

# ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020

#### **MISSION**

Building better lives and strengthening our community by providing essential human services to children, families, adults, and seniors

#### VISION A thriving community

community of empowered individuals and healthy families

#### **VALUES**

Professionalism, Integrity & Excellence; Proactive Approach to Meeting Community Needs; Strength-Based, Outcome Driven Services & Programs; Support of Diversity

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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# LETTER FROM PRESIDENT & CHAIR

Dear Friends,

2019-2020 started out strong for our Agency, but with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring it quickly turned to one of the most unusual and challenging years we have ever experienced. However, through this difficult time our staff has risen to the challenge, adjusting operations while continuing to provide uninterrupted and critically needed services to our clients.

It is a true testament to the professionalism and dedication of our staff that they were able to move quickly and seamlessly to begin working remotely in mid-March. Inside, you'll read how we pivoted and enhanced our services in the wake of COVID-19 by providing thousands of meals to clients experiencing food insecurity, working daily with students to assist them in remote learning, participating in an aggressive campaign to house adults experiencing homelessness, and serving clients through telehealth visits. In addition, our Home Care department continued to provide in-person and inhome services to safely serve our elderly clients who are the most vulnerable to the consequences of COVID-19.

In addition to the public health crisis, we have also seen a heightened awareness of the social and racial tension in our society. Family & Children's Agency (FCA) has provided trainings and opportunities to discuss how we can be more proactive in supporting clients and staff from diverse backgrounds and experiences. We look forward to continuing this work on the staff and Board level in an effort to grow as an organization.

As we look to the future, FCA continues to be in a strong position both financially and with its mix of services to respond to the challenges that lay ahead. This is a result of our highly committed and talented staff, our fully engaged and supportive Board of Directors, and to you, our generous donors.

Thanks to all of you we continue to help our clients realize life's possibilities.

Be safe and well!

Robert F. Cashel President & CEO Maria Wilcox
Chairman of the Board



COVID-19

COVID-19 brought unique challenges to the children in our Foster Care programs. Some were unable to visit their biological families, and moving to new homes came with added challenges. FCA staff utilized telehealth services and worked with foster parents to educate them about best practices in mask wearing so children could safely transition to new environments.

Foster Care staff sent a digital thank you to parents

THANK
YOU

I came into foster care hating everything about it. I just wanted to be back home. I didn't care to listen or participate in the meetings until I met my FCA worker, Jessica. I'd always walk into these home meetings surrounded by boring adults who asked the same questions, but I knew I was gonna like Jessica when she walked in the door. She sat down and one of the first things she said was that my sister and I reminded her of a younger her.

While getting to know Jessica I learned that I can be myself, I can talk freely and there won't be any judgment or misconceptions. She always knows how to de-escalate a situation or calm me down. With FCA it's never just about finding a kid a home — they find that kid their home, whether it's temporary or not.

FCA has given me transportation, treatment for drug use, and other therapies. Jessica helped mold me into who I am today, and in such a short time she's taught me so much. She's taught me to be my best self, to believe in what I can do, and that slip ups happen and I can always bounce back from them. She is one of the few people who tell me "I'm proud of you," which is one of the best things to hear being that my situation is the way it is. She's the only one that acknowledges how much I've changed and doesn't look at my past as my present.

-Foster Care Client



# THERE ARE MORE THAN 4,000 CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE IN CONNECTICUT

FCA IS ONE OF THE LARGEST PROVIDERS OF SPECIALIZED FOSTER CARE IN THE STATE SERVING CLOSE TO 200 CHILDREN PER YEAR WITH SERIOUS MEDICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS

#### KEEPING KIDS SAFE AT HOME

FCA's Intensive In-Home Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Services (IICAPS) provides support for young people with serious mental health needs in an effort to keep them safe at home and out of inpatient facilities. Last year, the program served more than 100 clients and 100% were living at home at the time of discharge rather than in a hospital or residential program, a monumental success.

#### SCREENING FOR SUCCESS

The Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) is a survey designed to screen for developmental concerns. FCA is the lead partner of the Norwalk city-wide effort in which 21 organizations work together to screen children and compile the results. In the third year of the program city-wide and the fifth year of administering the ASQ at FCA, we now have substantial data we can use to monitor the progress of children in our community to ensure they are entering kindergarten on track and ready to learn. By identifying developmental challenges ahead of time, we are able to implement early interventions to help them stay on track or focus on areas of weakness.

Thanks to being enrolled in FCA's home visiting programs,

88% of our clients maintained or increased their score on the ASQ survey

Every **IICAPS** client was able to stay in their home at the time of discharge rather than requiring hospitalization or a residential program

COVID-19

During this challenging time when in-person visits were not possible, FCA staff created a virtual ASQ. Partners are now able to send the ASQ link directly to parents and all data is immediately available community-wide. This change has empowered parents to be even more involved in their child's screening while allowing providers instant access to this important data.

