ALL CHILDREN DESERVE the same OPPORTUNITY to reach their FULL POTENTIAL
Dear Friends,

November 7, 2019 marks the 125th anniversary of ChildServ’s founding and the organization’s commitment to place above all, the safety, well-being and education of children.

Since 1894, we’ve grown from an orphanage on the North Shore to a social impact organization that in 2018 helped 2,617 children and families in Cook, DuPage, Kane and Lake counties to build better lives.

Fiscal Year 2019 was very successful: We expanded by an additional 120 children and families in our early childhood learning program in Kane and Lake counties; six youth in our foster care program graduated high school and they are attending college this fall; and for the second consecutive year, the agency achieved a balanced budget.

Those accomplishments, and many more, were made possible by the generosity of our supporters and partners in mission throughout the community. And on behalf of our children and families, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and thanks.

This past year also provided stark reminders as to the importance and necessity of our work and why now—more than ever—we must do more to invest in and protect children in our communities.

In early 2019, three members of ChildServ’s family were victims of gun violence. Two of them lost their lives.

These tragedies were devastating. Our clients, their families and our team, however, have a collective resilience and fervent desire to affect change, and believe that every child deserves the opportunity to live a long, productive life.

The status quo is no longer acceptable. Too many children are dying or caught, through no fault of their own, in a cycle of abuse, poverty and violence. It is time that we, as a society, step up and make the safety and well-being of children our highest priority.

In Fiscal Year 2020, ChildServ remains committed to building better lives for our clients through early childhood education, foster care and adoption services and housing for teens and young adults. But this year, our resolution is to be even greater agents of change, increasing our impact and advocacy so that they can live long, healthy and successful lives.

In these efforts, we are grateful for the support of our Board of Trustees, Auxiliary Board, community, corporate and faith parents, foster parents, volunteers and team members.

We invite you to join us in putting kids above all. Introduce ChildServ to a friend, family member or co-worker, attend one of our events, connect with us on social media, consider fostering or contribute to our mission. The time to act is now; be a difference-maker in the lives of our children and families so that they can reach their full potential.

Best regards,

Dan Kotowski  
President & CEO

John Gotschall  
Chair, Board of Trustees
**IMPACT & OUTCOMES**

2,617 children & families' lives made better.

97% of our clients made progress on their personal & professional goals.

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**Strong Foundations for Life**

634 CHILDREN were ready to succeed in kindergarten due to our early childhood learning program, according to national assessment tool.

99% of parents in our program established goals to help their child have a strong foundation for life and succeed in school.

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**Loving, Supportive Homes**

39 CHILDREN found permanent, loving homes through adoption, permanent guardianships and family reunifications.

100% of children who were placed with a guardian or adopted now live in a safe, stable and permanent home.
IMPACT & OUTCOMES

97% of our clients felt ChildServ provided the stability they need for growth.

96% of our clients were satisfied with our services.

Safe, Group Living Environments

24 TEENS received counseling to heal from trauma, encouragement to finish high school and life skills training so they can become empowered adults.

95% participation rate from residents in the life skills training to learn about financial literacy, nutrition and stress management.

Empowering Youth

28 YOUNG ADULTS moved from homelessness to having safe apartments and received life skills training, including budgeting, resume writing and interview skills.

100% of clients are career-oriented--employed, in school or actively seeking or changing jobs.
Strong Foundations for Life
Meet Angela & Nicholas

Angela*, a pregnant, single mother in Lake County, needed help making sure she was ready to give birth to her son in July 2019. She and her first child were recent graduates of ChildServ’s early learning program, and when she heard about our new doula program, Angela called her former parent educator to get more information. She was referred to Betsy, ChildServ’s doula.

Angela was initially hesitant to enroll as she had built a strong relationship with her parent educator and was wary of starting over with someone new. But Betsy proved to be dependable and trustworthy, helping Angela establish a birth plan and finding her a car seat, diaper bag and other essentials.

Angela and Betsy’s bond developed quickly, and Angela asked Betsy to be in the delivery room when she gave birth to her son Nicholas*.

After the Nicholas was born, Betsy coached Angela in breastfeeding techniques to make sure her son was getting the proper nutrition and helped get them both to their doctors’ appointments.

Six weeks later, Nicholas was healthy and growing well and Angela felt confident in herself to take care of her two children. Betsy helped them transition into ChildServ’s early learning program for children ages 0-3, in which they’ll both continue to receive support so their family can succeed, and Nicholas can reach his potential.

*For the privacy and safety of our clients, their names have been changed.

Early Childhood Expansion: An Investment in our Future

Our Doula program is new in 2019 and provides support, information and resources to pregnant women and new moms and their babies so they have happy, healthy starts to life.

