



Stanual Report

Dear Friends



We are pleased to present to you our 2020 Annual Report. Needless to say, this has been one of the most remarkable years in the Children's Home's history. We were challenged to keep our home a safe place for our kids and staff.

Looking back at our Annual Reports from 1917 - 1919, we were not surprised to read the word *quarantine*. As the Spanish Flu spread throughout the country and Poughkeepsie, the Children's Home dealt with illness among children and staff in many of the same ways that we have today. While our reports do not specifically mention an outbreak of the Spanish Flu at the

Home, notes do talk about diphtheria, chicken pox, measles and strep throat. One of the most challenging tasks was keeping kids healthy and staff safe, providing care for the sick, and ensuring the everyday work of the agency kept going. These are the same challenges we faced in 2020.

From the 1919 Annual Report: "One great need in the Home is adequate quarantine quarters. The present Infirmary is on the top floor, and so poorly arranged that whenever a contagious disease breaks out the entire building is placed under quarantine. Therefore all of the children must stay out of school even when only one or two are ill."

In the wake of COVID-19, closing our doors was never an option. As you know, the Children's Home operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. We knew that the health and safety of our kids and staff was paramount. We diligently managed the potential for exposure and positive cases. We designated cottages and areas to quarantine our youth. We purchased Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and increased our sanitation protocols. Our work continued in spite of the pandemic. We shifted to a remote work posture for the administrative and clinical services teams. Our youth counselors, dietary staff, nursing department, maintenance team and housekeeping staff continued to come in daily. We provided and continue to provide tele-therapy, virtual family visits, and remote school.

In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, we foresaw and prepared for the continuing movement away from traditional residential foster care, toward a new model of care that discourages placing children in group settings but encourages and supports keeping children in their homes and communities. At the end of our 2020 fiscal year we closed our Young Mothers program, an 11 year-old program, due to a lack of referrals. In June 2019, we served 217 kids in our Residential Programs and 68 children and their families in our Community Based Programs. Fast forward to June 2020, and those numbers certainly reflect the shift in child welfare, with 139 children served residentially, 14 in our federally funded emergency shelter and 240 children and families in the community.

The Community Based Services program has grown by leaps and bounds. Our team is working with children and families in Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster counties providing care, support and hope. When COVID-19 hit our communities, program staff worked to provide virtual (and when possible in-person) services to the kids and their families, including Care Management, Home and Community Based Services, Children and Family Treatment Support Services and Adoption Recruitment. It is our expectation that the work we are doing in the community will only continue to grow. You can read about our Nuevas Alas/New Wings program later in this report. We are proud to provide a safe haven for refugee children who are fleeing from their countries of origin to seek safety in the United States.

I hope you enjoy reading our Annual Report. As always, we couldn't do the work that we do without the support of caring community friends like you. Thank you for helping us make the Children's Home a place of healing and hope for thousands of children. As the artwork created by our kids on the cover of this report suggests, together with love, peace, kindness and hope we, as one, can truly make a difference.

Sincerely,

Walter J. Joseph Executive Director

We were excited to see our main campus sign updated this year, the first time since the 1970's!





Mission

The Children's Home of Poughkeepsie is dedicated to providing a safe and nurturing environment that improves lives and empowers at-risk children and families in the Hudson Valley and surrounding communities.

Values Statement

Our core principles guide us in fulfilling our mission and operating on a daily basis. We live by these values and use them to focus our decisions:



Integrity

We will act ethically, honorably, and with commitment in all that we do.



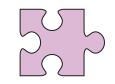
Stewardship

We will manage our resources responsibly to ensure ongoing sustainability.



Respect

We will show compassion and respect for ourselves and others.



Opportunity

We will foster resiliency and seek to create growth opportunities.

2020-2021 Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors is comprised of generous community members who have been selected for their knowledge, expertise and commitment to our mission.

Maureen Crush, President Patricia W. Goodemote, First Vice President Vice President in charge of: Audit – Donald K. Stammer Governance - Mary Lou Davis Investment – Alyssa Bowers Program – Vanessa Rice Resource Development -**Rochelle Friedman** Susan K. Stoller. Secretary Jessica L. Vinall, Treasurer Valerie Murphy,

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About US

On January 21, 1847, a group of Poughkeepsie women called the Female Guardian Society met to form the Poughkeepsie Orphan House and Home of the Friendless to care for the poor, abandoned and neglected in their communities, most especially the children. Their belief was that all children deserve a nurturing and caring environment. 174 years later, their work continues.

Today, the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie provides a full range of Community Based Services and Residential Services, giving hope and healing to at-risk children throughout New York State. The Home is licensed by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services and the Department of Health.

