



FY18 ANNUAL REPORT



Tennyson Center
for Children

CHANGING LIVES. GIVING HOPE.

“I don’t remember the age I was when I came to Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home in the mid 1960s.

I’m not sure exactly how long I stayed. But I do remember it as well as I remember any significant thing that has ever happened to me in my past. **It was a defining moment.**

I was heart sick at first. I lay on my little cot in a girls dormitory. I didn’t want to talk, eat, or speak. The poor ladies who were in charge of me tried with all their might to get me over the emotional pain of a little girl who had a broken heart and wanted her mother. Finally, after a few days of trying everything they could think to try, someone said, “Do you want to see your brother?” It worked.



They took my hand and led me to a cottage behind the main building where my little brother was, in a crib. I slipped my hand through the bars and touched him. He smiled. After all, I had always thought that no one could care for my brother the way I could.

Slowly, I regained my bearings and I started noticing that I was receiving a lot of things I didn’t previously know existed in my small world: clean clothes every day, three meals a day at a dinner table, a schedule, and a feeling of steadiness. I couldn’t wait for story time at the end of each day. Every evening we sat and listened to books being read to us. I was able to visit my brother, knowing that the weight of taking care of all his needs was no longer on me; I only needed to love him. Some might say it was a rough time in my childhood, being in the orphanage, but I learned a valuable lesson: **a child should never have the weight of the world on their shoulders.** I never had much control as a child, but I had learned to try controlling everything around me in order to feel safe. **But here, I learned a different way. I didn’t have to be anything other than the child I was.**

I remember at holidays the children were invited into a room with tables holding all kinds of new and handmade gifts. We were told to choose a gift for our family, and I always chose a gift for my mother and brother. It meant a lot to me to do this because no matter what you go through with your family you still love them. After my time at Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home, I ended up in several other places: foster care, group homes, relatives' homes. **No one cared for me the way I was cared for at Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home.**

Last March, I contacted the Colorado Christian Home, now Tennyson Center for Children, and was invited back. I was sad at first when I arrived with my daughter, seeing that the home is not like the image I've held in my memory. The main building has been torn down. I didn't recognize anything.

I got a tour and finally landed upon an older cottage. It was low to the ground and off the side of the main building. **My heart felt a familiar tug, and I knew I was in the same place my little seven year old heart had been some 50-odd years ago.** My mind returned to the memory of holding a hand, walking into the building, and seeing a little boy in a crib--who is no longer in this world--and touching his hand. I knew I was in the right place.

At the end of my tour, I was invited into the CEO's office to leave my mark on the wall, as the kids do now as a ritual of goodbye when they leave Tennyson Center. I put my hand print on the wall and wrote my name. Then I wrote, **"From my seven year old heart, through my 59 year old hands and fingertips to you, thank you."**

I thanked my daughter, who witnessed this healing moment and who held the hand of that seven year old girl who still resides in her mother's grown body.

Don't ever think the work of a staff member at Tennyson doesn't mean something. **Every single person at Tennyson contributes to the lives of the children they touch.** The work is so much greater than you will ever know, and these kids will remember it many, many years down the road. One small gesture--a hand that reaches out to them, a meal, a hand print on a wall...

They will never forget. I didn't. ”

~ Jeanie Anderson

*Thank you, Jeanie, for sharing your heart and your story with us.
You have touched us deeply.*



You may notice a bit of a skip in our step as Tennyson Center for Children celebrates our 2018 successes and surges forward in 2019. That skip in our step is because of you!

A recent, powerful Weld County family milestone sums the year up well. I joined the celebration for six year old Emma and her family discharging from Tennyson's services after reaching new heights where they no longer needed our services. As we laughed and celebrated, I marveled at the progress the family had made, the support they had received from our phenomenal team of clinicians, and how their success was emblematic of Tennyson's progress toward the goal of better outcomes and better lives.



This young client's case was particularly complex. She was born addicted to heroin, and her first act in this world was to detox, bringing depth and meaning to the word "resilience". As her mother embarked upon a healing journey, requiring separation from her child to process her particular trauma, our client was adopted by a family member.

Tennyson staff engaged with compassion and skill, unleashing hidden gifts within the family: their collective resilience, their joy for nature and play, and their belief that what happened to this sweet girl did not have to negatively define her, but was rather a source of inspiration.

Our team worked to keep this family together when it would have been easier to separate them. Easier, but less thoughtful; easier, but less impactful; easier, but costlier to society. Tea flowed and cookies were devoured as we celebrated taking the harder road that led to a better result.

