

MISSION
"Strengthening Communities
by Building Strong Families"

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Jim Pearce

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PROGRAMS

Youth Shelters
Programs for youth in crisis

Counseling
Services for troubled youth
and their families

Prevention
Educating the community,
focusing on substance
abuse, and reducing juvenile
crime with a focus on
high-risk youth



November 1, 2013

Dear Community Partner:

Enclosed please find a copy of the CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services, Inc. 2013 Annual Report.

In the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2013 of the youth who received services in our residential program, Interface Youth Program, 100% were not adjudicated while working with our staff and 97.3% completed our shelter program.

In our non-residential program, Family Action, 94.7% of youth served successfully completed services.

Prevention Services provided evidenced based programs to 2,370 youth who averaged a 28% increase from pre-test to post-test scores.

Last year in our Interface Youth Program, 535 satisfaction surveys were completed by parents and youth with 95.5% reporting overall satisfaction with services received. In our Family Action Programs, 98.4% of 56 parents and 100% of 66 youth completing surveys reported overall satisfaction with services.

Finally, we are proud that our 2013 Stakeholders survey revealed that 100% of those responding answered Strongly Agree or Agree to the following statement:
"CDS has a good working relationship with our organization."

We are deeply grateful for your support of our efforts to:
Strengthen Communities by Building Strong Families.

If I may be of service to you, please contact me at 352-244-0628 or email jim_pearce@cdfsfl.org.

Sincerely,

Jim Pearce
CEO



Major support from: State of Florida, Department of Juvenile Justice; Florida Network of Youth & Family Services, Inc.; State of Florida, Department of Children & Families; Partnership for Strong Families; U.S. Department of Health & Human Services; United Way of North Central Florida; United Way of Suwannee Valley; Individual Contributions



www.cdsfl.org

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Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 244-0628

Interface Youth Shelters:
Gainesville - (352) 244-0618
Lake City - (386) 487-0190
Palatka - (386) 385-0405

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

November 1, 2013

EMBRACING OUR CHANGING TIMES

A few weeks back Apple, Inc. made news with the release of the latest iPhone. This follows the previous version released only months ago. This aptly points out the quickly changing world in which we live.



Jim Pearce
CEO

H. Thomas Lane, Jr.
Board President

There was a time when non-profits functioned in a somewhat static world. While we do not operate at Apples pace, non-profits must today adjust to rapid societal changes. The evolving drug culture, human trafficking, domestic minor sex trafficking, domestic violence, random and seemingly senseless acts of violence committed by youth and adults are just a few examples.

CDS has also responded to significant changes during the past year. For several years non-profit behavioral health organizations similar to ours have been weighing the potential opportunities and effects of the Affordable Care Act. There have been many mergers across the state and country as non-profits have attempted to craft a size and depth of their businesses to be competitive in the emerging health care market place. Our own analysis revealed that this was not an area that we believed that we could be successful and after much consideration we approached our contractor Lutheran Services of Florida Health Systems and Meridian Behavioral Healthcare and brokered a trade for our substance abuse treatment funding for Meridian's substance abuse prevention funding. We are excited about the opportunities to develop even stronger prevention programs.

During the last session, the Florida Legislature enacted several laws that will have a direct impact on the Independent Living Program that works with youth who are in and/or have aged out of foster care. These changes will place more responsibility on foster parents for the teaching of life skills for youth ages 13 through 15. CDS staff, via a contract with Partnership for Strong Families, will place an even greater emphasis on independent living skills for youth age 16 and 17, as well as young adults who have already aged out of care.

Continued on second page

2013 Highlights:

- 864 youth were served through Family Action Counseling and the Interface Youth Program Shelters
- 100 % of youth remained crime-free while at Interface
- PIPSA Coalition nominated staff member Danielle Colson as their Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) Ambassador. She was selected along with 17 other Ambassadors nationally.
- 18,925 people learned about CDS at outreach events
- 89 volunteers contributed a total of 7,179 hours to CDS Programs valued at \$91,934.



CDS Interface Youth Shelter

Interface – Residential Services

Interface Youth Shelters are located in Gainesville, Palatka, and Lake City. Youth ages 10 through 17 that are homeless, runaway, truant, or ungovernable stay at the shelters where they participate in a social skills development program and counseling when they are not at school. For many, this is a positive life-changing experience for both youth and their families. It's nice to know Interface is there when you need it!

