



Stanford Sierra
Youth & Families

Connect. Inspire. Empower.

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 18/19



TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO	3
ABOUT THE AGENCY	4
SUCCESS STORY: JASON	6
PROGRAMS & RESULTS	8
SUCCESS STORY: JUAN	12
WHO WE SERVE	14
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS	15
UPCOMING EVENTS	16
AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS	18
HOW YOU CAN HELP	19

TRANSFORMING LIVES AND EMPOWERING FAMILIES

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

This past year has been a year of tremendous growth and transformation as we have embarked upon the merging of two deeply mission-driven organizations: Stanford Youth Solutions and Sierra Forever Families. With growth and transformation, we are grateful for such dedicated staff, board members, stakeholders, community partners, donors, and volunteers that support the process. As we become one, our belief that every child deserves lifelong permanent connections is foundational for the newly merged organization: Stanford Sierra Youth & Families.



As one organization, we have combined staff, resources, and breadth of expertise to serve more youth and families in need. Our newly merged organization provides a greater continuum of care to empower youth and families to overcome challenges together, as well as connect youth in foster care to the permanent loving families they need and deserve. The programs and services we provide are uniquely designed to help end the child welfare cycle by keeping children safe and together with family, in school, and out of trouble.

This annual report offers a glance at the two organizations operating separately. Even though the organizations were not merged, we recognize that our community stakeholders, donors, and volunteers positively impacted our results. It is our hope that you recognize your role in achieving our mission of permanency. Together, we make life-changing differences in the lives of the children and families who come through our doors. Thank you for your continued investment and commitment through our merger journey. Your partnership brings us closer to the vision of a community with safe, lifelong connections for all young people, built and strengthened through generations of empowered families.

With sincere gratitude,

Laura Heintz, Psy. D.
Chief Executive Officer

CEO

INTRODUCING STANFORD SIERRA YOUTH & FAMILIES

Stanford Sierra Youth & Families (SSYF) believes each and every child deserves the love, safety, and unconditional commitment of a family and the opportunity to develop as a healthy and productive young adult.



SSYF provides a continuum of care to empower youth and families to overcome challenges together, as well as connects youth in foster care to the permanent loving families they need and deserve. This includes the following array of comprehensive programs: family advocacy and support; behavioral and mental health services; juvenile justice intervention, mentoring, foster care, adoption services, and pre- and post-adoption support. SSYF supports the entire family with professional treatment and compassionate care, so every youth has the opportunity to thrive at home, in school, and in the community. In the coming year, our community-based programs will benefit approximately 4,500 youth and families throughout Northern California, including Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Nevada, Yolo, Napa, and San Joaquin counties.

MISSION

Transforming lives by nurturing permanent connections and empowering families to solve challenges together, so every child can thrive.

VISION

We envision our communities with safe, lifelong connections for all young people, built and strengthened through generations of empowered families.