CT CONTINUES TO HAVE ONE
OF THE LARGEST OPPORTUNITY
GAPS IN THE COUNTRY,
HIGHLIGHTING DISPARITIES IN
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN
OUR STATE AND COMMUNITY

FCA'S ASPIRE PROGRAM PROVIDES AFTER-SCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMMING FOR NORWALK MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO BRIDGE THE OPPORTUNITY GAP AND EMPOWER THEM TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL FCA served 132 students in our ASPIRE programs

93% of ASPIRE students enrolled last year returned to the program for the 2019-2020 school year

100% of high school seniors in ASPIRE graduated high school and went on to college or career training

COVID-19

When school moved to a remote learning model, our **ASPIRE** staff moved quickly to support this new way of learning. We worked closely with the school system to monitor our children through the public school's parent portal so we could assist with assignments, stay connected to families, and help manage stress. Our groups moved to a video call format so students could continue to stay connected to each other through boys group, girls group, and book club.

In addition to support with school work, food insecurity was a large issue during remote learning so we made sure our students would still have nutritious meals to eat by dropping off bags of food to their homes weekly. Because of our support during the pandemic, our students were still able to thrive academically with **88%** of 8<sup>th</sup> graders having an above average grade in math and **83%** in Language Arts.



#### A STUDENT'S STORY DIEGO

When Diego and his family came to the U.S. from Guatemala three years ago, he was 10 years old and didn't speak any English.

Here in the U.S., Diego's family first began working with FCA's Child & Family Development program, and staff there referred Diego to the ASPIRE after-school and summer program. There, staff encouraged him to practice his English and translated for his family when they spoke with teachers at the school. Motivated by ASPIRE's "All Star" program, where students with top grades earn pizza parties and other rewards, Diego brought his grades up from D's to straight A's in his main subjects.



Diego works with a volunteer on his schoolwork during the ASPIRE afterschool program.

Some of Diego's best memories come from ASPIRE, from learning to play the ukulele to riding his first rollercoaster. And when he became interested in anime, he was able to take a cartoon drawing elective at ASPIRE.

When COVID-19 made remote learning necessary, Diego was at a disadvantage. He didn't have internet access from home, and his parents struggled to communicate this need to the school due to the language barrier. To access his schoolwork, Diego walked to a laundromat in the heat, sat in the corner to avoid the other patrons, and spread his work on chairs. Eventually, he spoke up to his ASPIRE teachers.

"It was my last hope, because I had tried a lot of ways to try to fix it. That was really hard," said Diego.

Once the issue was identified, ASPIRE staff worked with the school district to get a solution in place. Now, with internet access at home, Diego can complete his schoolwork in an environment more conducive to learning and avoid the risk of contracting COVID-19.

"We came here to find a better life and support ourselves. ASPIRE made a big impact," said Diego.

# ASPIRE ADDS RESTORATIVE MODEL

Last year, our ASPIRE after-school and summer program implemented a restorative and trauma-informed model for the middle and high school students we serve. By building a community with a culture of mutual respect and inclusion, our students are able to speak with staff more honestly, resolve conflicts more easily, and take more ownership of the program.

To that end, several changes were made to the program. Staff created a mindfulness room for quiet reflection and began each day with restorative circles where students could express their feelings and solve every day issues in a safe space, giving them more opportunity for communication when conflicts arose. All ASPIRE policies are flexible, allowing staff to respond to students as individuals, and conflict is treated as educational and not responded to in a punitive way. Finally, students have a voice in the program and can choose activities like the Student Advisory Board and electives offered.

These restorative practices help students learn and grow as they build a strong sense of community.



#### A FAMILY'S STORY KIMBERLY

Ever since Kim's son Kaelan was born three and a half years ago, Yadira, Kim's FCA home visitor, has been with them.

"My goal was to be the best first-time mom I could be and learn as much as I could to take care of this new human being I gave birth to," said Kim.

And by all accounts, she's been successful. Over the years, Kim has learned about child development and social-emotional skills. Yadira has brought her activities to work on with Kaelan, and Kim was surprised to find out she had naturally been doing some of them on her own. That realization gave her a boost in confidence.

"Yadira made me feel like a super mom," she said. And when issues arose, Kim knew she could call on Yadira for advice.

When Kaelan started regressing – demanding to be carried instead of walking and whining or crying instead of using words – Yadira helped Kim pinpoint the cause. She suggested it could be because he was in a daycare with mostly younger children and brought Kim resources to help her choose a new daycare arranged by age. Now in a new center, Kaelan is flourishing.

"Learning about child development has helped me be more patient with him and explain things in a better way instead of being angry or frustrated," said Kim.

