



FY19 ANNUAL REPORT





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FROM OUR CEO



2019 was an outstanding year for Tennysen Center for Children.

We celebrated a milestone by graduating our first high school student from Tennysen's school. We grew our community of brilliant, engaged supporters. We saw tremendous impact throughout Tennysen, from reduced police contacts and hospitalizations (that in effect saves Coloradans money) to enormous educational and therapeutic gains for children and families in our Residential, Day Treatment, and Community-Based

Services programs. And, we officially launched **Rewiring**, a five-year collaborative initiative focused on early intervention and prevention to keep families safely together and to reduce the number involved with the child welfare system. These are big victories for the kids and families supported by Tennysen.

But above all else, we succeeded in showing up and doing what's best for kids and families—day in and day out—with strength, purpose, and dedication.

None of that would have been possible without our supporters, our Board, and our incredible staff.

As we honor all of our triumphs from the previous year, we embrace the new world that is now upon us. We will lean into the complexities and challenges that 2020 has brought—together. I know our staff and community will continue to shine, using out-of-the-box problem solving that create new pathways to healing, and by demonstrating exceptional courage—all in the name of a brighter future for kids, families, and our great state.

Tennysen was built for precisely this moment, with staff, Board, and our supporters rushing towards those who need us most in this COVID-19 landscape because we never, never leave families experiencing trauma behind.

Thank you for your engagement and your support. You are part of what makes Tennysen great.

My deepest thanks,

Ned Breslin
President and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward D. Breslin".



Tennyson Center for Children has served Colorado’s most severely neglected, abused, and traumatized children since 1904.

- A safe, stable home for kids 5-18 who are facing critical circumstances and need residential care;
- An accredited, therapeutic K-12 school with a 3:1 student-to-staff ratio on our campus; and
- In-home and community services in 15 counties across the state to provide preventative services and therapy to strengthen families with children aged 0 to adulthood.

In 2019, we began leading a collaborative statewide initiative called **Rewiring**, which seeks to ensure that families remain safely together and eventually reduce the number of children and families involved with the child welfare system.

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Rewiring



Rewiring strategically deploys public and private funds to ultimately yield a system that prevents children and families from having to “get worse” before becoming eligible to receive the help they need. Shifting dollars from high-cost, late-stage interventions to lower-cost, preventative support will save money and will improve outcomes for kids, families, and society.

Rewiring drives this radical system update through targeted programmatic and financial support to advance a system of child wellbeing that:

- Promotes health and wellbeing for children by providing consistent, universally available support to all families to help them thrive (what is commonly referred to as primary prevention);
- Provides the right support at the right time to those who may be at risk of child welfare involvement (what is commonly referred to as secondary prevention); and
- Provides support to families who do need to utilize child welfare that ensures a sustainable exit from the system.



Imagine being a parent, your family is struggling, the trauma your child is experiencing is unresolved.
You finally get approved but it will take at least 6 weeks to receive services.

6 weeks or more is too long! There's a better way.

No Kid Waits

HOW IT WORKS



FAMILIES APPROVED FOR
IN-HOME THERAPEUTIC &
FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES
ENTER THE NKW PROGRAM

BASIC SERVICES PROVIDED WITHIN

Prepares families
for more intensive
in-home therapeutic
& support services.

24
HOURS

**100% SUCCESSFUL
OUTREACH**

11% of families who
received basic
services did NOT
need more
intensive services

**SAVING
\$8,500 PER KID**

11%

20
HOURS

Fewer clinical hours =

\$2,300 PER KID

**\$ MINIMUM
\$ SAVINGS**

**ANNUAL
SAVINGS**
TO COLORADO
MEDICAID*

\$219,000

No Kid Waits

STARTED AS **100% PHILANTHROPY**

IS NOW

84%

BILLING

16%

PHILANTHROPY

Each year, Tennyson students participate in a speech contest judged by members of the National Speakers Association. The speeches consistently inspire and touch hearts. The following speech from Sammie is this year's winning high school speech.

