



**FOR CHILDREN'S SAKE OF VIRGINIA
2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT**



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Hello to our Foster Parents and Community Partners.

It has been what seems like a very short but exciting year for our agency. Foster parents, our staff and the counties we work with have helped us keep foster children as well as adults with mental health issues safe and functioning in their community. Foster parents have played a vital role in returning children in care to their families of origin and in several cases assisted in the adoption or adopted themselves several of our foster children who can no longer return home.

One of the most interesting and successful developments in our field of Foster Care and Adoption is the steady move toward “normalizing” a foster child’s experience while in care. It came about through the guidelines found in the Normalcy and the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard enacted by the Federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014. This last year has seen a substantial increase in the roll out of the standard across all states in America. This means agencies working with foster children are allowing foster parents to parent a foster child as they would their own child. This ensures foster children have the same experiences and opportunities biological children have in their own homes. For example, allowing sleepovers, joining groups and clubs, participating in after school activities, having unsupervised time where appropriate, dating (for older children) and many other examples. This standard helps both foster and adoptive parents as well as children in care gain a sense of trust, belonging and accomplishment. We at For Children’s Sake of Virginia are behind any initiative that helps our children feel like they are part of our society, communities, peer groups and families as any child is. We know this inclusive way of parenting works because we’ve seen success with our amazing foster parents and children.

As we continue to grow our programs and work toward keeping families together whenever possible, we know and appreciate the fact that we could not continue our work without the generous help our communities and families provide. Your support of donations, time and commitment to children encourages all of us to do the best we can and make the most of what we have. Our community based programs have grown substantially and are a testament to our commitment to do all we can to keep children in their homes when appropriate and possible. Family and a sense of belonging matters in every life and For Children Sake of Virginia believes in what matters.

Deborah K. Evans

LCSW, BCD

For Children’s Sake of Virginia Chief Executive Officer



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WHO ARE WE?

For Children's Sake of Virginia (FCSVA) is a private non-profit corporation founded in 1997. FCSVA provides an array of services to children, adults and families in the community, These include therapeutic foster care, adoption support services, community based services, adult mental health support, and outpatient therapy.



MISSION

FCSVA is dedicated to promoting positive environments for children and families that develop trust, stability and independence.

VISION

A nurturing home environment for every child.

VALUES

Integrity: Performance that is consistent with the highest standards of moral and ethical principles.

Stewardship: Responsible stewardship as key to accomplishing our mission and goals.

Competence: Excellence in all phases of our work, meeting professional standards of competency and working in compliance with federal and state laws.

Respect: Developing mutually respectful relationships at every level of our work through meaningful, effective communication while genuinely caring for each individual.

OUR SERVICES & PROGRAMS



For Children's Sake of Virginia (FCSVA) believes in a supportive, holistic approach to helping the families in our community. To that end, we provide a variety of services offered by a team of diverse and highly qualified dedicated professionals, helping any who may be in need.

Therapeutic Foster Care

For Children's Sake of Virginia's Therapeutic Foster Care Program (TFC) utilizes experienced case managers and dedicated foster families to provide safe and nurturing homes for children in need. Additionally, the foster care side of FCSVA extends its services to include Referred Respite, Entrustments, and Adoption services.

Community Based Services

The Community Based Services Program of FCSVA is comprised of Qualified Mental Health Professionals who provide services to youth in order to address any problems in school, the community and the home.

Supervised Visitation is comprised of Master's Level staff who are trained in Parenting with Love and Logic, 123 Magic and CPR/First Aid certified. The Supervised Visitation program provides supervision during visits between youth and their family in order to assist with reunification or adhere to a court order.

Mentor Program is comprised of qualified and dedicated staff members who seek to be a positive role model and influence in the life of a child in need.

Intensive In-Home Support strengthens families, helping them stay together and transition as a child returns home. Services are typically 3-10 hours a week for 6-12 months.

Outpatient therapy provides comprehensive therapy services to individuals, couples, children, adolescents, and family throughout Northern Virginia.

