



Summit County

CHILDREN SERVICES

Building Families . . . Building Futures



2018 Report to the Community

Agency Leadership

As of 4/1/2019

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Julie Barnes, M.Ed., LSW

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Agency Mission

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

summitkids.org



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



Anna M. Arvay



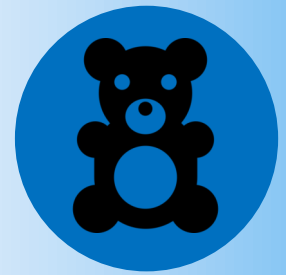
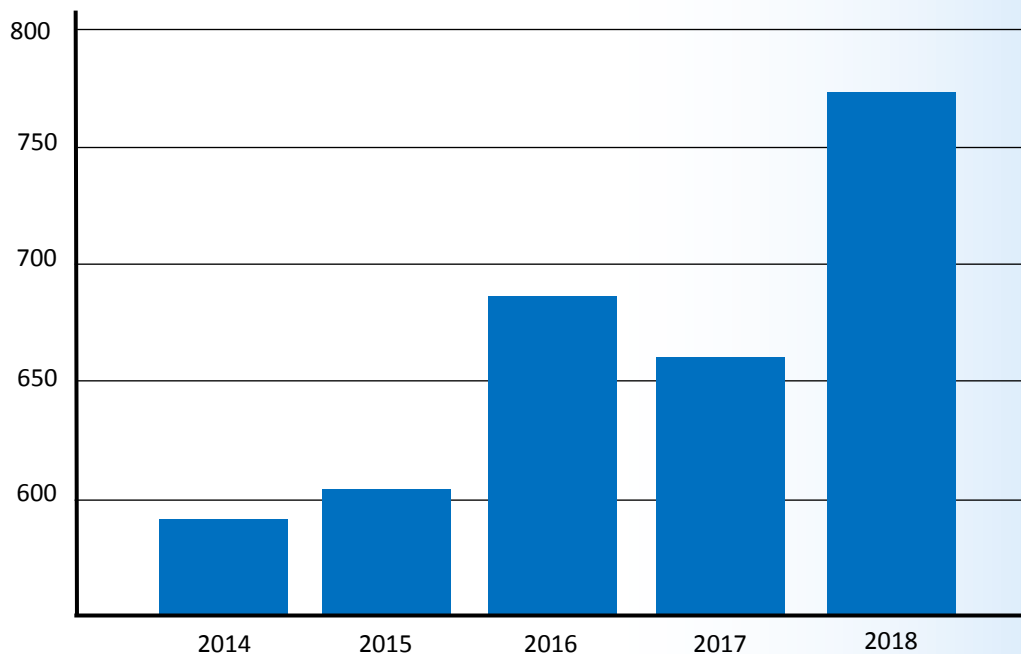
Julie Barnes, M.Ed., LSW

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.



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.



Part of our Quality Focus this year has been on emphasizing the importance of keeping families together. SCCS has seen an influx of children entering agency custody over the past year. Despite this increase, staff in our Intake and Protective Services Departments work tirelessly to keep kids safe. This is done with best practice skills in assessing family strengths and needs and diligent casework that puts the needs of children first. Keeping children safe with their families and in a least restrictive setting to reduce trauma that a child may experience have been made possible through the implementation of the Family Preservation Unit and increased emphasis on kinship care.

Family Preservation Unit

SCCS formed a specialized Family Preservation Unit in 2018 that puts emphasis on providing short-term and family-focused services.

"The idea of family preservation came from the recognition that children need a safe, stable family, and that children can be safely protected within their own homes when parents are provided with intensive, wrap-around services," stated Family Preservation supervisor Colleen Harris.

The unit is comprised of five highly-trained social workers and a supervisor with more than 80 combined years of experience. Caseworkers typically work with families for 3-6 months connecting them with essential community resources and helping them navigate various systems in order to get the services they need. They offer support to families and oftentimes provide transportation and accompany parents on appointments.

"Our Family Preservation social workers have a strong and deep passion for working intensively with families," commented Ms. Harris. "They spend a great deal of time working with their families to not only engage them in services but to help empower them to change their lives. And when that happens, families are successful and children are safe."



Caseworker Heather Murphy visits the home of one of her families involved with Family Preservation Unit.



Mr. and Mrs. Ballash became kinship caregivers for their grandchildren in 2016 and have provided a stable, loving home to the children through legal custody.

Kinship Care

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.



Approximately 40% of children in agency custody are placed with relatives.

"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."



Leadership Academy Class I participants: Michael Ayayo, Megan Bertram, Lauren Thompson, Elizabeth Moore, Jon Hart, Tim Longworth, Janeen Adkins, Gina Oriti, Kristine Ruiz, Adam Schumacher, Christina Snyder, Jennifer Snyder, Andrea Stephens, Krista Szalay, and Joselyn Vasquez.

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.

Leadership Academy

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.

Staff Development & Training



Staff member Beth Kinney led a training about family visitation and engagement.



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.



A group photo of casework staff at the 2nd Annual Social Services In-Service Day.



SCCS partnered with Elevate Akron to help bring agency education and awareness to nearly 3,000 people who attended the event.

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.



Patty Hahn from First Congregational Church in Hudson sits among their donation of more than 400 Easter baskets.



Executive Director Julie Barnes (left) was presented a check by Lori Feist with InfoCision Management for Holiday Toy Room.



**70 Years for
the Women's
Auxiliary
Board!**

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.

WEAR blue

#SummitWearsBlue



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.



Make a difference. Make a call.

24-Hour Child Abuse Hotline: (330) 434-KIDS (5437)

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

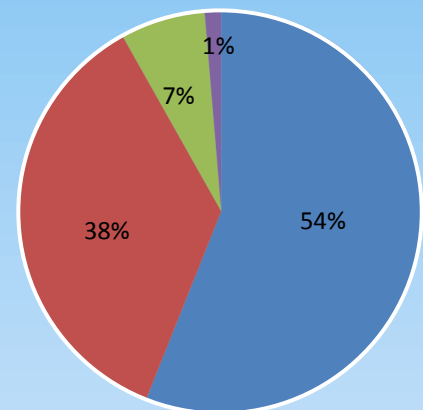
- * Community Education & Outreach
- * Foster Care Licensing & Support
- * 24-Hour Foster Care & Adoption Inquiry: (330) 379-1990
- * Volunteer & Donor Opportunities: (330) 379-1994

Professional Development & Training

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

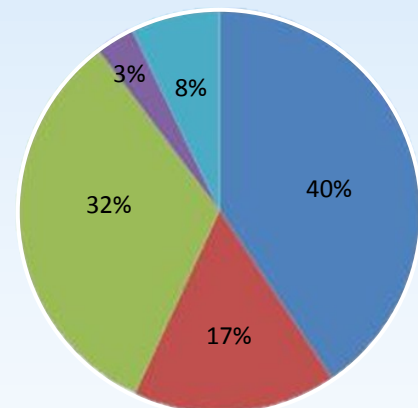
2018 Summary of Financial Statements

REVENUES



Operating Levy (Net)	\$25,952,096
Federal Funds	\$18,485,837
State Funds	\$ 3,147,117
Local & Grant Funds	\$ 549,254
Total Revenues	\$48,161,304

EXPENDITURES



Wages	\$19,739,489
Benefits	\$ 8,122,028
Placement	\$15,348,966
Other Child Related	\$ 1,507,597
Other Operational	\$ 4,023,375
Total Expenditures	\$48,740,455