On the day of Emma's celebration, we blew bubbles, radiating colors that dazzled and made us all smile and marvel. This sweet girls' success, replicated across the county and state, was bubble-worthy!

Stories like this are reflected across all of our community-based programs where staff embrace the challenge of keeping families together, localizing healing journeys that are better for children, better for families, and better for Colorado. **In 2018, 94% of the families we worked with in Weld County stayed together.** These are families we embraced as they faced the threat of separation. Families whom others had given up on, and in whom we saw real possibility.

Emma stayed on track in school, as did every Weld County child we worked with in 2018. **In addition to our clients' successes in school, we saw a dramatically reduced percentage of police contacts and hospitalizations** for our Weld families throughout the year. There are healing paths possible that do not detour through hospitals and police stations, and Emma's family proves that this possibility can become a reality.

Most importantly, thanks to you, our community of supporters who hold us to a high standard, we were able to work creatively with the family's unique schedule and with their particular needs. Your investment in Tennyson is an investment in results like this. Emma's family needed support in ways that Medicaid's currently limited billing codes do not cover, and we were able to unlock new possibilities for resources because of the flexibility your investments offer.

Tennyson is poised to help more children and families in 2019 because of the faith and support you provide Tennyson, the expectations and standards you hold us to, and the results you demand – outlined in this year's annual report. This family is grateful for all you offer and all you are – as are we.

And that is celebration worthy!

Ned Breslin
President and CEO



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Programs

Community-Based Services

Tennyson's Community-Based Services focus on stabilizing families and keeping children in safe, loving homes, thriving in school, and engaging in their communities.

Day Treatment

Children utilizing our onsite, K-12 Educational Services receive an exceptional education in addition to the therapeutic support necessary to effectively stabilize and reintegrate back into schools and communities outside of Tennyson's campus.

Residential

Our Residential Treatment Program houses and serves 24 children in five cottages on our main campus. In addition, we have a Special Services Unit that provides essential short-term stabilization for children and families in extreme crisis.



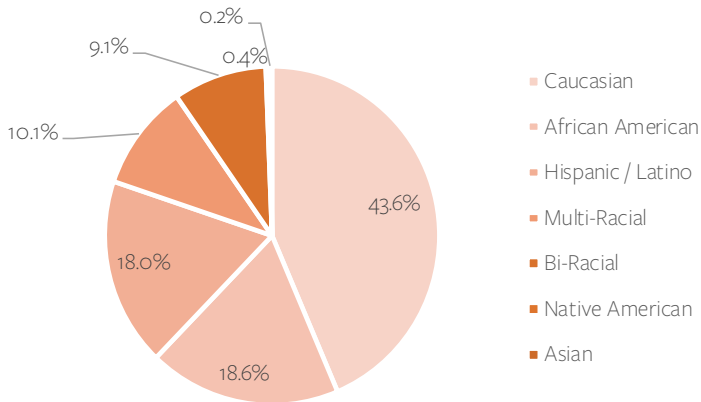


Agency Statistics

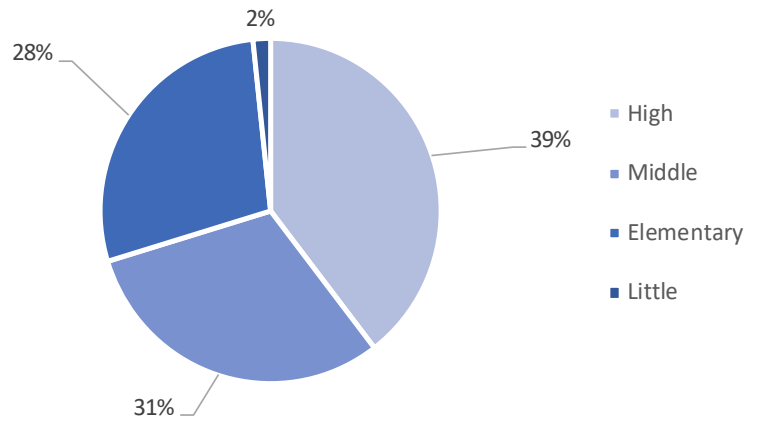
Enrollment (903)

Demographics

FY18 Ethnicities



FY18 Age Groups



Results

Campus

% Who Avoided Hospitalization		% Who Avoided Police Contact
Education	95%	76%
Residential	93%	53%
Special Services Unit	98%	93%

County

% Who Avoided Hospitalization	% Who Avoided Police Contact	% Who Stayed in their Homes
El Paso	72%	66%
Weld	90%	88%

Our clinicians prioritize building an extended community 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.