Adult Mental Health Services provides mental health support services and behavioral in-home support services to individuals and their families to help them develop the necessary skills and supports to leave independent, healthy, lives.

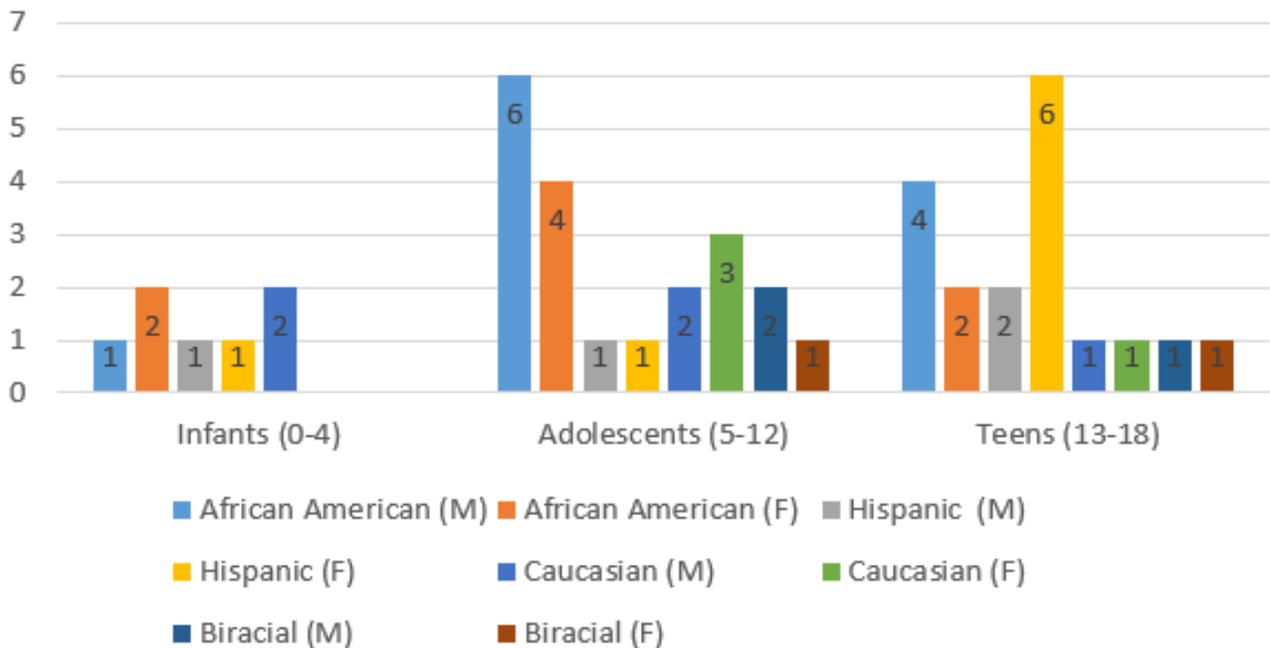
Intensive Care Coordination provides a framework for the process of identifying, coordinating, and evaluating the services necessary for a family to meet their care and outcome goals,

We work with **Wesley Housing Development** to provide adolescents ages 5-12 weekly support to promote social skills and risk management.

OUR FOSTER CHILDREN

In this fiscal year, FCSVA was able to provide therapeutic foster and respite homes to **45 children**. The length of stay varied from 5 days to over 2 years.

At the end of the 2017 fiscal year, we had **24 children** in our homes.



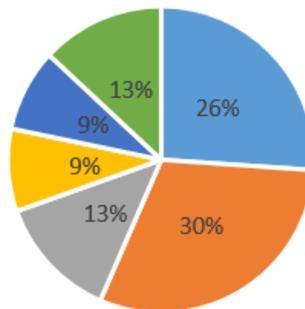
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Referred
Respites

FCSVA is one of the few licensed child-placing agencies providing referred respites. Referred respites are temporary child placements in our approved parent homes for up to 29 nights. These respite referrals can come from other foster care agencies or the community at-large. Children in referred respite care are not required to be in the foster care system or involved with a county agency in any way. This service was created to assist families and their children in situations that may require some space or relief for parents who are dealing with the difficult issues of parenting a child with special needs. Having highly trained parents and state standard approved homes providing referred respite care is an identified need within our community. This fiscal year, we provided **6 children** temporary referred respite.