The New Me! By Sammie

“Lisa Leimberman-Wang once said, ‘You’re not your mistakes. They are what you did not who you are.’

Hi! My name is Sammie and you might recognize me because this is actually my third year of participating in the Speech Contest here at Tennyson. In previous years, I spoke about some really dark things that were going on in my life.

I lost a friend to suicide after being cyber-bullied. I also talked about the effects of social media on body image and self-worth. Doing the speech contest was a great way for me to summarize those experiences.

Today, I would like to talk to you about turning 18. I had a set picture of what 18 was supposed to look like. I thought I would have everything together; I would know everything. I was going to be able to leave my home, where I was constantly being put down, not supported, and made to feel like a failure. The world was going to make sense, and everything would come easy. But I was wrong.

Turning 18 was harder than I expected. I have more responsibilities, which I expected, but I also have way more freedoms. Honestly, the freedoms are harder than the responsibilities. Being able to ‘do more things’ means that I have way more chances to fall back into bad

“You are not your mistakes.”

habits. I have to remember that my choices have consequences and those consequences are major now. When I was a kid, violence was one of the ways I dealt with my feelings.

Now I know that becoming violent could land me in jail. I have had to try and use more empathy and sympathy to deal with other people. It helps me to remember that maybe they are having a bad day and I should give them a break. Doing that allows me to see them differently, which then helps me see myself differently. Remember: ‘You are not your mistakes.’

Since turning 18 I’ve left my family’s home. I spent my first week living with a friend, and she quickly became really toxic. I could have stayed and fallen down the path that my family always thought I would. There were drugs in the home, she didn’t work or go to school. Although I thought she was a good friend—we had plenty of life experiences in common—she was not the type of person I want surrounding me. I knew this wasn’t the place I wanted to live.

This is not how I expected it would be. People told me I would be a dropout, that I would end up like my bio mom, who was a drug addict. All my messages were negative. When you hear something for long enough, you start to believe it. I looked at this ‘friend’ and realized this was not how I wanted to live my life.



“This was my life changing moment!”

Then one day I was here at Tennyson in a staffing and I really wanted to just run away and stop hearing what they were saying. I had missed over a month of school and, because of my behaviors, they were trying to force me to stay at Tennyson. I started to think that I wasn't going to achieve anything. I literally told everybody that I was going to drop out, I was done with school, and I had absolutely no hope.

Miss Djuana pulled me out of that staffing and said, ‘Have you started thinking about your capstone project?’ I didn't even know what that was. She explained that it is something you do when you are graduating and, honestly, I hadn't even thought about graduating. Remember—I thought I wasn't worthy of that. But Miss Djuana made it clear that I was actually really close to graduation. That it was totally possible for me, and I suddenly had a goal. This was my life changing moment! I knew I didn't have to be defined by my mistakes or by what others thought of me. I found a confidence in my own skin that I had never felt. I felt proud and successful. I could see that the negative words of others were just that: words. But my actions showed that I was worthy of graduation and a successful life.

"Sky is the limit for me!"

I made the responsible choice to leave my toxic friend, and now I am living with another friend and his family. Things feel better here. For the first time in my life, I feel like I belong. They support my choices, they encourage me to do well. They remind me that they are here for me and want the best for me. They are supporting me in getting a car, going to college, and being the kind of adult I always wanted to be. Every day, they tell me that I am worthy of a good life. My capstone project is coming out amazing! I'm so excited for it!

For the first time ever, I have hope.

I remember sitting here last year listening to Don talk about his childhood and how he found success in a speech contest. I am so proud to tell you that, because I found my own self-worth and believed in myself instead of what others thought of me, on May 27th I will become a member of the graduating class of 2020.

