

Partnerships



...With Families and the Community.



Summit County

CHILDREN SERVICES

Building Families . . . Building Futures

A Letter from the Executive Director and the Board of Trustees



John Saros, Esq.
Executive Director



Daniel L. Bell, Esq.
Chair, Board of
Trustees

Every day, Summit County Children Services' dedicated staff works diligently to improve the lives of our community's vulnerable children. While it is very rewarding, their work requires them to overcome a number of serious challenges.

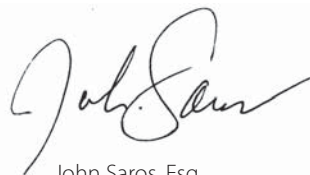
However, what frequently makes the difference in the cases we see is the exceptionally strong support we receive from the families with which we seek to partner . . . from countless fellow organizations and agencies . . . and from the Summit County community (as evidenced by our levy victory in November 2012 with nearly 70 percent of the vote).

These unique 'partnerships' are what truly sets our agency – and our community – apart from others. And, these same partnerships literally set the foundation for our successes as we strive to build families and futures.


In the following pages, you will see just a few examples of how our partnerships improved countless people's lives during 2012.

- You'll see how we partnered with several local agencies to secure \$2.5 million in Federal Grant funding to **combat parental substance abuse** – and how we partnered with local law enforcement and health care experts to **educate the local community about methamphetamines** . . . a drug tearing families apart today more than ever before.
- You'll see how we once again partnered with numerous community organizations to provide a day-long **'Summit for Kids' event** which offered fun – plus many much-needed services – to thousands of local families and children.
- You'll see how we **partnered with fathers** in a unique program designed to engage them and make them more positive contributors in their children's lives.
- You'll see how we partnered with families looking to help provide permanency to children of all ages through **Foster Care and Adoption**.
- You'll see how we partnered with families in turmoil to find **'alternative' ways to solve their issues** rather than automatically relying on the court system.
- And, you'll see how we partnered with generous community donors, such as our agency's Women's Auxiliary Board, to help provide a **proper place to rebuild broken families through positive family interaction**.

On behalf of the agency's Board of Trustees, administration, and staff, we sincerely thank you for your ongoing confidence – and your invaluable investment and partnership – in the work we do for Summit County's children and families.



John Saros, Esq.
Executive Director



Daniel L. Bell, Esq.
Chair, Board of Trustees



Partnerships with Families

Two years ago, Jeff Schafer had his sons, Tommy and Timmy, placed in foster care due to his drug and alcohol abuse and lack of stable housing. A situation he clearly recognized was 'a self-destructive path.'

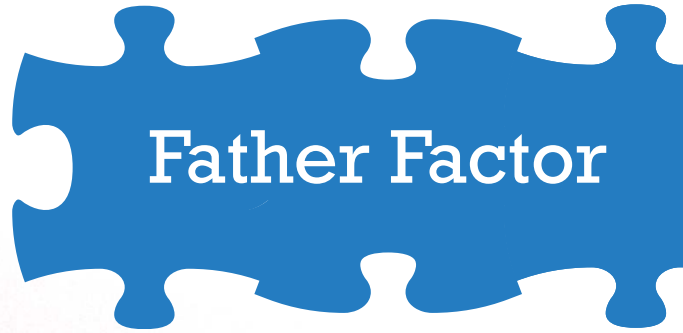
By early 2012 – thanks to an array of programs provided to him by Summit County Children Services' innovative **Father Factor Program** – Mr. Schafer was clean and sober . . . and had gained the skills needed to be a responsible father to his children.

His boys were returned to him – a success story so impactful that it was featured on the front page of the *Akron Beacon Journal's* 'Father's Day' edition (right), as well as a series of agency 'Success Series' ads.

"I was devastated when my kids came into custody . . . it was a low point in my life," he said. "But through my faith and the support I received from Father Factor, I regained control of my life and am proud of the father I've become."



Reprinted with permission of the Akron Beacon Journal and Ohio.com. To read the entire story, go to <http://www.ohio.com/news/local/summit-county-children-services-shifts-focus-onto-fathers-1.314617>



To partner with The Father Factor call (330) 379-2003 or (330) 996-1096.

