

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



— EPISCOPAL —
**Children's
Services**
BELIEVE. ACHIEVE. SOAR.

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

There has always been something special about Episcopal Children's Services. But this past year has truly demonstrated our resilience and perseverance to find new and creative ways to deliver the highest quality early education services to those most in need. The heartfelt dedication of a wonderful team of top professionals resulted in our continued success in creating impact for our community.

Despite an ongoing pandemic, we continue to prepare young children to enter kindergarten ready to succeed. This is not an easy field to work in, especially now – a teacher in a classroom with children who may be upset, crying, or stressed, an enrollment specialist collecting all the required paperwork so that families can receive services while social-distancing, or a custodian sanitizing a childcare center so services can be delivered safely. Despite the enormity of the challenges, our team continues to do amazing work every day.

Each member of the Episcopal Children's Services team continues to give their commitment, their passion, their knowledge, and perhaps most importantly, their hearts, each and every day. It is because of this giving that our children and families feel so loved.

Our work makes a difference – young children are making tremendous learning gains, parents are engaged in their child's education and development, and families are improving their financial stability.

Not only are we grateful for each and every one of our employees, but we are also incredibly grateful for our supporters, our partners, and our funders. Together, we are changing the lives of thousands of children every year.



Connie Stophel
*Chief Executive
Officer*



Thabata Ford
Board President

THE MISSION OF EPISCOPAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES

is to create opportunity so that the children we serve can achieve their full potential.

CREATE

We continually improve the art and skill of teaching young children to grow intellectually, emotionally, physically, and socially.

OPPORTUNITY

We build foundations for the future with strong learning environments for children, support and education for parents, and professional development for teachers and staff.

THE CHILDREN WE SERVE

We serve our community's most vulnerable children and families - those living in poverty and children with disabilities - with high quality early learning as well as comprehensive health and wellness services.

ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Children who enter kindergarten ready to learn have better outcomes for their entire lives. It all begins with quality early learning.





— EPISCOPAL —
**Children's
 Services**
 BELIEVE. ACHIEVE. SOAR.

2020–2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

An agency overview of our goals, strategy and roadmap.

MISSION

TO CREATE OPPORTUNITY SO THAT THE CHILDREN
 WE SERVE CAN ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

WHO WE ARE

Increase awareness of ECS brand in our
 local communities.

Strengthen the awareness of ECS services and programs to
 support the needs of the community.



**BUILD THE
 BRAND**



QUALITY ENHANCEMENT

Achieve CDA Gold Standard Status.

Implement Trauma-Informed System of Care.

Become a National Head Start Program of Excellence.

Ensure quality of all services meet the highest standards.



**STRIVE FOR
 EXCELLENCE**

PROGRAM EXPANSION

Continue to pursue agency growth and
 geographic expansion opportunities.

Expanding services to meet people where
 they are and address community needs.



**EXTEND THE
 REACH**



DEVELOPMENT

Increase non-federal match dollars.

Grow existing fundraising streams and
 identify new appeals to support ECS at all levels.

Strengthen and cultivate relationships and partnerships in
 new and existing grant areas.



**INCREASE
 FUNDING**

TECHNOLOGY

Enhance tools and systems to improve
 efficiency internally.



**ENHANCE
 SYSTEMS**

VISION

ECS WILL BE A RECOGNIZED LEADER IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND A 501(C)(3)
 WITH A STRONG ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT THAT USES RESEARCH AND BEST PRACTICES TO
 HELP FAMILIES ENSURE THEIR CHILDREN ENTER SCHOOL READY TO LEARN.

POLICY COUNCIL OFFICERS

REGION 1

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Doug Wilds, *Vice Chair*
Melanie Rodgers, *Secretary*

REGION 2

Sharlene Singleton, *Chair*
Ashley Williams, *Vice Chair*
Nikitta Chalmers, *Secretary*



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University of North Florida

HEAD START/ EARLY HEAD START

We want every child to enter school ready to learn. Our Head Start/Early Head Start program provides comprehensive child development services focused on predictors of school success for vulnerable young children and their families. Our services ensure that children learn and develop in high-quality environments while giving their families the ability to work, enhance their own education or develop skills through job training. Early education is implemented by a strong team of professionals with extensive experience and credentials because of the importance of quality education. Our services support the most vulnerable children, pregnant women, and their families with 100% meeting the program eligibility requirements.