It is part of an on-going expansion in our early childhood education programs that in the last two years has increased our impact by 170 children and families in Lake County and Elgin.

Investing in the health, well-being and education of children at the earliest age makes a significant difference in their ability to graduate high school and college, as well as find employment. It also keeps families together and breaks the cycle of poverty, abuse and violence.

According to Dr. James Heckman, Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago, the return on investment in early childhood learning programs is significant for the community, too, with studies showing the ROI at 13%.
Safe Living Environments
Meet Shannon

When Shannon* came to ChildServ, she was determined to prove to herself and others that she was ready—Ready to continue her hard work to overcome the trauma she experienced; ready to seize new opportunities; and ready to be a normal teenager.

Shannon’s childhood was difficult. She lived with her grandparents because her parents did not provide her and her three siblings with the support they needed.

At age 14, she was a victim of human trafficking and needed more help than her grandparents could give.

She became a “youth in care” and entered a residential facility to start intense therapy and continue her education. Though she did well in this program, Shannon was unable to leave and do typical things a 15-year-old would do, including going to school.

In December of 2018, Shannon entered our Naperville Group Home for girls ages 12-18. She immediately began to thrive.

She wanted to graduate high school on-time, so Shannon enrolled at both a local high school and a therapeutic day school in Chicago, which gave her the chance to learn in a classroom setting that provided more individual assistance.

Living at the group home has also given her more freedom to be a kid. She goes to the movies, the library and has a part-time job at Brown’s Chicken.

She has continued to process and heal from her trauma in therapy with Allison, ChildServ’s Associate Director of Group Homes and lead clinician. They work on recognizing and establishing healthy boundaries, as well as helping Shannon understand her family’s place in her trauma. She still loves them and hopes to re-unite with her three siblings in the future.

Shannon’s tremendous progress has her on-track to graduate from our Naperville Group Home in January of 2020. To make sure she’s ready, Shannon has participated in the group home’s life skills training sessions, learning about time management, nutrition and financial literacy.

In June of 2019, she graduated from high school. She continues to attend life skills programs at her therapeutic day school. Her last credit is a driver’s education course; she’s looking forward to having the freedom of driving!

As she prepares to move into a living situation with even more independence, Shannon now has the confidence, self-esteem and emotional stability to know that her hard work has paid off and that she’ll continue to have the opportunity to be a teen with a normal life.

*For the privacy and safety of our client, her name has been changed.
Be a...
Loving Foster Parent

Do you have a place in your HEART for a child?
Do you have a place in your HOME for a child?
Then your place is with us at ChildServ!

For more information, contact us at info@childserv.org or (773) 239-8094.
Be a... Supportive Mentor

IMPACT the life of a teen in our DuPage County group homes or a young adult in Emerge!
Share your TIME and TALENT as a MENTOR for a youth in need of career or educational guidance.

For more information, contact Zulma Colon at zcolon@childserv.org or (773) 867-7361.
Empowering Youth
Meet Christa

For as long as she can remember, Christa* wanted to be a pediatrician. She loved taking care of kids and making sure they were healthy.

And when she entered ChildServ’s Emerge program in 2018, Christa and her case manager, Phyllis, made sure they kept her on track to achieve that goal.

Christa’s childhood was difficult, filled with family conflict and instability. As a teenager, she stayed at friends’ houses, but knew that wasn’t sustainable. She eventually tried to find a place at Featherfist, a housing program on Chicago’s South side, but they were full.

Then, she heard about Emerge and found the stability she needed.

During their first meeting, Christa and Phyllis talked about her desire to be a doctor and put a plan in place to make it happen. With an apartment of her own, Christa was able to focus on her studies at National Louis University. She also found a part-time job as a Certified Nursing Assistant at North Shore Hospital and then later in the neonatal department at Lurie Children’s Hospital, in Chicago.

These jobs both cemented her love of working with children and provided valuable experience and income to help her become self-sufficient.

Christa also made time to see her Emerge Therapist to help her process and heal from trauma associated with her family life and being homeless.

In June of 2019, Christa graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Health Administration from National Louis University. She is currently searching for a program that will allow her to continue her studies so she can accomplish her goal of becoming a pediatrician to keep children healthy.

Christa is set to successfully complete the Emerge program in mid-2020, with the resources, skills and knowledge to thrive as an independent young adult.

*For the privacy & safety of our client, her name has been changed.
Fiscal Year 2019
What's New in Programs?

Holistic Approach to Mental Health

In early 2019, ChildServ started a new, holistic approach to mental health and well-being for the young people in our three group homes for teenagers, ages 12-18, in Chicago’s western suburbs. Our teens have experienced abuse, neglect and violence, and need a safe, nurturing place to continue their education and heal from their trauma so they can become empowered adults.