Agency Services

Summit County Children Services provides an array of quality services designed to build families ... and build futures.

Intake/Alternative Response

Typically the first point of contact at the agency, Intake Services features a 24-hour hotline number for calls of concern involving children and families.

Protective

Ongoing Protective Services provides supportive counseling to children and families to strengthen family supports and maintain children safely in their own homes whenever possible.

Kinship

Kinship Services provides immediate safety for children who are unable to remain safely in their own homes by placing them with relatives or close family friends.

Foster Care and Placement

Foster Care and Placement Services provides around-the-clock substitute care resources and support services to place and maintain children in the least restrictive setting.

Adoption

Adoption Services matches children in permanent custody with adoptive families that can best meet their individual needs.

Independent Living

The Independent Living Program provides support to older children in agency care to help them transition from foster care to the world of work and further education.

Transitional Housing

Transitional Housing Services provides temporary housing and supportive counseling to young adults aged 18 - 25 years who have previously been in agency care and have become homeless.

Visitation/Family Interaction

Visitation Services provides a safe, nurturing environment for family visits while children are in agency custody. During 2012 a newly remodeled facility for such visits – the Thomas W. Blazey Family Interaction Center – was opened in the building formerly used as the agency's medical clinic (see page 6).

Health Care

Medical care is provided by Akron Children's Hospital and dental care by various community providers.

Partnerships with

Meet the Harris Family.

Charece Harris knew at a young age she wanted to adopt a child someday, so after unsuccessful fertility treatments, she and her husband, Nathan, decided to become **foster-to-adopt parents** through Summit County Children Services.

While they know reunification is the goal for every child and are supportive of birth families, the Harris family knew their purpose was to adopt.

So, as of 2012, they had cared for 17 children, and adopted three ... including a set of twin boys.

"Our strong faith led us down this path and we are grateful for the children who have come into our lives," Mrs. Harris said.



Foster Care & Adoption

To partner with Summit County Children Services to provide a loving foster or adoptive home to a child, call (330) 379-1990.



Reprinted with permission of the Akron Beacon Journal and Ohio.com.

To read the entire story, go to <http://www.ohio.com/news/local/summit-county-formalizes-five-adoptions-in-special-ceremony-1.353209>

Families

In today's new and improved Summit County Children Services, not every case that comes to the attention of the agency needs to become a full-fledged court case.

Sometimes all a family needs is help finding an 'alternative' way of succeeding.

Take the Anderson Family. After not seeing his daughter, Emalia, for five years, Scott Anderson took custody of her a couple years ago. At the same time, he was dealing with a family crisis involving his wife, Dawn . . . all of which caused him to become unemployed and homeless. There were arguments and fights between Mr. Anderson and his daughter.

The family was in crisis.

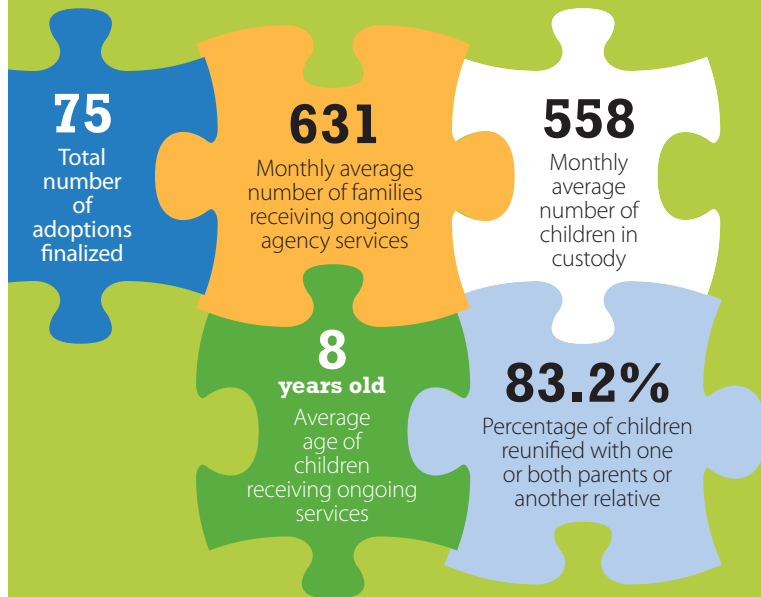
Following a referral to SCCS involving concerns for Emalia, the family participated in the agency's **Alternative Response (AR) Program**. They were connected with community resources that helped provide food, clothing, medical insurance – plus individual and family counseling.

