



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



# CIRCLE OF SUPPORT



# MESSAGE FROM LCFS PRESIDENT & CEO

*“Our prime purpose in this life is to help others.” — Dalai Lama*

Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois (LCFS) has been in existence for nearly 150 years in various forms, but always with the mission to nurture and strengthen children and families in need.

Every decision I make in my leadership role with LCFS is through the lens of how will it benefit the children and families we serve, and how I can support our amazing staff who are called to do this work. 2022 was a year of change for LCFS, but we have kept our focus on our vision to create a world where all of God’s children have the opportunity for safe, healthy and meaningful lives.

Some highlights from this past year included:

- The expansion of LCFS’ preventative services through an agreement that brought 360 Youth Services in Naperville, Illinois under the umbrella of LCFS. 360 provides life-changing services to youth through substance use prevention education, counseling and housing. This partnership has allowed LCFS to positively impact the lives of more youth.
- LCFS leading the state in safely reuniting children in foster care with their families. I’ve always shared that I’ve never met parents who didn’t love their children and want what’s best for them. Unfortunately, families often face challenges beyond their control that lead to children being removed from their care. At LCFS, we are committed to partnering with families to help them overcome the challenges they are facing and safely bring their children home.
- The launch of LCFS’ modern new brand. Our previous logo served us well for nearly fifty years, but we felt it was time for a refreshed look that speaks to how we’ve grown as an organization, while still honoring our faith tradition. The new logo symbolizes the circle of support that LCFS is an important part of for those we serve. Our hope is that this new design will create excitement and help us raise greater awareness for the mission of LCFS, so we can impact the lives of more children and families in need.

In this report, we reflect on the circle of support idea, which includes not only LCFS and those we serve, but also our supporters, board members, foster parents, adoptive parents, partners in service, volunteers and more. Together, we have impacted the lives of children, youth, families and communities throughout Illinois now and for generations to come.

Mike Bertrand, MSW, LCSW  
LCFS President & CEO

## MISSION

To nurture and strengthen children and families in need.

## VISION

A world where all of God’s children have the opportunity for safe, healthy and meaningful lives.



**2,137**

children were cared for in loving LCFS foster families

**661**

youth and families were supported through counseling services



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### VP & COO

Beverly Jones, MSW, ACSW

### VP & CFO

Dhiren Shah, CMA, CPA

### VP OF ADVANCEMENT

Cheryl Wendt

**154**

children found their forever families through adoption





# CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

*“Surround yourself with people who are only going to lift you higher.” — Oprah Winfrey*



The heart of LCFS’ work is lifting up those we serve, so they can overcome life’s adversities and reach their God-given potential. A key element of that process is helping children and families identify and build their own circles of support: people and resources, including LCFS, that provide compassion, hope and guidance to assist them in reaching their goals.

As a faith-based child welfare agency, LCFS is called to serve all of God’s children, including those facing the most challenging situations. We do not believe anyone is beyond help or hope. We believe every child and family deserves a circle of support. Here’s how one such family was able to heal and overcome life’s challenges with assistance from LCFS.

Regina and Andre were young when they found themselves the parents of twins, Andy and Sally. While the couple loved their children, they struggled under the new responsibilities of caring and providing for their babies. They would often argue about bills and the hard times they were having. Unfortunately, the couple turned to marijuana and other substances, rationalizing their use as a way to manage stress. The family’s challenges continued when Andre was arrested.

Regina did her best to try to care for her children, while also working, but the stress and bills caught up to her. Eventually, a hotline call was made to DCFS and Regina’s children were taken into care due to neglect and an unsafe home environment.

This began Regina’s journey to turn her life around for herself and her children. Thankfully, she didn’t have to do it alone.

At the age of 2, Andy and Sally were placed into LCFS’ care. LCFS worked hard to find the twins a loving foster family that would allow them to stay together and receive the supportive, nurturing care they needed.