VALUES

Compassion
Equity
Excellence
Honor
Integrity
Partnership

ABOUT

SIERRA FOREVER FAMILIES BOARD MEMBERS

FY 18/19

ROBERT EARL
President

JIM ELDRIDGE

MARGARET BRYAN

DEBRA PANATTONI

DOUGLAS AGUIAR

PAT BRADY

DEE HARTZOG

NADIA MELZER

ANTHONY OGBEIDE

JACK PADDON

DENNIS RAYMOND

TERRY RISSE

WINNIE WARD

STANFORD YOUTH SOLUTIONS BOARD MEMBERS

FY 18/19

CRAIG HETTRICH
President

SHELLEY LAUREL

GREG PATTON

ALBERTO CATON

BOB MCKENZIE

EILEEN M. DIEPENBROCK

GERALDINE JIMENEZ

JANE GAGNIER

JIM DRAGNA

JOANNE BRONSON

MAC CLEMMENS

MATT FOGLER

MATT GILCHRIST

2020 EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

DR. LAURA HEINTZ
Chief Executive Officer

JOVINA NEVES
Chief Financial Officer

APRIL LUDWIG
Chief Quality Improvement Officer

EBONY CHAMBERS
Chief Family and Youth Partnership Officer

CHRISTIE SHORROCK
Director of Development

DEBORAH BENNETT
Clinical Program Director

GIBRAN MENDEZ
Director of Quality Improvement

JACQUENETTE MICHAEL
Program Director

JENNIFER CROSETTI
Program Director

KIMBERLY WOODS-BURCH
Director of Employee Relations

MELISSA ARNOLD
Director of Community Engagement

TONYA BAUHOFFER
Clinical Program Director

YURI KIMURA
Program Director

TERRELL THOMAS
Strategic Initiative Officer

CHRISTINA CAGLE
Family Partner Manager

THOMISHA WALLACE
Youth Advocate Manager

BRITTANY HONEYMAN
Executive Assistant

“For several years, Jason lived in a foster care placement away from his sisters.”



SUC
CESS

SUCCESS STORY

DESTINATION: FAMILY

The goal of our Destination Family program is to help youth, like Jason*, achieve permanency despite the odds. Jason and his four sisters endured a chaotic home marked by substance abuse and domestic violence. In 2011, all five of them were removed from their home and placed into protective care.

Though their home life had been traumatic, they found comfort in being together. Unable to find one caregiver/family to take them all in, they were separated from the only support system they had ever known.

For several years, Jason lived in foster care, separate from his sisters. Fortunately, Sandy, his oldest sister, was reunified with an extended family member and found some stability. At 19 years old, Sandy was determined to provide that same stability for Jason, by reunifying with him and becoming his legal guardian. However, Sandy faced some roadblocks with the child welfare system. Sandy's attempts to bring Jason into her home were stalled because she was determined to be too young and unable to raise both Jason and her young daughter. She was heartbroken, and Jason was close to losing hope. He'd been in the foster care system for six years, living in a group home, and struggling.

During this chaotic process, a SSYF social worker from the Destination Family program entered the picture. After spending time with Sandy, the social worker was able to advocate for her and Jason. Sandy's strengths were highlighted, such as strong organizational skills, high level of responsibility, and success at maintaining a full time job, while continuing her education. After a year of continued efforts and advocacy, Jason was able to reunify with his sister.

Three years later, Jason is now a proud, loving uncle to two little nieces, and last month, right after his sixteenth birthday, he officially and legally became part of this big, beautiful, forever family.

****Name, identifying details, and/or image has been changed to protect the privacy of the youth.***



SUCCESS

PROGRAMS & RESULTS

PERMANENCY



DESTINATION FAMILY

No child is “unadoptable.” Our program goal is to achieve legal permanency for youth in foster care who have one or more barriers to adoption, including those who may be medically fragile, ethnically diverse, teenagers, or part of a sibling set.

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption funds two Wendy’s Wonderful Kids Recruiters to find adoptive homes.



PERMANENCY PLACEMENT UNIT

Our Permanency Placement Unit recruits, trains, and supports families who want to transform the lives of children in foster care by providing the love, safety, and unconditional commitment of a forever family.



WONDER MENTORING PROGRAM

Our Wonder Mentoring program ensures no child has to go through foster care alone, by matching children one-on-one with caring, consistent adults for a minimum of a year-long journey in the arts, music, sports, and nature.



PERMANENT FAMILY CONNECTIONS (FOSTER CARE)

All of our foster care programs and adoption services are focused towards permanency - a permanent connection to a safe, stable, and nurturing family for every youth. Our programs utilize concurrent planning, which provides several paths for youth to obtain a lifelong family connection. The first and best option is to reunify the youth with their birth family. At the same time, we work to identify a family who is willing to make a lifelong commitment to the youth, if reunification is not possible.

