

TLC CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES



ANNUAL REPORT



2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear TLC Supporters,

TLC Child and Family Services works in collaboration with the community to empower vulnerable children and young adults to cultivate resilience, authenticity, and healthy relationships in order to become thriving, independent, contributing citizens.

The safety of our TLC community remains a top priority as we continue, alongside our community, to navigate through tumultuous times. This essential work has increased in demand and TLC has restructured both treatment and business models to successfully address the needs of youth who are often left without support and care. TLC is committed to improving youth outcomes and increasing our agency's ability to meet the increasing demand for youth services.

In 2021, our leadership and staff increased business acumen and adapted programs to meet growing mental health needs. Our collaborative efforts took our non profit agency from an \$8 million dollar annual budget in 2018 to a \$12 million dollar agency today.

Our greatest collective accomplishment is the daily service we provide to 250 youth and families a day.



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21

We serve foster youth, resource parents, homeless youth, youth who have aged out of the foster care system, youth with mental health challenges, and special education students who struggle academically and emotionally. TLC's services and lived values are made possible by over 100 employees who work diligently, and at times, without rest to ensure our youth are cared for and moving towards a brighter future. We continue to provide needed mental health services and case management to all program participants regardless of funding availability.

We remain committed to going beyond words of support for BLM and our BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) community and to identifying and implementing changes within TLC to better align with our values of diversity, inclusion, equity, and anti-racism in all levels of the work we do. Daily, we strive to create a safe place where everyone is respected and valued for who they are, and we make conscious efforts to improve our culture and norms so that they do not perpetuate oppressive practices.

The wide range of services we provide are made possible, in part, thanks to our generous community members and supporters who share our commitment to serve at-risk youth. Thank you for celebrating our past successes and supporting the future of TLC Child & Family Services. Together, we strengthen the health and wellness of our community, one child at a time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Fette'.

Susan Fette, MFT
Chief Executive Officer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Troy Niday | Chair
Scott Pritchard | Vice Chair
Rose Zoia | Secretary
Carli Mosbacher | Treasurer
Carson Amiral | Member
Emily DeBacker | Member
Mark Swedlund | Member

LEADERSHIP

Susan Fette, MFT | Chief Executive Officer
Karen Butler | Chief of Finance and Administration
Hector Matias, MSW | Senior Director, Program Development
Karen Bergman, LCSW | Senior Director, Treatment & Services
Liz Jimenez, LCSW | Senior Director, Foster Care Programs
Gaby Holmes | Journey Academy Director of Academics
Shelby Means, MSW | Director of Transition Age Youth Housing
Brittany Burns, MSW | Director of Residential Treatment
Reese Clark, MFT | Clinical Director
Daniela Bravo, LCSW | Director of Latinx Services
Anna Richmond, Psy.D. | Clinical Training & Competency Specialist

MISSION

Providing healthy, healing environments and experiences for foster and other youth and their families, in which their differences are leveraged, valued, and celebrated

JOINT COMMISSION ACCREDITATION



JOURNEY ACADEMY

TLC Child & Family Services' Journey Academy students participating in the Summer Program took a river rafting trip on the South Fork of the American River. Guided by Environmental Traveling Companions rafting guides, 14 youth donned life jackets and helmets and grabbed their oars for a 5-hour Outdoor Connection Program activity. Overall, the Summer Program is designed to teach youth about connections to self, connections to others, and connection to community.

In 2021, Journey Academy youth also camped along the Eel River, went kayaking and sailing, and visited a farm. Youth also participated in the PALS program, which provides the opportunity for youth to learn responsibility through their interaction with dogs and increases school attendance.



This year, 25 youth aged 15 to 21 participated in the high school program as residents and community students. Eight graduated with high school diplomas.