****Success Story at Interface: A Very Grateful MOM!***

“My heart is FULL of tremendous gratitude for all that you have done to help our family. When I dropped Bill off at your facility four weeks ago, I didn't know what to expect. During the weeks that Bill was there, I began to see a change. I saw little changes that turned into BIG positive changes. A change that you and your staff were a huge part of. Every staff person that (my family and) I encountered ... was incredibly kind, friendly, and helpful. ... As I check Bill out today my heart is incredibly grateful for what you do each and every day to make a difference in the lives of the families you serve. I can imagine your jobs are not always easy—or glamorous -or fun at times. What I do know is that you ARE making a difference. You have given us a second chance at creating a happy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE:

The legislature also funded more counselors to work with truant, runaway and ungovernable youth in three of our rural counties. This too was a very positive change and will provide needed support for at-risk youth and families.

November is “National Runaway Prevention Month.” While running away has always been risky behavior; the potential for harm today is much greater than in the past. The CDS Board of Directors decided to hold our Annual Meeting in November to highlight the high risk of danger for these youth.

Major Accomplishments in 2013:

- Interface provided residential services to a total of **520** youth at three Interface Shelters (Gainesville, Palatka, & Lake City)
- Average length of stay at Interface was **19** days
- **97%** of youth successfully completed the program
- Of those completing surveys **96%** of parents and **95%** of youth expressed overall satisfaction with the program

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart for taking care of my son.”



family and restoring relationships. I will forever be grateful for that. ...Thank you from the bottom of my heart for taking care of my son. Thank you for doing an amazing job with these children and for laying down your lives every day to make a difference. I wish each of you all the best in all that you do!”

**Name & identifying details have been changed.*



We are committed to working to prevent youth from running away, but also concentrate on locating them and providing appropriate services to assure their safety in our community.

Clearly, this has been a year of significant change for CDS, and we remain dedicated to our mission of **Strengthening Communities by Building Strong Families**. We look forward to another year of working closely with our many community partners.

CDS Counseling Programs

Family Action

CDS offers non-residential counseling through Family Action. This year, the Family Action program received funding to expand, hiring new counselors to serve some of our more rural areas (Bradford, Hamilton, and Levy Counties). Local schools have made office space available for our new counselors. Family Action targets youth ages 6 to 17 with runaway, truancy, and issues of being beyond parental control.

Major Accomplishments in 2013

- **344** youth and families were served
- **67%** of youth served lived in high crime zip codes
- **81%** of youth served had at least 3 risk factors related to delinquency (school, family, behavior, peers)
- **95%** of youth admitted successfully completed services



*“I appreciate the staff and their hearts toward children and families.
A great program, very valuable to the community”*

Volunteering

Did you know that CDS engages dozens of volunteers each year? New volunteer training is offered three times each year. Most volunteers help at the CDS Interface Youth Shelters. But others assist in administrative duties, Safe Place program, and at outreach events.

During this past year, 89 new volunteers attended training. Volunteers contributed 7,179 hours of service to CDS, making an in-kind contribution valued at \$91,934.

To start the application and training process, please contact Radha Selvester (radha-selvester@cdfsfl.org) (352) 244-0628 x3865.



Not only is Alison playing volleyball and making A-B Honor Roll at school, she is also feeding the homeless in her community!

***Alison’s Success Story at Interface**

**Name & identifying details have been changed.*

Alison was 14 when she entered CDS Interface Youth Shelter. She was referred by her parents, due to ungovernable and defiant behaviors at home and peer related issues at school. During Alison’s stay at Interface she gained a sense of being heard. The counseling really helped her express her needs appropriately. She was able to follow instructions, achieve her targeted goals and display an outstanding positive attitude to make it to Achievement level (the highest level in Interface). After leaving the shelter, Alison was referred to our non-residential Family Action Counseling Program and continued to work on the issues with her family.