Last year, Kaelan stopped sleeping through the night. He struggled to fall asleep and often woke up crying. With Yadira's help, Kim realized it was her own father's illness that was impacting Kaelan. Kim got books from the library about children with sick family members and spoke with Kaelan in an age-appropriate way about the changes he was seeing in his grandfather. She was impressed by how quickly Kaelan went back to his former sleeping patterns.

Kim is grateful for FCA's Child & Family Development program. With our help, her son is a bright, happy, and active toddler who asks frequently when Yadira is coming to visit.





#### SHIFTING FOCUS

COVID-19 brought many challenges to our clients, and food insecurity was one of the biggest threats to the health and safety of our families. With lost jobs came an immediate need for food access. Some clients even reported adults in the home going hungry so the children could eat. FCA immediately stepped up. We partnered with several area organizations to bring cooked meals and grocery boxes to families so finding their next meal wouldn't be another stressor during this difficult time.

COVID-19

To continue supporting our Child & Family Development clients, our staff immediately began telehealth visits with clients when COVID-19 made in person visits unsafe. We also delivered activity kits to clients' homes so they could continue engaging their children in age-appropriate games and educational activities.

A family in FCA's programs receives a meal delivery.

# 30-50% OF HIGH-RISK MOTHERS HAVE SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION

19 MOMS IN FCA'S CHILD & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WERE SERVED BY OUR CLINICIANS FOR THIS SERIOUS ISSUE



#### **BUILDING FAMILIES THROUGH ADOPTION**

FCA's domestic and international **Adoption** program faced a huge obstacle with COVID-19 as travel restrictions rapidly changed and adoptive parents were left wondering when and if they would be able to bring their children home. In our international program, our families had to choose between waiting to travel to South Korea to bring their children home or traveling to South Korea, enduring a 14-day mandatory quarantine, and staying in country for 7 weeks in order to complete their adoption. FCA staff supported these parents through this harrowing and frustrating situation, keeping up

with ever-changing regulations. Our staff participated in monthly convenings with the Department of State and the Ministry in South Korea to advocate for American adoptive families. In addition to working with policy makers, our staff worked with families to help mitigate the incredible uncertainty, anxiety, and fear they were facing in the wake of the pandemic.

None of the 173
high-risk families
in FCA's Child &
Family Development
programs had a newly
reported case of child
abuse or neglect

of high-risk pregnant mothers in FCA's prenatal program had a child of healthy birth weight

96% of families served did not have a repeat report of abuse or neglect while participating in the Intensive Family Preservation or Reunification and Therapeutic Family Time program

#### **WORKING TOWARD A FRESH START**

Our Family Support and Supportive Housing for Families® programs help families work through existing child protective concerns so that children can remain safe and stay in their family systems. Last year, through a long-standing partnership with The Connection, Inc., we provided safe housing and support services for 80 families. We also provided intensive support to relatives temporarily caring for a child. Through our work, 92% of these kinship caregivers were able to take on this parenting role successfully.

These numbers represent major successes for the program. When lack of stable housing puts a child at risk of being removed from their biological parent, we not only provide a settled home environment through physical housing but also through teaching positive parenting skills and providing wraparound supports. By supporting caregivers to ensure they are prepared to care for the children entrusted to them and educating them about child development and trauma, we are helping create stable environments for children while also fostering a fresh start for families who are able to be reunified.

# MORE THAN 85% OF WOMEN IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT HAVE HISTORIES OF TRAUMA

PROJECT REWARD IS ONE OF THE FEW WOMEN-ONLY PROGRAMS IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SO CLIENTS CAN FOCUS ON RECOVERY WHILE FEELING SAFE

65% of Project REWARD clients were substance free at the time of

free at the time of discharge from our Intensive Outpatient Program compared to 56% last year

#### A RECOVERY STORY RACHEL

Rachel's story of addiction and recovery began with an all-too-common situation – she was in a car accident and was prescribed pain medication for her resulting injuries. That prescription spiraled into an addiction to pain medication, and Rachel began needing more and more pills. Eventually, she found that heroin could provide a much less expensive high.

"Looking back, it seems crazy how the addiction really changes you," said Rachel.

After a drug-related arrest, Rachel was mandated to attend a recovery program. She attended **Project REWARD** and found that staff really took the time to get to know her and help her find her own path. She was able to remain in recovery through the program, and after six months decided it was time to move on from the program.

"I didn't realize how they were really helping me. The more I moved away from Project REWARD the further I got from myself," said Rachel.

That distance led to a relapse, and Rachel immediately returned to FCA to get back on track. She found being held accountable by her FCA worker to be a critical part of her recovery.

It was then that Rachel faced a serious test to her sobriety. She contracted a bad case of pneumonia and even had to have a portion of her lung removed. Back in a medical setting and needing pain management, Rachel could have found herself in the same situation she was in years prior after her car accident. Instead, she worked with her doctors to manage her pain responsibly. She continued attending group and individual therapy at Project REWARD and was able to stay in recovery.