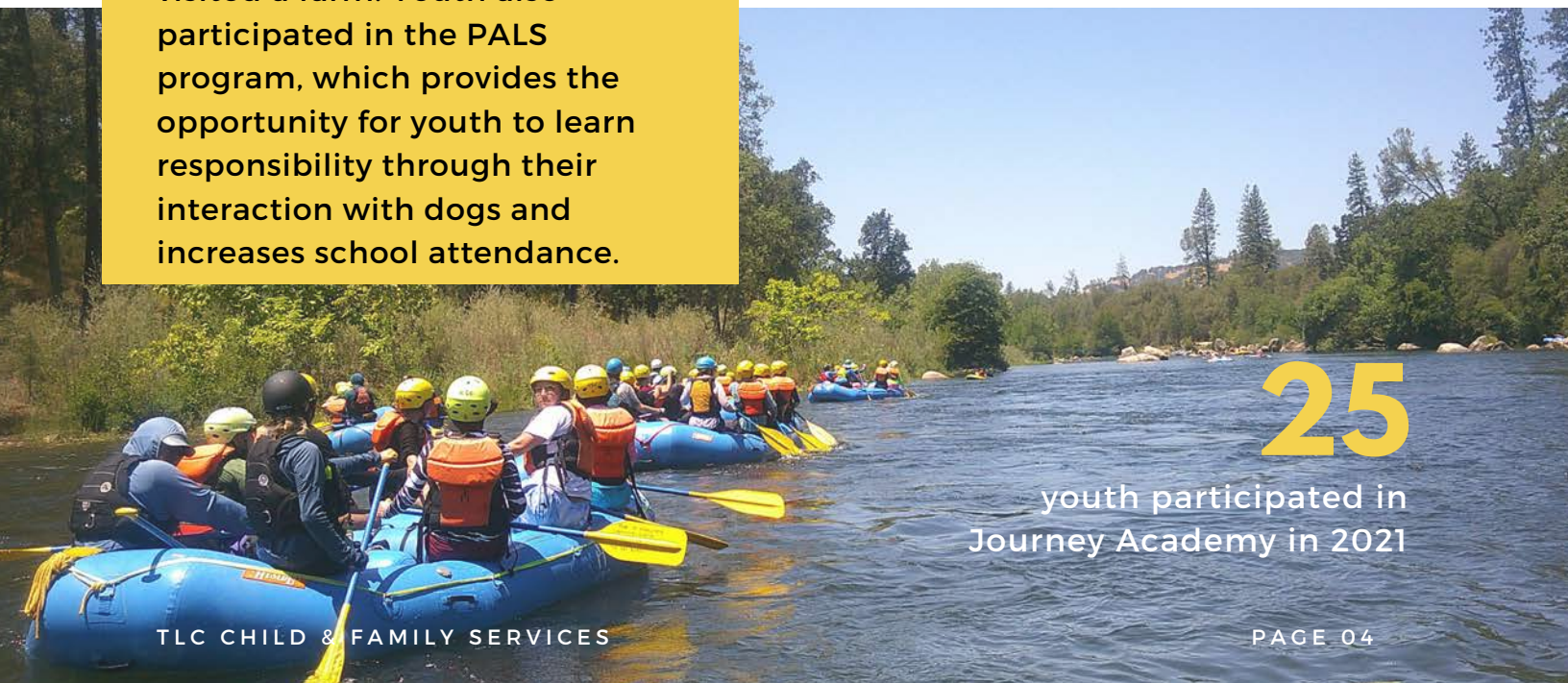
In 2021, 25 Journey Academy youth received:

- 321 hours of individual therapy
- 90 hours of individual rehabilitation
- 93 hours of family therapy
- 531 hours of group therapy

on their journey to heal and make connections to self, others, and community.

In 2021 we:

- Created a new incentive program for positive student behaviors and growth called the Superhero of the Week
- Purchased new technology for all students including Chromebooks and smart boards for every class
- Purchased new, innovative digital and text-based curriculum materials through Discovery Education for high school science and math, as well as 8th-grade science and social studies
- Welcomed our new Journey Academy Director of Academics, Gaby Holmes, MA



25

youth participated in
Journey Academy in 2021



TRANSITION AGE YOUTH HOUSING

2021 Total Youth Housed

- 37 – Current foster youth
- 21 – Former foster youth
- 14 – Youth experiencing homelessness

This year we:

- Launched an onsite parent shed to meet the immediate needs of our pregnant and parenting youth
- Hosted life-skill development workshops
- Renewed our Rapid Rehousing Contract Community Development Commission to serve transition age youth experiencing homelessness
- Formed a collaborative relationship with Our Village Closet to help us meet basic needs for youth in all of our programs
- Received three grants that are directly disbursed to our youth to help them meet basic and emergent needs
- Launched on-site behavioral health services for youth in our programs including one on one therapy, rehab services, and psychiatry services
- Completed staff training on co-occurring diagnoses, including substance use disorders



FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

In 2021, our Foster Care & Adoption program had 45 youth placed in 31 homes and 17 new families who have been fully approved or are in the home study process.