Alison’s mother is happy to report that since leaving Interface, her daughter’s behavior improved and she is doing well in many areas of her life. Alison has become a supportive sibling and is now on the A-B Honor Roll. In addition, Alison is playing on the Girls Volleyball Team at school and during her spare time Alison is helping to feed the homeless and assisting elderly citizens in the community through a Christian Volunteer Program. Alison plans to complete high school and attend the University of Florida, where she will pursue her career goal of becoming a Nurse Practitioner.

“(Interface) helped me more than I thought it would!”

CDS Independent Living

CDS Independent Living Counselor/Case Managers provided individualized skill building and training to 57 youth between the ages of 13 and 17 in the foster care system and support to 126 young adults who have aged out of foster care.

This year CDS Independent Living Counselors helped transition 8 participants into adulthood. Each youth aging out of the foster care system requires an enormous

amount of staff time, resources, and support. Many of our young adults have little or no resources to rely on and it makes our relationships with these young people even more crucial. CDS depends heavily on the donations of furniture and other household items from various community groups that we continue to receive regularly to help set up apartments for our kids aging out of foster care.

Since 2002, when CDS took on the Independent Living Program, 191 youth graduated from high school or attained GED, 22 graduated from college, and 2 have earned Masters degrees!

MY Future MY Choice

This past year, legislation was passed to include an extension of foster care to age 21. "Extended foster care" is the name given to the program for young adults who were living in licensed care on their 18th birthday, who have not achieved permanency, are under the age of 21, or 22 with a qualifying disability, and who wish to remain in or reenter care as an adult. This program is also known as "MY Future MY Choice." Independent Living or Life Skills Instruction will now be provided by the youths' foster parents prior to the age of 16. CDS Independent Living services will become activated at age 16 through age 23 in the new legislation (January, 2014). CDS IL Case Managers will become the primary caseworker for each youth aged 17 to 23.

Major Accomplishments in 2013

- **12** young adults graduated high school or GED
- **23** young adults are pursuing their high school diploma or GED
- **38** Independent Living Youth are in post-secondary education, **4** in vocational school, and **7** are serving in the military
- CDS Independent Living had **3** youth earn college degrees, **1** youth enter a masters program, and **2** youth complete their RN licenses

Graduation is SWEET!



Jamie is now the Captain of the high school Color Guard and President of the Spanish Club!

AND her GPA is 4.7!

****JAMIE'S Independent Living Success Story***

Jamie entered the foster care system when she was eleven years old. She is currently finishing her senior year of high school. For the past three years she maintained an unweighted GPA of 3.9 and a weighted GPA of 4.7. This year she became captain of the Color Guard and is president of the Spanish Club. She is in the process of applying to four year colleges in Florida as well as applying for a scholarship for an out of state school. She wants to double major in Spanish and business with the aspirations of working in international business ventures.

Jamie has demonstrated a maturity and resiliency beyond her 17 years. She's had to endure several disrupted placements none of which were caused by her and was resourceful enough to find a home whereby she could continue attending the same high school she was in. Despite those placement setbacks she continues to be highly motivated to achieve her academic goals, maintains a positive attitude, and is graceful under fire. Jamie is truly a role model, not only for young adults in the foster care system, but for her peers as well.

"All the staff are awesome & they really helped me a lot"

Prevention Services

CDS's Prevention Project continues to be active in providing prevention programs and services in Alachua County and Levy County. Prevention services experienced an increase in funding in October 2012, due to a fund shift with Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. Our program was tasked with the development and implementation of five new program sites which would offer evidence based programs in Alachua County and Levy County by January 2013.

Through our collaborative partnerships with the School Board of Alachua County, the Levy County School Board and the Levy County Prevention Coalition, CDS's Prevention Project began offering evidence based programs proven effective in reducing risk and building protective factors in two elementary schools in Levy County and two middle schools and the

alternative school in Alachua County in January, 2013.

Partners in Prevention of Substance Abuse Coalition (PIPSA) of Alachua County

In June, the PIPSA Coalition successfully completed its final year of the Stop Act/ Collegiate Success Initiative Grant designed to curb under-aged drinking among college students.

Levy County Prevention Coalition

This year the Coalition applied for and is the successful recipient of a federally funded "Drug Free Communities Support Grant." This funding will allow the Coalition to hire staff and will fund the implementation of environmental strategies and programs to address substance abuse in Levy County.

