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

---

**Executive Staff**

Ned Breslin  
President & CEO

Kathryn Arbour  
Chief Operating Officer

Kari Chapman  
Chief Financial Officer

Brandon Young  
Chief Advancement Officer

Elizabeth O’Brodo  
Vice President Campus Programs

Meridith Shuman  
Vice President Community-Based Programs

**Board of Directors**

Jody Alderman  
Susan Aldridge

Anne Anderson  
Justin Apt

Joan Bell-Haynes  
Reggie Chapman

Larry Drury  
Rebecca Franciscus

Caleb Hester

Laura Love  
Brian Miller

Kevin Patterson  
Cameron Richards

Kristina Scala  
Remy Spreeuw

Stan Sprinkle  
Rob Swanson

Jeff Vaughan
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**
- Caucasian: 43.6%
- African American: 18.6%
- Hispanic / Latino: 18.0%
- Multi-Racial: 10.1%
- Bi-Racial: 9.1%
- Native American: 0.4%
- Asian: 0.2%

**FY18 Age Groups**
- High: 39%
- Middle: 28%
- Elementary: 31%
- Little: 2%
# Results

## Campus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Who Avoided Hospitalization</th>
<th>% Who Avoided Police Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Services Unit</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Who Avoided Hospitalization</th>
<th>% Who Avoided Police Contact</th>
<th>% Who Stayed in their Homes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>El Paso</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weld</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
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.
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.

Strategic Priorities

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.

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

I’m Flying to a Better Future...
Thank you to our major donors! Without all of our generous donors, our work would not be possible.

**Partners**
- RJ Clark Family Foundation
- Louann Benbow
- Stan* and Sandi Sprinkle
- Jeff* and Gina Vaughan
- Denver Active 20-30 Children’s Foundation
- The Anschutz Foundation
- Rocky Mountain Human Services
- EARSS Program of the Colorado Department of Education
- Lakewood Country Club

**Champions**
- Noble Energy, Inc.
- LibertyGives Foundation
- The Colorado Health Foundation
- James E. Bowers
- Floyd and Joanne Murray
- The Denver Foundation
- Rhonda M. Hertel
- Russ and Janet Stacey
- The Nickless Family Charitable Foundation
- Colorado Department of Human Services
- Brownstein Hyatt Farber & Schreck
- Rose Community Foundation
- John R. McCune Charitable Trust
- Colorado Oil & Gas Association
- Petroleum Field Services, LLC
- Megastar Financial Corp
- Garry and Annette Lawrenz
- The National Benevolent Association
- The Kettering Family Foundation
- Bardsley Foundation
- William I. Smith Family Foundation
- PDC Energy
- Tracy Family Foundation
- PCL Construction Enterprises, Inc.
- LARRK Foundation
- RT Specialty
- Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

**Supporters**
- John and Jody* Alderman
- Rebecca* and Tucker Franciscus
- Matt Owens
- Christian Church in Kansas (DOC)
- Philip Bairrington
- Ken and Lori Tolle
- Apple American Group – Mountain Essendant
- Jennifer Shannon
- Dale and Carol Wheeler
- Sally A. Hapner
- Chip and Melinda Rimer
- Linda and Billy Thorne
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- Benjamin and Resa Gardner
- Randy and Lynnette Rockwell
- Eric and Dawn Boivin
- Extraction Oil & Gas, Inc.
- Troy and Sondra Reiner
- James E. Anderson
- Amy and Ramey Martin
- Ed and Jodi Rarick
- SalesLeadership, Inc.
- Colorado Garden Foundation
- The Ryan and Genevieve Tedder Foundation
- United Energy Trading, LLC
- Scott and Stacey Sprinkle
- Guaranty Bank Company
- Delores I. Clark
- Sacred Grace
- Lockton Companies, LLC
- Lilley Family Charitable Trust
- Margaret J. Stookesberry
- Nick Spence
- Don D. Brewer
- Sean and Stacey Sprinkle
- Richard and Sharon Post
- James Baker
- Marcia A. Boutz
- Diane David
- Rodney and Sandra Henderson
- Howard and Rose Kast
- John F. Koehler
- Perry and Stacy Mattern
- Frank and Betty Ortesen
- Lynn Peterson
- Richard and Elizabeth Rush
- Steve Skinner
- Brian and Colleen Smith
- Bill and Judith Wolpert
- Metco Landscape
- McKee Family Foundation
- The Carson Foundation
- The Peternell Family Foundation
- Friedery Family Foundation
- Colorado School of Trades
- EZE Foundation
- NewMark Merrill Mountain States
- Kirby Ventures LLC
- Mary D. Holleman
- Jim and Polly Svenson
- SRC Energy
- Community First Foundation
- The Flower Shop
- Laura E. Love*
- Helen M. Kreoger
- DBC Irrigation Supply
- Johanna and Jonneke Moore
- Geraldine and Robert Norris
- Sanctuary
- The HealthCare Initiative
- DCP Midstream
- Guy and Linda Beutelchies
- Jennifer and Alan Tanaka
- Rev. William G. Sikes, Jr.
- Oakwood Homes
- Colorado Mechanical Systems, Inc.
- SySys Corp.
- Bob and Judy Cooper
- Chris and Paul Duncan
- Regis Jesuit High School
- First Christian Church - Colorado Springs
- Stanley and Shawn Sprinkle
- Randall and Sabrina Crane
- Schlessman Family Foundation, Inc.
- Alderman Bernstein LLC
- CO Cattle Company & Guest Ranch
- Ned and Lindsey Breslin
- Steve and Susan Struna
- Devree Vallejo and Dan Brown
- The Hatch Foundation
- Linda S. Darling
- Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation
- Tony Grampisas Youth Services in Colorado
- Department of Human Services
- Koenig, Oelsner, Taylor, Schoenfeld & Gaddis, PC
- Arin and Johanna Neucks
- GroundFloor Media
- Brad and Anne* Anderson
- Tammy Anderson
- Ted and Kathy Brown
- John and Bonnie Capone
- Daniel Collins
- William and Sue Gallagher
- Stephanie Giltner
- Brad and Deborah Groves
- Ron Gusek
- Norman and Myrna Heimer
- Hillary Hilliard
- Christopher Koenigs and Jeanne Collopdy
- John and Leslie Malone
- Allison Moe
- Richard and Donna Murray
- Kathy A. Parker
- John F. Patsey
- Esteban Sandino and Corinna Murphy
- Chas and Katie Shively
- Tom and Kirsten Simmons
- Paul and Michelle Stevinson
- Michael Stock
- Gerald L. Stone
- Steve Turk
- Chuck and Sheri Walters
- David and Barbara Weaver
- Margreet Weijers
- James A. Young
- The Ladd Foundation
- American West Construction, LLC
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.