DISCHARGES & INCIDENTS

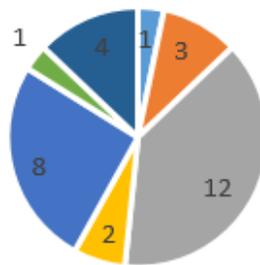
In the past year, almost **50% of our foster child placements** have been either returned back to their birth family or adopted by our families. Many in the past fiscal year have also moved to non-therapeutic homes, as our parents have helped equip these children to handle everyday life more effectively, or because our parents have taken emergency placements until a better long-term fit can be found. Our parents handle a variety of placements, and discharges, with incredible strength of character, and we're continually grateful for the support they give the children in their care.

Discharges



- Placed with Birth Family (6)
- Moved to a non-therapeutic home (7)
- Moved to another TFC home (3)
- Ran away (2)
- Placed in a Higher Level of Care (2)
- Adopted by FCSVA Family (3)

Incident Report

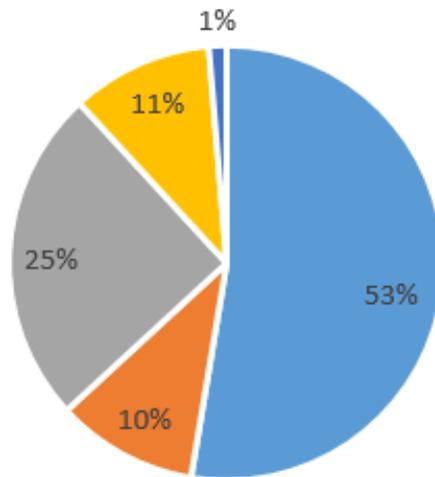


- Runaway (2)
- School/daycare Suspension (12)
- Med Errors (8)
- Other Mental Health Concerns (4)
- Minor Injury (3)
- Threats of Self-Harm (2)
- CPS Notification (1)

In this fiscal year, the TFC program documented 32 incidents. Of the incidents, one required Child Protective Services (CPS) notification. At the end of the fiscal year, there was one open CPS investigation and no clients were discharged nor foster families closed due to the investigation.

FOSTER PARENT INQUIRIES

Of the 76 inquires we had this fiscal year, the majority of them were initiated by our attendance at community events, ranging from Celebrate Fairfax to a Chamber of Commerce Women’s Leadership Luncheon. We have had a growing number of internet searches, current foster families, and other foster agencies and counties that are directing those who are interested in fostering towards us. We’re glad to have such a supportive community!

