

Suncoast Voices For Children
Presents Our

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Prevent. Protect. Provide.

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ABOUT SUNCOAST VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Every day in the state of Florida, an average of 39 children are removed from their homes due to neglect, abuse, or abandonment.

Pinellas and Pasco Counties have the most children in child welfare system in the entire state, but the legislature provides less funding for our children in foster care than the state average.

Many leave with nothing but the clothes that they're wearing. Some are placed with relatives or non-relatives who receive no state funds to give them what every child deserves. The trauma of instability can be devastating for children and have lifelong effects.

That's why we exist. Suncoast Voices works hard to everything possible to keep kids who have been removed from their homes in Pinellas and Pasco counties safe and help them succeed.

THREE-KEY STRATEGY



Provide for children who have been removed from their homes to give them more normalcy



Protect children's safety in the child welfare system



Prevent children from entering foster care

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OUR MISSION

We provide for the unmet physical, psychological, educational, and social needs of abused, abandoned, and neglected children in Pinellas and Pasco counties.

OUR VISION

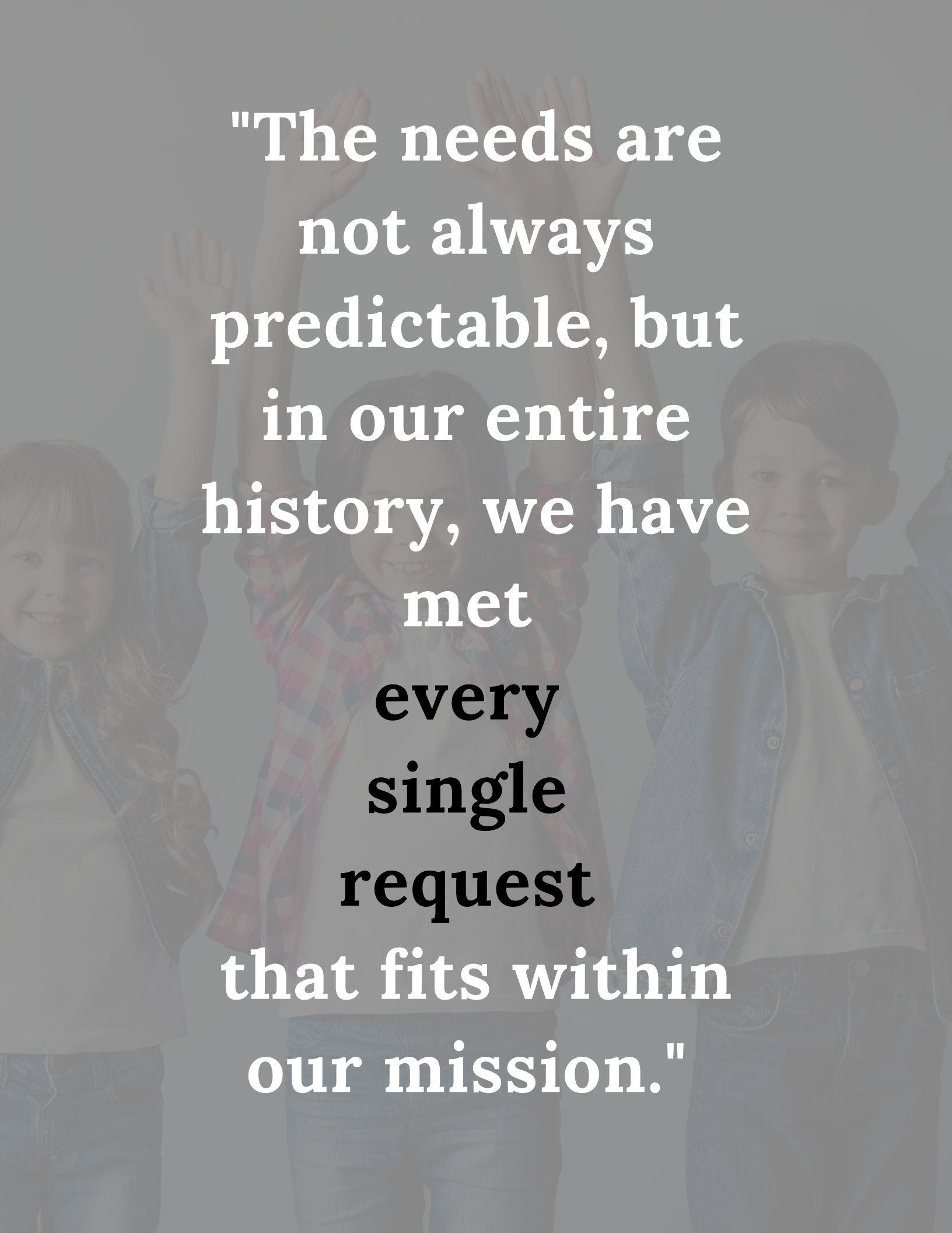
We want to see every child in Pinellas and Pasco counties enjoy a childhood free from fear and deprivation.

OUR IMPACT

Despite the efforts of the child welfare professionals in Pinellas and Pasco Counties, the number of children has been increasing for the last seven years, driven in large part by the disproportionately low funding allocated to this community by the state legislature. Suncoast Voices for Children will continue to serve this growing but innocent young people who find themselves in circumstances they neither created nor control while fighting for equitable funding for our children.

At Voices, we do all we can to prevent children taken from their home for their own safety from ending up in the foster care system. When we can't prevent that from happening, we fulfill requests that help protect these children from countless dangers in their world, like not using car seats, infant deaths from suffocation due to co-sleeping, or getting their hands on weapons and drugs not properly locked away. You will also learn how we do everything possible to provide these children with opportunities to participate in childhood activities like music lessons...

There are so many who need our help, and so much we must do to ease their pain and keep them engaged and off the street. Your support makes that happen every single week, 52 weeks a year.

