



2022 **IMPACT REPORT**



A continuum of care story about the services provided to the children and families in Douglas County & surrounding areas.

From our **Executive Director**

As I reflect on the year, I am proud of all we accomplished in 2022. While the transition to one merged agency from The Children's Shelter and O'Connell Youth Ranch was not seamless, I am proud our focus remained on the children, youth, and families we serve. And as we predicted, we are indeed a stronger agency.

We count on the small successes for the young people we serve. We celebrate the young person who successfully passes all classes or finishes high school. We applaud the young person who gets a job and keeps it. We cheer for the young person we were able to stabilize after multiple years of placement disruptions in the foster care system. We delight in the young person who leaves our care to go home or to a foster family. And we encourage the young person who lived another day because they felt accepted, affirmed, and loved.

The challenges our young people have faced and will continue to face are so daunting, and these young people somehow get up every day, struggle through and sometimes smile and find joy in the process. That's our hope—we are focused on making sure our youth feel like they belong. With teenage suicide at an all-time high and depression and isolation a mounting concern for all, we want our youth to find joy in the simple things. With these goals in mind, we have exciting things happening in 2023. You can look forward to learning about O'Connell Children's Shelter's big steps in providing the best environment, assets, and tools for youth in our communities and specifically in our care.

In the following pages, we share with our impact across various programs for 2022. We are a leader in residential care, providing Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) beds, crisis placement (police protective custody) beds, and long-term care beds. We continue to grow our prevention programs and reach out to at-risk families in our communities. It is truly a win when we can be successful in helping families stay together. We also continue to serve and support foster families and kin who are willing to open their homes to youth in need.

None of what we do is possible without you, those who give to us so generously. We are truly grateful to each of you. If you want more information about how to become a mentor or foster parent, please reach out. If you own or manage a business and are interested in employing a young person, please reach out. If you want to donate, there's a QR code below that will take you to our donation page.

We look forward to seeing you at the Summer's End Cruise-In and BBQ Battle at Broken Arrow Park, Saturday, September 9, 2023 and the Festival of Trees Auction Party at Maceli's Banquet Hall, Saturday, December 2, 2023.

Many blessings to you and yours,
Gina Meier-Hummel



**Scan this QR code with
your smartphone camera
to donate to OCS.**





Youth in Residential Care

Answering the call: When a child cannot be safely maintained in their home or is struggling to be successful in other placements, we strive to be the answer. We provide care for as long as the child needs the service. For some this is just a few days while others may spend years with us. Our goal is to provide loving care in a safe environment. For many youth, we are a stabilizing force in a turbulent world.

● Long term placement

78

● Crisis placement

47



IN 2022

Long term placement

17,364

total days of care

222.3

average length stay in days

Crisis placement

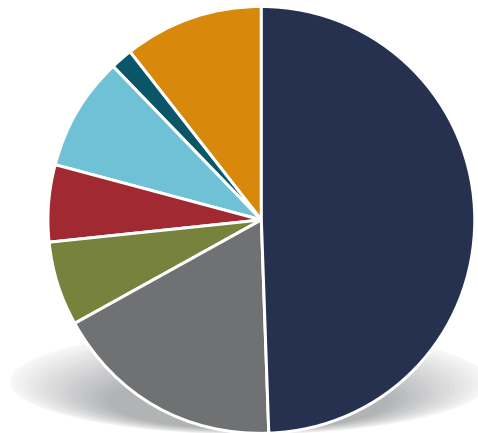
179

total days of care

3.8

average length stay in days

IMMEDIATE PREVIOUS PLACEMENT FOR OUR YOUTH



HOME	49.6%
GROUP HOME & SHELTER	17.6%
HOSPITAL & SECURE CARE	6.4%
RELATIVE'S HOME	5.6%
FOSTER HOME	8.8%
INDEPENDENT LIVING	1.60%
OTHER	10.4%

100%



Youth in **Kansas**



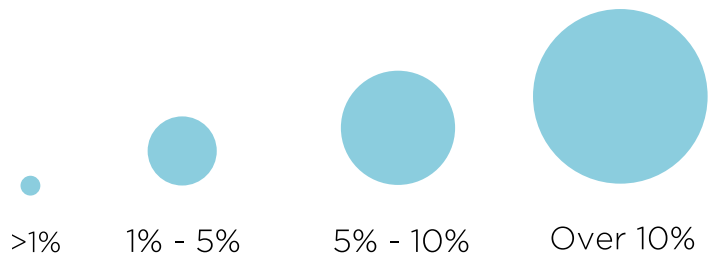
The children and families we work with in our residential program come from many counties across Kansas. We know it's important to keep children connected to their families and communities.