In 2016, the Children's Home earned re-accreditation from the Council on Accreditation for its exemplary adherence to human welfare agency guidelines. The assessment team declared the Home a stellar agency and a model for others in the field.

Rising to Meet New Challenges Nuevas Alas/New Wings

By: Elizabeth Greaney, LMSW - Program Director

In 2019, the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie was awarded a three-year grant with the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to provide Residential Services to unaccompanied children. Nuevas Alas/New Wings is the newest program at the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie. The program's mission is the safe and timely unification of unaccompanied children with their family members. Almost all staff are fluent in English and Spanish.

Children are categorized as unaccompanied when they enter the United States without lawful permission, arrive without the presence of a parent or legal guardian and are under 18 years of age. The program typically receives referrals from the southwest border and is responsible for the safe and timely release of these children to their family members in the United States while they wait for a court hearing, which ultimately determines their ability to stay in the United States.

While in care, youth receive a comprehensive physical examination to screen for any immediate or emergent health care concerns, including testing for COVID. Youth also receive an educational assessment to determine their academic performance levels, and subsequently enter into an on-site education program. The education program is designed in accordance with New York State educational requirements to meet the needs of youth who have been identified as having an interrupted education. All youth receive clinical and case management services. Clinicians assess for trauma history and trafficking, while the Case Managers work diligently with the youth's family in their country of origin and here in the United States. Case Managers verify the proposed sponsor for the youth through the collection of identifying documents and rigorous background checks to ensure child safety. During the unification process youth engage in recreation activities, acculturation events, celebrations of culturally relevant holidays and arts and crafts, in addition to the opportunity to participate in religious services of their choice and preference.

The program provides youth with the tools necessary to spread their wings, and soar high to start a life filled with new opportunities. The program affords youth different opportunities for independence, teamwork and self-mastery, while preparing them with skills to continue their education and pursue their dreams.



Reflections on Pandemic Stress

An Interview with David A. Crenshaw, PhD, ABPP, RPT-S

Dr. Crenshaw, thank you for taking the time out of your busy day to speak with us about pandemic stress.

Of course. I am glad to share my reflections on the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on ourselves and our worlds. My days have been filled to the brim with zoom meetings, and like so many, I find it hard to get outside even for a breath of fresh air, let alone for that walk that I've been longing to take.

We can relate! Can you tell us more about the effect that the pandemic has on you and me?

Neuroscientists reveal that the brain encodes social isolation as threat or danger. Since March of 2020, our brains have organized for ever present conditions of surrounding threat or danger. Our stress response system responds to these conditions with the release of stress hormones that flood the body from the brain stem.

I see. Are stress hormones good or bad for us? What effect do they have on our bodies?

Stress hormones are vital to our survival in conditions of acute threat, but are harmful to our bodies when the threat is ongoing and chronic. Most of us, whether we recognize it or not, have been navigating our world the past year in a stress-sensitized state. When we are all operating with radically altered neural systems and pumped up with stress hormones like cortisol, adrenalin, and norepinephrine, it doesn't take much to trigger a strong emotional response.

That makes sense. I think we've all experienced strong emotional responses this past year. Does stress affect children in the same way?

Children are experiencing the same stress-sensitized states and changes to their neurological systems but obviously, as children, they have not developed the full range of coping resources available to most adults. Youth also lack perspective which can only come from life experience. Attempts to reassure them that this is a temporary event, and our world won't always be like it is now, sound a bit lame and unconvincing the longer the pandemic goes on.

What a challenge! Can you tell us more about the challenges that kids and their caregivers are facing?

While adults are trying to deal with fears of losing jobs, income, perhaps their homes and most importantly their health and even their lives, children spend hours a day in front of mind-numbing screens where the best teachers struggle against the odds to engage and hold the attentions of children who are mesmerized by the razzle and dazzle of video games. Imagine the job of the teacher trying to teach a math lesson to kids with split second attention spans over a video platform like Zoom or Google Meet. It might be less challenging to walk a wire over the Grand Canyon!

That's a great comparison. Our kids and their teachers and caregivers really do deserve so much credit!

Yes, they do. One thing I can say with conviction in the face of these formidable challenges is that children and the adults teaching and guiding them are strong and resilient. It is not easy to crush the spirit of a child,



David A. Crenshaw, PhD, ABPP, RPT-S, is Clinical Director of the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie. He is a Board-Certified Clinical Psychologist by the American Board of Professional Psychology, Fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA) and Fellow of APA's Division of Child and Adolescent Psychology. He is also a Registered-Play Therapist-Supervisor (RPT-S) by the Association for Play Therapy.

but sometimes it happens. At CHP we work with children who have seen things that no child's eyes should ever see, but they reach deep and summon the courage and determination to go against the odds. Also, it is important to remember that stress in tolerable doses builds resilience. Obviously, the emphasis needs to be on the word tolerable. What is tolerable for one child may not be true for another child even in the same family.