204

youth were placed in a loving and caring permanent home

PROGRAMS

MENTAL HEALTH

FLEXIBLE INTEGRATED TREATMENT (FIT) & COMMUNITY BASED FAMILY SERVICES (CBFS)

Through these specialized mental health programs, our community's underserved youth and their families become empowered to lead their lives more fully. We focus on tangible outcomes for youth and their families that build on their strengths and successes, increase resiliency, reinforce family connections, and improve overall mental and behavioral health.

FAMILY PRESERVATION AND THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Trained therapists provide individual, family, and group therapy, including comprehensive mental health services, with the goal of nurturing and strengthening families.

WRAPAROUND & WRAPAROUND PREVENTION

Our Wraparound program literally "wraps" youth and families with comprehensive care to help keep youth safe and at home, in school, and out of trouble. Young people and their families gain the support and guidance of our Wraparound program to help them remain at home or transition safely to a permanent family. The program combines a family-centered, strengths-based, needs-driven, team-driven approach with individualized and wellness-focused interventions. Our approach is comprehensive and outcome-driven; a sometimes unconventional response to complex family needs to ensure the best outcome for youth. The goal is for youth to become stable and live in a healthy family setting.

THERAPEUTIC BEHAVIORAL SERVICES

A powerful program for youth with intense behaviors that put the youth at risk to of losing placement. The program stabilizes the child's placement, identifies triggers, and teaches the youth coping skills.

82%

of youth in our Mental Health programs showed improvement in their behavior in school settings

SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Our school services provide therapeutic interventions to students through both in-person and virtual environments.

We provide individual and group services along with consult to teaching staff on managing difficult behaviors in the classroom setting.

We serve about 70 students in two schools, one of which serves students across the state.

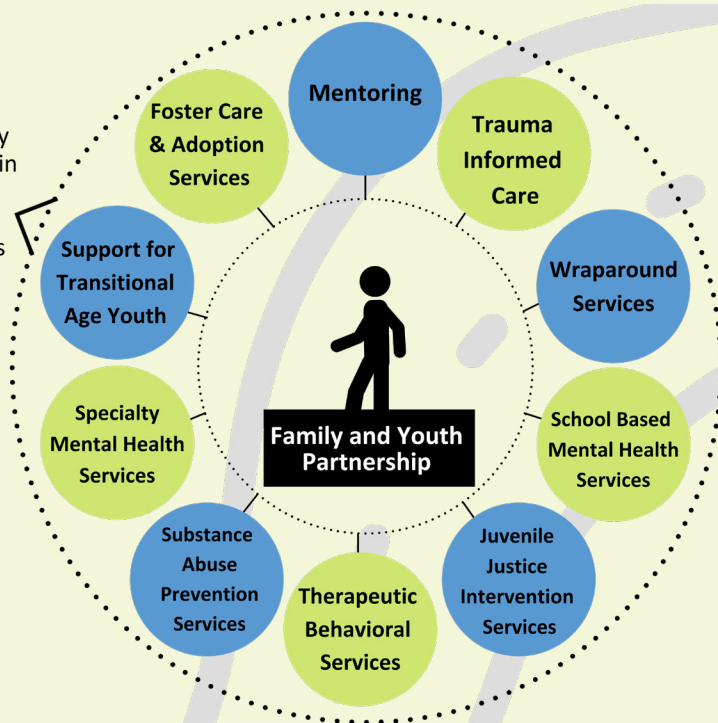
PRO
GRAMS

FAMILY AND YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Family Partners and Youth Advocates (“peer supports”) offer their own personal experiences and advocacy skills as a valuable layer of support to the youth and families in all of our programs. The goal is to empower youth and ensure families have “voice and choice” in service delivery.

Outcomes Matter

There are strong quality improvement practices in place to ensure that youth and families achieve positive results from the services delivered.



Stability

Improved
Overall
Well-being

Within these programs, SSYF serves nearly 1,800 youth annually. Comprehensive services and support are extended to their siblings and caregivers, creating a broader reach of a combined 4,500 youth and families served.