"There were so many times I felt that I was never going to come out the other end. That hopelessness kept me stuck for a long time and

I realized that if I can do it, anyone can do it. I wanted to help other people," said Rachel.

When she mentioned that interest to Sheila, her FCA social worker, Sheila helped her secure a full scholarship to attend a training course. She is now a Certified Recovery Coach and is working toward becoming a Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor. In this way, Rachel feels her life now has more direction and purpose than it did before her addiction. Now in recovery for over three years, she still attends Project REWARD and participates in individual sessions as well as the Relapse Prevention group.

"Before, I thought I could do everything on my own and I didn't need anybody. That was my biggest mistake. I feel the opposite now. It's so important to have people you can talk to and turn to without fear of being judged. I don't see my recovery without Project REWARD," said Rachel

#### PREVENTING EVICTION

Last year, FCA participated in a pilot project through the Norwalk Housing Authority to provide services for 16 families in public housing and work with them to avoid eviction.

FCA helped provide funding to pay for overdue utility bills and rent, connected them to community resources, and provided meals so they could divert their limited funds to other bills. During the time the program was in operation, none of the clients were evicted from their homes.

In addition, as residents in the Norwalk housing development, Monterey Village, faced the COVID-19 crisis, some families found themselves also facing eviction and financial insecurity. Our on-site case manager provided similar eviction prevention services to those families, and none of our Monterey Village clients were evicted last year.



When COVID-19 hit our region, it became unsafe for those experiencing homelessness to stay in shelters. Instead, Connecticut decided to house this vulnerable population in area hotels.

To continue to support our clients, FCA provided them with cell phones so they could remain connected, tablets so they could participate in telehealth visits, and an additional meal each day to supplement the two meals provided by the shelters.

In addition, we reallocated staff from our adult day center, which had to close due to the health crisis, to provide case management and find housing for those without.

By continuing our connection to clients, FCA was able to support even these isolated neighbors in need.



#### VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA)

Now completing our first year providing the **VOCA Case Management** program, FCA is working with 14 families to connect them with community resources including counseling, child care, and housing; manage the victims compensation process; and provide advocacy and emotional support. The clients in this program have faced tragedies, including the loss of a child, the murder of a loved one, domestic violence, and/or sexual violence. By offering this free service, FCA is promoting the healing of those who have suffered terrible trauma.

#### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Last year, FCA's **Behavioral Health** department started **Trauma Recovery Empowerment**, a new group for women. By helping those who are experiencing the impact of trauma, including anger, depression, anxiety, or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder symptoms, this group works on building self esteem, setting healthy boundaries, regulating emotions, and making healthy choices.



#### A CAREGIVER'S STORY BETTY

When COVID-19 struck our area, many of FCA's **Home Care** clients felt uncomfortable with someone coming into their home. Some had family available to care for them. Others just decided to forego care. FCA paid all our home care workers, even if they weren't going into homes, so they could be financially stable during this difficult time. And Agency leadership asked older workers, like Betty, who has been a home care worker for more than half her life and an FCA employee for 25 years, to stay home to avoid the potentially deadly disease.

Betty listened, but only for one week.

Even when she was at home she called her clients every day to check in on them, making sure they had food and medications. But after just one week Betty called FCA and informed the Agency that she would be returning to work.

"My clients have nobody," she told her supervisor. Each day, Betty visited two clients, one of which she has seen for 20 years. Wearing the medical-grade masks FCA provided, washing her hands, and using hand sanitizer, she helped them bathe and get dressed. She gave them a meal, took them to doctors appointments, and went out for walks.

Betty said she has no intention of retiring and that working with her clients keeps her young.

"It keeps me going because I really enjoy what I do. I know that my clients need me, and I enjoy working with them. This is my life," she said, "I love it."

The services of the services were hospitalized due to a fall

78% of FCA's Personal Alert clients pushed their button for help at least once. That's 626 seniors we were able to reach in their time of need.



home modifications completed due to concerns raised during our Home Safety Risk Evaluations

# 49% OF SENIORS IN **CONNECTICUT NURSING HOMES CONTRACTED COVID-19**

99% OF FCA'S IN-HOME SENIOR SERVICE CLIENTS REMAINED SAFELY IN THEIR HOMES

#### PROACTIVE PROTECTION FOR SENIORS

While clients using our **Personal Alert** system utilize the service, our Home Care staff are able to see data about their usage. With this information, we have been able to reach out to high-risk clients, identified by how often they push their alert button and also by the number of interactions with the emergency service, in order to provide additional services.

One client, at a high risk for falls, was connected with a program to provide minor home renovations. He has expressed gratitute to the program for advocating on his behalf and is now safer in his home.