A background image of three children (two girls and one boy) with their hands raised in a gesture of excitement or agreement. They are wearing denim jackets and plaid shirts. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid.

**"The needs are
not always
predictable, but
in our entire
history, we have
met
every
single
request
that fits within
our mission."**

DEAR FRIENDS OF SUNCOAST VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Suncoast Voices for Children has been impacting our community in many positive ways these last 18 months. In this annual report we will share with you the remarkable numbers of children we've served, along with several heartfelt reminders of why this work is so important. We are also excited to tell you about the new ways we are growing to serve our community.

As of June 2020, Pinellas and Pasco counties continue to have the highest population of children in foster care in the State of Florida. We have continued to see a troubling trend of more children entering foster care – an increase of more than 300 since last summer, not including those placed with family or friends. As a result, we provided an all-time high of over 3,500 services to abused, abandoned or neglected children last year. Thanks to American Locker and City-Wide Storage, we have also installed 75 steel locker banks in group foster homes across Tampa Bay that help over 400 children protect their valuables every day.

While disproportionately low state funding is a major concern, COVID has significantly increased the level of need in our community. We created a COVID-19 relief fund, and work with United Way Suncoast, The Rays and Rowdies Community Fund, and the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay to provide assistance to family members trying to keep children out of foster care despite the economic impact of the pandemic. Through our partnerships with Glory Days Grill in Trinity and United Way of Pasco County, we have been serving 300-500 meals a week to hungry children and their families. Also with the help of United Way of Pasco County, we have provided emergency cleaning supplies to 88 quarantined or vulnerable families through the Pasco County Sheriff's Office. Last but not least, we distributed over 200 sets of diapers and wipes to struggling parents in collaboration with Eckerd Connects...

We are excited to announce that Voices also recently partnered with Ready for Life Pinellas to launch Opportunity Passport in Tampa Bay, the premier financial literacy program for young adults aging out of foster care. Voices is proud to be the first independent organization authorized by the acclaimed Annie E. Casey Foundation to deliver Opportunity Passport in the U.S. Not only do young people receive comprehensive financial literacy training from Vanguard Sales Executive, foster care alumnus and Voices Board member Vanessa Kaspyrzk, but each graduate is paired with a financial coach trained by United Way Suncoast, and each qualifies for up to \$3,000 in matched savings to help them reach career and educational goals. They can use these funds toward vehicles, housing, credit repair, health care expenses, entrepreneurship and more, all thanks to United Way Suncoast and the Ruth & Russell Anderson Foundation. This program has an amazing track record of success – young people have purchased 11,590 assets and saved over \$8,000,000 in the program’s 15-year history. We are delighted to provide young adults with such a powerful set of skills and resources to not only help them succeed in their own lives, but to greatly reduce the likelihood of future generations entering the child welfare system.

Thanks to your generous support, we’ve been able to serve more children than ever and identify novel programs and partnerships to help our children succeed. None of this progress would be possible without you, and we appreciate it so very much. We are just getting started developing these effective new programs to care for and protect all our children, and your continued support will help make these plans a reality. Please contact us any time with any questions or comments.



ANDREW MAURIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



TRAVIS HADWIN
PRESIDENT

THANK YOU!

...from our co-founder, Donna Gaffney



First and foremost, a huge thank you to all of our donors who have made possible the ever expanding impact Suncoast Voices for Children has on improving the lives of the most vulnerable children in Pinellas and Pasco counties. Since our founding in 2004, our outreach has allowed us to positively intervene in the lives of many thousands of extremely needy children and young adults caught up in the child welfare system. When there was nowhere else for them to turn, Suncoast Voices for Children was there for them. We greatly appreciate our donors who have made these past 16 years of service possible..

Because of Covid, the challenges of 2020 have been unique and have necessitated profound changes in all of our lives. Suncoast Voices for Children is no exception.

Our Annual Gala, our major fundraiser, had to go virtual, meetings had to be conducted remotely through Zoom, requests for services had to be submitted exclusively via the internet. But our adjustments pale in comparison to the lives of the children we serve. Already challenged families have been forced to face confinement in cramped housing, surging and disproportionate unemployment, serious food deprivation, and a lack of transportation. These added stressors have led to increases in family disruptions, child abuse, mental illness, and domestic violence and have seriously impacted the lives of the children we serve.

Consequently, requests of Suncoast Voices for Children have increased significantly.

But Suncoast Voices for Children, because of your generous donations and our flexibility and capable leadership, was able not only to fulfill these requests but actually expand its boundaries by engaging in new and innovative programs. In addition to fulfilling our usual requests for beds, tutoring, camps and clothes, to name a few, several new and innovative programs addressing such things as food shortages, financial education and other support for young adults aging out of the system, and the unique needs of newborns were implemented.

Know that you have made a difference in the lives of so many children.

On behalf of those children, THANK YOU!