PERCENT OF YOUTH ENTERING OUR RESIDENTIAL CARE BY COUNTY



COUNTY

Douglas	26%
Johnson	19%
Shawnee	14%
Wyandotte	8%
Other Counties	33%



LENGTH OF STAY FOR OUR LONG TERM PLACEMENT YOUTH



1 month or less



1-3 months



3-6 months



6 months - year



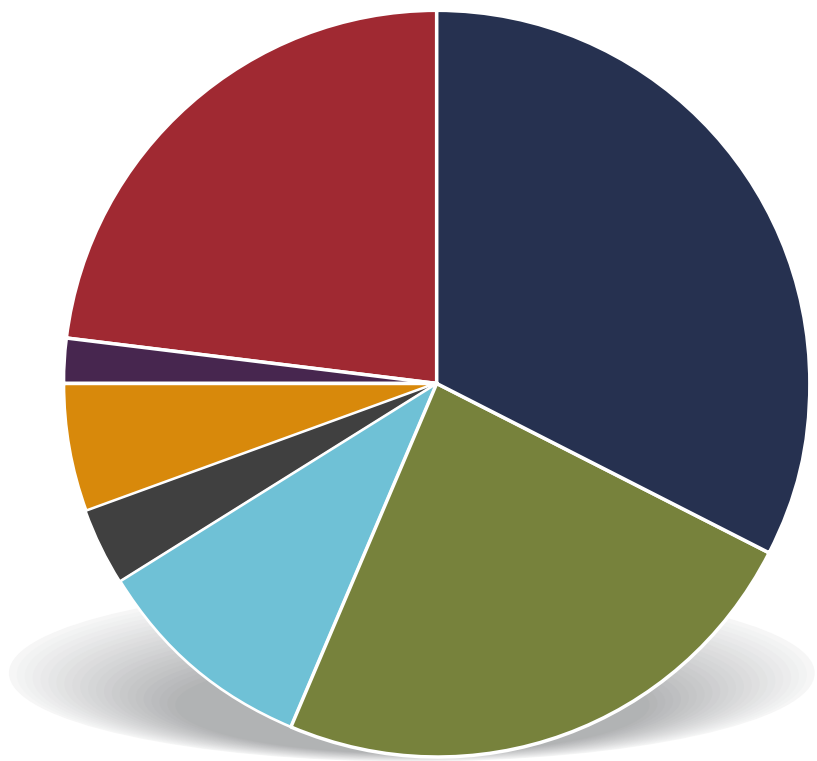
more than 1 Year



Stabilization for Youth

We exist to serve and be an answer for children, youth, and families in our community and our state. This means that we do our best to make sure the children in our care return home. While it's not always possible, we work to ensure our youth go to the most appropriate place for their individual circumstances.

IN 2022 OUR DEPARTING YOUTH TRANSITIONED TO:



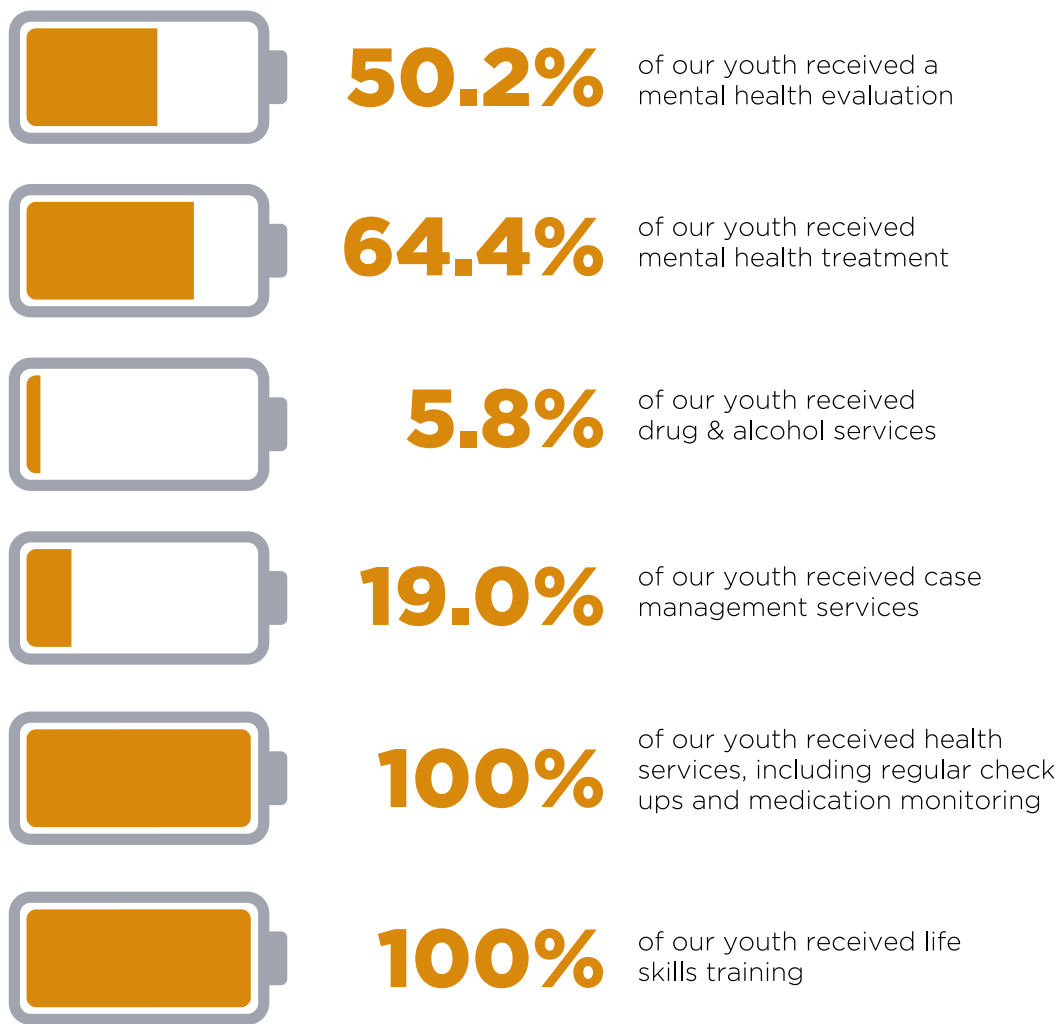
HOME	32.6%
GROUP HOME OR SHELTER	23.9%
FOSTER HOME OR NON-KINSHIP PLACEMENT	9.8%
HOSPITAL OR ACUTE CARE	3.3%
RELATIVE'S HOME	5.4%
INDEPENDENT LIVING	2.2%
OTHER	22.8%
100%	