Another client expressed symptoms of depression and isolation during a call with one of our staff after pushing his call button. Our staff social worker began speaking with him, visiting, and connected him with available resources.

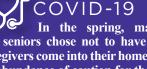
By proactively supporting the seniors in our program we can keep them safer and healthier.

#### CRISIS COUNSELING **DURING COVID-19**

Due to the current public health crisis, many of our neighbors are experiencing a tremendous amount of anxiety. Some have lost loved ones. Unemployment and economic uncertainty have made it difficult to provide basic needs. As we adjust to isolation, many are struggling with home schooling, working from home, and caring for seniors. Crisis counseling aims to teach coping strategies, help those impacted to understand their options and strengths, and focus on natural supports.

Thanks to a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FCA has added a new crisis counselor to help community members as part of the COVID-19 Assistance for Community Health program. This service will help those who are struggling due to pandemic-related stress, trauma, job loss, and isolation.

Although the service is operated out of our Home Care department, it is available free of charge for all community members regardless of age.



In the spring, many of our seniors chose not to have FCA's caregivers come into their homes out of an abundance of caution for their own health. Despite not providing in-home services, we remained committed to these clients, who are in the highest risk category for the virus. With the support of volunteers, FCA called about 90 seniors weekly to ensure they had food, medications, and clean laundry. We also used these check-in calls to simply chat with older adults so they would feel less isolated and anxious during this unprecedented time.



## COMMUNITY LEADERS

FCA staff members are experts in their fields, and in an effort to bring best practices to the Agency for our clients as well as support the greater community, many serve in leadership positions on the city, county, and state level.

#### CT COUNCIL OF FAMILY SERVICE AGENCIES (CCFSA)

ROBERT F. CASHEL, President & CEO | Board of Directors Secretary
TIFFANY MCCARTHY, Director of Family Support | Parent Education Program (PEP) Oversight Committee Chair
CCFSA is a statewide network of independent human service organizations.

#### CONNECTICUT COUNCIL ON ADOPTION (CCA)

MEG WOGLOM, Assistant Director of Adoption and Early Childhood | Communications & Publicity Co-Chair DEVON MILES, Manager of Adoption | Communications & Publicity Co-Chair

CCA is a statewide member organization of adoptive parents, children, and professionals aiming to improve adoption services.

#### DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (DCF)

MARY ELLEN HASS, Chief Operating Officer | Department of Children and Families Regional Advisory Counsel for Region 1 Member; Family First Community Partnership Committee Member

**JEANMARIE HOUSE,** Director of Foster Care | Statewide Foster Care Steering Committee Member; Family First Kinship & Foster Care Committee Member

SUPRENA SHULER, Specialized Foster Care Program Manager | DCF Statewide Advisory Council Tri-Chair/ Representative from Region 1; Family First Kinship & Foster Care Committee Member

TIFFANY MCCARTHY, Director of Family Support | Family First Program & Service Array Committee Member

These DCF groups monitor the child welfare landscape and offer critical feedback to the Commissioner of DCF on policy issues affecting vulnerable children in the region and the state.

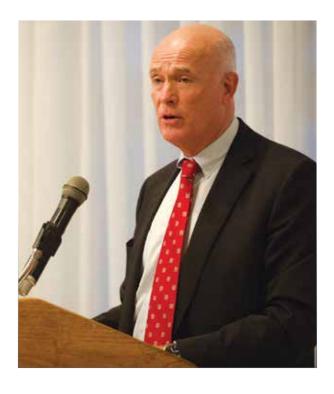
#### **HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL**

ELIZABETH MURDOCH, Director of Behavioral Health | Multi-Disciplinary Team Member XANIC WOOD, Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinician | Multi-Disciplinary Team Member

This special team reviews community cases of sexual or severe physical abuse of children. The group includes police, prosecutors, the Department of Children and Families, and others. The role of FCA staff on this team is to serve as mental health experts and make recommendations about what treatments, if any, would be beneficial for the children and families involved in these cases.

#### Leadership during COVID-19

During the COVID-19 crisis, FCA community leaders have been more involved than ever. Our staff have participated in weekly meetings with community partners and government officials to coordinate services for the homeless, seniors, youth in foster care, and others. FCA has also been involved in bi-weekly calls organized by the City of Norwalk with community service providers.



#### **NORWALK ACTS**

 $\textbf{ROBERT F. CASHEL}, \textit{President \& CEO} \mid \textit{Board of Directors and Executive Committee Member; Governance Committee Chair}$ 

AMY JEFFEREIS, Director of ASPIRE | Member

MARY KATE LOCKE, Director of Child & Family Development | Social Emotional Initiative Co-Chair; Home Visiting Workgroup

Co-Chair; Early Childhood Health and Development Initiative Member; Implementation Team Member

MEG WOGLOM, Assistant Director of Adoption and Early Childhood | Member

MARISSA MORGAN, IICAPS Coordinator/Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinician | Member

Norwalk ACTS is a partnership of civic leaders, educators, and organizations working collectively to close the opportunity gap and improve the lives of children in Norwalk.

