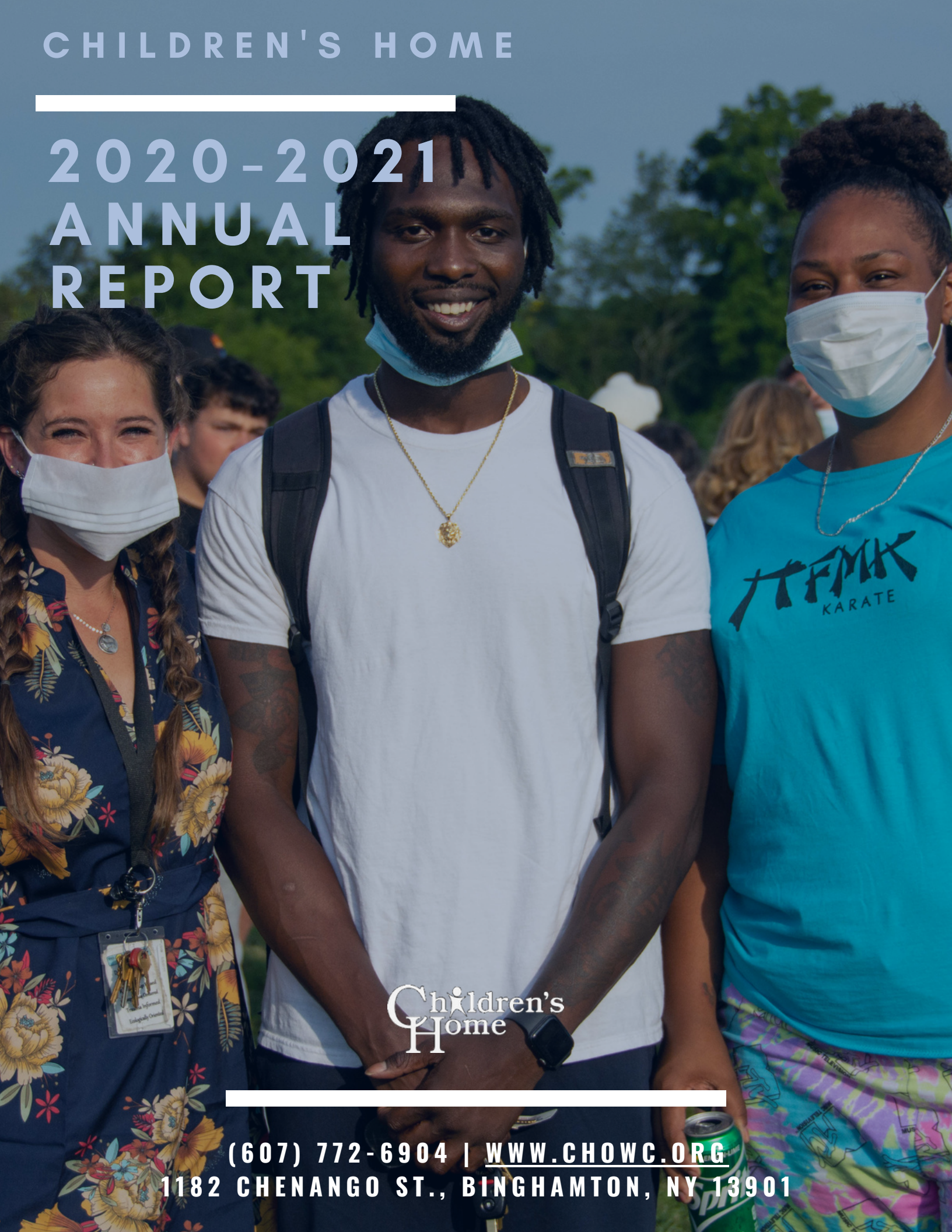


CHILDREN'S HOME

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2020-2021  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



Children's  
Home

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(607) 772-6904 | [WWW.CHOWC.ORG](http://WWW.CHOWC.ORG)  
1182 CHENANGO ST., BINGHAMTON, NY 13901



*a year's overview*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Thank you for taking time to review our 2020 - 2021 Annual Report. You will see numbers and statistics along with a few faces and stories of our team members and those we serve. What is impossible to capture is the hard work, dedication, effort, energy and occasional tears of the over 500 Children's Home team members who breathe spirit and life into our Mission, Vision and Values. You will see news of continued services and growth and development of new programs and new service areas. We continue to grow and evolve while staying true to the call to serve others just as our Foundresses did over 110 years ago.