What is the best way to reassure and support a child through stress-filled times?

As adults, parents and teachers, one of the best things we can do is to monitor each child, know them well enough to understand what is their tolerable range of stress, and step in when it exceeds that range--send them out to play, for fresh air, for a snack, or make them laugh until they are ready to return to tackle the challenge at hand. Also, if adults can keep it together, and model adaptive coping for the child, and maintain a positive attitude, and an optimistic view of the future (this too will pass), it will be remarkably helpful to our children. It's a tall order but if adults remember self-care and take breaks themselves then we will get through this together.

Thank you Dr. Crenshaw for sharing your reflections on pandemic stress with us and for all of your insights and tips on supporting ourselves and each other through these stress-filled times. We hope that you have a great rest of your day and are able to take that walk that you've been longing to take!

My pleasure. I am just about to turn off my screen and enjoy a half-hour of fresh air and sunlight!

"Research has shown that sometimes dogs are better to provide comfort than a support person. No one is better at comforting than Ace." - David A. Crenshaw, PhD, ABPP, RPT-S

Agency Update

The Children's Home of Poughkeepsie provides a full range of Residential Services and Community Based Services, giving hope and healing to at-risk children throughout New York State. The Home is licensed by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services and the Department of Health.

The Children's Home saw a continued move away from traditional residential care as the agency's population shifted toward more community based care. Community Based Services are offered to children and their families in their own homes and communities.

In fiscal year 2020, there were 139 youth served in Residential Programs licensed by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), 240 children and families served in Community Based Services and 14 children served in our Federally Funded Emergency Shelter program.

OCFS Residential Services 16 5

Agency Boarding Homes

The Agency Boarding Home program includes homes located in residential neighborhoods that provide each adolescent an opportunity to strengthen his/her ability for close interpersonal relations in a home setting and develop skills for independent living.

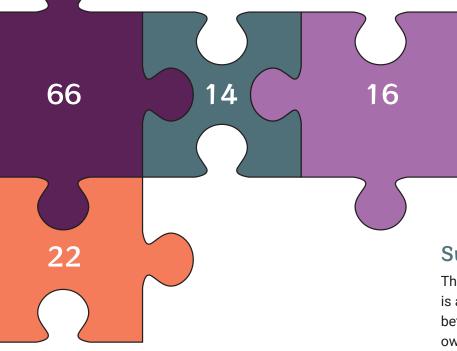
16	Youth Served
3	Admissions
6	Discharges
17.5	Average Age

Campus Residential (RTA)

The Raise the Age program serves 16 and 17 year old boys newly placed in the foster care system. Length of stay is intended to be short-term with enhanced after care services provided to the youth and their family. The program follows an evidenced based model of care that is appropriate for each individual youth. Vocational training and a robust recreation program are key components of the program.

- 5 Youth Served
- 4 Admissions
- **3** Discharges
- **16.8** Average Age

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020



Group Emergency Foster Care

This program provides Child Protective Services from several counties with 24-hour availability of residential care for children (birth to 21 years of age) who are in imminent danger if they remain in their homes.

- 66 Youth Served
- 155 Referrals
 - 52 Admissions
 - 50 Discharges
- **11.9** Average Age
- 64.2 Days Average Length of Stay

Safe Harbour

This program provides services to youth in foster care that are at risk of, or have been victims of exploitation and/or complex sexual trauma that require residential and supportive services. The program accepts adolescent girls and transgender youth ages 11-21. Safe Harbour is trauma responsive and focuses on the treatment, recovery and healing of the youth.

22 Youth Served 15 Admissions 11 Discharges 16.8 Average Age

Supervised Independent Living

The Supervised Independent Living program is a type of foster care that supports youth between the ages of 18 and 21 living on their own in apartments leased by the Children's Home. The program provides a transitional experience for youth who, in most cases, will age out of care at 21.

- 14 Youth Served
- 2 Admissions
- 9 Discharges
- **19.7** Average Age

Young Mothers

Prior to its closure, the Young Mothers program served girls in foster care who were pregnant or parenting. The program closed on June 30, 2020 due to a lack of referrals. The goal of the program was to support the young women and their children as they worked to develop a solid foundation to become good parents and selfsufficient adults.