Empowering families
and ensuring permanent
connections for youth

PRO GRAMS

JUVENILE JUSTICE CRIME PREVENTION (JJCP)

JJCP provides Functional Family Therapy (FFT) - a short-term, family based prevention and intervention program for youth on probation who are at risk of violence, substance abuse, delinquency, other behavioral issues, and family relationship challenges. The program focuses on family strengths to help build positive relationships and promote community safety.

92% of caregivers reported decreases in family conflict after transitioning from JJCP services



Youth that have experienced trauma are at high risk for:

- Substance abuse
- Mental health issues (such as depression and suicide)
- Promiscuity
- Criminal behavior
- Dropping out of school

PRO
GRAMS

SUCCESS STORY

A WORLD OF WONDER

Wonder matches children in foster care with caring, consistent adults like Jackson who accompany the child on a journey in the arts, nature, sports, cultural events, and other activities. As the mentor repeatedly shows up and demonstrates stability, the child begins to experience relationships as a source of joy, meaning, and support.

In 2017, Juan* was 10 years old and living in foster care. Early childhood trauma had profoundly affected his ability to trust and form healthy relationships.

In June of that year, Juan was introduced to Jackson, an adult volunteer mentor in the Wonder Mentoring program (Wonder). Jackson serves as a mentor because he believes strongly that every child deserves to grow up knowing that they matter and that someone cares about them, no matter what.

Juan and Jackson have had many amazing experiences such as attending baseball games, watching Harlem Globetrotters, and indoor rock climbing. With all of the experiences together, they have developed a bond. Juan is able to talk to Jackson, and Jackson is there to listen.

Through the Wonder program and his relationship with Jackson, Juan has grown into a remarkable young man who gives back to his community. Juan finds value in easing the pain of others. For three years now, he and Jackson have purchased clothes and food for people who are homeless.

Earlier this year, Jackson introduced Juan to a program at the local library where children read stories to service dogs. The dogs are calmed by the steady voices of young people and the kids love petting and interacting with the dogs. Sadly, Juan's foster family faced their own challenge when their dog, Ellie, became terminally ill. Even through his own sadness, Juan managed to understand that Ellie was in pain and that letting her go peacefully was the right thing to do. The next morning, Juan's foster mom discovered that he had been up all night reading to Ellie. When Jackson, the mentor, learned of this, he was overcome with emotion, "That a child who has been through so much has developed such a deep capacity for love and kindness brings tears to my eyes," Jackson said. "I'm so grateful to be a part of his journey."

It is through this program that youth like Juan experience the joys of mentorship.

****Name, identifying details, and/or image has been changed to protect the privacy of the youth.***



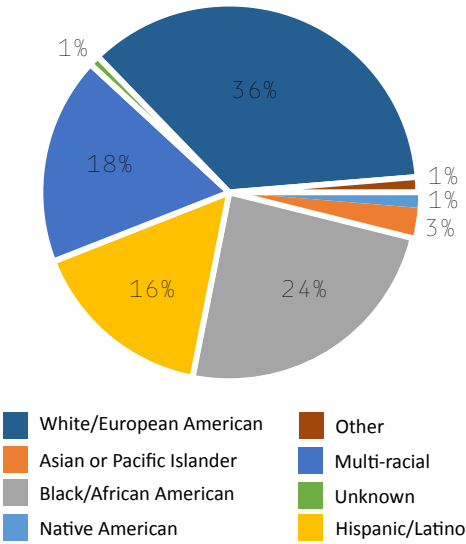
SUCCESS

“That a child who has been through so much has developed such a deep capacity for love and kindness brings tears to my eyes.”

