



Child & Family Services Third Level

Support in times of crisis, challenge, and life transition.



Celebrating 80 Years!

update

FALL 2017



Supporting Youth Where They Are

Star Byrd, 19, is highly motivated and describes herself as “very independent.” Though she has been through a lot recently, she has persisted and her success is apparent in her beaming smile. Star enjoys running and playing with her dog (she has a Pomeranian). Her favorite color is blue and she likes Mickie Mouse.

When Star was referred to CFS by the Women’s Resource Center, she was on her own trying to tackle many problems at the same time. Legal trouble, an unexpected pregnancy, and losing her home and job made her feel like her life was “falling apart.” Then she met Jamie, Third Level Youth Services Counselor at CFS, and “everything changed.”

CFS’ Youth Services programming helps local teens overcome various life challenges – no matter what those challenges look like. The youth we serve are homeless, have run away, or are facing other problems that make it hard to focus on their future goals. Our counselors provide mentoring, guidance, counseling, and basic needs items like food, a toothbrush, or clothing.

“Star has been one of the most responsible and motivated youth that I have ever worked with. She is always on time and always attends her appointments,” Jamie explains. She helped Star look

for jobs, complete and drop off applications, find and apply for housing, and access food and other resources. “She really just helps me out with whatever I need. She’s very nice and I like her a lot,” says Star. Sometimes, they even get ice cream after celebrating an accomplishment.

“I couldn’t have found a place to live without her helping me. Just her being there, holding my hand and helping me through it was a big help.” When Star got her apartment, Jamie took her to the thrift store to shop for furniture and other things for her new home.

Now a senior at Traverse City High School and working at the Grand Traverse Resort, Star is determined to graduate in the fall with good grades. “I’ve been shocking myself and my teachers by showing up and just doing my best. I’m staying on top of things and getting things done.”

Great work, Star! We are so proud of you!

Youth Services
Counselor
Jamie Van Duinen



Youth Services

Meeting youth where they are

**Counselors worked with
90 youth last year...**

52 held jobs

21 held the same job for 6+ months

8 were safely sheltered in Host Homes

22 secured independent housing

75 were enrolled in school

14 graduated

9 enrolled in college

9 participated in sports or clubs

*numbers do not include the 44 youth sheltered at Pete's Place

Kids grow best in families! Be a foster parent. To learn how, call 231 946 8975.





From the Executive Director

Dear Friends of CFS:

It's been just a short while since I've had the honor of taking on the role of Executive Director of CFS. So much has happened in the months prior and since! We're a leaner organization. We've made changes to our procedures and systems to create efficiencies and synergy between programs. We've made the difficult decision to cut some programming. We are building on an organizational culture that is transparent and recognizes that our employees and all our stakeholders have much to contribute to how we deliver on our mission.

You'll notice below that Bud Thompson, a man who did more to shape CFS than nearly anyone, passed away recently. He was a consummate social worker and an

admirable man by all accounts. But he did not have to live in the environment CFS, and all nonprofits, are faced with these days. Governmental resources are stretched, so it's harder to get paid fairly for the work we do. Our regulatory world is challenging and our people spend more time in front of computers than with the children and families they want to help.

More and more, we realize that maintaining a strong organization means paying close attention to our mission AND to the bottom line. There's no way for us to do both those things without you. Your support—your time, expertise, energy, and dollars—make it possible for us to look forward to the next 80 years with strength and optimism.

However you help us—thank you!

Gina



IN MEMORIAM

Bernard 'Bud' Thompson
1937-2017

It hardly seems coincidental that Bud Thompson was born the same year that CFS was founded.

As Executive Director for more than 30 years, Bud shaped CFS in nearly every way. Under his leadership the staff grew from 7 to 60 and moved from a small building near Munson to the Veterans Drive office. Bud led

an environment at CFS where creative and innovative ways of serving families and kids could be developed and implemented, including the first intensive foster care program in the state and the first residential group home for girls in northern Michigan. He embodied the best of social work ethics and was a mentor and teacher to many budding social workers. He himself was named Michigan's Social Worker of the Year in 1979.

Bud was a tireless community volunteer, instrumental in founding the Michigan Federation of Private Child and Family Agencies in Lansing, Grand Traverse Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and the Benzie County Community Chest, and was a member of the Lions and

Rotary Club of Traverse City. Even with many causes and commitments, he was a devoted family man—husband to Mary Jean, who also worked at CFS alongside him as the finance director, and a warm, loving father, grandfather, and brother.