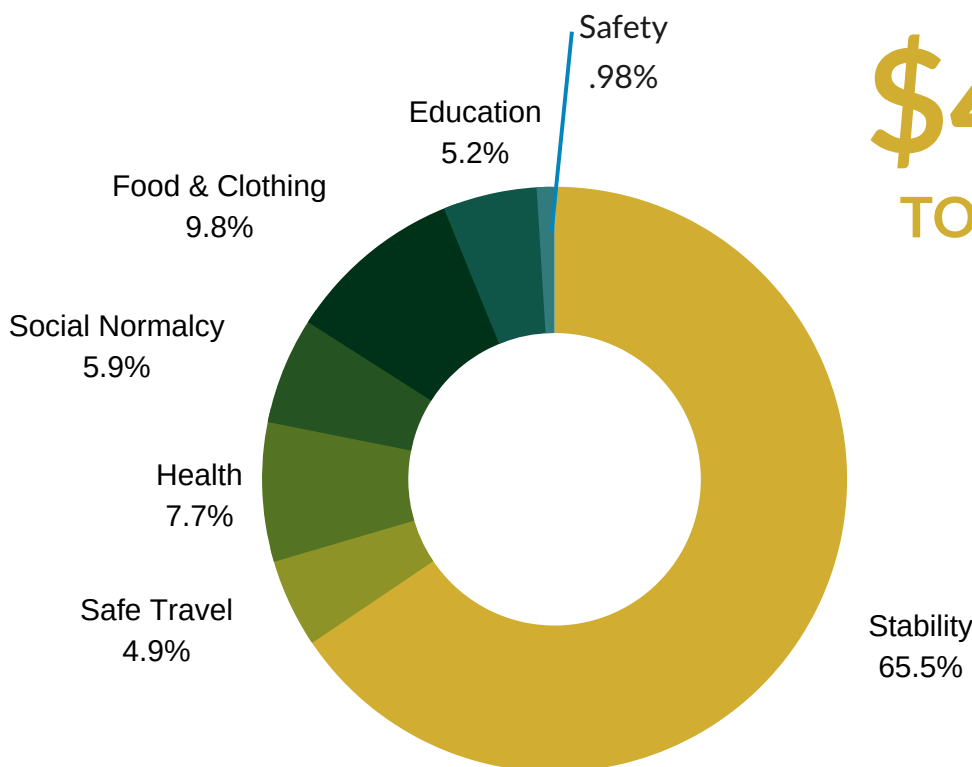
Where The Money Goes

*Expenditure categories explained in detail on page 6

Since 2004, Voices began operating on a January 1 – December 31 fiscal year. For a variety of practical and reporting reasons, some brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Suncoast Voices for Children Board of Directors elected to move the organization's official fiscal year to July 1 - June 30, starting July 1, 2020. We typically provide a year-to-year comparison of services provided so you can appreciate the increase in demand, effort and funding needed to meet these growing requests, but in this report, we have 18 months of services to share with you, along with summaries to give you a clear picture of how we are expanding our services to serve more children.

The year-to-year comparison of 2018 to 2019 shows an increase of 23%. Based on the initial 2020 data, we are on pace for another 18.7% increase in requests reviewed and approved. Any way you slice up the pie, that is a huge jump for us. We're proud to be getting the word out and earning the confidence of Child Protection Investigators in both Pinellas and Pasco counties.

JAN 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020



\$453,481
TOTAL EXPENDITURES

Please see the diagram and breakdown of the Goals Achieved on page 8 for a better idea what your support is providing for these children. Thank you again for all your generous support!

GOALS ACHIEVED

JAN. 2019 - JUNE 2020

5,286

SERVICES TO CHILDREN
VS 2813 SERVICES IN 2018

MORE NEEDS MET

In this "year like no other," Suncoast Voices is receiving and fulfilling requests at an unprecedented rate. The state provides very limited funding for food and some clothing, but most expenses are left to caretakers. The cost of beds, pillows, tutoring, music lessons, bikes and much more are often well beyond their means. Thanks to your donations, we have been able to fulfill 5,286 requests for children over the past 18 months who need our love and help more than ever.

Stability **2010 children served**

Beds, pack 'n plays, pillows, sheets, blankets, and more **\$297,366**

Safe Travel **388 children served**

Bikes, bike helmets, strollers, airline tickets, bus passes, etc. **\$22,015**

Safety **206 children served**

Medication lock boxes, baby proofing items, window/door alarms and locks, gun cases, high chairs, and more **\$4,435**

Social Normalcy **988 children served**
\$26,533

Activities, camps, music lessons, basketball shoes, prom dresses, field trips, and more

Health **978 children served**

Physical and psychological testing, dental, anesthesia, prosthetic devices, walkers, diapers, wipes, food, formula, cleaning supplies, bug control, and more **\$34,972**

Education **156 children served**

Uniforms, laptops, tablets, back packs, school supplies, technical school supplies, and more **\$23,570**

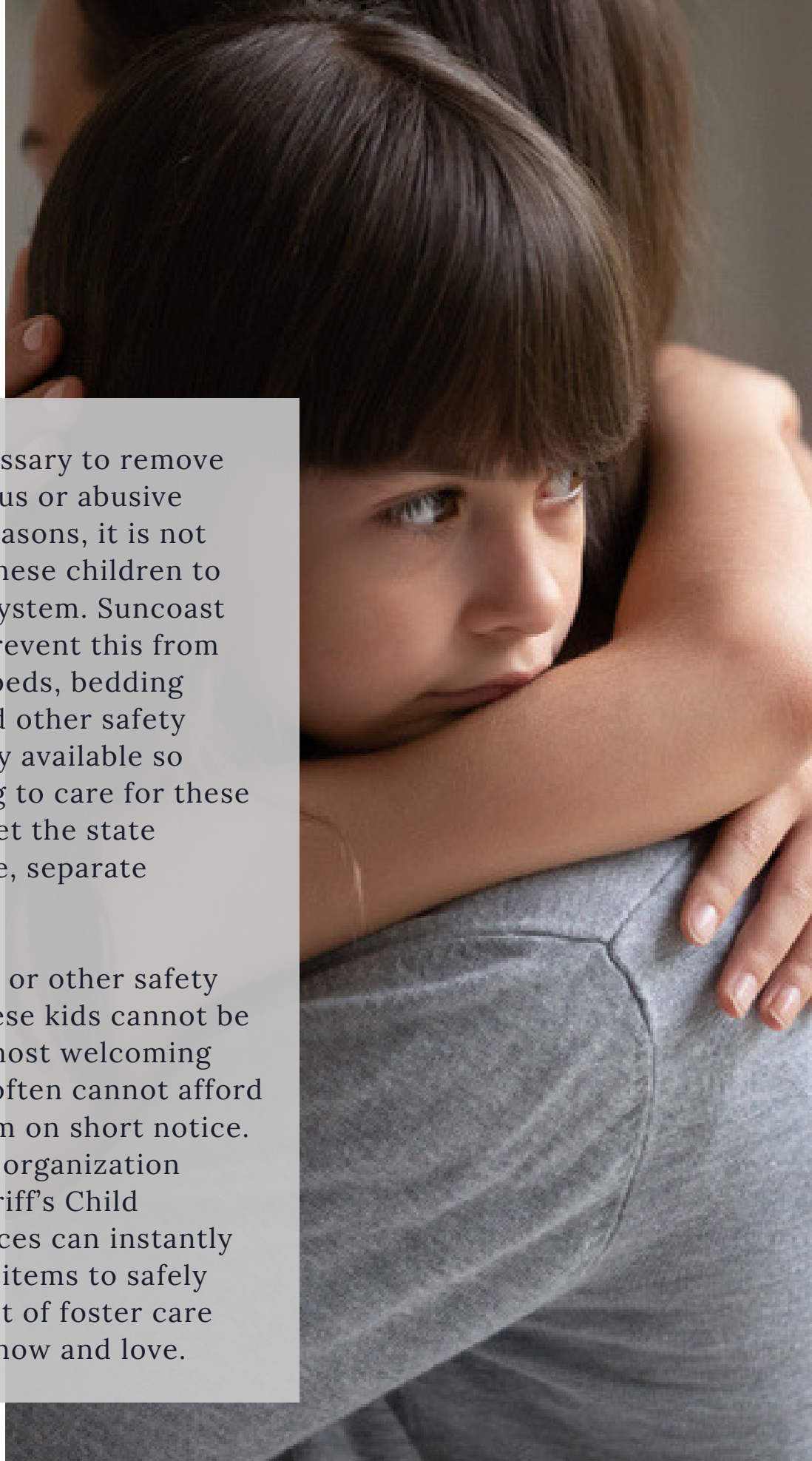
Food & Clothing **560 children served**
\$44,590