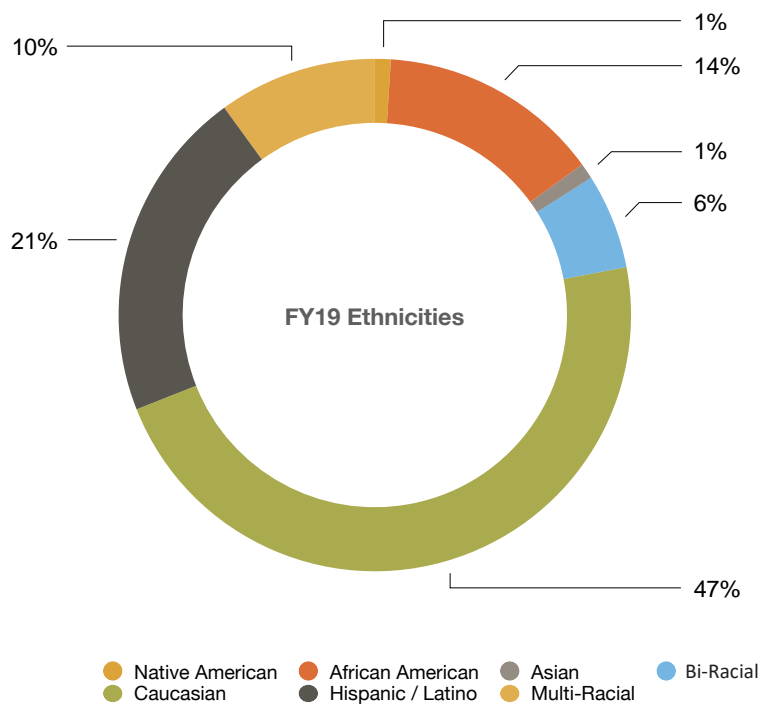
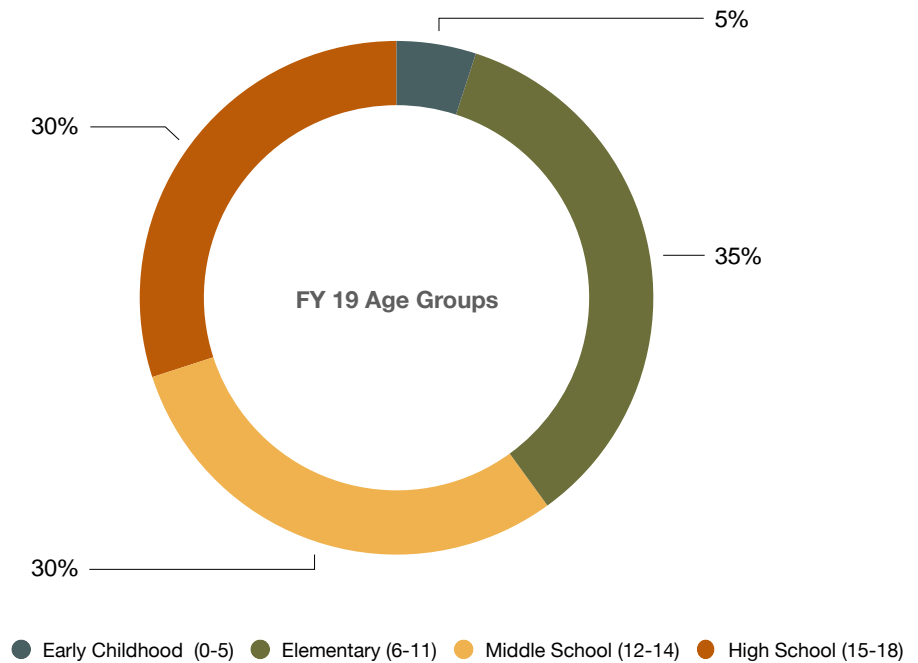
Sky is the limit for me!"



