

VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON

#WeBringTheChangeToYou



About Us

OUR MISSION

CHOICES, Inc. brings change to youth and families by providing personalized services and building safe environments.



OUR CORE VALUES

Compassion - We believe in meeting individuals in their current reality with understanding.

Trust - We believe honesty is essential to our culture. Our transparent and ethical actions build trust with youth, families and the community.

Commitment - We believe in consistently delivering on expectations and go the extra mile to get the job done.

Teamwork - We believe great ideas and best outcomes happen in inclusive environments.

Innovation - We believe in developing new and creative ways to serve people. We listen to all ideas.



History & Vision

ABOUT CHOICES, INC.

CHOICES, Inc. – Children Have Options in Caring Environments – was founded in 1986 by Gina Frazier and Anita Johnson Patten. Led by their dreams and dedication to provide options in safe and caring environments for youth, they started a foster care agency. In April 1988, the Independent Living Program was added. Through this important program we provide scattered-site apartment living for older teens aging out of foster care. The CHOICES, Inc. program was one of the first in Ohio and has continued to grow over the years. In addition to Foster Care and Independent Living, CHOICES has identified ways to help even more youth and families in our community and added Home-Based Services in recent years. Our services within this program are designed to provide stability and keep families together or help with reunification.

Gina Frazier served as Executive Director until 1997. Anita Patten then led CHOICES through many years of growth before retiring in 2005. Furthering the vision and mission of the organization was picked up by Ann Thompson from 2005 to 2009, Shellie Stolfo from 2009-2017 and now lies with current Executive Director, Jane Anderson.

OUR VISION

CHOICES, Inc. will be recognized as a leader for foster care, mental health, independent living and family preservation services in Southwest Ohio. Over the next 3 years CHOICES will increase capacity to continue to strengthen our communities as well as improve outcomes for those we serve. We will provide high quality services to youth and families while maximizing relationships with established partners. We will continue staff development and support through progressive and innovative employee training and retention programs. Funding streams will be diversified and financial stability will be increased across all programs.

Year in Review

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

During this fiscal year, we marched forward with our mission to bring change to youth and families across all of our programs. CHOICES has a long history of evolving quickly to better serve the current needs of our youth and families. Our continued operations during COVID-19 were made possible by harnessing our core values. At the start of our fiscal year we faced new challenges and opportunities due to navigating COVID-19. We relied on teamwork and innovation to continue our programming safely, following all guidelines set forth by the CDC and Ohio Department of Health. This was a time to practice innovation when it came to service delivery, foster parent recruitment, community engagement and staff morale.

Our core values of commitment and trust kept our team going, knowing that kids and families were depending on us despite the pandemic. Compassion became more important than ever; daily it was important to remind ourselves to meet our clients, parents and staff where they are in their current reality. Our team was able to continue providing services via tele-health as requested by families; however, we also welcomed returning to in-person visits. Despite decreases in referrals in some programs we able to retain all staff positions and even saw growth in some programs.

Recognizing that emancipation from foster care is a large hurdle for many youth, federal funding allowed for an extension of services due to pandemic circumstances. Youth who previously had been terminated from programs were able to come back for additional supports until September 2021. CHOICES nearly doubled the number of young adults served by the Bridges program in February of 2021. (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



Year in Review

CONTINUED

The temporary rule change, which allowed foster parent training via a digital platform like Zoom, has helped CHOICES license a record breaking number of new foster homes this year. Our licensing team has licensed 35 new homes that are willing to accept a variety of ages of youth into their homes. With donor support we launched a new initiative to help newly licensed foster parents, when they receive their first placement, with a meal, funds for essential items and an organizational binder for paperwork. In addition to licensing a record number of foster homes CHOICES helped facilitate 20 adoptions, which created 12 forever families.

Our home-based services team has continued to offer mental health services across our foster care and independent living programs as well as community based families. Our monthly intervention convention sessions have allowed our team to learn effective ways to provide tele-health services through the duration of winter. We now have over half of our current independent living youth receiving mental health services with a home-based therapist and 74% of our foster youth are receiving mental health support.

Even more important than our programmatic success is CHOICES commitment to racial equality and justice for all. As a social services agency, CHOICES witnesses first-hand the disparities that exist in our educational, health care, criminal justice and child welfare systems. To ensure these inequities are woven into the fabric of CHOICES mission and core values we have formed a diversity and inclusion task force, made up of Board of Trustee members as well as staff. This task force will conduct an organizational assessment and develop a diversity policy. They will also examine CHOICES personnel manual, grievance policy, hiring and retention practices and job descriptions to ensure CHOICES does not perpetuate white supremacy culture. CHOICES has held several trainings for staff and Independent Living youth to discuss concepts related to white privilege and racial disparities and will continue to do so in the upcoming year.

Foster Care



88 licensed foster homes
35 new homes added this year
64% active treatment foster homes

189 unique youth served
90 youth entered our program
99 left our program



26.458

safe nights of
sleep for kids

20

kids adopted by
CHOICES foster
parents

27

kids reunified
with family



CHOICES, Inc. operates a Foster Care Program with the philosophy that youth benefit from being in a least restrictive, safe, structured environment that stimulates and supports positive change. The youth served by CHOICES, Inc. are resilient, determined, strong-spirited and independent thinkers. They demonstrate a great ability to adjust to difficult circumstances, to overcome loss and trauma, and to learn new behavioral techniques allowing them to be successful. Our collaborative approach with parents, child welfare workers, and the community is designed so that the interaction our dedicated team has with a family is a chance to change a life and bring children, families and communities together.