- 16 Youth Served
 - 7 Admissions
 - 4 Discharges
- 17.3 Average Age

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Federally Funded Intergency Shelfer

Nuevas Alas/New Wings

The Nuevas Alas/New Wings program serves refugee children who are fleeing from their countries of origin to seek safety in the United States. The goal of the program is to reunify children with their families as quickly as possible and ensure their safety and wellbeing. Youth who enter the program receive medical attention, academic instruction, and recreational programming in addition to case management and clinical services.

- **14** Youth Served
- 4 Referrals
- 4 Admissions
- **14** Discharges
- **6.** Average Age
- **36** Average Length of Stay

Community Based Services

34

125

81

Care Management Services

The Children's Home provides Care Management Services as part of the NYS Health Home Care Management Program. Children from birth to age 21, who are Medicaid eligible, receive assistance from a Care Manager to help manage the child's chronic and complex medical or behavioral health condition. The goals of these services are to ensure they have everything necessary to stay healthy, promote wellness, and decrease utilization of the hospital. The Care Manager provides a family centered plan that supports continuity of care and will help families arrange new services if necessary.

- 125 Families Served
- 104 Referrals
 - 5 Counties Served Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan & Ulster

Children and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS)

Children and Family Treatment and Support Services, available with NYS Children's Medicaid, give children (under age 21) and their families the power to improve their health, well-being and quality of life. These new mental health services strengthen families and help them make informed decisions about their care. Additionally, the services will help to prevent the need for emergency room visits, hospital stays or out of home placements, such as group homes or campus based. Services are provided in the least restrictive environment for the child or family. This program opened in October 2019.

- 81 Families Served
- 92 Referrals
 - 4 Counties Served Dutchess, Orange, Putnam & Ulster
- 15 Average Age

Wendy's Wonderful Kids Program

In 2018, the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie received two grants from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, a national non-profit public charity that brings children waiting in foster care one-step closer to being adopted into safe, loving and permanent homes. The grants are dedicated to funding child-focused adoption recruiters for Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK), a signature program of the Foundation. The recruiters work in Dutchess, Sullivan and Ulster counties in New York.

- 34 Families Served
 - 7 Referrals
 - 3 Counties Served Dutchess, Sullivan & Ulster
- 14 Average Age
- 7 Matches
- 2 Adoptions

11 Average Age



Finding ttealing & ttope through Song

By: Felicia Ramos-Peters, Development Assistant

Think back to your favorite song as a teenager. How did that song make you feel? Did it get you through difficult times? Perhaps it just brought you pure happiness. Music can reduce stress, anxiety, improve mood and provide comfort. For our kids that have suffered trauma, music is very therapeutic and soothing. Writing lyrics and seeing your song come to life is a healing experience. Song Factory is a program that aims to do just that.

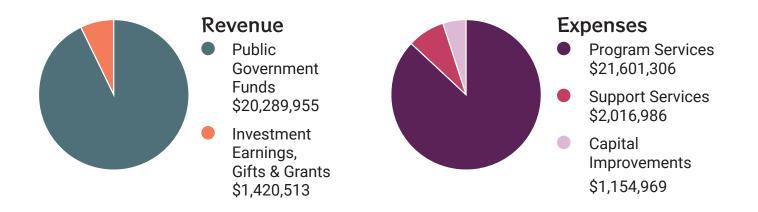
Song Factory is an inclusive, one-on-one music creation workshop designed for the person who has experienced difficult events that she or he has not fully processed. Since 2019, acclaimed composer/producer James Glasgow, owner of Strange Fangs Song Factory, has provided a mentoring program at the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie. This program includes eight workshop sessions in person and virtually (due to COVID). Kids are able to write, record and produce two original songs in any genre. Youth who participate in this program gain a sense of accomplishment and confidence. To date, 11 youth have successfully completed the program and some youth have asked to participate in additional sessions. It has been a great experience and very beneficial for our kids. Our kids inspire us every day. As they write and rewrite their stories to song, they encourage us to greet each new chapter of our lives with a whistle of hope or a healing-hum.

"It is an absolute gift to be able to work with the young people of the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie. The level of talent, professionalism, creativity, and hard work that I get to witness is consistently impressive, and I look forward to every single session. I'm moved by the trust and courage the youth demonstrate when creating their songs; they achieve a level of raw, honest storytelling that makes for art that is often both heartbreaking and profoundly inspirational."