Emergency food and clothing access when food pantries and other services aren't accessible

Prevent

While it is always necessary to remove children from dangerous or abusive situations for safety reasons, it is not always necessary for these children to enter the foster care system. Suncoast Voices first seeks to prevent this from happening by making beds, bedding supplies, car seats, and other safety equipment immediately available so family members willing to care for these kids will be able to meet the state requirements for a safe, separate sleeping solution.

Without their own bed or other safety items like carseats, these kids cannot be placed even with the most welcoming family members, who often cannot afford these items or get them on short notice. As the only non-profit organization located inside the Sheriff's Child Protection offices, Voices can instantly provide many of these items to safely keep these children out of foster care and with family they know and love.





Protect

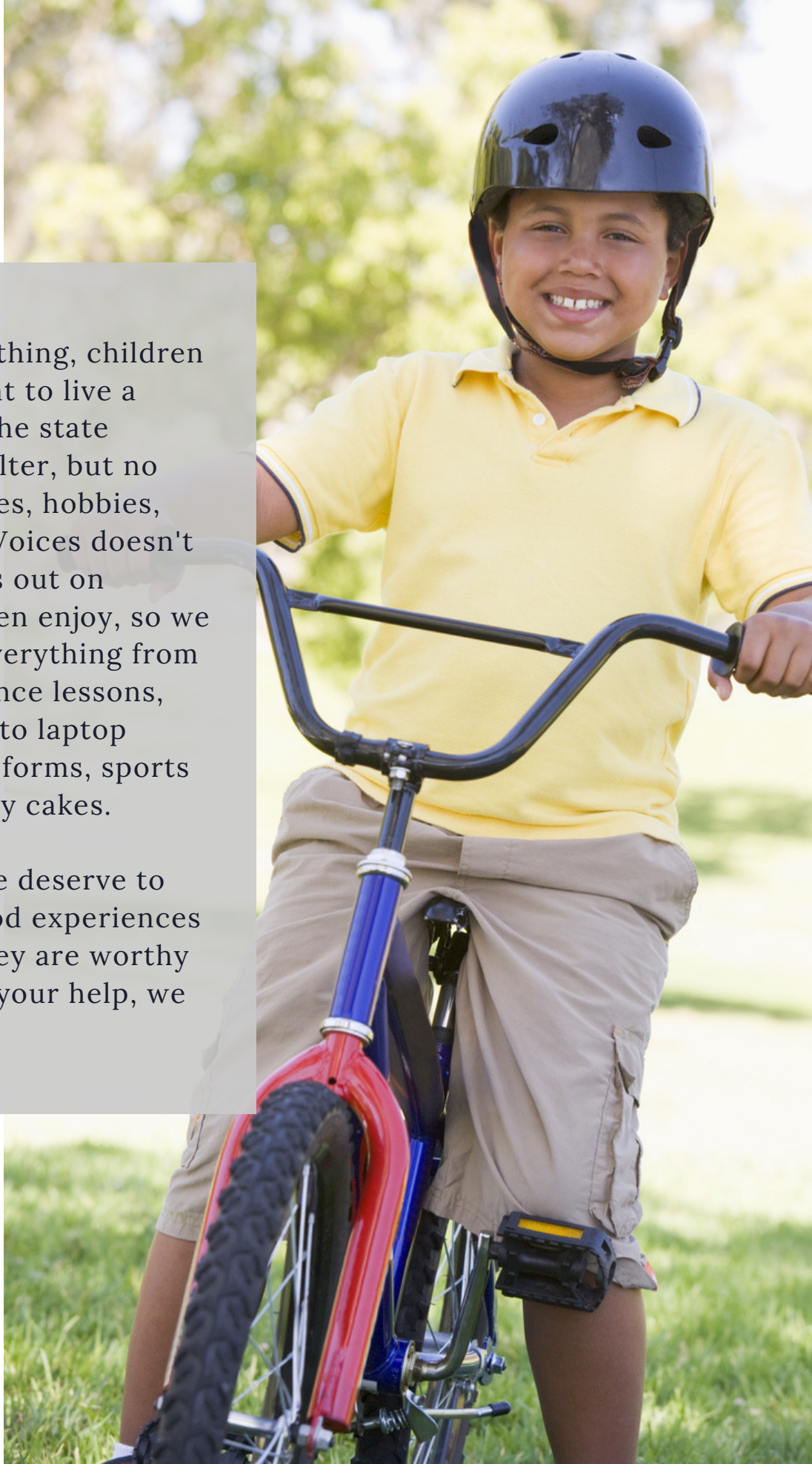
According to the Pinellas County Medical Examiner, there have been dozens of totally preventable sleep-related infant deaths in Pinellas County since 2015 due to unsafe sleeping environments. Infants are 40 times more likely to die in adult beds than in their own cribs, and three of four deaths in babies under 4 months were bed-sharing tragedies.