AGENCY STATISTICS

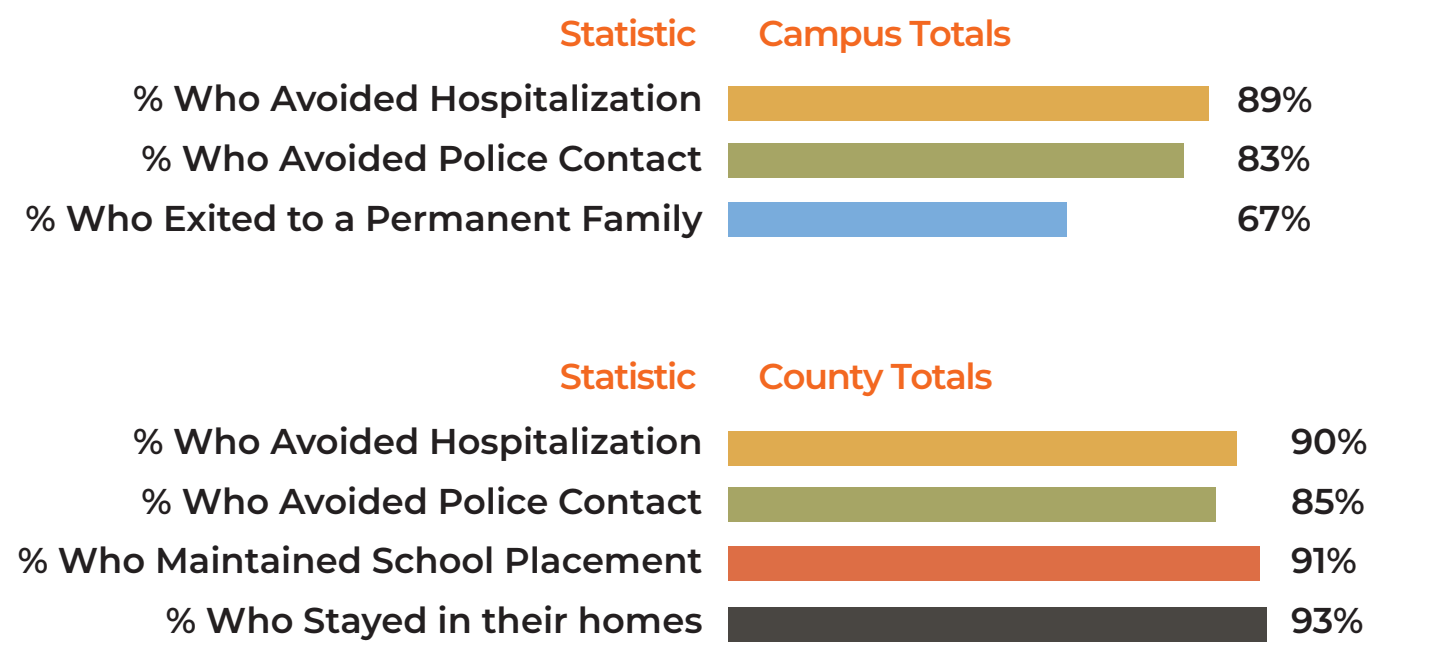
Enrollment (903)

Demographics



Our clinicians prioritize building an extended ecosystem to wrap around clients and families during times of crisis, including crisis centers, hospitals, and others. Our clinical teams work to ensure that these resources are used effectively and support the healing and stabilization of clients. Because of the severity of the issues our kids and families face, they sometimes need to access the kind of care that only a hospital can provide.