**TO LIVE IN HEARTS
WE LEAVE BEHIND
IS NOT TO DIE.**

~Thomas Campbel

Bud had a strong spiritual bent, and was active at Keswick United Methodist Church in Suttons Bay, where he was a Sunday school teacher. Later he joined the Keryx Prison Ministry program and found a second calling. Bud travelled widely to minister to inmates throughout northern Michigan. When he wasn't doing that work, he loved to watch the birds at their feeders, do Sudoku, and cheer on his beloved Spartans and professional Detroit teams.

Mary Jean and many friends and family will miss Bud immensely. Child and Family Services would not be what it is without Bud's long tenure, compassion, and commitment.

volunteers

Mark Your Calendar!

Join us to show your support ...

November

National Adoption Month

November 12-19

National Homeless Awareness Week

November-December

Paper Angels

(www.cfsnwmi.org/paperangels)

December 9

Paper Angels Drop-Off Day

(CFS Traverse City office and Fletch's, Petoskey)

January

Children's Art Contest (www.cfsnwmi.org/art)

February 3

Art Contest Party at Lucky Jack's

February 9

Golden Fowler Celebrity Dream Room

Classic at Golden Fowler Home Furnishings

(www.cfsnwmi.org/golden)

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Did you know
500 volunteers contributed
7,053 hours to the
work of CFS
last year?



CFS and friends had a "Marching Birthday Party" in the Cherry Festival's Junior Royale Parade to celebrate our 80th Birthday!



Once again, Chemical Bank employees cleaned up our building and grounds during Chemical Cares Day.



Thank you to our friends at Lowe's for donating and installing a new playground at our Traverse City office. Our neighbors, Traverse Catholic Federal Credit Union, saw all of the commotion and brought our volunteers lunch – how cool! The kids love their new playground. Thank you neighbors!



Real Estate One employees volunteering on United Way Day of Caring.



thank you



“ Safe Haven has lent us shelter and strength. Without a doubt, Safe Haven has minimized our stress and conflict, and has been a positive, consistent force in our weekly schedule. In Safe Haven, I have found a network of support that empowers me to keep the focus on my beautiful children. My children have found a community of adults who believe in them and allow them to be just who they are - beautiful children, my children, who are really just like your children and grandchildren and neighborhood children. Children whose main focus should be growing – growing their minds, their bodies, and their spirits.”

– Grateful Safe Haven Client

YOU helped save Safe Haven

In our spring 2017 newsletter, we wrote with the sad news that our Safe Haven program was in danger of closing after our federal grant was not renewed. We now write with great news – **YOU helped us save Safe Haven!** Together, we raised over \$130,000 in grants and donations with more than \$25,000 donated from individuals just like you. Because of YOU, we have provided protection to hundreds of women, children, and families who use our supervised visits and safe child exchanges.

We have even better news. Thanks to YOUR support and confidence, Safe Haven will continue for the foreseeable future. While the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) did not renew our request for FY2017-18 funding, we have partnered with the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to receive a new stream of funding that will support victims of domestic violence and their children. Our three year contract with VOCA began October 1, 2017. This new contract includes a collaboration with Legal Services of Northern Michigan, a longtime friend to CFS/Third Level, who will be able to serve more victims of domestic violence with free legal services.

We could not have made it here without you!

Our work is not over. While VOCA funding will support many costs associated with operating Safe Haven, a 20% community match is required as a part of this contract and, even then, some costs remain unfunded. Safe Haven will still need to fundraise approximately \$40,000 in grants and donations each year to sustain the program. We expect about half will come from individual donations from friends like you.

The need for Safe Haven has not diminished. Without the program, children and families are endangered, sometimes even killed. We know the value of Safe Haven for our community, and are grateful for the safety it provides families experiencing high conflict or domestic violence. Safe Haven literally saves lives.

Thank you for your support!



Foster Care Specialist Kim Smith displays the Excellence in Customer Service award that CFS-Harbor Springs received from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) in September. The nomination, from the MDHHS Business Service Center 1, stated that “The agency has gone above and beyond...in serving some exceptionally complex families and obtaining permanency. They are highly responsive in resolving issues that arise and have partnered with the

local office in assisting with special evaluations when needed.” Congratulations to Kim and our entire Harbor Springs office staff--and thanks to our partners at Cheboygan-Presque Isle MDHHS!