#### NORWALK HOUSING FIRST COLLABORATIVE

CHRIS JACHINO, Director of Homeless Services | Member

This collaboration works in partnership to align with statewide initiatives of ending chronic, youth, and family homelessness.

#### NORWALK SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

AMY JEFFEREIS, Director of ASPIRE | Community Representative

One of just three towns chosen to participate in this statewide pilot program, this group of parents and educators advise the Norwalk Public School District on matters impacting special education.

#### NORWALK YOUTH SERVICES

JESSICA VIVENZIO, Manager of Project REWARD | Juvenile Review Board Member

With the goal of keeping young people out of the justice system, the Juvenile Review Board provides services, case management, and community coordination.

#### **OPENING DOORS FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

 $\textbf{CHRIS JACHINO}, \textit{Director of Homeless Services} \mid \textit{Treasurer/Executive Committee and Leadership Council Member}$ 

LINDSAY PERRY, Director of Marketing and Communications | Communications Committee Member

This member organization gathers community organizations invested in ending homelessness to share best practices and work together to achieve this goal.

#### SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COUNCILS

AMY JEFFEREIS, Director of ASPIRE | Member

MATTHEW GUIDA, ASPIRE Middle School Supervisor | Member

KAREN LOURD, ASPIRE Middle School Academic Associate | Member

School Governance Councils are groups of parents, community members, and staff who work together to improve student achievement through assisting with programmatic and operational changes. By serving in these groups, ASPIRE staff build relationships within the school system and develop an understanding of dynamics to help drive programming and support students in FCA programs.

#### SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING & INDEPENDENT LIVING (SWCAA)

LIGIA MASILAMANI, Director of Home Care | SWCAA Advisory Board Member Representing the City of Norwalk

SWCAA addresses new initiatives impacting seniors, assesses programs receiving funding, and advocates to lawmakers regarding bills affecting older area residents.



The generosity of our donors helps make FCA's life-changing work possible. Thank you for your dedication and support.

Individuals' names reflect cumulative cash gifts between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. \*Have given consecutively for the past 5+ fiscal years.

#### FOUNDER'S CIRCLE

\$100,000+

The Bauer Foundation Inc.

The Grossman Family Foundation \*

Ms. Sharon Sullivan and Mr. Jeffrey B. Kindler \*

Lone Pine Foundation, Inc. \*

Minks to Sinks \*

Viking Global Foundation Inc.

#### CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

\$50,000-\$99,000

Fairfield County's Community Foundation \*

Ritter Family Foundation

The Serenbetz Family Foundation Inc. \*

The Robie & Scott Spector Charitable Fund

Tudor Foundation, Inc. \*

United Way of Connecticut

Maria and Tom Wilcox \*

Yale Child Study Center

### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE \$25,000-\$49,999

Mr. and Mrs. James Andersen

Susan and Jon Beyman \*

The Community Fund of Darien \*

Connecticut Association of Realtors Foundation

Julene and Simon Greenshields \*

Doug and Denise Harned \*

Lisa Sheffield and James Lillie \*

Near & Far Aid Association, Inc. \*

Mr. Paul Quinsee \*

The Shames Family Foundation

The Windmill Foundation, Inc. \*

#### CHAMPION'S CIRCLE \$10,000-\$24,999

Anonymous

The Acorn Fund

Jennifer and David Barnard \*

The Chilton Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Dimitrief \*

First County Bank Foundation, Inc. \*

Gen Re \*

The Per and Astrid Heidenreich Family Foundation

Henkel

Kris and Jeff Herlyn \*

Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Leff

Jay and Mark Lux \*

MJP Wealth Advisors \*

Morgan Stanley Foundation

Mrs. Barbara Murphy \*

New Canaan Community Foundation \*

Rita and Buzz Olson \*

The Orchard Farm Foundation \*

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#### In honor of Lauren Ritchey