The family is now back together and doing well. "There is now a sense of peace in our family and we are able to enjoy spending time together," Mr. Anderson said.

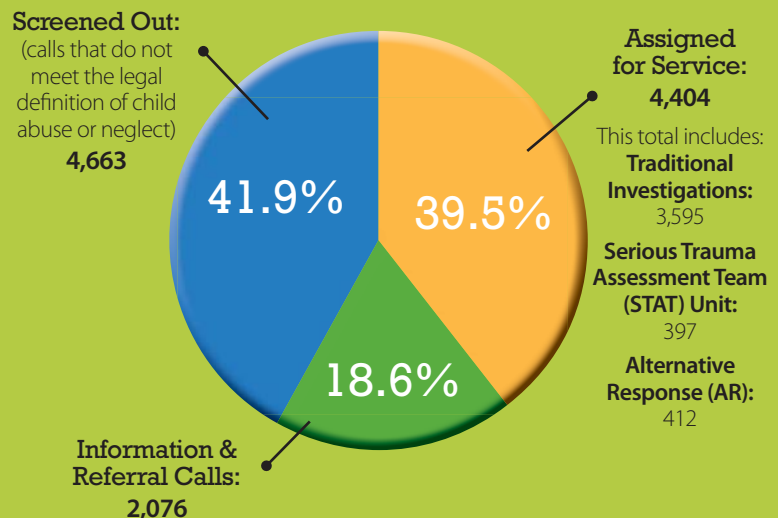


To learn more about how Summit County Children Services partners with families through the innovative Alternative Response program, call (330) 379-2031.

2012 by the Numbers



Total Intake Calls: 11,143



Partnerships with the Community

The STARS Program

At least 30 percent of families served by SCCS have substance abuse issues.

But while this presents a strong demand for assessments and services, families have been reluctant to participate – hindering the agency's ability to solve family issues and leading to high rates of child removal and placement in substitute care. Plus, children exposed to untreated substance abuse can have serious addiction and behavior issues themselves in the future.

In an innovative effort to increase the well-being and safety of foster children and at-risk youth by addressing parental substance abuse, Summit County Children Services successfully obtained a \$2.5 million Federal Grant to fund a multi-system partnership called **The STARS Program** which began operation in early 2013.

STARS Program community partners include: the Summit County Juvenile Court, Akron Children's Hospital 'CARE' Center, the County of Summit ADM Board, the Summit Family and Children First Council and Summit County Public Health, among others.



Photo by Paul Topple. Used with permission of the Akron Beacon Journal and Ohio.com.

While the STARS Grant will address substance abuse long-term, Summit County Children Services also took steps in 2012 to tackle the growing immediate problem of methamphetamines. More than 100 people packed the Downtown Library in August for the first **Meth Lab Community Forum** which featured presentations from the Akron Police Department, the Summit County Sheriff's Office and Akron Children's Hospital. Shown are representatives from APD demonstrating the dangers of how quickly portable meth labs can now be made.

Want to partner with Summit County Children Services with a donation . . . as a volunteer . . . or to join forces by exhibiting at a major community event? Call Community Relations at (330) 379-1994.

Blazey Family Interaction Center

Thanks to the generosity of our community, families being served by Summit County Children Services can now visit in a new, modern, state-of-the-art, family-friendly facility called the **'Thomas W. Blazey Family Interaction Center'** which opened in late 2012.