The developments of this year would be significant in any year. In a year gripped by the COVID-19 Pandemic, they are even more remarkable. Our team provided education, safety, security, housing, stability and family supports to more youth and families than ever before in our history. We are grateful to our team, local and state partners, and our benefactors for support, encouragement and guidance. When people ask "how did you get through COVID?" the Children's Home Team will be able to say we worked together, stayed the course and did what needed to be done for those who needed us. I am proud of our team, Mission, and passion to serve.

I invite you to learn more about the Children's Home in this report, through our website [www.chowc.org](http://www.chowc.org) or by contacting me at [gdermody@chowc.org](mailto:gdermody@chowc.org). Thank you for caring about the work we do and the wonderful children and families it is our privilege to serve.

Sincerely,



George T. Dermody  
President/ CEO  
Children's Home & Southern Tier Community Center



## LICENSES

New York State Office of Children and Family Services

New York State Office of Mental Health

Department of Education and Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York

New York State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities

## ACCREDITATION

Council on Accreditation (COA)

*a brief message*

## FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

This global pandemic has given us an opportunity to demonstrate the commitment and flexibility of the Children's Home talented staff—whose dedication to serve children and their families is unmatched in our region.

As we reflect on another very challenging year, the Board of Directors focused our commitment for each child we serve to be nurtured and protected.

This year's Annual Report provides details of our expanding programs and services. It is important to recognize that despite the challenges, the organization has continued their impressive growth trajectory and is serving more children and their families than ever before. Most remarkably, this accomplishment has been done while maintaining a strong financial performance—ensuring the continuity and success of our Mission and goals.

To say we are proud of the staff and senior management team is an understatement; we are truly thankful and grateful.

Sincerely,



Rhonda Mead McConnell  
Board Chair



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rhonda McConnell - Board Chair

