Springs

"Taking the kids to Magic Springs Theme and Water Park was a blast! Several of them have never been to an amusement park or even been on a ride. We screamed, laughed, and smiled ear to



ear. Being able to give them such a fun-filled day and leaving with many happy memories made it 10x better! That is one of the things that I love best about working at CES; being able to give kids some moments of happiness and fun that they may not have ever known."

— Scottlyn, Staff Supervisor

Riggs CAT continued to be a dedicated partner of the CES.

In 2018, they gave their time painting the interior of the CES home, detailing the vans, working in the flower beds, hanging Christmas lights, and donating the funds needed to take our kids on a Christmas trip to Branson.





Lifeskills



GR24 equips foster youth, ages 18 and older, with life skills needed to become self-sufficient, contributing citizens by providing a long-term housing solution, resources and relationships to assist their successful transition into adulthood.

Weekly lifeskills classes are taught in the form of 16 categories: Finances, Money Management, Job & Career, Permanence, Education, Self-care/Health, Housing, Transportation, Community/Culture, Social Life, Home Life Skills, Legal Issues, Recreation & Leisure, Cooking, Personal Hygiene, High Risk Behavior, Time Management.

Voted the favorite life skills class by the residents, Ms. Lisa Woffor (RN) and Crystal Lougin (Therapist) from Sparks Health System taught CPR under the important topic of Self-Care and Health. #GetREAL24 #Adulting

Our GetREAL24 residents learned all about maintaining their vehicles at Rath Auto Resources.

A special thank you to Chad Goff, service manager for Meineke Car Care Center in Fort. Smith and Springdale, Michael Stahl, Business Development and Marketing Director, and Larry Rath for teaching our residents and for your continued support of the CES. #GetREAL24 #Adulting



Can you feel his EXciTeMeNT???

After mock interviews with GR24 Program Coordinator, Ms Autum, including resume prep, dialogue, interview follow-up, counting change, and having the proper documents prepared, Carlos got a job at Malco Theaters!



First Grad & New Journey

Amber is our first GetREAL24 graduate. Amber joined GetREAL24 in August 2017 and during her time she received her Medical Assistant certification, purchased a car through our car loan program; successfully applied, interviewed and accepted a job at an assisted living facility, and was approved for a rental home down the street from her mentor. "My last court hearing was today, I am officially done with Foster care. Sad to say it's bittersweet because it's all I've ever known, but it's time for my new Journey."

100% of GR24 funds is from private donations and grants. No federal or state funds.

235 foster youth in AR aged out of care last year.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT FOR GR24 in order to help young adults break the cycle, defeat the odds, and become successful contributing members of society.

Funding Sources

Special Thanks to:



Outreach

HAVANA Nights 2019

With devastating flooding throughout Fort Smith, including the Riverfront Park and Amphitheater, the Havana Nights committee chose to proceed forward with hosting the 7th annual event, and secured a new venue only 72 hours before the event. The event hit record attendance levels of over 750 people, and raised over \$75,000 more than previous years in gross revenue.

This Community Is INCREDIBLE!



Community Strikes Back Bowling Tournament

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 Storm Troopers, the Community Strikes Back is an opportunity to give back in a family friendly environment. All proceeds benefit the CES.

Sip. Shop. Support.

Along with presenting sponsors, First Security Bank and Orr Chevrolet, the CES hosted its first Sip Shop Support fashion show at Hardscrabble County Club. The evening included shopping, cocktails and dinner, fashion show, and raffle from Newton's Jewelers. Over \$17,000 was raised.

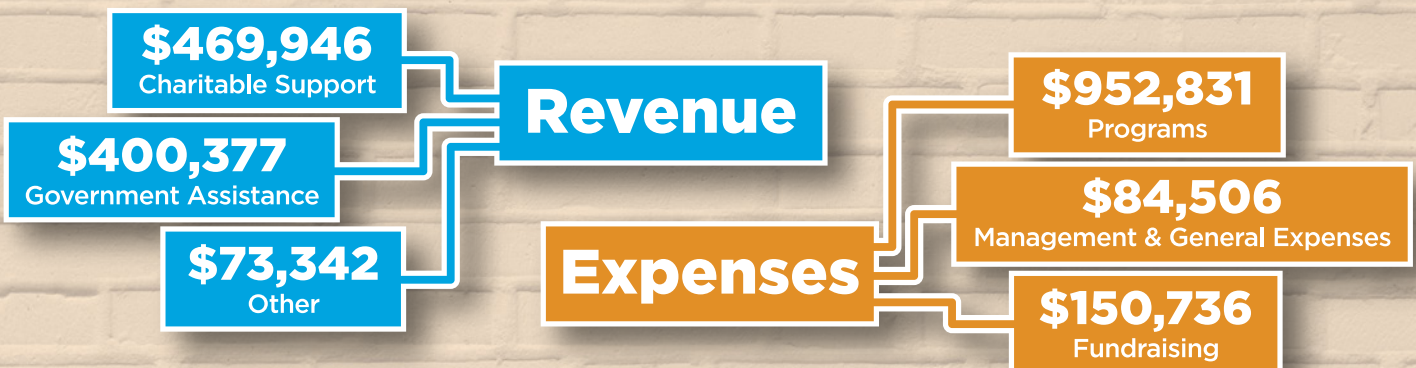


River Valley Corporate Challenge

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. 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.



Funding



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donate

Donate Online
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Employee Matching
Honor or Memorialize
a loved one



educate

Teach a CES or
GR24 lifeskills class
Invite us to speak
with your school,
business, or
organization/group



mentor

Mentor a GR24 youth
Become a sponsor
family for a GR24 youth



volunteer

Host an item drive
Community service
project



advocate

Like us on Facebook
Support a CES
Fundraiser
Share our mission with
your colleagues

Visit www.childrensemergencyshelter.org to find out more information.



CHILDREN'S
Emergency Shelter

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