Voices has supplied more than 1,000 cribs and beds this past year, including many bunkbeds to keep siblings together and safe. We protect these children by also supplying car seats, bike helmets, locks for doors, guns, medicine and cleaning supply cabinets.

Provide

More than almost anything, children in foster care just want to live a “normal” childhood. The state provides food and shelter, but no funding for experiences, hobbies, skill building or fun. Voices doesn't want any child to miss out on activities other children enjoy, so we Provide funding for everything from private tutoring to dance lessons, summer camp tuition to laptop computers, school uniforms, sports fees, and even birthday cakes.

Children in foster care deserve to have positive childhood experiences and not question if they are worthy of them or not. With your help, we can let kids be kids.





*Real Kids.
Real Hurt.
Real Hope.*

Molly, 3, and Jasmine, 6 months, were living with their parents and witnessed extensive domestic violence. The mother was able to escape the situation with Molly and the baby, but they had to leave in the middle of the night with just bare essentials. Voices provided Molly and Jasmine with clothes, shoes, pull ups, diapers, wipes, bottles, bedding and other essentials to help the family live safely on their own.



A family of three siblings, ages 13, 9, and 4, were removed from their parents' custody after years of mental and verbal abuse that had gone unreported by extended family. The Sheriff's Office became involved when Jessica, 13, disclosed that her mother held a gun to her own head in front of the children, threatening to kill herself. The Sheriff's Office acted immediately to ensure the children were safe and did not return to that home, but placing a large sibling group together would not have been possible based on the available capacity in foster homes at the time. Jessica's biggest concern was not being able to continue to watch out for her siblings as she had been doing for years until that point. The children would have been separated in different foster homes, but the investigators contacted one of Jessica's friends' parents, who agreed to take all three of the children. The family friend was also in the same school district so the children did not have to change schools, but the friend's home was very low on space since the household already had three children in the home, bringing the total to six. Temporarily, the two girls, 13 and 4, shared a blowup bed in the living room with the 9 year old brother on the couch, but the arrangement could not be authorized by the Sheriff's Office to continue long term. Voices' Request Coordinator immediately approved and arranged for the delivery of a bunk bed with rails and a twin bed so that the household could be rearranged to accommodate the siblings together long term. The siblings did not spend a day separated from one another in foster care, and they were able to continue to attend the same schools.



Jessica, Jeanne, Jaylynn, and Jamie were allowed to remain in the home with the mother under the court's supervision, but she violated court order by secretly allowing the father into the home due to his substance abuse. He was discovered and arrested for drug possession, and the mother failed to complete her case plan. The girls, ages 5, 3, 1 and 6 months, would have been split into different foster homes. Their grandparents wanted to take custody, but they didn't have sleeping arrangements for them. Voices provided four beds to the children, and they were placed with their grandparents who went on to adopt them.

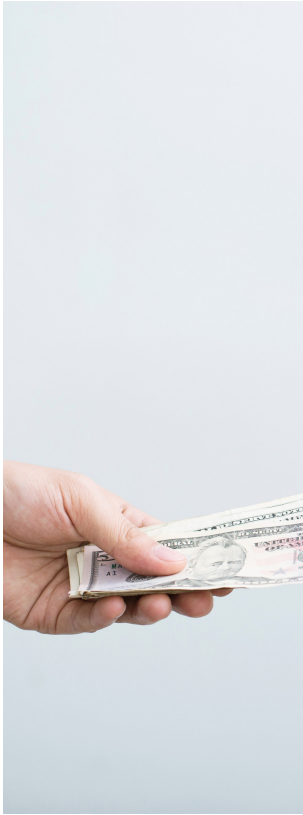
SUNCOAST STORIES

Charles, 8, and Chester, 6, were reunified with his father, who worked hard to successfully complete a case plan to address alcoholism over the course of a year, including inpatient treatment, ongoing counseling, and maintaining stable income and housing. Charles' father saved to move into a house with his children, but shortly after that, the home completely flooded and he had his hours drastically cut due to COVID-19. Voices provided the family with bunk beds so they could remain placed with their father.



These are examples of needs we encounter on a daily basis. Your support is helping us fulfill our mission and care for kids and their caretakers who have real, urgent needs! Learn more about some of our specific ongoing strategies for helping....

PROJECT UPDATES



Opportunity Passport® *helping young adults prepare for their financial futures*

Safekeeping *providing kids in foster care with lockers to store their belongings*

Safe With Family *giving safe family members resources to care for children*

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE DONE...

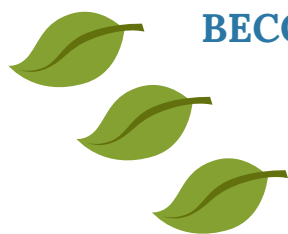
OPPORTUNITY PASSPORT®

An Annie E. Casey
Foundation Program



Through Opportunity Passport®, young people who have spent time in foster care complete a comprehensive, evidence-based financial literacy course with a Ready For Life mentor. Once they graduate, they are paired with a United Way Suncoast financial coach to help them create a budget and save for their goals through a savings matching program, which matches their savings dollar for dollar up to \$3,000 towards the purchase of cars, housing, and other assets. Organizations like United Way Suncoast, the Russell and Ruth Anderson Charitable Foundation, and individuals donating restricted funds help us support our matching dollars and award stipends to jump start savings. We donate to support the matching dollars, and it makes a huge impact helping youth achieve! We know it works - in the program's 15-year history, young people have purchased 11,590 assets and saved over \$8,000,000!