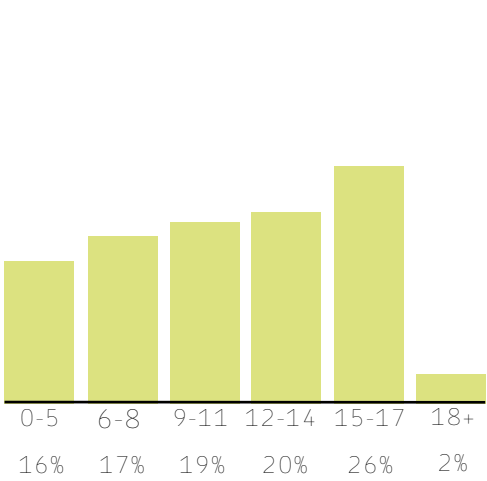


WHO WE SERVE

ETHNICITY/RACE



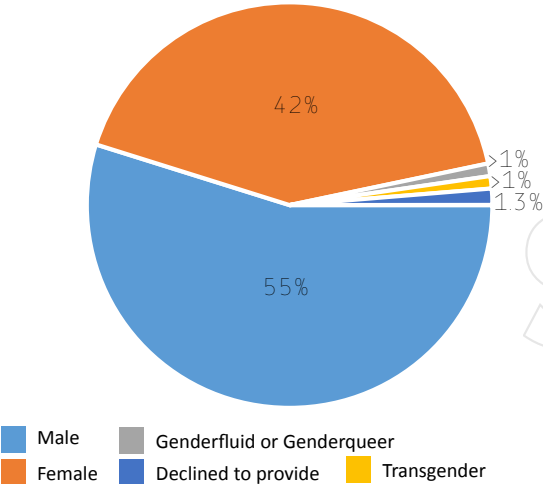
AGE



SERVING 17 COUNTIES



GENDER IDENTITY



SERVE

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

STANFORD YOUTH SOLUTIONS

REVENUE

Development	\$603,163	5%
Program & Other Revenue	\$12,016,456	94%
Investment Return	\$189,698	1%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$12,809,317	100%

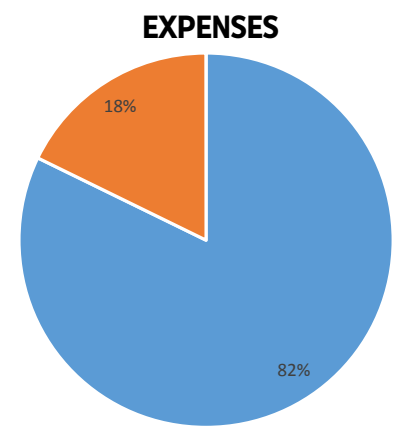
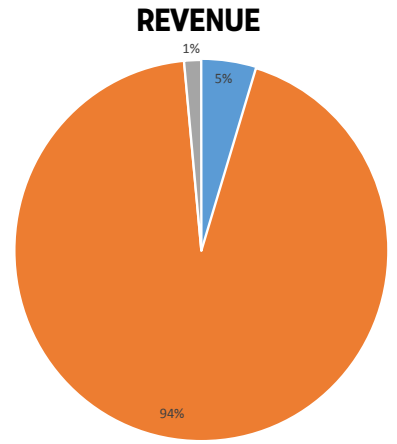
EXPENSES

Program Services	\$10,120,500	82%
Support Services	\$2,187,500	18%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,307,959	100%