The total project cost was approximately \$350,000 with all funding coming from the agency's 'Donated Funds' account - including a special donation of \$25,000 from the SCCS Women's Auxiliary Board. The facility is dedicated to the late Thomas W. Blazey, a former executive at the B.F. Goodrich Company and 30-year Summit County Children Services Trustee who died in late 2012 at the age of 92.



Summit for Kids

More than 18,000 parents and children attended the 3rd Annual **Summit for Kids** Event at Akron's John S. Knight Center in 2012 – making it one of the largest indoor community events in Summit County. A partnership of the County of Summit, Summit County Juvenile Court, Summit County Children Services and dozens of other area businesses and organizations, the event featured tons of fun and many valuable community resources.

More than 80 exhibitors took part, providing children with ID kits, eye exams, back-to-school physicals, dental exams, immunizations and distributing more than 3,000 book bags. . . not to mention a chance to meet popular movie superheroes Spiderman and Captain America.

2012 Summary of Financial Statements

Beginning Fund Balance January 1, 2012 \$36,881,880

REVENUES

Operating Levy (Net)	\$25,944,456
Federal Funds	11,540,545
State Funds	2,693,251
Local and Other Funds	434,228
Total Revenues	\$40,612,480

EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$18,113,885
Fringe Benefits	7,352,141
Placement Care	13,778,731
Clothing, Food Services and Transportation	637,236
Health-Related Expenses for Children	509,080
Building, Supplies and Contracted Services	2,444,492
Community Education and Staff Training	317,494
Grant-Specific Expenses	718,670
Other Expenses	243,377
Total Expenditures	\$44,115,106
Excess of Expenditures over Revenues	\$3,502,626
Ending Fund Balance* December 31, 2012	\$33,379,254
Ending Fund Balance* December 31, 2013 (End of Levy Projection)	\$32,254,000

* The agency Fund Balance is a service delivery insurance fund for emergency and mandated services.

The primary funding source for Summit County Children Services is a 2.25 mill six-year property tax levy approved by voters and renewed in 2012. The levy generated \$26 million in 2012, representing over half (63%) of the Total Revenues. The remaining 37% of revenues came primarily from Federal and State funding sources in support of the Agency's social services programs and operations.

2012 LEADERSHIP (As of 12-31-2012)

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Yvette Lightner, President

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Katerina Papas, Deputy Executive Director/General Counsel
Gary Binns, Director of Finance
Chris Vasco, Director of Public Relations



Mission Statement

SCCS is committed to the safety, permanency and well-being of all children served, in partnership with families and the community.

Our Vision

Because we believe in family preservation and that all children deserve a safe, stable and permanent home, we will:

- Intervene only where necessary and only to the proper degree;
- Assess the community's concerns of abuse and neglect focusing on safety, risk and family strengths;
- Serve as partners with families and in teamwork with partner agencies in the community;
- Actively engage families, and their extended families and supports, in the decision-making process;
- Diligently work towards reunification when a child must be removed from home;
- Seek permanent homes for all children who cannot safely return to their parent or guardian;
- Remain mission-focused in our everyday work;
- Recruit and maintain diverse staff committed to serving all children and families;
- Approach our work with integrity, ethics and compassion;
- Be fiscally responsible.

Our Values

We Believe:

- All children have a right to a safe and stable home.
- All children should be in permanent homes, i.e., their own home, a relative's home or an adoptive home.
- The well-being of all children is vital to us, the child, the family and our community.
- All families deserve our best efforts to partner with them and to treat them with respect and honesty.
- We have an ongoing responsibility to increase our knowledge and improve our services by learning all we can about the diversity of our families and community.
- We have a duty to remain objective and consistent in all of our interactions with families and children.
- We must be creative and innovative in the delivery of services so as to heighten the efficiency and effectiveness of our work with families.
- We have a responsibility to be able stewards of taxpayer resources.

NOTE: The new Mission/Vision/Values statements were approved by the SCCS Board of Trustees in April 2013.



To learn more about Summit County Children Services, please use your Smart Phone to scan the code.



Phone: (330) 379-9094

24-Hour Child Abuse
and Neglect HOTLINE:
(330) 434-KIDS (5437)

TTY: (330) 379-2036

summitkids.org

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