Leadership

Welcome New Board Members



Jennifer Flick, is the HR Director for Team Elmer's and has extensive experience working with youth as an "adventure center" coordinator.



Gary Blair is an executive consultant for the Way Forward, LLC and a retired Police Chief (among other things) with a focus on juvenile justice and community outreach.



Rachel Wasserman is a recruitment manager for Hagerty and is actively involved with the NMC Business Administration and Accounting Advisory Committee.



Krista Cooper is the executive director of the Traverse Symphony Orchestra and is passionate about advancing the mission of Child and Family Services.



Kaylee Simerson is a credit manager for Chemical Bank, and a longstanding volunteer and supporter of Child and Family Services.

OUR MISSION

We strive to ensure the safety and well-being of children, youth, adults, and families in times of crisis, challenge, and life transition.

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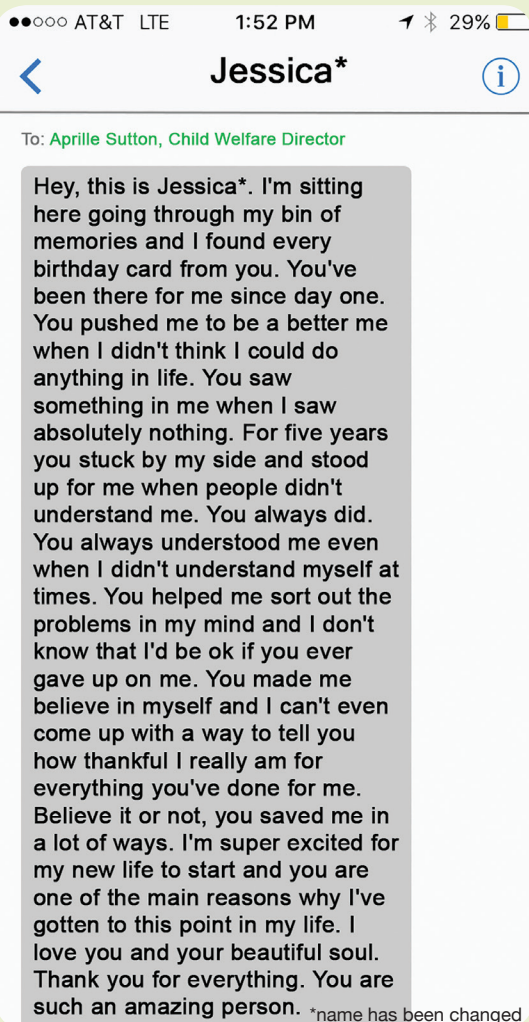
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YOU SAVED ME



staff spotlight

Mother-Daughter Duo

In an organization that serves hundreds of children each year, it's not unusual to hear "Hey, mom!" when walking through the hallways of CFS. However, a new hire means we're hearing it around the office a lot more – not from our clients but from our staff!

Malaika Montague, 22, started at CFS in May as a Foster Care Specialist, providing treatment and support to children in foster care. She's learning a lot from her mentor and mother, Sharron Montague, who also works at CFS. They have a lot in common and are great friends – both studied social work at Ferris State University, attend sporting events and concerts together, and love children. Malaika laughs, "It probably sounds like I'm copying her but I'm not, I swear."



Malaika was no stranger to CFS when she was hired. She was in middle school when her mom started with the organization, and later she completed a college internship and a senior project here. Now, more than seven years later, Sharron is a leader at CFS with experience in many child welfare programs and she's passing the torch to her daughter.

Sharron even helped Malaika through her very first foster care case. "It was a really difficult and complicated case," Malaika recalls. "I was still in training so my mom took it at first. When I was ready, she walked me through it, mentored me, and eventually passed the case on to me."



Sharron smiles as she talks about how terrific her daughter is doing with the case. "It was four kids, all age four or under, with many service providers and complicated reporting, along with all of the usual requirements. She's doing really great and it relit my passion being able to help her through it."

"I've always loved my job, but now it's even better."