"An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure"

Major Accomplishment in 2013:

- **1,717** students completed the Too Good for Drugs Program at Williston Elementary School with an average pre-test score of **65%** and post-test score of **86%**
- **402** students completed the Too Good for Violence Program at Williston Elementary School with an average pre-test score of **59%** and post-test score of **91%**
- **210** students completed Project Success at Williston Middle School with an average pre-test score of **46%** and post-test score of **67%**
- **41** students completed Life Skills Training at the Reichert House after school program with an average pre-test score of **61%** and post-test score of **71%**.

National Safe Place & National Runaway Safeline

CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services is part of the national network of youth shelter providers assisting runaway and homeless youth. All Alachua County public schools and libraries, Gainesville Fire Stations, and RTS buses as well as about 40 businesses, work with CDS as Safe Place partners. Youth with problems can visit any of these locations and staff there will call Interface for assistance. If youth need to go to the shelter for help, CDS Interface staff will make arrangements for transportation.

CDS staff & interns visit classrooms and summer camps to teach children about staying safe and accessing Safe Place services all over the United States. If you are interested in having a Safe Place presentation offered to a group, please contact Radha Selvester at (352) 244-0628 x3865. radha_selvester@cdsfl.org There is no charge for these age appropriate presentations and all children receive gifts like Safe Place stickers, coloring pages, and bookmarks.

CDS Outreach Accomplishments in 2013

- CDS attended **203** outreach events connecting with **7,923 youth** and **11,002** adults
- **1,076** youth and **2,436** adults received information about the CDS local Safe Place program.
- **5,240** Runaway cards & bookmarks were distributed

RTS buses are Safe Place sites! →

The Runaway cards & bookmarks contain National Safe Place & National Runaway Safeline information as well as the local CDS Interface numbers for 24/7 assistance. These cards are available at no cost to place at locations frequented by youth. For Info call: (352) 244-0628 x3865



Here to Listen.
Here to Help.

**1-800-
RUNAWAY**

1-800-786-2929



Spotlight On Youth



Spotlight on Youth is a teen talent show hosted by CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services each spring. The fifteenth annual event will be held on **April 6, 2014 at 2 pm at the Fine Arts Hall at Santa Fe College.**

In addition to being a major fundraising event for CDS, *Spotlight on Youth* is a chance for high school musicians, dancers, artists, and poets to show off their talents. In 2013, 87 students performed on stage from Alachua, Columbia, Levy, and Suwannee Counties. Refreshments were catered by Job Corps culinary arts students. In 2014, we plan to hold auditions in several locations including Palatka to make it easier for Putnam County and other youth to participate.

Studies show that youth who are involved in the arts are less likely to get involved with drugs, alcohol, or violence. They are more likely to stay in school and do better in their classes. The arts teach critical thinking skills, stress management, and

discipline, all of which help create healthier adults and better citizens. *Spotlight on Youth* gives young people a positive alternative to potentially risky behaviors and its performers are positive role models for their peers.

Supporting *Spotlight on Youth* is a great way to be involved with the CDS mission:

Strengthening Communities by Building Strong Families.

Call (352) 244-0628 x3865 for more information.



2013 Awards



Michelle Garner—Director of Programs, Juvenile Crime Prevention Office

2013 Community Partner Awards

Anita Cabrera - Partnership for Strong Families
Diane Pearson - Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor
Janet Romero - Department of Children & Families

2013 Staff Achievement Awards

Lytinia McCullough - Counselor/Case Manager
Noreen Wales - Youth Care Worker
Radha Selvester - Community Outreach/Safe Place Specialist
Ryan Pendry - Information Technologist Extraordinaire

2013 Longevity Awards

5 Years

Roy Erdman, Maintenance Supervisor
Karma Gibbs, Youth Care Worker
Christina Jackson, Youth Care Worker
Verneka Watson, Youth Care Worker

10 Years

Karen Bethel, Senior Youth Care Worker
Carrie Smith-Cordell, Administrative Assistant
Wanda Dixon, Youth Care Worker

"The program was very helpful. All the staff were easy to talk to and very open. They gave great advice."