The Independent Living Program benefits youth ages 17-21 and provides them with the experience of maintaining their own households, in an apartment, while receiving support in the form of caring, nurturing, and teaching adults. CHOICES, Inc. IL program personnel provide such supportive services in order to help youth meet their needs. The pillars of this program are education, vocation and mental health.

Independent Living

63%

left our program according to plan

49 unique youth served
17 youth entered our program
24 left our program



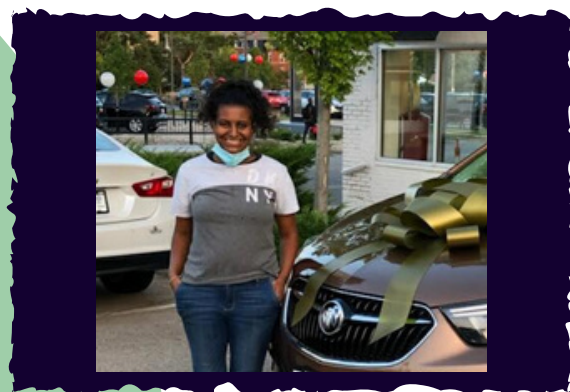
72% youth achieved their educational goal
68% youth maintained employment
29% youth addressed their mental health needs

Bridges

75 unique young adults served
45 young adults entered our program
26 left our program



CHOICES provides services available through Bridges, a post-emancipation support program in Ohio that extends housing and other supportive services to eligible former foster youth. These young adults are eligible to apply and participate at the age of 18, until they reach the age of 21. In 2021 federal legislation allowed for youth who would have aged out at 21 to continue programming due to the effects of the pandemic. Eligibility expansion ends September 30, 2021.



Home-Based Services

407 unique clients served



5,515 total hours of mental health services provided to clients

3,151 total hours of parent aide services provided to clients

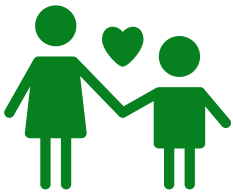


50%

of foster youth received mental health services

67%

of IL youth received mental health services



28 families reunified



CHOICES Inc. has a third line of services referred to as Home-Based Services. Home Based-Services consists of individual programs aimed at supporting families. These services are provided to children and families in the community focused on preventing removal of a youth from their biological family, assisting families during the reunification process and/or providing in-home mental health assessments, therapy, and skill building supportive services. Whether we are keeping families together, bringing families back together or supporting the overall mental health of our clients Home-Based Services play an essential role in achieving CHOICES mission.

Your Donations at Work



Donations help us celebrate birthdays for youth in each program.



139 individual requests were fulfilled with your donations.

Smash Room

Facebook fundraisers helped us provide each high school graduate a gift card, letting them know you care!



- 64 new coats
- 66 adopt a family sponsorships
- 19 adopt a family sponsorships
- Over 200 gifts for foster youth
- 37 holiday meals/gift cards
- Hundreds of smiles & memories

Our fiscal year started out with many unknowns for the CHOICES family. We were unsure how kids would attend school and if we would have traditional fundraising events. Our kids and families continued to thrive because of your support and ability to adapt with us to meet our new "socially distanced" fundraising initiatives. Community support is key in providing our kids opportunities and meet urgent needs. This year we launched a new initiative to help newly licensed foster parents when they receive their first placement with clothing/essentials and a meal. We also started to fundraise for the first CHOICES Summer Classic Golf outing which was held in July. Thank you for believing in our mission and supporting our kids, families and programs.



FY21 Financial

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalent	\$	968,078
Accounts receivable—trade		573,431
Prepaid expenses and deposits		103,201
TOTAL CURRENT		1,644,710

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Land	\$	64,833
Building		244,253
Office Equipment		123,426
Vehicle		11,855
Building and leasehold improvement		419,744
Less: accumulated depreciation		(365,487)
Property and equipment - at net book value	\$	498,624

Rent Deposit

	\$	2,366
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 2,145,700

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities	\$	553,175
Long-term liabilities		-
Net assets - unrestricted		1,548,739
Net assets - temporarily restricted		43,786
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$	\$ 2,145,700

CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET

ASSETS

Support and revenue		
Public support		
Contributions	\$	258,368
Revenue		
Service fees		2,089,602
Administrative fees		2,497,412
		\$ 4,845,382
Functional expenses		
Program services		
Foster care		1,860,914
Independent Living		882,870
Home-Based Services		770,723
OCWTP		51,074
Bridges		635,993
	\$	4,201,574
Supportive services		
Management, general and	\$	812,162
Other Income		
PPP loan forgiveness		354,700
BWC Refunds		59,398
Sick leave income		6,639
Investment income		1,064
Total Other Income	\$	421,801
Change in unrestricted net assets	\$	253,447
Net assets, beginning of year	\$	1,295,292
Net assets, end of year	\$	1,548,739