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED IN THIS PROGRAM



BECOME A FINANCIAL COACH

BECOME A MENTOR

DONATE

Opportunity Passport participants
who purchase...

an **education asset** have **2.7x** higher odds of reporting being in **school***

a **vehicle asset** have **3.0x** higher odds of reporting **adequate transportation for school and work***

a **housing asset** have **1.7x** higher odds of reporting **stable housing***

a **vehicle asset** have **1.7x** higher odds of reporting **employment***

a **vehicle asset** have **1.2x** higher odds of reporting **stable housing***



* Statistically significant ($p < 0.05$)

SAFEKEEPING PROJECT

When children enter foster care, they can lose any sense of security for their personal space. When these children experience a theft, whether it's a laptop or a bottle of shampoo, the message is reinforced that they cannot trust their surroundings. We've served children who wear their backpacks to bed filled with their belongings when they are placed in group homes.

American Locker, the global leader in locker solutions, has partnered with Voices for the Safekeeping Project to help these children reclaim some peace of mind. American Locker has designed, manufactured and installed **75 customized, full-sized steel locker banks for group homes throughout the Tampa Bay area.**

Thanks to American Locker, the children in foster care in our community can feel confident that their property is safe and protected during the most difficult time of their lives. Thanks to City-Wide Self Storage & Commercial Services for receiving and coordinating the installations.



THE "SAFE WITH FAMILY" PROJECT

Keeping Pasco Families Together.

Pasco County has more children in foster care than Palm Beach and Orange Counties, which have populations 3x larger than Pasco. To fight this terrible imbalance, Voices kicked off the Safe With Family Project last year thanks to United Way of Pasco, the Broadrick Family Foundation and more community partners. By focusing on providing safe beds, car seats and other safety equipment, Voices removes the financial barriers that prevent the Pasco Sheriff's Office from placing children with otherwise loving and protective family members and friends, serving 600 children last year and setting the pace to serve more in the next year.

This year, we are thrilled to welcome Outreach Coordinator Gina Wilson to help Voices continue to expand services to stabilize Pasco families with a team of volunteers. Leadership Pasco Class of 2020 selected Safe With Family Project as their class project for the year, not only raising funds for children, but also funding a shower, washer and dryer for the Pasco Sheriff's Office to allow children who are removed from their parents dirty or with lice to get cleaned with dignity.

WHERE DOES THE LOVE START?



Crying, scared, the frantic questions roll out rapid fire: “Am I in trouble?” “What did I do wrong?” “What’s going to happen to my mom and dad?” “Are they going to jail?” “Am I going to jail?” “Where do I sleep?” “When can I go home?”

Eight-year-old Josh was just rescued from an unsafe situation as emotions exploded and his parents lost control, hurting each other and Josh in an ugly, alcohol and drug-induced battle of wills. The neighbors called the police.

A Child Protection Investigator is taking Josh back to their offices in Largo to keep him safe. The CPI facility is intimidating, but Josh is brought to a room refurbished and decorated by members of the Voices Board as a thank you for providing us free office space and equipment. The Kids’ Room has comfortable couches, colorful chairs and tables, drinks and snacks, stuffed animals, toys, books, a television, board games - all intended to help calm and distract terrified children caught in a nightmare.

There are no convincing answers to Josh’s questions, except that he is not in trouble and he didn’t do anything wrong. He’s still upset, but has finally stopped shaking. At least for the next few hours he is safe. The hope is that he and others who enter the Kids’ Room will be reunited with their families within hours, or a few days. If not, the CPI will try to place Josh with an extended family member. If unsuccessful, sadly, he will enter the foster care system.

HELP US HELP KIDS LIKE JOSH

The Kids Room gives them just a touch of peace on a crazy, scary night. Now, we are hoping to find donors who would like to help us do something similar in Pasco County, so those children will also feel safe and cared for, at least for a while. Everything Voices does to prevent these children from entering foster care, protect them from the many safety threats they face, and provide opportunities to feel like normal children is only possible because of your giving hearts. Where does the love start for these kids? It starts in the Kids’ Room, and it starts with you.



WHY OUR WORK MATTERS

Since 2004 Suncoast Voices has raised and spent funds to meet the needs of thousands of abused and neglected children. Why do we do it?

Almost daily we hear pleas from child welfare workers for beds, pillows, bikes, helmets, safety locks, tutoring, life experiences and more. To keep up, dedicated Board members meet 52 weeks a year to review EVERY request, and approve all that fall within our mission. Funds can run tight, because every single week we spend 88 cents of every dollar raised directly on the children.

But there's a bigger picture . . .

65% of adults who were formerly in foster care experienced seven or more school changes as children. Fewer than half of children who were in foster care earn a high school diploma, and less than 3% earn a bachelor's degree or higher. Over 60% of human trafficking survivors have a history in the child welfare system. Young people who were formerly in foster care are far more likely to endure homelessness, poverty, compromised health, unemployment and incarceration after they leave foster care.

Voices works to change those outcomes by focusing on keeping children with safe family members, who offer family connection, community, educational stability and normalcy. When family placements aren't possible, Voices fights to give every young person the opportunity to discover their wonderful talents and have fun through sports, music lessons, and more. When young people transition from foster care to adulthood, Voices supports them through furnishing a first apartment, buying college textbooks or connecting them to financial education and savings matches with Opportunity Passport®

We focus on programs that have been proven to make an impact, because they are programs that tell our children that they have ability and opportunity, that others care for and believe in them. **Our work matters because it tells our children that they matter.**



HOW YOU CAN HELP

BECOME A VOICE

Although the law prevents us from identifying the children we serve, we can work with you to link your donation to a specific request for a specific child. If your passion is to support literacy programs, participation in sports, dance, music education, or tutoring, or maybe you would just like to provide books, school supplies or a bicycle to help these kids get to and from class, don't hesitate to make your donation personal!