Carlton Jones, Youth Care Worker
Brenda Jordan, Youth Care Worker
Rene Yan, Accounting Clerk II

15 Years

Johnnie Kelley, Senior Youth Care Worker
Gonzellas Whitter, Residential Supervisor

Esprit de Corps Awards

Roy Erdman,
Maintenance Supervisor
Twanda Evans-Pruitt,
Prevention Specialist
Nakita Thomas,
Youth Care Worker

20 Years

Noreen Wales,
Youth Care Worker



Thank You For Your Support !

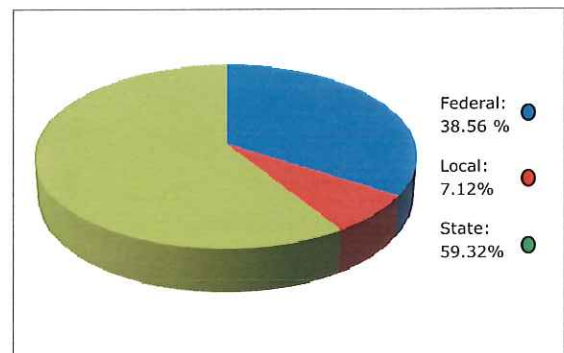
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|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Alachua County Sheriff's Office | James Moore & Co. | Eileen Smith |
| Alarion Bank | Kiwanis Club of Gainesville | Stone Mountain Park |
| Anna Azabi | Elliott Kuecker | Franky F. So |
| Lisa Bai | Levy County School Board | Jody Soler |
| Bradford County Sheriff's Office | Yang Li | Libby J. Sylvester |
| Keith Burkitts | Debra L. Loadholtz | Molly S. Tang |
| Central Florida Community Action Agency, Inc. | Richard Mankin | University of Florida, University Athletic Association |
| William P. Cervone | Catalin Martin | Dekle & Peggy Vickers |
| Darden Restaurants | Rodica Martin | Sheron Wen |
| Rebecca Fitzsimmons | Meadowbrook Golf Club | Wild Adventures Theme Park |
| Floating Lotus Spa | Miami Dolphins | Robert Wilford |
| Florida Aquarium | James Moore & Co | Winters Past |
| Gainesville Health & Fitness | Red Lobster Restaurants | Rene Yan |
| Garden Gate Nursery | Paul L Robinson | Yanping Zhang |
| Lynn Gruman | School Board of Alachua County | |
| Tohien T. Hoang | Jixiu Shan | |
| Lisa Hunt | Shores Pet Hospital & Resort | |
| | Skate Station | |



Financial Data

Supports & Revenues

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Grants and Contracts | \$3,673,315.00 |
| United Way and other contributions | 75,388.00 |
| Contributed services of volunteers | 91,934.00 |
| Contributed facilities, materials and supplies | 62,184.00 |
| Program Services revenue | 10,915.00 |
| Interest, rental, and other revenue | 20,752.00 |
| Total: | \$3,934,488.00 |



Major support by: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice; Florida Network of Youth & Family Services; Florida Department of Children & Families; Partnership for Strong Families; U.S. Department of Health & Human Services; United Way of North Central Florida; United Way of Suwannee Valley; and Individual Donations.

CDS has offices in Gainesville, Lake City, and Palatka and its services cover an eleven county area, including: Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Lafayette, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Suwannee, Levy, Putnam, and Union. CDS is the sole provider of many of its services, such as runaway shelters, in North Central Florida.



An additional three counties are served with the Independent Living Program for youth aging out of foster care: Baker, Madison, and Taylor.



CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
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 Gainesville, FL 32608
www.cdsfl.org
 (352) 244-0628

Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit #111
 Gainesville, FL 32601

Or Current Resident

"I LOVE CDS. THIS IS MY SECOND HOME FAMILY!"

"WONDERFUL PROGRAM. SO GLAD WE FOUND SUCH A GREAT PLACE. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING."

2013 Board of Directors

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 Paperless Solutions Group

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Treasurer:

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 C.P.A., Controller
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 Criminal Justice Services
 Police Academy/
 Santa Fe College

Other Members

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 Palatka Police Department

Phil Kabler, Esquire
 Attorney

Richard Mankin, Ph.D.
 Agricultural Research Service
 USDA

Robert Page

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