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. Many children currently utilizing Tennyson’s services have spent short periods of time in hospitals. While hospitalization is, at times, an appropriate use of resources, it is also important to note the economic impact of avoiding hospitalization.

The average cost for short term, inpatient care at a non-profit hospital in Colorado is \$3,119 per night*. If, for example, 50% of children enrolled in Tennyson’s traditional Community Based Services Program (150/300) would have avoided even one overnight stay in a hospital, the cost-savings to Coloradans would amount to approximately \$467,850.

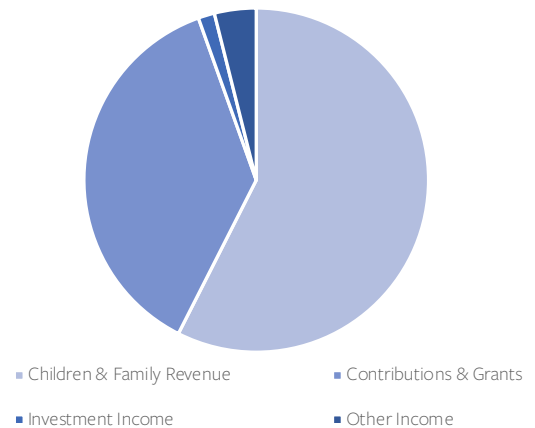
*According to the most recent Becker’s Healthcare Hospital CFO Report, published January 4, 2019

FY18 Financials

Revenue

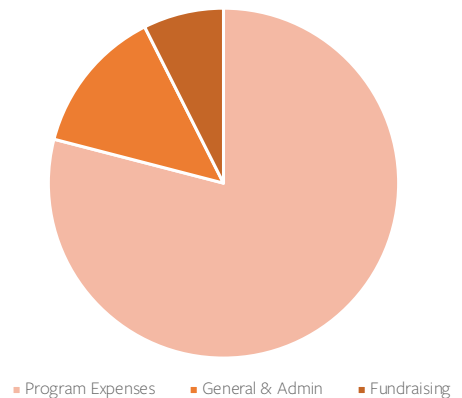
Children & Family Revenue	\$8,473,782
Contributions & Grants	\$5,468,074
Investment Income	\$226,508
Other Income*	\$577,317
Total Revenue	\$14,745,681

*Other income includes \$450k of insurance proceeds from hail storm damage. These proceeds will be invested in the campus during FY19.



Expenses

Program Expenses	\$10,965,886
General & Admin	\$1,876,961
Fundraising	\$1,031,028
Total Expense	\$13,873,875