Richard Weeks - Vice Chair

Susan Vitanza - Treasurer

Patrick Gleason - Corporate Secretary

Matthew Curry - Ex-Officio

David Gill

Catherine Kacyvenski

Jeffrey Lake

Lindsay Meehan

Heather Miller

Sophia Resciniti

Santino Stenta

Tonia Thompson

Dalhee Yoon

*thank  
you*

# MISSION & VISION



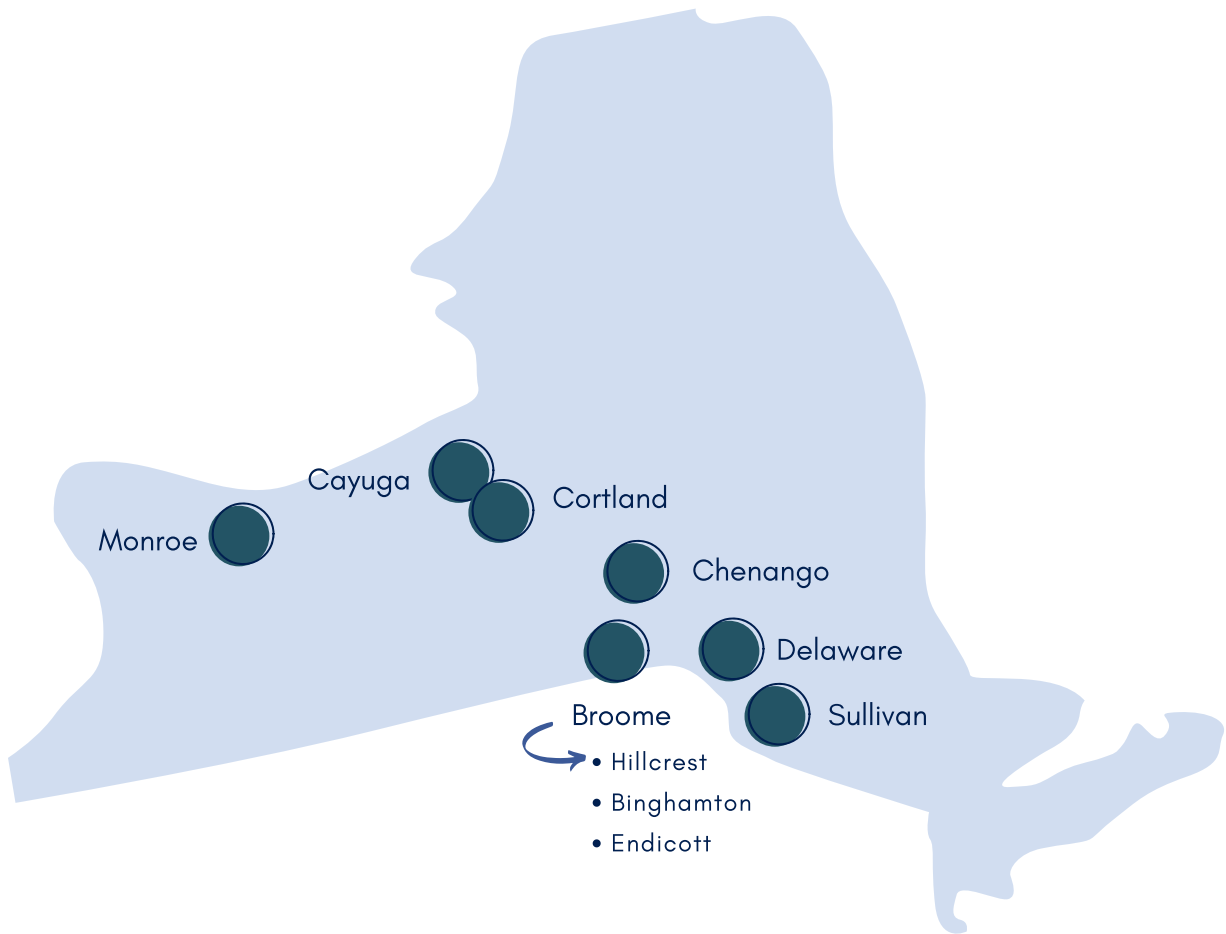
## *Our Mission*

We partner with children, families, and communities to inspire hope, develop skills, and cultivate healthy relationships for positive futures.

---

## *Our Vision*

We envision a collaborative, caring community where children and families lead happy, healthy, fulfilling lives.



**500+**

Full-time and part-time  
employees.

**EXPANSION THROUGHOUT  
NEW YORK STATE**



# *expansion*

Children and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS) has experienced tremendous growth over the course of the last fiscal year. In 2019 we had experienced growth in Broome County, but this past year, we created a new presence in counties across New York State.

In the height of COVID while schools and businesses were shutting down, we never ceased to provide services. CFTSS provided caregiver breaks, supported adoptions, supported youth leaving higher levels of care, and continued expansion into new counties.

The program growth was initially led by Sullivan County, which trickled over into Orange County. As the fiscal year wound down, we solidified that Cortland County would be our next big push and had eagerly started the hiring. We also partnered with the Norwich City School District to put two staff in the CARE program—which provides essential services during the school day. We also made a commitment to expand CFTSS teams to serve youth in our living facilities.

In June of 2020, at the close of the 2019-2020 fiscal year, we served 138 youth and their families. In June of 2021, we served 313 youth across Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Sullivan, and Orange County. We continue to develop CFTSS services to support youth and families, and we look forward to our continued CFTSS service expansion in 2022!



# 20 20



## OUTCOMES

- Health Homes served 229 youth in Broome, Tioga, Cortland, Chenango, Madison, Delaware, & Sullivan Counties.
- Children's Home Preventive Services (CHPS) program successfully served more than 142 youth and 57 families.
- CFTSS served 313 youth.
- Therapeutic After School Program (TASP) served 47 youth, 39 families, and celebrated 14 graduations.
- Adventure Based Learning Experiences (ABLE) and Wilderness Adventure Program provided 1,343 authentic, hands-on learning opportunities for K-12 youth and team building opportunities for local community organizations.
- Southern Tier Community Center's School Age Child Care (SACC) program provided programming for 150 youth.
- Our schools provided K-12 Special Education Services for 160 youth, celebrated 4 high school graduations, and helped 22 students pass their Regents exam.
- Faith in Action provided 29 youth with opportunities to serve seniors in our community, totaling over 100 hours.
- 41 youth worked 2,605 hours in the McConnell Supportive Youth Employment Program.
- Close to Home facilitated 9 adoptions and opened 31 kinship homes—ensuring permanency for a total of 49 children.
- Wendy's Wonderful Kids matched 21 hard-to-place youth with families, facilitated 2 adoptions, and granted a biological brother permanent guardianship of his brother.
- In partnership with Fagnoli Farms, 57 youth received equine therapy services (over 120 sessions) and acquired skills including communication, critical thinking, health, hygiene, and time management.
- CHWC received \$2,522,452.50 in new grants and new contracts this fiscal year.