- James Glasgow, Director/Owner/Composer - Song Factory LLC

Financial Summary July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

June 30, 2020



Each year the Children's Home budget is structured with the anticipation of private funding from gifts, grants and interest on investments, added to our State/County revenue stream to produce a balanced budget. These "extra" funds provide for increased services to youth, including additional social workers, direct care staff, art and music therapy and our facility service dog program. Funds also support cultural and recreational activities for youth, special services to families, and enhanced services to youth transitioning to independence. The Children's Home relies on community support to ensure that children receive the best care. We are incredibly grateful to all of our donors for their support and commitment to our mission.



49.95 Average Daily Census



139 Children Served: Residental



Children Served: Federally Funded Emergency Shelter



240 Children Served: Community Based



18,230 Days of Care Provided

Our kids remind us how resilient they are every day. Here is a beautiful example of healing and hope.

A Lasting Legacy

The Guardian Society

Over the past 174 years, many caring individuals have left a portion or all of their estates to help ensure the future of our mission by leaving a lasting legacy. Individuals who have included the Children's Home in their estate planning are eligible for membership in The Guardian Society.

A simple bequest, an IRA bequest, a charitable remainder trust, paid life insurance or other such option naming the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie as beneficiary will qualify an individual or couple for inclusion in The Guardian Society.

The Children's Home pledges to maintain confidentiality of donor information, and careful stewardship of estate gifts, which are very important to the Home's success.

If you have questions or have included the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie in your estate plans and want to join The Guardian Society, please contact our Development Office at 845-452-1420, ext. 177 or email pr@childrenshome.us.

Contact Us

Donations



Our kids love snacks and our dear friends at PepsiCo know how to deliver! Pictured left to right; Francesca Soto of PepsiCo, Alyssa Bowers, Children's Home Board member, Paul Roper and Armando Moore, Children's Home Food Service Managers and Tammy Rodriguez, PepsiCo.



This past #GivingTuesday, Servpro of Western Dutchess County generously donated \$2,500 to give healing and hope to children and families! Pictured here are Corey Whitted of ServPro and Erin Cafarelli from the Children's Home.



Students from the Spanish Club at SUNY New Paltz collected clothing donations for the kids in our Nuevas Alas/New Wings program.

The fiscal year 2020 ended with \$448,021 in total donations. The Annual Appeal brought in \$204,332 in gifts from individuals, businesses and foundations. Event revenue*, bequests, grants and restricted gifts made up the difference.



Our kids loved these hand painted totes filled with goodies and treats that our friends at Jack and Jill of America, Inc. - Mid Hudson Valley Chapter made.



New Fairfield High School students Rachel Harvey, Emma Hoy and Alexis Valentine delivered Christmas wishes from their Santa's Workshop Event for all the kids at the Children's Home.



Foodstock Fund Founders Ryan Michael and Lorenzo Angelino presented Diane Michetti, Food Services Director at the Children's Home with a \$1,500 donation to help us deliver 50 food boxes to children and families this holiday season!

Did you say pizza?! We are so thankful to the Balbo Family of Tony's Pizza Pit for their continued support of the kids at the Children's Home. We love our pizza nights with your generous dinner donations.

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Children's Home was unable to host our 2020 Open Your Heart Cocktail Concert. We would like to thank the sponsors, supporters and event attendees that converted their event support to donations. Than K You Goy's FOR BRIN910905 Pisso



Your Support Matters

Since 1847, the community has generously helped to provide for the most vulnerable. Each year, hundreds of children and their families receive services from the Children's Home—so they can begin to heal and find hope. When you donate to the Children's Home, you make a difference. It's that simple.

When you give to the Children's Home, you help to give hope to kids right here in our community who deserve a chance at a brighter tomorrow. We are grateful every day for all those who open their hearts to help make the lives of vulnerable children and families safe, healthy and happy.

> Support the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie

Thank You Donors

Arne & Cheryl

This report reflects gifts received between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy.

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The Children's Home is deeply grateful for the contributions of the individuals, business, foundations and organizations listed here whose support makes it possible for us to achieve our mission.

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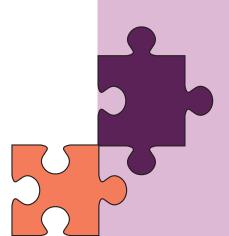
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Not All Heroes Wear Capes



ttere is a small token, just a little gift For all of the hard work, and spirits you lift Through the trials, tribulations, and smiles, we rejoice Empowering the children, and giving them a voice Through thick and through thin, one thing is clear This is more than a job, only heroes' work here! By: Chris Murray, CHP Director of Training

Ace, Marshall and Elvis have been busy this last year providing virtual comfort and joy to all of our kids. Here's Elvis sitting in on a virtual therapy session.