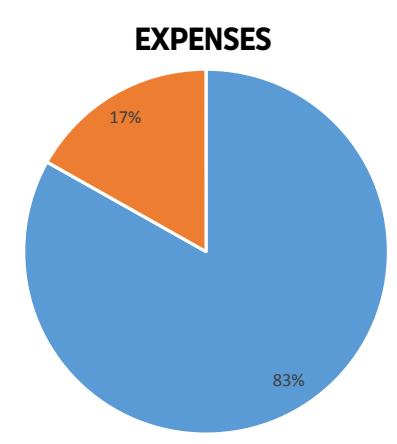
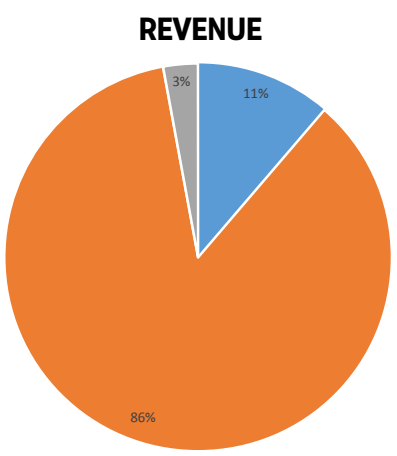
NET INCOME **\$501,358**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Total Assets	\$13,520,504
Total Liabilities	\$1,976,693
Total Fund Balance	\$11,543,811



SIERRA FOREVER FAMILIES



REVENUE

Development	\$744,390	11%
Program & Other Revenue	\$5,661,253	86%
Investment Return	\$191,618	3%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$6,597,261	100%

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$5,359,181	83%
Support Services	\$1,085,402	17%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,444,583	100%

NET INCOME **\$152,678**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Total Assets	\$13,520,504
Total Liabilities	\$1,976,693
Total Fund Balance	\$11,543,811

GET INVOLVED WITH SSYF

SIGNATURE EVENTS 2020



Big Day of Giving 2020

May 7, 2020

Please mark your calendar and remember to support SSYF during our region's 24-hour online giving challenge on May 7, 2020! Help us raise much needed unrestricted funds for the programs and services that serve our region's most vulnerable young people and empower youth and families. Visit: bigdayofgiving.org/stanfordsierrayouthfamilies for more information.



Merger Celebration & Open House

July 23, 2020, 4-7 p.m.

You're Invited!

Join us on Thursday, July 23rd to celebrate the inauguration of our newly merged organization.

Stanford Youth Solutions and Sierra Forever Families are well-established nonprofits that have proudly served the community for a combined total of 150 years. Celebrate with us as we introduce the newly merged organization: **Stanford Sierra Youth & Families**. Thank you for your continued investment and commitment through our merger journey.

Find more information at youthsolutions.org

STANFORD
SIERRA
YOUTH & FAMILIES

CHANGE THE LIFE OF A YOUTH

BECOME A RESOURCE PARENT!

FOSTER/ADOPT

SSYF invites you to open your heart and home to youth in foster care.

MENTOR

Become a Wonder Guide who can open up a world of wonder for a youth in foster care.

VOLUNTEER

There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer and partner with SSYF in supporting youth and families in our community.


**VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT
YOUTHSOLUTIONS.ORG
FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON HOW
YOU CAN HELP.**

**YOU CAN TRANSFORM
THE LIVES OF
CHILDREN IN
FOSTER CARE.**




AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS


IN ADDITION TO OUR RECENT MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT, WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THE FOLLOWING:




Our CEO, Dr. Laura Heintz, was named one of Sacramento Business Journal's 2019 Women Who Mean Business.



Expanded service delivery –we expanded our mental health and family support services to Yolo, El Dorado, and Napa counties in early 2019.




Our organization has received national re-accreditation from the Council on Accreditation (COA).




We are in the midst of California's Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), which focuses on permanent family connections for youth. Our organization is actively engaged in this strategic reformation of the foster care system along with many others across the state. CCR supports the vision of a community where all children live with a committed, nurturing, and permanent family that prepares them for a successful transition into adulthood.


HOW YOU CAN HELP




Share this information with friends, family, and partners.



Visit our website at **youthsolutions.org** to read more success stories about the families and youth we serve.



Consider supporting our permanency efforts with a financial gift.



Learn more about Copper for Kids and how copper can change the life of a child at **youthsolutions.org**.



Stanford Sierra
Youth & Families



COUNCIL
ON
ACCREDITATION
ENGAGE. EMPOWER. EVOLVE.