Results



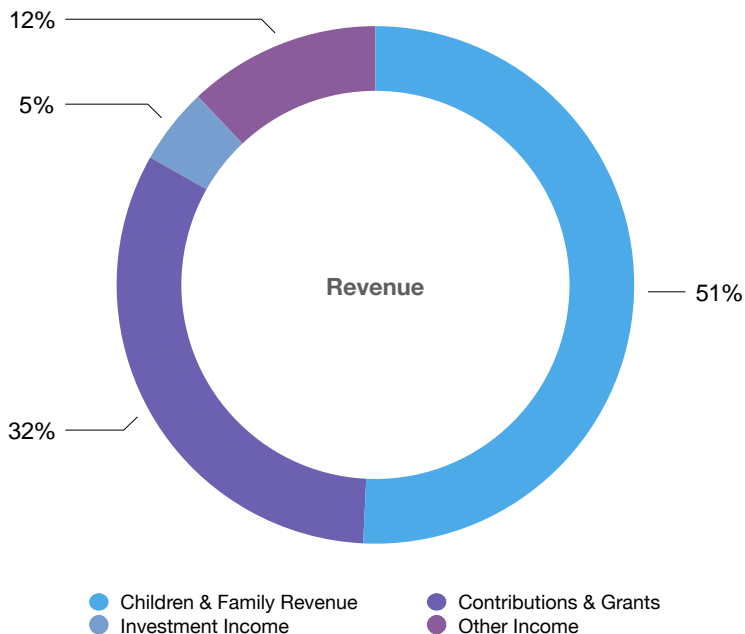
Economic Impact

Tennyson provides tremendous clinical support to families across Colorado, all with the intent of helping children and families heal together, in their communities and in their homes. While hospitalization is, at times, an appropriate use of resources, it is also important to note the estimated economic impact of avoiding hospitalization.

- **\$5.6M* per year in avoided hospitalizations;**
- **No Kid Waits converted 84% of philanthropic dollars into public funding; and**
- **\$1.3M per year in avoided police contacts.**



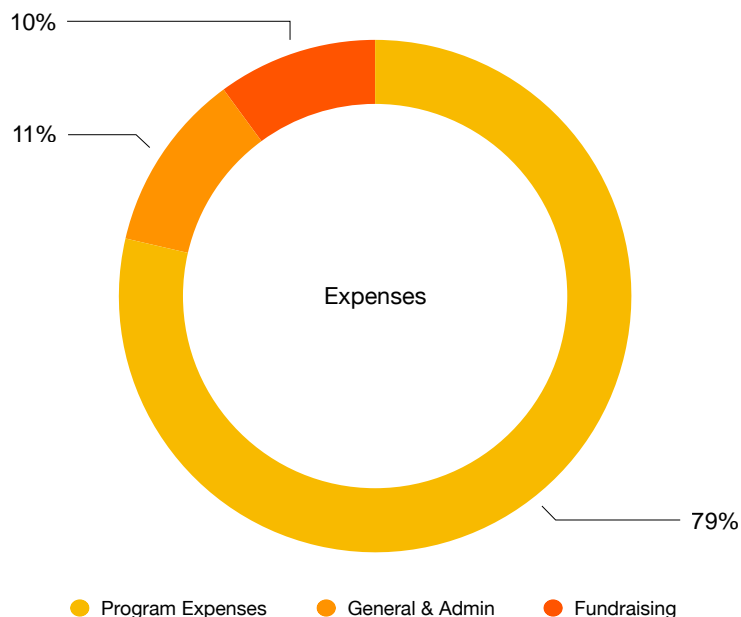
FY19 FINANCIALS



Revenue*

Children & Family Revenue	\$8,249,509
Contributions & Grants	\$5,273,136
Investment Income	\$776,948
Other Income*	\$1,954,780
Total Revenue	\$16,254,373

*Other income includes \$1.878m of insurance proceeds from hail storm damage. These proceeds will be invested in the campus during FY19.



Expenses

Program Expenses	\$10,706,524
General & Admin	\$1,541,474
Fundraising	\$1,372,080
Total Expenses	\$13,620,078

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our major donors! Without all of our generous donors, our work would not be possible.

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We value all gifts from our generous friends. Every dollar matters to children and families in Colorado. We greatly appreciate each and every gift we receive.



Artwork from a Tennyson Center for Children student.