Mrs. Sarah Ritchey

#### In honor of Zach Rynar

Anonymous

#### In honor of Michael Stein

Mr. John Milone

#### In honor of Sharon Sullivan

Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Leff

#### In honor of Donna and Robert Walker

Dianne and Will Green

#### In honor of Maria Wilcox

Ms. Carol Wilcox

#### In honor of FCA's work during COVID-19

The Weber Family

#### In memory of Allison Barton Haupt

Allison Barton Haupt Memorial Fund

Ms. Elaine H. Vanderheyden

#### In memory of Charlotte K. Taverna

Charlotte K. Taverna Fund

Mr. and Mrs. Gijsbertus Koudijs

#### In memory of Brandon Davis

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Steglitz

#### In memory of Michael Fehr

Mary Ellen and Bill Hass

#### In memory of George Floyd

Ms. Marcy Cohen Smith and Mr. Hunter C. Smith

#### In memory of J. Michael Fried

Martha Yepes Small, MD and Peter A. Small, MD

#### In memory of William Guli

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Steglitz

#### In memory of Patricia Harris

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Steglitz

#### In memory of Andrew Mann

Mrs. Claire Mann

#### In memory of Helen "Wardy" Mannix

Chilton Trust

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Mr. and Mrs. Jim Jones

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel A. Lasman

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Matthews

Mr. Philip Rizzuto

Ms. Irene Rosenberg

Mr. John Russell

Mr. and Mrs. Neil Simonelli

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church - The Senior Choir

The Truesdale Family

Whitman Breed Abbott & Morgan LLC

#### In memory of Patricia McLaughlin

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Steglitz

#### In memory of Dr. Timothy Nolan

Susan and Jon Beyman

Ms. Lisa Habasinski

#### In memory of Vidi Piersall

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#### In memory of Deb Quinsee

Michelle and Jeb Doggett

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#### In memory of Grandma Roz

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Steglitz

#### In memory of John Swartley

Mrs. Johanna Swartley

#### In memory of Theresa Voltaggio

Mr. Michael Voltaggio

# IN RECOGNITION OF ALL THE EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN AND MEN HONORED AND MEMORIALIZED THROUGH OUR MOTHER'S DAY AND FATHER'S DAY CARDS:

#### IN HONOR

Julianne Alberty · Joyce Andersen · Christine Andrew · Matt Andrew · Michael Arlen · Andrea Arnold · Bernadette Baldino Gail Ballard · Melanie Barnard · Jennifer Barton · Trisha Barton · Pammie Bassock · Carol Bauer · Mary Ellen Beaton Kathleen Irish Benson · Jon Beyman · Michelle Beyman · Rip Beyman · Susan Beyman · Tom Blake · Anne Bleckman Barbara Bleckman · Bob Bleckman · George Bleckman · Judy Bolduc · Janet Brandt · Laurie Brehm · Cheryl Brzezinski Joe Cacace · Mike Cacace · Barbara Cafero · Jill Campbell · Mary Campbell · Sally Campbell · Marcie Cappell · Nancy Carnavalla Rob Cashel · Sheila Cashel · Dennis Castiglia · Paula Castiglia · Robin Charron · Deb Checketts · Jen Cholnoky · Joel Clark  $John\ Clark \cdot Kevin\ Clark \cdot Victoria\ Clow \cdot Stacey\ Cohen \cdot Cindy\ Collins \cdot Lisa\ Collins \cdot Stirling\ Collins \cdot Erin\ Conway$ Susan Cugliari · Amy Daugerdas · Danielle DeGrazia · Justin DeGrazia · Liz DeGrazia · Steve DeGrazia · Carole Anne Del Vecchio Dr. Philip J. Del Vecchio, Jr. · Ursula Del Vecchio · Caroline Divan · Cynthia Doggett · Julie Dolan · Doris Doucette · Averi Dudek Mardi Durkin · Elizabeth R. Eifler · Stacey Eliades · Melissa Elmasry · Jodie Emery · Kate Filaski · Joseph Fox · Wendy Galante Michele Gartland · MaryAnn Genuario · Shannon Gerry · Claire Gifun · Tom Giordano · Lisa Giorgio · Ana Goizueta Laura Greenbaum · Julene Greenshields · Lisa Habasinski · Andrea Hager · Becky Hager · Steve Hager · Bill Hass Mary Ellen Hass · Nancy Herling · Berta Holmes · Maureen Hughes · Kim Hunold · Debra Hyman · John Imparato · Eliot Jacobs Mary Jeffery · Shirley Kenowitz · Elaine Kerr · Cindy Killian · Kimberly Klein · Deb Knapp · Melissa Knapp Catherine Konstantin · Debbie Kuntzman · Margo Lacey · Shelley Leibowitz · Margaret Lillis · Pinky Loomis · Anne Lorono Sally Lynch · Chris Mahanna · Becky Marko · Robert Martin · Lisa Mastrota · Cheryl Mayer · Marna McDermott Cindy McGinnis · Hillary McGonigle · Sue McIntosh · Nancy Meehan · Cecilia Mesh · Grace Miller · Corky Montepara Diane Morey · Nicolena Murgo · Donna Murphy · Peter Murphy · Eric Nietsch · Natalie Marko Nietsch · Rick Nietsch Barbara Nolan · Eve Norris · Amy Nussbaum · Rita O'Brien · Elizabeth O'Connell · Rita Olson · Luciana Orzano · Candy Perusi Nancy Peters · Irene Plantamura · Sue Plowman · Jodi Przybisiki · Jessica Putetti · Lauren Ritchey · Barbara Rittner Diane Rosenthal · Rocky Rossetti · Suze Rubin · Jane Salley · Suresh Samuel · Hector Sanchez · Janina Serrao · Joyce Serrao Tad Serrao · Sarah Severence · Sheryl Shaker · Marisa Signorella · Michael Signorella · Gina Signorella-Arlen · Shira Sklar Stefanie Spadaccini · Nalini Stewart · Emma Sullivan · Johanna Swartley · Caitlin Breen Thomas · Ashley Tomlinson Ellen Tomlinson · Jackie Trombetta · Cheryl Spritz Unger · Mike Vakos · Stephanie Vakos · Cathy Van Tornhout · Cindy Ward Susy Warren · April Wenk · Carter White · Marian Wilbur · Ken Wilcox · Kristin Wilcox · Maria Wilcox · Tom Wilcox Betsy Wilson · Angela Yelich · Lauren Yocum · Laurie Young