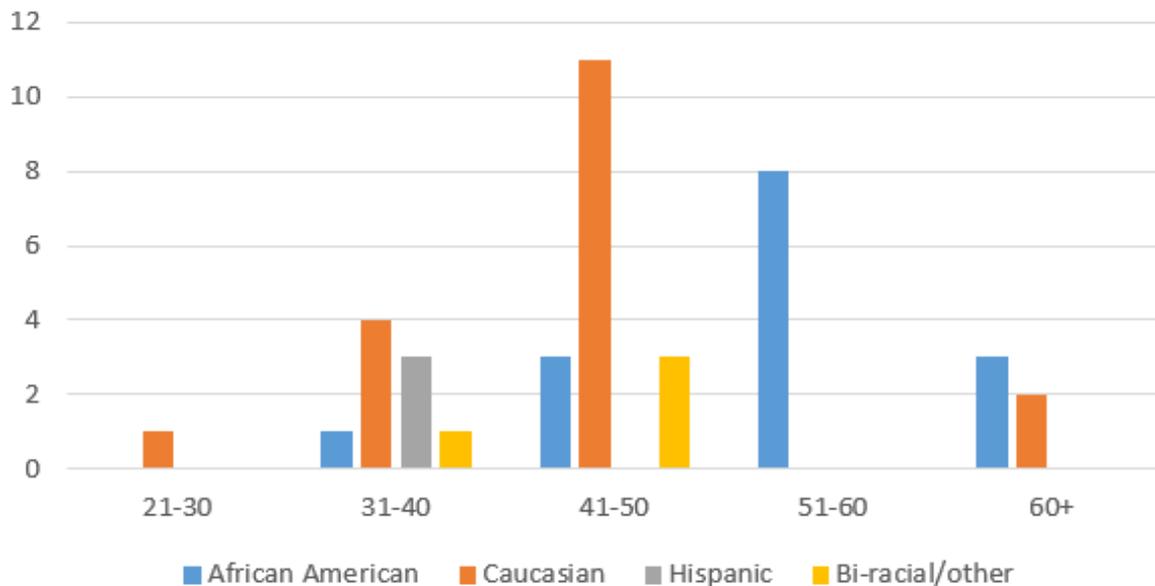


- Events
- FCSVA Family Referrals
- Internet
- Other Agencies/County
- Other

We approved **8 incredible foster families** this fiscal year, who came to us equally through internet searches, family referrals, and other agency referrals.

OUR FOSTER PARENTS

We have some incredible parents who support us every day! This fiscal year, we had **27 active families**, comprised of 41 parents. Out of those 27 families, **22** had placements. We ended the year with **22 families** and **34 parents**. The majority of our parents are Caucasian or African American, and in their 40s.



5

Languages spoken other than English:
Spanish, Russian, Portuguese, French, and German

3

Veterans of the United States Armed Forces

20

Biological children in the foster homes already, ranging from
ages 2 months-20 years old

FOSTER PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Our foster parents are our most valuable resources, and we couldn't do the work we do without the generosity of our foster families. We believe that continuous contact with our parents is the best way to help support them, through training sessions, support groups, phone calls, and family activities. This fiscal year, we held a variety of events to ensure our parents were getting the support they needed to keep doing their incredible work.



Parents are required to complete at least **15 training hours a year**. This year, our parents and staff completed with our trainings on Compliance, Normalcy, Parenting Teens, and Back-to-School training, as well as using training sessions from our newsletters and from other sources. Additional trainings from outside sources included Mandatory Reporter Training, a presentation by NAMI on Mental Health, training on Youth Social Groups, and How to Include Families.

“This is a great agency to be associated with and foster for. They are very supportive and strive to meet the needs not only of the foster child, but our needs as foster parents. I have always been able to rely on the staff of FCSVA to get the help I need to support the kids in my home. My case managers have made appointments, located providers, and fought for services and support not only for the kids, but for me as well.”
- Ryan Ferguson, Foster Parent with FCSVA since 2006

Annual Picnic

Every year, we hold an annual picnic to thank our foster parents for all of their hard work! This year, it was at Lake Ridge Golf & Marina Park, and we had a blast!

Holiday Party

Our annual Holiday Party this year was held at Uptown Alley, a bowling alley in Manassas, and the kids and parents loved the event and enjoyed all the foods and presents!

FOSTER PARENT SPOTLIGHTS

We're so lucky to have such amazing foster families. Two of these families are Ryan Ferguson and Danita Hardin, who adopted from a sibling group, and have an incredible co-parenting relationship today. Here's what they had to say on their foster stories.



Ryan Ferguson, Danita Hardin, and their adopted children, as well as the judge and Ryan's son, on their adoption day.

Ryan Ferguson:

I foster because I want to give back to the kids here in my surrounding communities. There are so many children right in my back yard that just need some consistency, love, and nurturing, sometimes for a short period of time, and sometimes longer. I have been fostering since 2007, however I have been working with children all my life. Fostering has been a great experience because you expect to teach the kids about living and often times they teach us about loving, caring, and new experiences. Words of wisdom to other foster parents; treat the children in your home as you would your bio child, be fair, love them as hard as you can, and just remember that you are possibly making life long connections.

