A “Thank You” to the Community
from the Executive Director and Chair of the Board of Trustees

We want to begin by expressing our sincere gratitude to the community for passing the levy in November 2018 to support the work of Summit County Children Services (SCCS). It was time for the renewal of the current levy that provides 58% of the agency’s total revenue. As a result of lost revenue over many years and an increased need for services to children and families since 2012, SCCS also had to request an increase to the levy for the first time in 30 years.

After a solid community education plan, outreach, unwavering support from many community stakeholders and agency staff, the Summit County voters passed Issue 8! The passage of Issue 8 included a renewal of the current 2.25 mill levy along with an increase of 1 mill. This demonstrates that Summit County is willing to invest in the safety and well-being of the children in our community. With the levy now behind us, we can really focus on how to positively impact the lives of vulnerable children and families in Summit County.

For the past several years, the number of children in agency custody has increased by more than 30%. Substance use disorders are the primary factor contributing to the increase of children entering custody. Our goal will be to develop and enhance services in the homes of parents and/or relatives/kin to maintain children safely with family, whenever possible. We will also develop a new approach to recruitment of foster and adoptive families as we have a tremendous need for additional families to serve the number of children in custody. We can focus on prevention that may alter the trend of a growing number of families in need of services each year.

This annual report features several programs that are either new or enhanced to support family preservation and family connections for children. It will also demonstrate the importance of connections with community partners, donors and volunteers who support the work of the agency and the success of children and families. Finally, it features many of our employees, and our investment in staff recognition, support and training, because without a strong and capable workforce, we could not do the difficult work we do.

On behalf of SCCS’ Board of Trustees, administration, and dedicated staff, we want to thank the Summit County community for standing together to keep the children of Summit County safe!

Anna M. Arvay
Chair, Board of Trustees

Julie Barnes, M.Ed., LSW
Executive Director
Big Numbers = Big Needs
1 in every 11 children in Summit County received agency services in 2018.

Number of Children in Agency Custody

The average number of children in agency custody has increased by nearly 31% since 2014. Conversely, the number of available foster homes has decreased by more than 26% in the past five years.

![Graph showing number of children in agency custody from 2014 to 2018]

- **2014**: 600
- **2015**: 650
- **2016**: 700
- **2017**: 750
- **2018**: 800

**772**
Monthly average # of children in agency custody.

10,123
# children in Summit County who received agency services.

306
Monthly average # of children in kinship homes.

3,843
# of reports assigned for assessment/investigation.

84%
Percentage of children who successfully reunified with their families.

65
# adoptions finalized.
Maintaining children with their immediate families is of the utmost importance to SCCS. But when it's not safe for kids to be in their own homes, placing them with relatives or close family friends is the next best alternative. Kinship Care involves grandparents, aunts, uncles and other relatives, blood or non-blood, providing the full-time care for children whose parents are unable to do so.

At the end of 2018, approximately 40% of the children in agency custody were placed with relatives. Kinship Care can occur as an informal arrangement between the birth parent and relative, legal custody or guardianship order through the courts, a relative foster care placement or kinship adoption. Kinship care helps children maintain important family relationships. Caregivers also help to provide children with an improved sense of identity, connectedness, greater stability and a natural support system.

“Families serve as the chief source of identity, love and support,” states Trina Danzy, Director of Placement & Permanency Planning. “Kinship care is an important component for the well-being of children. These family members play a vital role in keeping everyone connected and remaining strong.”
SCCS graduated its inaugural class of the Leadership Academy! Fifteen staff members were chosen by an internal selection committee to complete the 12-month program that began in the fall of 2017 and concluded in 2018 with a capstone project created to benefit the children and families served by the agency. Leadership Academy was designed to provide staff with a formalized program to obtain and practice valuable leadership skills by engaging in training modules and shadowing opportunities.

Leadership Academy

Staff Development & Training

More than 100 staff members participated in the 2018 Social Services In-Service Training Day.

In excess of 1,000 hours of training were held at the Northeast Ohio Regional Training Center located at SCCS.

Leadership Academy Class I members participated in more than 100 hours of classroom and experiential training.

SCCS is committed to promoting leadership ideals and career advancement opportunities amongst agency staff as well as helping to guide staff members to achieve optimal results with their clients.
SCCS could not do the work it does without the active involvement and participation of a multitude of community partners. 2018 was an especially important and busy year for SCCS, and the successes achieved was in great part due to community partners. Their support helped to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of all children served by SCCS.

SCCS values the support provided by area businesses, places of worship, organizations, civic and youth groups, families and individuals that benefit the children and families served by the agency. Additionally, SCCS appreciates the commitment, enthusiasm and hard work given by hundreds of volunteers.

Formed in 1948, this 70+ member group hosts a wide variety of activities throughout the year to raise funds to directly support the children and families served by the agency. In 2018, they contributed more than $30,000 to help provide beds, car seats, personal care products, cleaning supplies and numerous other items in addition to volunteering their time to help with a number of agency projects and activities.
Akron Beacon Journal columnist and Broadcaster Hall of Fame inductee Robin Swoboda (left) poses with Christian recording artist Renee Welsch and the toys donated at ‘An Evening of Christmas Inspiration’ concert.

Theresa Carter, President of OMNOVA Solutions Foundation, was recognized with the Community Partner Award presented at the agency’s 9th Annual Appreciation Breakfast. We appreciate Theresa’s leadership in serving as the 2018 Levy Campaign Chair.

SCCS and the Summit County community came together on April 11 to raise awareness about the prevention of child abuse and neglect by wearing blue. Prominent community leaders, county officials and partners voiced their active support of the Wear Blue campaign through a PSA-style collaborative video. Hundreds of Summit County partners, staff and community members joined the ‘Wear Blue’ movement to bring awareness to child abuse prevention.

PICTURED ABOVE: Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro shares why she wears blue.

More than 400 volunteers gave in excess of 2,500 hours of service.

Nearly 500 donors supported programs benefitting children.

A total of 51 parents participated in the Succeed Primary Parent Support Group Project.

Succeed Primary Parent Support Group involves parents who are working a case plan to receive resources, encouragement and assistance through shared experiences.

LEFT: Agency staff with the Succeed Support Group facilitators.

Veronica, one of the Succeed Primary Parent Support Group facilitators.

#SummitWearsBlue
Intake Services
- Assessment/Investigations of Child Abuse & Neglect
- STAT (Serious Trauma Assessment Team) Unit

Intake Screening and Supports
- 24-Hour Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline: (330) 434-KIDS (5437)
- Intake Transitional Units
- Evening Caseworker Unit
- Family Preservation Unit

Protective Services
- Ongoing Case Management Services
- Medically Fragile Unit

Social Service Programs
- Family Interaction Center
- Substance Intervention Unit
- The Family Meeting Unit
- Father Factor Program
- 30 Days to Family© Grant
- Succeed Primary Parent Support Group Project

Placement & Permanency Planning Services
- Kinship Care & Navigator Services
- Independent Living Program
- Transitional Housing Program
- Adoption Services
- Substance Intervention Units

Community Relations & Foster Care
- Community Education & Outreach
- Foster Care Licensing & Support
- 24-Hour Foster Care & Adoption Inquiry: (330) 379-1990
- Volunteer & Donor Opportunities: (330) 379-1994

Professional Development & Training
- Speakers Bureau: (330) 379-1984
- Northeast Ohio Regional Training Center
- Student Learning Program

2018 Summary of Financial Statements

REVENUES

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Operating Levy (Net)</td>
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<td>Federal Funds</td>
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EXPENDITURES

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