TRALAND'S STORY

TLC resource parent, Virginia Williams finalized the adoption of her 11 year old son Traland in July 2021. Virginia was Traland's resource parent for over two years. It took a team effort, including Traland's county social worker, his TLC social worker, his therapist, and the resource parent to help Traland adjust to being part of a family and to find a sense of belonging. Over the past two years, Virginia has worked diligently to expand her knowledge of parenting children who have experienced severe trauma and to apply her understanding of trauma-informed care and attachment-related behavior challenges to parenting Traland. Virginia's incredible patience, compassion, and unconditional love for Traland is the foundation of their strong and trusting relationship. Virginia was overjoyed when she was given the opportunity to adopt Traland as her son. Traland sported a suit and tie and was grinning from ear to ear on his adoption finalization day.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Thank you to the Summerill Bizzell Family for being generous donors to TLC Child & Family Services and our Project Flare Campaign, which is working to undo aloneness for LGBTQ+ foster youth and raise awareness about the challenges they face. We appreciate their continued support.

"As a same sex couple, raising our adopted son, we support TLC Child & Family Services because of their great programs, including Project Flare which provides a voice to LGBTQ+ youth in foster care, as well as their parents. We should not lose sight today of the challenges facing marginal members of our community whose only motivation is to have a family."

-Joe Summerill & Wes Bizzell



In 2021, TLC Child & Family Services earned the Innovative Inclusion Recognition, the Highest Recognition from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation for LGBTQ+ Inclusion Efforts

The Human Rights Campaign awarded only 44 agencies in the United States and 10 in California with the Innovative Inclusion recognition



2021 HIGHLIGHTS

DEI

In recognition of our ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), in 2021, we adopted a DEI Resolution Statement. Our Anti-Racism Coalition continues to identify and implement changes within TLC to better align with our values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism. This year the coalition focused on education, training, culture building, representation, policy and procedures.

ALLYSHIP

In honor of Pride Month and of our daily commitment to the service of LGBTQ+ individuals and families we adopted an LGBTQ+ Resolution Statement. Our Project Flare campaign continues to remind LGBTQ+ youth and foster youth that they are not alone by sharing messages from allies, supporters, and TLC staff in hopes that they will reach the ears of those who need to hear them most.

COVID-19

In 2021, we did not let COVID-19 get in the way of serving our youth. We conducted onsite vaccinations, virtual therapy sessions, and welcomed Journey Academy youth back to campus in April thanks to our COVID-19 safety procedures. The challenges associated with the Pandemic highlighted the resiliency of our youth and the strength of our staff members.

FARM TO TABLE PROJECT

As part of our mission to help students prepare for independent living, TLC's Journey Academy has begun to revamp our curriculum to include nutrition, physical health, and overall well-being. We recognize that many high school students will choose to prepare for careers that are not part of a university path and therefore, we launched a new Farm to Table Project. An initial \$150,000 kickstart grant from **John Jordan Foundation** set the project into motion followed by a \$150,000 match grant donation from **Redwood Credit Union**. We are grateful for their support.

The Farm to Table Project will provide youth with the opportunity to enhance their skill sets, explore career opportunities, and engage with supportive community members while receiving clinical services and trauma-informed care. This program will include a small farm on the campus, a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen with six workstations, and indoor and outdoor dining areas.

To learn more about how you can get involved with TLC Child & Family Services Farm to Table Project or to make a match donation, visit www.tlc4kids.org





Our non-profit organization serves over 250 youth a day.

We provide trauma-informed mental health services and support youth from age 0-25 in our foster care, adoption, residential, and special education programs. We work with transition age youth to prevent homelessness and provide award-winning support to LGBTQ+ youth and families.

Sonoma County youth need your financial support for mental health, housing, and basic resources now more than ever. All donations to TLC Child & Family Service are tax deductible.

We thank you for your continued support for at-risk youth and our non profit organization

Contact

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