Danita Hardin:

"Children are the most precious treasure a community can possess, for in them are the promise and guarantee of the future... They are a trust no community can neglect... An atmosphere needs to be maintained in which children feel that they belong to the community and share in its purpose." This quote I think sums up both my reason for being a foster/adoptive parent, as well as the way I interact with my foster and adoptive children.

I began my journey as a foster parent more than 20 years ago when I was only 23. My first placement was a 12 year old who insisted on calling me "Mom" which raised a lot of questions! In the past 20+ years of fostering children, I have played a part in raising more than 30 children. I have also met some wonderful people, including my "co-parent" Ryan. I first met Ryan when I was fostering a 15 year old young man more than 10 years ago. Ryan was his CASA. We would chat regularly about my foster son and over time developed a mutual respect and friendship.

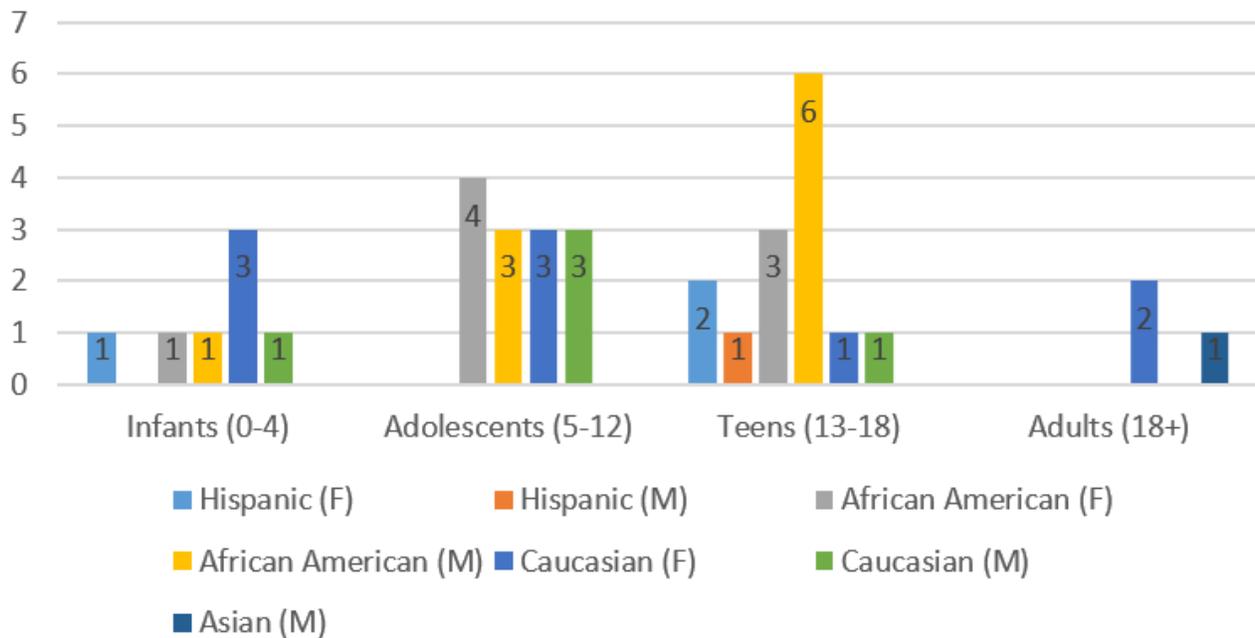
In 2014 when Ryan and I got the news that we would be fostering children from the same family, we were both happily surprised! I hadn't seen him in many years since the 15 year old I was fostering went back to his biological family, so I was excited about the chance to partner with an old friend. Soon after the my 3 girls were placed with me and their then 9 year old brother was placed with Ryan, we were informed that the children they were looking for an adoptive placement for all of them. Since Ryan and I already had a great relationship, I knew it was meant to be. The children would have permanent families and we would make sure that the girls and their brother remained a family too. Since we've become parent partners, we have shared birthdays, holidays, sporting events, trips to the park and family cookouts. We also share advice about school and discipline. When we can't get together in person, we make sure the kids stay in touch by phone or Ryan will send us a corny video or picture of him and boys. For Children's Sake supported us through the fostering and adoption process (I have plenty of experience with fostering, but adoption was new), but they also trusted us as parents to make sound decisions for our children. Ryan and I often say (sort of jokingly) "Ok, in another couple of years, we'll be ready to adopt our next sibling group." The only condition is this time he'll get 3 and I get 1 :).