SHOP ONLINE

Online shopping has skyrocketed due to COVID-19, and if you use AmazonSmile and/or GoodShop.com and designate Suncoast Voices for Children as your Charity of choice), we will receive a small contribution from them for every purchase you make. It's an easy way to support us that costs you nothing, but could add up to a significant income stream that can help many kids in need.

BECOME A COMMUNITY PARTNER

They say it takes a village to raise a child, and we know that to be true. Suncoast Voices couldn't do what we do without the support of the local community. If you own a local business, and you have a heart for helping scared and struggling children, we invite you to learn more about becoming a Community Partner.

FUNDRAISE

Like many other nonprofits, fundraising is integral to our mission and cause. We are thankful to the different companies and organizations who organize events of all types and sizes for their staff, customers or community, each one with Voices designated as your nonprofit Partner of Choice. Choose to host a holiday giving tree, a cookout or bake sale, or other fun event; it's been a difficult year, and the children need these fundraisers more than ever!



INVEST IN OPPORTUNITY PASSPORT

We can give a child hundred dollars, or we can teach him/her how to earn those dollars, save them and grow them. That's what Opportunity Passport is all about (see page 14). Financial incentives keep these children on track and motivated, so contributions that fund those incentives are vital to its success. The total cost of "or one student to participate is \$4,500 per student; please consider donating specifically to this new and exciting program!



COVID-19 RESPONSE

Providing Emergency Aid To Children & Their Families

<https://www.suncoastvoices.org/covid-19-response/>

Often the best available custody option for children removed from dangerous situations at home is staying with their own nearby family members. These are usually loving, concerned relatives who make major sacrifices to keep the kids with them in their homes and out of foster care. But COVID-19 has added a major additional strain on these households.

Voices is committed to supporting safe family placements so no children enter foster care due to financial reasons during COVID-19, and to fully funding all our new programs with community partners so no previous donations are redirected to these programs.

During this scary and troubling time, here's how Voices is helping:

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE



ONLINE LEARNING SUPPORT



EMERGENCY FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR RELATIVE CAREGIVERS



EMERGENCY SUPPLY DELIVERY





EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE



Since late May, Voices has been teaming up with Glory Days Grill (Odessa and Wesley Chapel) and United Way of Pasco County to provide **400-600 meals each week** to children and families involved in the child welfare system through contact-free meal pickup at case management offices.

Each week, families pick up meals like grilled chicken, barbeque and meatloaf along with a vegetable and a starch for each member of the household. For some homes with **over 14 children**, it's an especially big help.

Our other partners like Safe At Home and Guardian ad Litem Program volunteers have picked up meals to deliver to families in need of food assistance but who are without transportation. Some staff members regularly bring over 40 meals to 8 or more families.

As of the end of August, the program has provided about 6,000 meals.

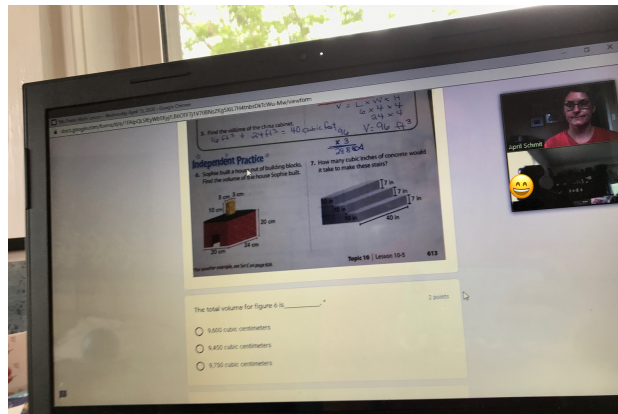
Voices has also provided over 100 households with food assistance in partnership with Ready for Life to support young adults previously in foster care who have lost their jobs or had their hours cut, or are taking care of their own children. Boxed meals with cooking instructions have been delivered to households that can't get to meal pickup locations.



ONLINE LEARNING SUPPORT



From March to August, Voices has provided **90 children and young adults in foster care with laptops and tablets** to participate in remote school and online tutoring programs while they can't attend in person. This is more than a 300% increase in requests! Thanks to the Arthur Family Foundation for their support of laptops for young adults who aged out of foster care! Here are some mentors from Friends of the Children of Tampa Bay visiting with our tablets:





EMERGENCY FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR RELATIVE CAREGIVERS



Voices has historically only purchased items and services for children, but it became clear that more children would enter foster care unnecessarily without assistance for safe, loving aunts, uncles and grandparents who took custody of children and kept them out of foster care.

Voices is proud to work with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and community partners to provide emergency assistance with child care and other bills to make sure children don't enter foster care during COVID-19 for financial reasons. The investigators of the Sheriff's Office identify and vet households in need of support. Since this is a special project, these expenses are exclusively funded through grant writing and donations made specifically for this project.

Thanks to United Way Suncoast, The Rays Baseball Foundation and Rowdies Soccer Fund, and the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, we have **provided assistance to keep 95 children out of foster care** since March! Thanks to the United Way of Pasco County, Voices will continue to provide rent and utility assistance to households going forward.



While Voices has always provided diapers, wipes, formula and other childcare essentials within the Sheriff's Offices, the need for these items has increased significantly since March, particularly for quarantined households.

Since March, **Voices has provided over 500 children with pack n' plays, diapers, wipes, formula and more from the Sheriff's Offices.** Thanks to United Way of Pasco County, Voices has been able to provide a kit of cleaning supplies and paper products to more than 80 households in Pasco delivered by the Pasco County Sheriff's Office's Child Protection Division.

Thanks to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office's Community Connection Program, Voices will provide **300 more children** with diapers in the coming months.