## 255

families were strengthened through LCFS’ family-focused preventative services

While the twins' needs were being cared for in foster care, LCFS helped Regina identify what supports she needed to get herself back on track and her children home. In the beginning, Regina struggled with her substance use and feelings of guilt associated with the removal of her children. Thankfully, her LCFS worker didn't give up on her and eventually Regina decided it was time to make a change. She began receiving substance abuse treatment and attending support group meetings to tackle her addictions. LCFS also engaged Regina in counseling services to address her feelings around guilt, healthy relationships, conflict resolution and parenting strategies.

With support and encouragement from her LCFS worker, Regina enrolled in a training program to become a Certified Nursing Assistant and found a job she loved. She began saving money and eventually was able to afford a safe two-bedroom apartment. While Regina made these positive strides, she also attended regular visitations with her children. Everyone on Regina's team, including her LCFS worker, counselor, and the childrens' foster family advocated for Andy and Sally to be returned home.

Regina is now reunited with her children, and the twins are thriving in their mother's care. With the support and guidance of LCFS, she made the positive changes needed to be the best mother possible to her children.

Stories like Regina's is why LCFS is committed to our work. Through our many programs, including foster care, adoption, counseling, preventative services, Southern Thirty Adolescent Center, 360 Youth Services and Camp Wartburg, we are honored to be a part of our clients' circles of support and are committed to impacting lives for years to come.



**384**

youth in foster care found their permanent homes with **269** able to return to their families

**OUR CLIENTS.  
THEIR STORIES.**

Want to be inspired by more stories of people changing their lives for the better with the help of your support and LCFS? Visit [LCFS.org](https://www.lcfs.org)

**42**

youth in care received emergency shelter at Southern Thirty Adolescent Center



# YOU COMPLETE LCFS' CIRCLE OF SUPPORT



*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." —1 Peter 4:10*

Our Annual Report would not be complete without highlighting the generous donors that support LCFS and our important mission. We talk a great deal about the Circle of Support that surrounds the children and families we serve – I truly feel that our donors complete this circle. As we look back over a year of hard work...a year of protecting children and striving to support and reunify families...our donors help make all of that possible.

Through their partnership with LCFS, our donors were a part of Regina's circle of support and the thousands of other children and families LCFS served this past year.

Because of our donors, in 2022:



**1,696**

children in our care got to experience the joy of presents under the Christmas tree

**1,300**

youth in care headed back to school with new backpacks filled with supplies



In addition, many children were able to attend prom, go to sport and band camps, have new beds and bedding, attend summer programs at Camp Wartburg, and receive counseling services. The extras that each of us value for our own families have been made available to those in our care – making them feel special, loved and cared for.

We cannot thank our donors enough for the true impact they have had on the lives of those we serve. With their support we will continue to be able to write stories of hope and healing for families in the years to come.

*Cheryl Wendt*

Cheryl Wendt  
VP of Advancement

**85**

cents out of every donated dollar went directly to programs and clients

# LCFS FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Consolidated statement of activities for fiscal year ended June 30, 2022

UNRESTRICTED REVENUE	
Contributions, net	\$828,337
Legacies and bequests	\$1,029,339
Contributions by associated congregations	\$55,666
In-Kind Contributions	\$126,132
Fees and grants from government agencies	\$33,704,401
Other Revenue	
Program service fees	\$1,772,156
Program grants	\$209,223
Thrift shop income	\$392,668
Other Income	\$20,471
Release of net assets arising from satisfaction of restrictions	\$262,323
<b>UNRESTRICTED REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$38,400,716</b>

OPERATING EXPENSES	
Program Services	\$31,418,143
Supporting Services*	\$5,338,014
Management and general	\$4,638,276
Fundraising	\$602,496
Investment Fund (Foundation)	\$97,242
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$36,756,157</b>
Increase in unrestricted net assets before other changes in net assets	\$1,644,559

OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	
Net investment income	\$(1,297,611)
Pension liability related changes	\$169,162
Pension related changes other than net periodic benefit cost	\$404,036
Gain on sale of property and equipment	\$10,218
Change in net assets due to 360 Youth Services acquisition	\$3,514,987
<b>Net other changes in net assets</b>	<b>\$2,800,792</b>
Increase in unrestricted net assets	\$4,445,351
Net Increase in temporarily and permanently restricted net assets	\$694,165
<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$5,139,516</b>

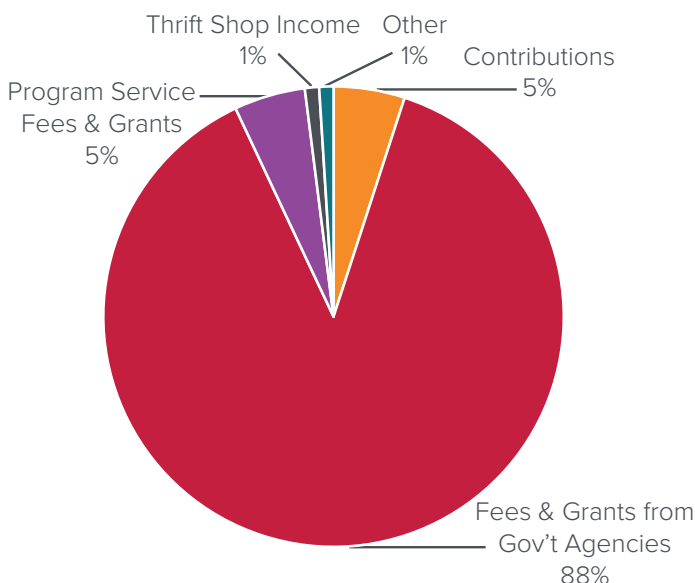
NET ASSETS	
Beginning of year	\$15,072,700
<b>END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$20,212,216</b>

\*Supporting Services are 15% percent of total expenses.

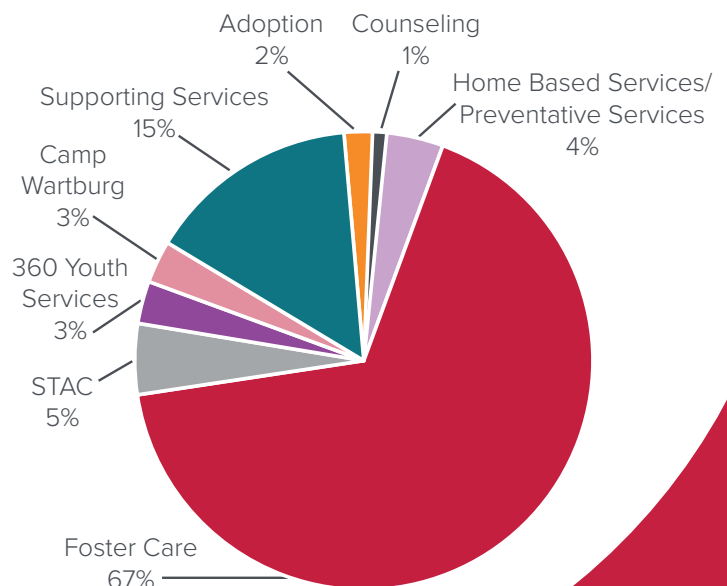
This financial statement was abstracted from the Organization's June 30, 2022 audited consolidated financial statements. LCFS acquired 360 Youth Services as of April 1, 2022.

Copies of the audited consolidated financial statements are available upon written request to Dhiren Shah, LCFS VP and Chief Financial Officer, One Oakbrook Terrace, #501, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181, or available online at [LCFS.org/publications-financials](http://LCFS.org/publications-financials).

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



## WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?







One Oakbrook Terrace, Suite 501  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181  
800-363-LCFS | [www.LCFS.org](http://www.LCFS.org)  
License number: 012998