This new therapeutic model provides our youth with many opportunities to achieve physical, mental and emotional wellness, rather than limiting their support to “talk therapy” and medication for treatment. As a result, the youth in our care are now benefiting from art, equine and drama therapy, as well as yoga, meditation and many other recreational activities that ensure they have options to work through their trauma in a healthy and constructive way.

The program aligns with our philosophy of care that each child is treated as if they are our own. It reminds them that they are valuable and significant, and deserve the same kind of interventions as kids who grow up with more resources and access to support when needed.
### Fiscal Year 2019

**Financial Information**

#### FY2019

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<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Assets:</strong></td>
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**Comparative Statement of Activities for years ending June 30, 2018 & June 30, 2019**

#### FY2019

**INCOME**

- Government Support: $8,927,478
- Private Support: $2,959,552
- Other Revenue: $196,140

**Total Income:** $12,083,170

**FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES**

- Cost of Care: $2,555,823
- Staffing: $7,061,937
- Cost of Operations: $2,465,385

**Total Expenses:** $12,083,145

**Change in Net Assets:** $25

#### FY2018

**INCOME**

- Government Support: $8,063,082
- Private Support: $3,154,700
- Other Revenue: $204,130

**Total Income:** $11,421,912

**FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES**

- Cost of Care: $2,411,247
- Staffing: $6,409,963
- Cost of Operations: $2,542,085

**Total Expenses:** $11,363,322

**Change in Net Assets:** $51,895
Fiscal Year 2019

Events

The ChildServ Founder’s Day Gala raised more than $400,000 to build better lives for our children and families.

Rodney Brown (left) and Dan Kotowski (second from left) presented the Lucy Rider Meyer Humanitarian Award to United Airlines’ Sheryl Clarke (center) and Craig Schifferdecker (right), honoring United’s volunteer efforts and commitment to helping our kids reach their potential.

ChildServ hosted our inaugural BIG Hearts Bowling event in June, at Habetler Bowl, in Chicago.

More than 80 children and families had a blast bowling and raised $23,000 to ensure the children in our early childhood learning program ready to succeed in school.

ChildServ’s annual Holiday Gift Drive was the most successful in our history! We received more than $91,000 in donations of toys, books and clothes to make sure 1,500 children in our care experienced the joy of the holidays.

The drive was made possible through the support and hard work of 180 volunteers, including companies like Littelfuse, who wrapped and organized gifts for delivery to our kids and families.
We are grateful to our generous donors for their continued support of our mission.

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<td>Rebecca Novak</td>
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We are grateful to our generous donors for their continued support of our mission.

Tina & Orren Pickell
Mary Anna Planey
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Elliott & Sherri Richardson
Smells Like a Beer Fest
Rachel Sterner
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$2,000+
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Total Administrative Services Corp.
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Kendall Vaccaro
Waterville Advisors
Wight & Company
YWCA of Lake Forest

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Americaneagle.com
The Andrew Family
Jonathan Arnold
Astoria Properties
Lynn Barnett
Dean Bekas
Lloyd Betourney
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Jeff Santos
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The Sexton Group
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Tai Truong
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Wieland Family Foundation
AJ Wilhelmi
WPD Management

$500+
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Margaret Sanders
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Paul Spellman
Helena Stangle
Mathieu & Marie Sussman
Elizabeth Taylor
Kibrom Tewolde
Monica Tobler
Tyrone Williams
David Yontz
Steve Zajc

$250+
All Computer Medics, Inc.

American Academy of Sleep Medicine
Nadeem Bhanji
Boeing
Sheila Caplis & George Czerwioka
Zulma Colon
Anita Colvin-Barth
Phillip Costello
Courtney Eccles
Sophie Eldred
Brie Feldman
First UMC, Elgin
First UMC, La Grange
First UMC, Park Ridge, UMW
First UMC, UMW
First UMC, Woodstock
Phil Gafka
Galena UMC
Peter Greulich
Hinsdale UMC
Cathy Jennings
Michelle Kehrner
Sue Keno
Kingswood UMC, UMW
Allen & Karen Kuhlman
Jennifer Laird
Mario Lambert
Robert Largay
Alisha Leveston
James Lillis
Madeline Mankunas
Nancy McKee
Chris Meister
We are grateful to our generous donors for their continued support of our mission.

Amy Morton  
John Mulroe  
Michael Murray  
Northwestern University  
Michael O'Brien  
Carla Owen  
David & Ellen Pattee  
Plante Moran, PLLC  
Paul Ramey  
John Redmond  
Dean Rendina  
Kevin Rhodes  
Joe Roddy  
James Scordo  
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