Thank you, Danita and Ryan, for all you do to help the children in our care!

COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

FCSVA's Community Based Services (CBS) exist to strengthen families to preserve the placement of children with their family and facilitate a child's return from foster care, residential treatment, group home or psychiatric hospitalization.

Community-Based Client Demographics



Community Based Services include Intensive In-Home, Adult Mental Health Support, Supervised Visitation, Intensive Care Coordination, Outpatient Therapy, and Mentoring. During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, For Children's Sake of Virginia **served a total number of 53 Community Based clients** and families.

OUR CBS REACH

Intensive In-Home

In this fiscal year, FCSVA served **18 clients**, all between the ages of 9 and 17. Intensive In-Home utilizes Master's Level Counselors with expertise in parenting, education and support, to provide 5-12 hours per week of in-home services to assist with managing a child's difficult behaviors. The counselors work extensively with both the parents and the children to gain stability and achieve family goals.

Supervised Visitation

The Supervised Visitation component of FCSVA began in 2009 and now has a strong presence in the surrounding community, serving a total of **14 clients** in this fiscal year.

Mentoring

The Mentor Program at FCSVA provides youth with a positive role model and extra support in order to improve the youth's ability to interact with others. Services provided by mentors at FCSVA include: Education, Training, Conflict Resolution, Career Planning, Behavior Modification, Independent Living Skills and Social/Recreational Activities.

The Mentoring program at FCSVA served a total of **3 clients** in this fiscal year.

Outpatient Services

The Outpatient Program at FCSVA is designed to provide therapeutic interventions to adults, children, and families experiencing difficult life situations. FCSVA currently employs part-time therapists who are licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia and four full-time staff who provide therapy under clinical supervision of a Licensed Clinician.

Our Outpatient services program accepts a variety of insurance, including; Aetna, InTotal Health, Cigna, Virginia Premier, Anthem Blue Cross, Anthem Healthkeepers, Care First Blue Choice, CoreSource, Magellan, Tricare, United Healthcare, and Medicaid.

OUR CBS REACH

Adult Mental Health Support Services

The Adult Program at FCSVA's provides aging support services as well as mental health and behavioral in-home support services to individuals and their families. These services are designed to develop the necessary skills/supports to lead independent, healthy lives as well as preserve the family unit.

The Adult Program provided services to **3 clients** this fiscal year.

Intensive Care Coordination

FCSVA provides a framework for the process of identifying, coordinating and evaluating the services necessary for a family to meet their care and outcome goals. The staff at FCSVA work with the family to craft an effective family oriented plan that can match the family with services, offer support as services are realized and assist the family in service assessment or in changing services as necessary.

The Adult Program provided services to **1 client** this fiscal year.

Wesley Housing Development

FCSVA was also able to work with the Wesley Housing Development corporation (WHDC) to provide adolescents ages 5-12 weekly support to promote social skills and risk management. WHDC offers subsidized housing to low income areas in Northern Virginia. FCSVA works with three apartment complexes in Arlington, Alexandria, and Falls Church who have community centers and offer after school support and community programs for residents and their children. The curriculum includes lessons on decision making, teamwork, self-esteem, problem solving, anti-bullying, and many other topics.

RISK MANAGEMENT

FCSVA is licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services as a child-placing agency providing therapeutic foster care and adoption after care services. FCSVA is also licensed by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) as Community Based Services provider for Intensive In-Home and Adult Mental Health Support Services.

Staff Training

Several TFC staff members attended an advanced Bridging the Gap training, intended to reinforce the practice of foster parents reaching out to biological parents. Staff also attended High Fidelity Wraparound training hosted by the State Office of Comprehensive Services for certification in Intensive Care Coordination. Two of our staff members participated in a Family-Match Presentation hosted by the Child Welfare Unit of the Virginia Department of Social Services.