When asked what she thinks of CFS so far Malaika says she loves it. "The people are great and it's really nice to have my mom right down the hall." More than seven years later, Sharron still loves it too. "I've always loved my job, but now it's even better. I'm super proud of all she has accomplished. Plus, now I get my hugs throughout the day – every time I leave the office for a home visit or anything, I make sure to stop and give her a hug goodbye. It's great."

In an organization with an 80 year history of serving children and families, we think it's pretty great too.

“When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.”
– Maya Angelou

Who gives to CFS?

You are a compassionate group of over 2,000 individuals, businesses, and foundations that understand the needs that can happen to anyone at any time.

You give at all levels, from providing Angel Funds to our children and families for little “extras,” to large-scale contributions to help us with capital purchases like our new accounting software (thank you, Begonia Charitable Foundation!).

You respond to immediate needs. This year, you helped keep our Safe Haven Supervised Visitation and Exchange program open to those families that needed it most when our federal grant was not renewed.

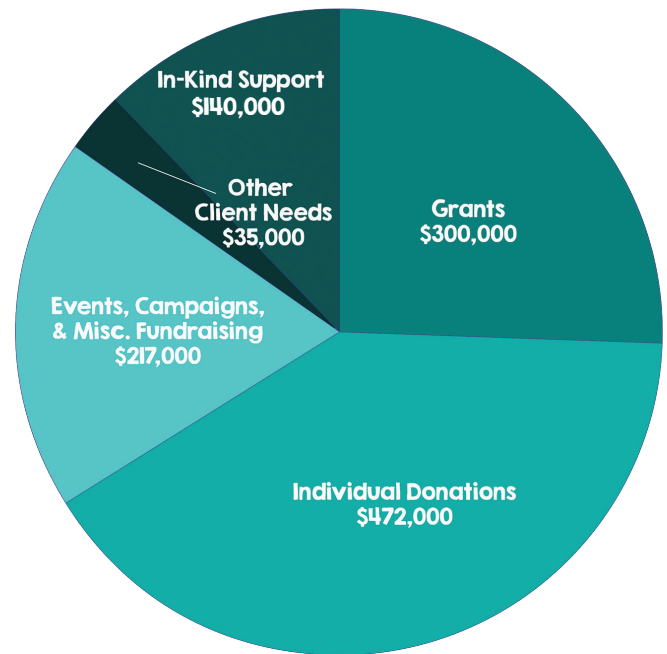
We work on a very lean budget and more than 83% of every dollar raised goes directly to one of our 13 programs that serve thousands of people each year. This has a significant impact on the health and well-being of our northern Michigan communities. As we begin the next 80 years, your gifts become increasingly important. We hope that as you carry out your charitable giving, you might also consider a legacy gift for the future. Planned gifts can be as simple as a will or bequest, plus there are a number of instruments that allow you to make a gift with retention of income for yourself and/or beneficiaries. Some also allow you to have your assets managed at low or no cost. And all gifts of this nature can have significant income, estate, and capital gains tax savings.

Talk to us about your vision for a healthy, safe, nurturing community. Please contact Linda Sommerville, Development Director at 946-8975 ext. 1025.

THANK YOU
to the 2,003
donors who gave
3,053 gifts to
CFS last year.

Fundraising Goals by Category

October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018



Total Fundraising Goal
\$1,164,000

CFS Annual Report

Income & Expenses

October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017

Income

Fundraising
\$1,211,278

Program Revenue

\$4,382,743

Total Revenue

\$5,594,021

Expenses

Personnel
\$3,454,395

Other Expenses

\$2,038,420

Total Expenses

\$5,492,815

Net Result/(Deficit)

\$101,206

Please visit www.cfsnwmi.org/donate
to view a list of our friends and supporters.



Third Level

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Thanks to
Bill Marsh
Automotive for their
sponsorship of the
newsletter



Our Impact

October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017

27,548 contacts fielded through 24/7 Third Level Crisis Services

2,716 counseling sessions from licensed therapists

2,150 nights of safe shelter provided for **44** youth

2,130 supervised visits and safe child exchanges

497 received free legal advice from volunteer attorneys

70 children placed with loving foster families

54 teens received counseling & support through our Youth Services

50 forever families created through adoption

36 families strengthened with Wraparound Family Preservation

19 comprehensive trauma assessments for children

\$1,211,278 raised through grants, donations, and special events



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