#### IN MEMORY

 $Florence\ Conti\cdot Marianne\ K.\ Dolan\cdot Sara\ Fleming\cdot James\ K.\ Furlong\cdot Lea\ Mintz\cdot Rosalie\ M.\ Polak\cdot Ann\ Potocki\ Charlotte\ Taverna\cdot Tommy\ Trotter$ 

# A TASTE OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

We were thrilled to welcome guests once again to A Taste of Fairfield County. The 2019 event was our largest ever attended and raised a record amount for programs supporting adults experiencing homelessness.

## WILLIAM O. MURPHY FAMILY STRENGTHENING AWARD

FCA awarded Norwalk ACTS, a collective impact organization working to close the opportunity gap in Norwalk, with this annual recognition. FCA staff have been very involved with the community-wide organization, including serving on several committees and the Board of Directors.



# ANNE C. CAREY VOLUNTEERISM AWARD

This recognition was presented to Lisa Sheffield Lillie at the 2019 Annual Meeting. Lisa's steadfast support of FCA over the years has included her involvement on many committees, her leadership as Chairman of the Board, and her generosity of time and expertise.



#### MINKS TO SINKS

Although COVID-19 forced our dedicated Minks to Sinks volunteers to cancel the spring 2020 sale, they were able to hold a successful weekend under the tents in fall 2019. Hundreds of thousands of items were donated or consigned, which were sorted and priced by more than 190 Wilton-area volunteers who run the sale. In addition to helping people recycle their gently used items and benefiting FCA, area nonprofits are invited to shop for free after the sale is over to benefit their causes and clients.





#### We are grateful for our partnerships with local businesses, community organizations, and individual donors which play a major role in supporting FCA clients.

Aircastle

Aitoro Appliance

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Alberty

Albourne America LLC

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The Barrow Group Theater Company & School

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BJ Ryan's B-AN-C House

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Stepping Stones Museum for Children

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Our dedicated volunteers inspire good action in others. We thank you for your tireless efforts.

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Georgia Adams

Sophia Aguirre

Claudia Alarcon

Isabella Alarcon

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Arianna Centeno-Johnson

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Coleytown Elementary School

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Debbie and Joel Colon

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Pam Elv

Martha Ercole

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Suzie Ettie

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FactSet

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Elizabeth Fahey

Maria Farinas

Samuel Farquhar

Carey Field

Theresa Figueiras

David Finkelstein

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Jo Ann Flaum

Beth B. Flavin

Susan Florido

Emily Floros

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Carrie Sanders

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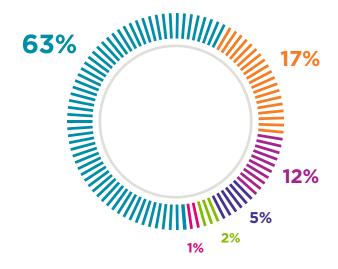
Rick Zaremski Barbara Zichichi

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# FINANCIAL REPORT 2019-2

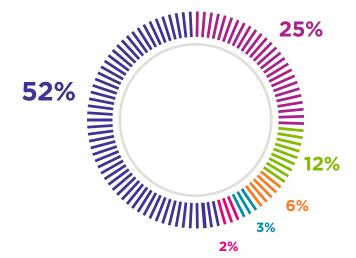
Results are unaudited as of publication date. Complete financial statements audited by BlumShapiro & Company, P.C. are available upon request.



#### **OPERATING REVENUES**

11,355,019		Government Grants	
3,125,656		Program Services	
2,131,095		Private Grants	
842,305		Contributions	
271,589		Special Events	
97,569	+	Investment Activities	
<b>\$17.007.077</b>			

\$17,823,233



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- Child Welfare
- Behavioral Health
- Home Care
- Development & Fundraising
- Adoption
- Management & General







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