External Reviews

Two external reviews were conducted in the 2017-2018 fiscal year by the Department of Social Services. The first unannounced audit noted one citation for violations of the Standards for Licensed Child Placing Agencies, a key health and safety violation. The second unannounced audit noted three citations for violations of the Standards for Licensed Child Placing Agencies, all key health and safety violations. All citations were reviewed and corrected either onsite or in a timely manner.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the DBHDS also conducted an unannounced audit for our Community Based Programs, which noted 7 citations. All citations were reviewed and corrected either onsite or in a timely manner.

Additional Risk Management Information

During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, there were no client or foster parent grievances. There were no breaches in access to the database or any disclosure of Confidential client information occurred during this reporting period.

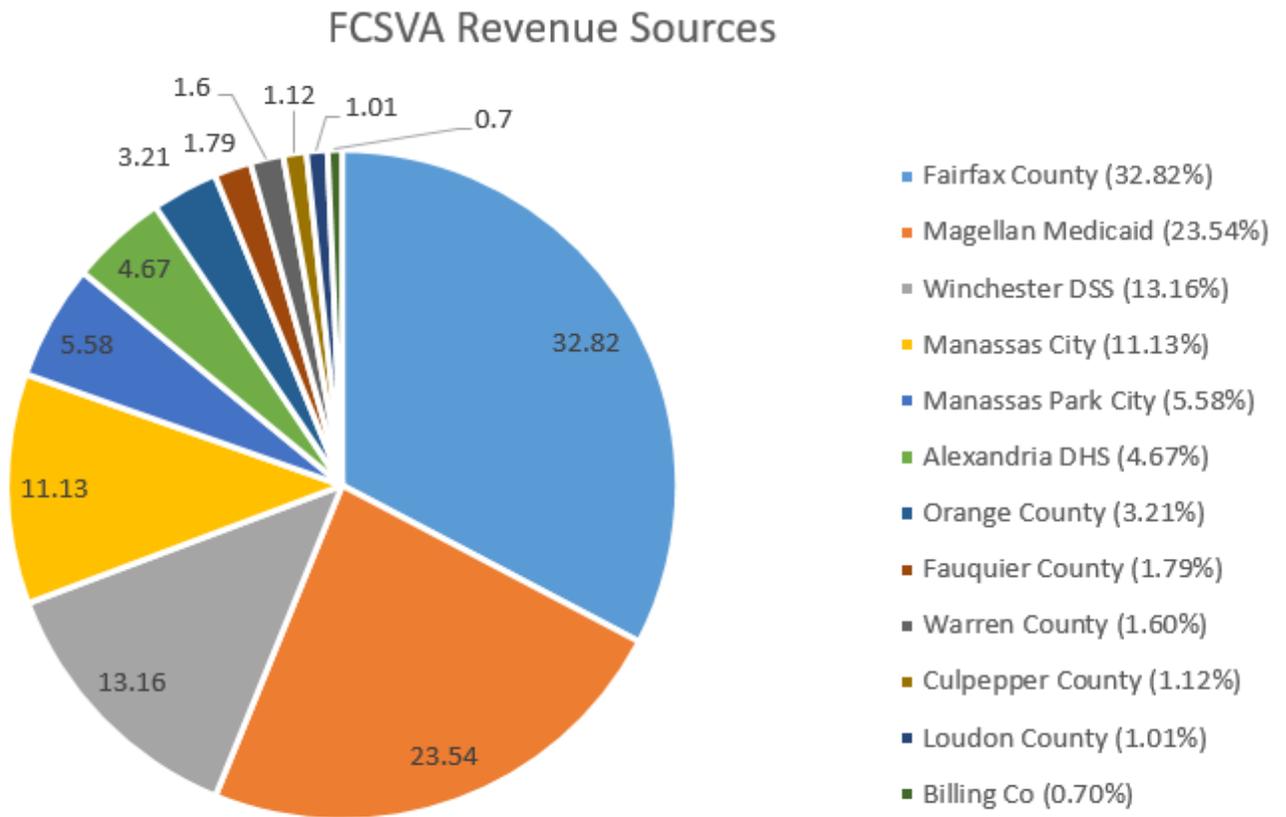
FCSVA utilizes both our Chantilly and Woodbridge, VA locations to conduct meetings, foster parent and teen groups, treatment team meetings, family supervision support, training and outpatient therapy sessions.