Services for Youth

In our efforts to be a stabilizing force for the youth in our residential program, we marshal the resources of the expansive social service network in our community. Our stabilization efforts extend to working with volunteer mentors to help our youth form genuine relationships with caring adults, creating a community of support.





Youth in **Prevention Services**

The High School Truancy and Diversion program serves Douglas County high school aged youth (grades 9-12) identified as legally truant to alleviate attendance barriers and promote academic success. We know that obtaining a high school degree is critical to long term well-being and success. Our case managers work with youth and monitor their attendance and grades, provide referrals for additional community support as needed, and support positive communication between families and schools to resolve truancy issues without court involvement.

This program also serves high school aged youth who are under court supervision for truancy to support them throughout the court process and prevent the youth from being placed in state custody.

IN
2022

80

youth in truancy program

47

youth successfully completed the program by maintaining attendance without unexcused absences for two consecutive quarters or by finding alternative educational opportunities

33

youth were still working toward program completion at the conclusion of the year

In addition, we provide prevention case management services to families identified as at risk for removal into state custody due to other issues, including behavioral or mental health challenges.

23

New family referrals

40

Families discharged upon completion of their case plan goals

100%

Families discharged stayed out of care six months past program discharge date



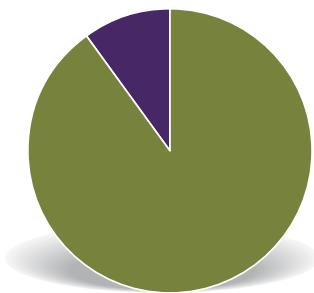
Prevention Services cont'd

In 2022, we partnered with the Kansas Department of Children and Families to provide intensive in-home family therapy services for 82 families identified as at risk of removal into state custody. Our length of time with these families ranged from three months to two years, depending on the severity of need and whether the services were court ordered.



99%

of the families maintained their family unit while receiving services



90%

of families met their case plan goals for intensive family therapy and were successfully discharged in 2022

Artwork created by youth participating in our arts programming.





Foster Family Placements

We serve and support foster families and kin who are willing to open their homes to youth in need. If you're interested in learning more about becoming a licensed family foster home, please reach out to Shannon Heide Livingston at shannonhl@oconnellcs.org.

1454

days of foster parent care

365

days of licensed kinship care

60%

of foster youth in our licensed foster family homes reached permanency in 2022



Events



The Festival of Trees is an enduring and endearing tradition that kicks off the holiday season in Lawrence, Kansas. Each year, the Festival supports O'Connell Children's Shelter, helping enhance our residential, prevention, and foster care programs.

In 2022, our auction included:

- **42 trees**
- **23 wreaths**
- **9 gingerbread houses**
- **Over \$130,000 raised to support our programming**

Thank you to our 2022 Festival of Trees Sponsors:

Edmonds Duncan, Cherry Hill Properties, Grandstand, Lawrence Craft Company, Professional Moving & Storage, Bank Midwest, P1 Group, Inc., CEK Insurance, J. Wilson's, Mar Lan Construction, Truity Credit Union, The Roark Group, SSC CPAs + Advisors, Stephens Real Estate, and GCSAA

If you're interested in being a sponsor for the Festival of Trees in 2023, please reach out to Maren Ludwig at marenl@oconnellcs.org. If you'd like to find out more information about how to be a tree, wreath, or gingerbread house donor, scan the QR Code below.





Ways to Help

- Follow us on social media
- Come to our events
 - Summer's End Cruise-In and BBQ Battle, Broken Arrow Park, Saturday, September 9, 2023
 - Festival of Trees, Maceli's Banquet Hall, Friday, November 24 - Sunday, December 3, 2023
 - **Festival** Auction Party, Saturday, December 2, 2023
- Volunteer
- Become a coach/mentor
- Provide supportive employment for foster teens
- Become a board member
- Become a foster parent
- Donate

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