We are delighted to invite you to

SUNCOAST VOICES FOR CHILDREN'S 5TH ANNUAL

GALA
from home

OCTOBER THE THIRD, TWENTY TWENTY
6:30 PM TO 7:30 PM

Stand Up For Children

SAVE THE DATE!
REGISTER AT SUNCOASTVOICES.ORG/GALA



What to expect....



This has been such an unnatural year of "firsts" thanks to COVID-19 that we have all had to find new ways to do business and live our lives. One of those "firsts" will be the first Suncoast Voices for Children virtual "Gala from Home."

Our theme this year is Stand Up For Children, and on Oct. 3 you can do just that without leaving the comfort and safety of your own home. Everything will be streamed online, including games, auctions, entertainment and some very touching stories about the more than 3,500 services we provided for abused and neglected children of all ages. From diapers, beds and car seats to bikes, laptops and tutoring, the demand for our support has skyrocketed because of the pandemic. For that reason, we especially need you to join us this year with your consistent and reliable generosity to meet all these needs.

You may have already read in this Annual Report about new programs we launched to provide even more services this year (see page 13), including the Safe With Family Project to serve Pasco County and Opportunity Passport®, a partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to provide financial literacy classes and matched savings for young people who grew up in foster care.

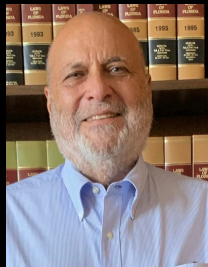
We would all love to see you face-to-face and in our dressed-up best to enjoy another great night of celebrating Suncoast Voices and our mission. But at least for this year, we ask that you save the date, register for free, and then join us on Oct. 3 via your laptop, tablet or phone! We promise to make it well worth your time! You can register now, and learn more about sponsorship opportunities and our Gala From Home packages at by calling us at 727-582-3609, or going to <https://www.suncoastvoices.org/gala/>.

Meet Our Board, Trustees, & Staff

The Voices Behind Voices



Travis Hadwin
President



**Hon. (Ret.)
Frank Quesada**
Vice President



**Carol
Dinsdale**
Secretary



**Kari C.
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Treasurer



**Cynthia B.
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Immediate
Past
President

- Rita Becchetti – Guardian ad Litem
- Mary Diez – More Than A Bed Chair, Duke Energy
- Carol Conaway – Guardian ad Litem
- Tara Gaffney – Gala Committee
- Vanessa Kaspyrzk – Opportunity Passport Chair
- Donna Gaffney – Co-founder, Guardian ad Litem
- Holly Magnan – Delta Construction Partners
- Mimi Perrelli – Youth Engagement Chair
- Anne Michelle Frey – Shorecrest Preparatory School
- Erin Dise – Dise Wealth Management



Working both in the community and behind the scenes, the Suncoast Voices for Children staff is clearly the key to our entire operation.

Pictured clockwise, Executive Director Andrew Maurin manages Voices' administration, oversees all programs and executes the many aspects of our current strategic plan throughout the Pinellas and Pasco communities. Gina Wilson, the Outreach Coordinator for Pasco County, oversees all Pasco progress. Bookkeeper Jeanne Joyner monitors all incoming and outgoing funds, prepares monthly and annual financial statements, records all donations and payments, and tracks grant compliance. Request Coordinator Amy Baldwin works with the Sheriff's offices and case managers in Pinellas and Pasco County to process requests for assistance and provide needed items and services for our children.

SUNCOAST SPONSORS

OPPORTUNITY PASSPORT

PROJECT SPONSORS:
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JIM CASEY YOUTH
OPPORTUNITIES INITIATIVE

UNITED WAY SUNCOAST

MORNINGSTAR FOUNDATION

THE RUSSELL & RUTH ANDERSON
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

READY FOR LIFE

BANK OF AMERICA

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SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CROSSOVER PUBLIC DEFENDER'S
OFFICE

SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OFFICE OF
THE GENERAL MAGISTRATE

CAMELOT COMMUNITY CARE



PROJECT SPONSORS:
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ELISA'S GREATEST WISHES



PROJECT SPONSORS:
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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF
TAMPA BAY

PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE

COMMUNITY CONNECTION
GRANT

GLORY DAYS GRILL
FLORIDA

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS, WE SAY THANK YOU

We are proud of the hard work of our very capable staff as they support the children we serve, particularly during this strange "work from home" pandemic. But rest assured, the behind-the-scenes energy that fuels everything we do at Suncoast Voices for Children comes from the dedicated volunteers who devote their talents and precious time to respond to the needs of abused and neglected children here in our community. Voices simply would not exist without them.

It all starts with the volunteer Board of Directors, each individual investing countless hours from their busy personal and professional lives to attend Board meetings, serve on various committees and respond to ongoing calls for input and assistance. We conduct our business by applying Board member proficiencies in operational and financial management, law, accounting, education, marketing, fundraising, community outreach, social work, health care and numerous other areas of expertise.

Beyond the Board, we rely heavily on volunteers to help our administrative staff with social media, event planning, and unique community engagement programs that expand awareness of our children and our cause. We also receive first-rate assistance from volunteers who organize our paramount fundraising event, the annual Suncoast Voices for Children Gala.

We are graced each day throughout the year with this amazing outpouring of tenderness and concern, enabling us to be an effective voice for the children. On their behalf, and with great respect, we thank you.



STAY SOCIAL IN 2020!

Many people have experienced loneliness this year - indeed, we have collectively experienced the greatest isolation most of us have ever known. When you need to connect with community around a cause, or just need some good news to brighten your newsfeed, follow us on social media to keep up with everything Voices is doing to serve the Tampa Bay Area!



Facebook
@SuncoastVoicesforChildren



Instagram
@suncoast_voices



LinkedIn
@SuncoastVoicesforChildren



*HELP US KEEP
THE PROMISE.*

*Prevent
Protect
Provide*



Visit suncoastvoices.org to get involved today!