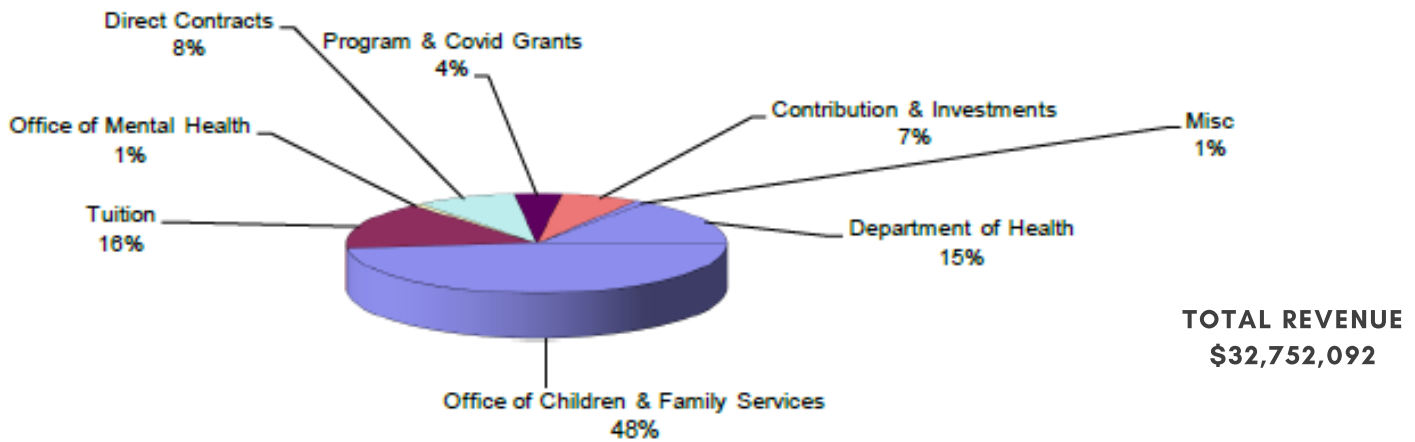


*fiscal year*

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended June 30, 2021

## SOURCES OF REVENUE



## Expenses

### Program Services

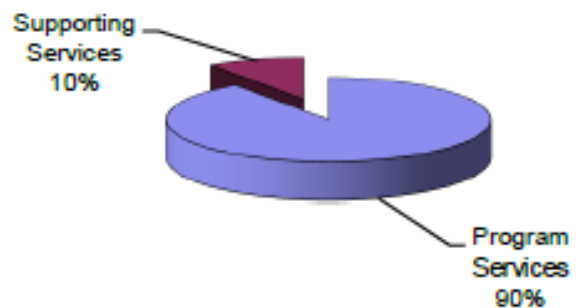
Salaries	\$ 15,376,217
Fringe Benefits	4,113,020
Purchased Services	2,711,245
Activities	319,275
Food	622,240
Clothing	115,232
Prescriptions	61,064
Supplies	519,756
Rent / Utilities / Maint	1,104,172
Transportation	282,224
Insurance	408,029
Interest / Depreciation	717,886
	<u>26,350,360</u>

### Supporting Services

2,843,682

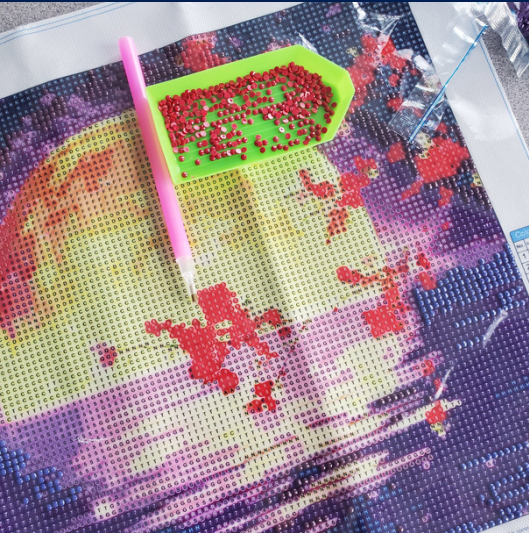
### TOTAL EXPENSES

**\$ 29,194,042**



The Children's Home continues to meet the task of providing services to the children and families in our community in this challenging economic climate. We are thankful to the many caring and supportive members of our community who partner with us in fulfilling our Mission to meet the needs of this vulnerable population.

# Sneak Peek: Comfort Corner



## UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA, ENHANCING EDUCATION AND OVERALL WELLNESS

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Did you know that youth who have experienced adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)—witnessing domestic violence, experiencing emotional, physical or sexual abuse/neglect, having a relative incarcerated or a history of mental illness—are at higher risk for chronic disease as an adult, are three times more at risk for heart disease and lung cancer, and experience as much as a 20-year difference in life expectancy when left untreated?

Childhood trauma spills into every area of a child's life, the largest being the school day. The primary goal of school is to help students with educational achievement, therefore preparing that student to become a successful adult. Youth have a difficult time focusing if they do not feel safe and supported; and if they don't feel they have the ability and opportunity to learn.