3,513

Children and
Pregnant Women

3,028

Families

82%
Children of
Minority Race/
Ethnicity

Eligibility

2,698

Below Federal
Poverty Level

331

Receive Public
Assistance

188

Experiencing
Homelessness

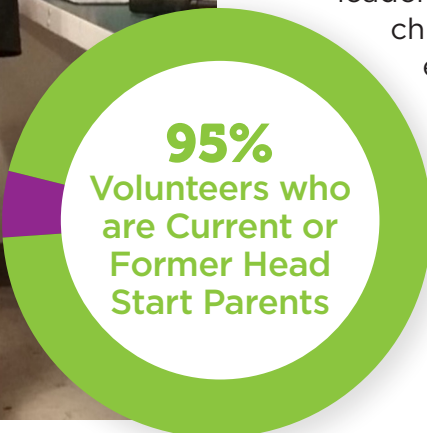
296

Foster Care/
Other Needs





Our parent engagement approach is designed to support family well-being and promote children's learning and development. By creating respectful and responsive partnerships between parents and staff, parent and family engagement promotes parents' role as their children's lifelong educators. We are committed to an inclusive environment for parents and caregivers that includes parent participation, leadership opportunities, support in their children's health and development, enhancement of parent-child relationship, opportunities for employment, and paths to improve financial well-being.



2,469
Families Employed
or in School

3,490

99% received
Medical Services

2,446

70% received
Dental Services

394,656

100% received
Healthy Meals and Snacks



EARLY LEARNING SERVICES

In partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of North Florida, we provide families with needed financial assistance so their children can learn in quality care through:

- **Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten:** Episcopal Children's Services provides four-year-olds with free, high quality educational program using professional curriculum and staff to prepare our young learners for success in kindergarten.
- **School Readiness:** We help low-income families pay for childcare so their parents can earn income with the assurance that their children are thriving in high-quality care.

In addition, we operate the Child Care Resource and Referral Program, where parents and caregivers are provided with free information on local childcare providers to meet their family's specific needs.



11,127

Families Financially Assisted

15,681

Parents & Caregivers provided
with free childcare referrals

COACHJAX!

Teachers must be equipped with tools and knowledge to nurture child development. Ongoing coaching ensures that educators are provided with ongoing feedback on the quality of their work. In partnership with the Kids Hope Alliance and Early Learning Coalition of Duval, teams of certified coaches and technical staff work directly with 78 childcare facilities in Duval County serving 3,664 children. Our comprehensive approach includes environmental quality, teaching effectiveness, and the use of quality curricula to help centers improve their quality and educational outcomes.

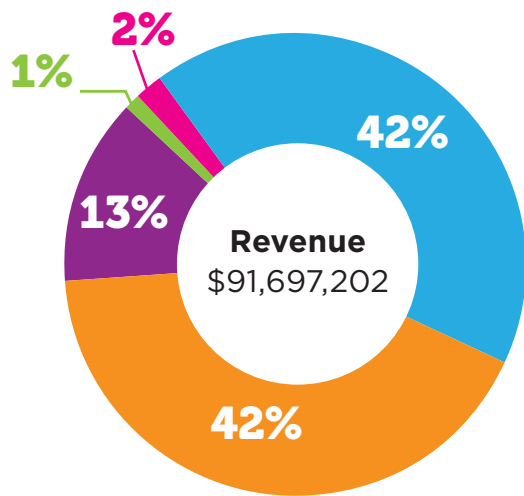
EARLY LEARNING CENTER AT GOOD SHEPHERD

With small class sizes and individual plans for each child, we are fostering childhood development in the Riverside area of Jacksonville. We believe that the potential for learning is greatest during the early years of a child's life, so we strive to provide children with learning opportunities at the earliest possible age. Our learning experiences support children's continuous physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth and development.





FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



■ Office of Head Start

■ Early Learning Coalition of North Florida

■ Early Learning Coalition of Duval

■ Child Care Food Program

■ Contributions/Other

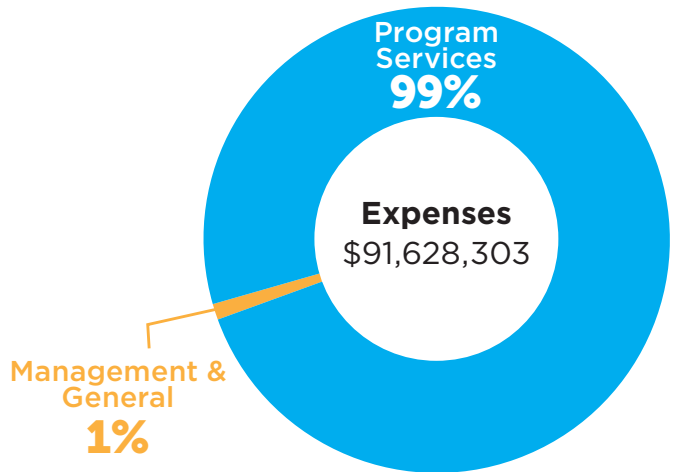
Episcopal Children's Services is reporting our most successful year in our history.

With the hard work of a dedicated team, we continue to expand our revenues while maximizing the dollars that directly pay for desperately needed programming.

But these investments have a price.

We must prove that our local communities value these investments by raising local support from contributions and other revenues. These funds are crucial to ensure our community is preparing our youngest citizens are entering school ready to learn. Because when children succeed in school, they enter the workforce prepared to compete in the global economy.

To continue this desperately needed investment, we need the support of every sector – corporate, local government, foundations, service organizations, religious groups, and individuals. Every donation, no matter the size, is critical.



Audit Results

Our financial audit was conducted by Dixon Hughes Goodman, LLC, the largest certified public accounting firm headquartered in the Southern U.S.

Episcopal Children's Services is understandably proud of our track record of receiving an unqualified opinion on our audits, with no material weaknesses or issues of non-compliance in our financial statements. In addition to the audit of our Consolidated Financial Statements, our audit includes compliance for each major Federal Program and State Program as required. Again, these audits have received an unqualified opinion, with no material weaknesses or issues of non-compliance.





ACHIEVE
Awards
2021

Our annual Achieve Awards celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of our top Volunteers, Teachers, Staff Members, Parents and Partners.

After a highly competitive nomination and selection process, our top achievers from across our service are chosen because of their commitment to excellence in supporting the lives of vulnerable children and families in our community.

Every one of these winners exemplifies the spirit of giving back and we are all grateful for their generosity and dedication.

PARENTS OF THE YEAR

Barbara and Jimmie Walker
Eric Mossovitz
Shayla Baker
Nicole Mozell
Melinda Littles

EARLY HEAD START TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mirrian Douglas
Sherie Hayes
Latonia Handy
Tameshia Crockett

HS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Ruth McCullars
Kimetra Johnson
Janet Owens
Sally Register

CHILD CARE PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Just a Blessing
Clyatt House Learning Center

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Maria Reyes

LEADERSHIP STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Jamila Green
Brittney Spangler

EPISCOPAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Brandi Harrison

SR/COACH JAX COACH OF THE YEAR

Leslie Alberktson

BEST CLASS SCORES

Allen Family Child Care Home
Mrs. Vanessa Learning Lodge Inc, 19672
Little Temple's

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

National Health Corps Florida
AmeriCorps Program
Jersey College School of Nursing





WINE, WOMEN & SHOES

Episcopal Children's Services debuted our new fundraiser in May, 2021 called **Wine, Women, & Shoes**. This event was completely virtual, enabling us to safely engage an unlimited number of supporters who learned more about the children and families we serve while raising money to benefit our work. We were delighted that **Betsy Ross Lovett** served as our Honorary Chair.

Our inaugural **Wine, Women, & Shoes** event consisted of a virtual marketplace featuring fashion, shoes, jewelry, and accessories for any budget, as well as our live broadcast online on May 13, 2021. Our sponsors and supporters were able to receive wine and hors d'oeuvres for an in-home viewing party and were able to bid on amazing silent auction items, including entertainment, mission moments, irresistible auction items, including one-of-a-kind wine country trips, and more. The evening was hosted by **Melanie Lawson**, anchor for The Morning Show on News4Jax with **Al Emerick** serving as a Master of Ceremonies.





THANK YOU TO OUR 2020-2021 DONORS AND SPONSORS

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