Client Feedback Survey Results

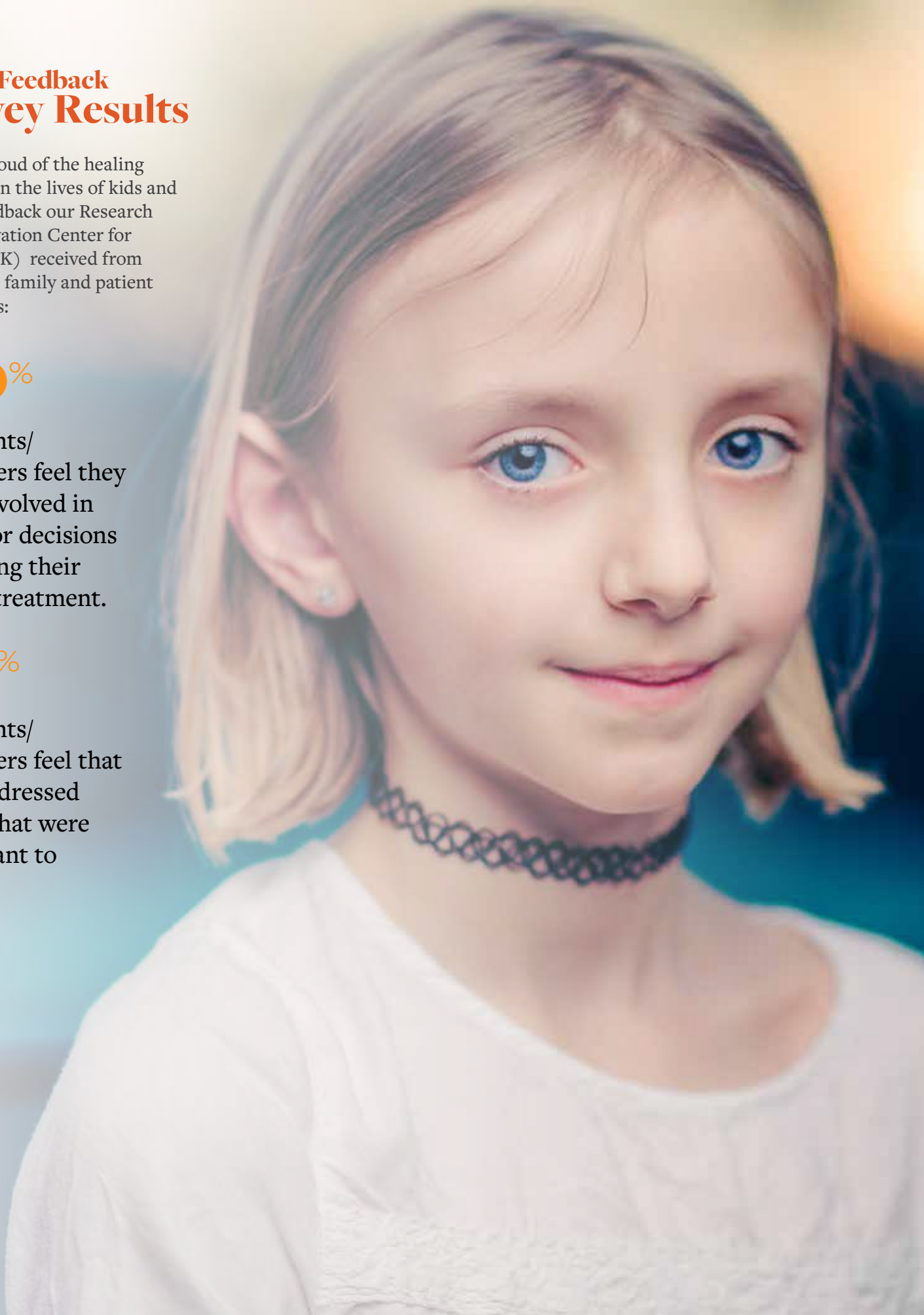
We are proud of the healing reflected in the lives of kids and in the feedback our Research and Innovation Center for Kids (RICK) received from numerous family and patient interviews:

90%

of parents/
caregivers feel they
were involved in
all major decisions
regarding their
child's treatment.

93%

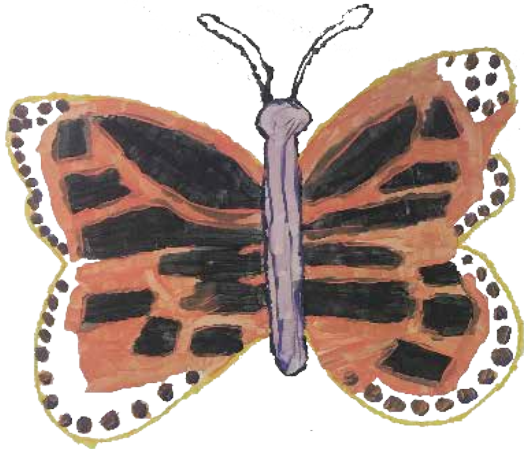
of parents/
caregivers feel that
staff addressed
issues that were
important to
them.



Strategic Priorities

The cornerstone of Tennyson Center's strategic plan is maintaining excellence in our approach to and treatment of severe, complex cases of abuse, neglect, and/or trauma while also directing care, focus, and resources to earlier interventions in a child/family's journey into child welfare – ultimately in order to prevent vast numbers of children and families from falling into crisis.

We are relentlessly focused on stabilizing, healing, and reintegrating children and families. #EveryKidForever



Im Flying to a
Better
Future...

1 County-Wide Models

Aligning, supporting, and partnering with diverse counties and strategic allies across Colorado to ensure that kids remain in their homes, when safe.

2 #NoKidWaits

Providing immediate intervention to stabilize kids and families in need: assessment, safety planning, resource navigation, and basic skills building, leading to effective treatment.

3 New Pathways for Children Over 13

Working with governments and service providers to create new options for children whose options for adoption and foster care dwindle as they age, helping children “age through” instead of “age out” of the system.

4 Monitoring Over Time for Impact

Launching a monitoring and evaluation program to more closely track impact on children and families over time, verifying that our work results in continued healing and successful reintegration back into families, schools, and society.

5 Modeling Organizational Excellence

Building a world-class organization powered by a high-performing team that responsibly stewards our resources while projecting thought leadership into the child welfare sector.

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.





**The children of Tennyson
are brilliant, bold, and
talented.**