FCSVA is a part of the United Way Campaign in Virginia and has continued to benefit from this membership. (United Way of the National Capital Area #8457 and a member of the Combined Federal Campaign #29582.)

The agency retains the legal services of C. Douglas Welty as it's registered agent and utilizes the services of Ballard and Serio for financial audit needs.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

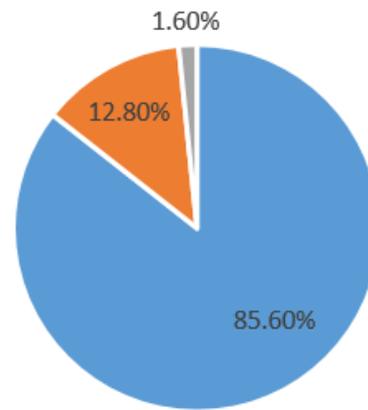
As our programs continue to grow, in size, scope, and location, our financial stability does as well. We've started to work more extensively with Culpepper, Loudoun, and Orange County, and we've been able to continue to bill under various private panel insurance companies as our services have expanded. Our largest revenue source continues to be Fairfax County, but we've also greatly expanded our revenue with Medicaid, Winchester, and Manassas in the past year.



FCSVA accepts payment through private pay options, CSA, State and Medicaid

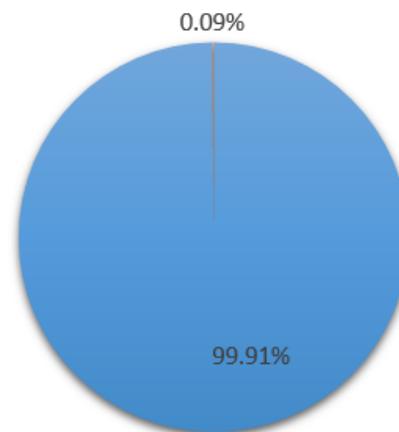
MORE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FCSVA Operating Expenses



■ Program (85.6%) ■ Administration (12.8%) ■ Development (1.6%)

FCSVA Public Support Revenue



■ Fees and Services (99.91%) ■ Donations (0.09%)

OUR COMMUNITY

New Staff

We're proud to announce that, in this fiscal year, we hired **7 new staff members**. This hiring comprised of two new TFC case managers, one Compliance Coordinator/Case Manager, one Foster Parent Training Specialist, two community-based counselors, and one PRIDE Trainer. We're so grateful to have a group of experienced professionals from all walks of life come together to share in the common goal of helping keep children safe and happy.

FCSVA provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age disability, genetic information, or status as a Vietnam-era or special disabled veteran in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. In addition, FCSVA complies with applicable state and local laws governing nondiscrimination in employment in every location in which FCSVA has facilities.



Community Event Hosts

This year, we were able to spread the word and help so many understand and become advocates for foster children. This is in no small part due to all of those who graciously hosted us, from Rotary Club Meetings, to clinical presentations, to town festivals, and so much more. We attended events in Purcellville, Alexandria, Woodbridge, Haymarket, and everywhere in between. We were able to recruit prospective foster parents, donors, and to help the community as a whole learn more about foster care.

OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our 2017-2018 donors!



Alberta Haliti

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Bob Evans

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Go Ape!

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Monster Mini Golf

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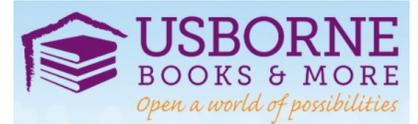
Open Blooms

Paint Your Heart Out

Target

Usborne Books & More

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