Care Compass Network's Regional Trauma-Informed Care team is comprised of dedicated individuals from colleges, county government, health care, social care, human services, and schools across Care Compass Network's Southern Tier Region and beyond. To advance and implement a truly trauma-informed environment in our schools and health care offices, this team broke down barriers to provide resources to programs participating in a 1 year pilot program, focusing on Trauma-Informed Care to:

- Train all staff on Trauma-Informed Care, assessments, and its impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals.
- Develop an effective and sensitive trauma screening and follow-up care process within the school system, so children can begin healing and thriving.
- Build a strong referral system for initial screenings, assessments, and follow-up care to allow trauma-informed engagement of students and families to community-based and health care programs.
- Implement Trauma-Informed Care approach across continuum advancing the importance of health and wellness programs for staff, hiring practices, screening and referrals to intervention and buffering students from adversity to help promote healing and engagement in learning

Children's Home was chosen to participate in this pilot program, which began April 1, 2021 in our Middle School. Since then, we have been able to assemble a core implementation team, identify our pilot champions and engage staff in multiple trainings and webinars as well as assess "How Trauma-Informed are we?" The participating classrooms created unique "Comfort Corners" enhancing a therapeutic atmosphere during the adolescent's school day.

Jenna Howland, Education Supervisor, is the Champion for this program at Children's Home. She has led trainings with staff and spoken at a virtual conference to explain how this program is benefiting Staff-Student relationships. The goal of this program is to expand not only Agency-wide, but also incorporate this program, after the pilot period, into public school and medical offices. "The Regional Trauma-Informed Care Network Team would like to see Trauma-Informed Care as the minimal standard of care to afford children, families, communities, educators, clinicians, professionals, caregivers and the most vulnerable in our community to achieve and maintain a higher quality of care and of life, as well as the opportunity to thrive," said Bouakham Rosetti, RTIC Pilot Program Director at Care Compass Network.

## SOUTHERN TIER COMMUNITY CENTER

# highlights



The Southern Tier Community Center (STCC), a Division of Children's Home, had a busy year. While COVID-19 cases continued to soar, we followed all CDC and NYS standards and continue to enhance safety measures around the building—including installing an air filtration system for our gym. We encourage mask wearing, hand-sanitizing and deep cleaning practices throughout the building. With these added safety measures, we were able to maximize available spaces at the STCC for a myriad of activities:

- School Age Child Care (SACC) Summer Program
- Teen Night every Friday
- Tai Chi classes
- Pickleball
- Yoga for youth and members of our Family Nutrition and Overall Wellness (NOW) Program

Our gym was utilized by multiple organizations and teams—the Semi-Pro Binghamton Bulldogs, AAU Youth Sports, and the Youth Sports Basketball League. Our SACC Summer Program offered full-day remote care at the STCC. Hot lunches were provided by the Union-Endicott School District. Youth were able to take nature walks, play outdoors on the playground, participate in classes VINES hosted and cooking classes. Our Family NOW participants received a weekly Volunteers Improving Neighborhood Environments (VINES) delivery of fresh, locally grown vegetables as well as the ability to participate in "Mommy and Me" yoga.

When the building was purchased in May of 2020, our team got to work cleaning, painting, organizing, and began planning The Southern Tier Community Center (STCC) Revitalization Project. Our vision for the project is to create a safe, inclusive, fun environment for ages 0 - 100 to enjoy. To date, we have made progress on the following:

- Improved the infrastructure of the pool by fixing the main drain, updating the filtration system, and installing a water softener.
- Completed demolition of the men's and women's locker rooms.
- Design work and colors have been chosen for the pool, locker rooms, strength training room, and fitness center.
- Signed a contract with AirTemp, and installed an updated air filtration system in the large gymnasium and small gyms.
- Completed work on boiler, furnace, and sewer systems.

We will continue to update facilities and build spaces to promote personal health, recreation, education, vocation, and community pride in a safe, inclusive environment that will undoubtedly create a legacy for generations to come. We are seeing 750 people visit per week and anticipate this number to increase once our revitalization project is complete!

### We are thankful to our contributors who have supported the STCC Revitalization project in 2020-2021:

Dr. G Clifford & Florence B. Decker Foundation, Care Compass Network, Hoyt Foundation, George A. & Margaret Mee Foundation, United Way of Broome County, Town of Union, M&T Bank Charitable Foundation, Visions Federal Credit Union, Klee Foundation, and Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield.

*Thank you*



Connect with us.

