

# FY22 ANNUAL REPORT





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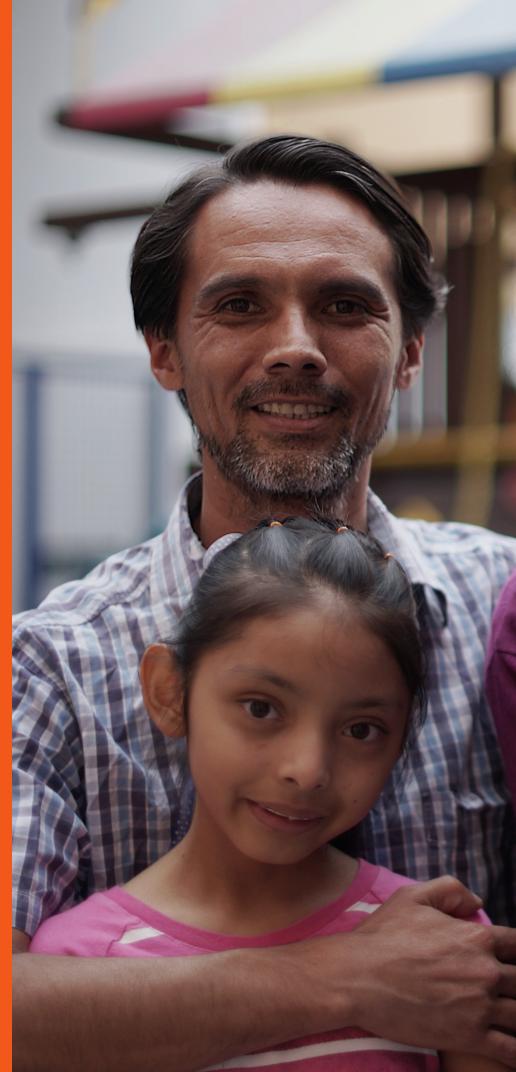
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Dear Tennyson Family,

At some point, many families receive a frightening phone call. They're told their child is in trouble; there has been a school shooting; their child is having thoughts of suicide. As a parent to five children as well as many foster children, that call makes your heart skip a beat. For some of the parents and caregivers we support, that call is a near daily occurrence, and they live in constant fear and worry about what each day will bring.

At Tennyson, our mission is to address the deep, underlying causes of a child's mental health challenges so they can stop living in crisis. Kids and families come to us each year to begin a process of transformation and healing. That first step is an incredible act of courage and hope, and they deserve to be met with the highest standards of care. In 2022, I continued to chart our own path towards improvement and growth with many notable achievements:

- Our kids in the School & Day Treatment Program are thriving with access to new therapies and approaches that address the mental, physical, and social impacts of trauma. Students can now benefit from recreational, speech and language, animal-assisted, and horticulture therapies.
- We secured a \$1 million federal grant to construct a youth residential treatment center on our campus for low-income children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and co-occurring mental or behavioral health challenges. This project is phase one of a larger vision to expand and revitalize Tennyson's campus to support more underserved populations.
- We launched a comprehensive trauma-informed care model to fully realize the widespread impacts of trauma on the developing brain and determine the types of interventions best suited for each person in our care.



# MY VISION FOR TENNYSON

"is to remove mental health barriers for everyone in our care, helping the most vulnerable children and adults build lifelong skills for working through adversity."

- We are meeting the rising need for services and supports in our community. We saw a 150% increase in referrals compared to the prior year.
- We concluded two major fundraising campaigns (one for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April and Operation Giving in December). We also hosted three fundraising events (The Spring Luncheon, the FORE! Our Kids Golf Classic, and the Mile High Country Q & Brew). I thank each of you who contributed to their success.
- We gave kids and families a safe place to turn for care and treatment. We passed annual inspections from the Colorado Department of Human Services and the Office of Behavioral Health, exceeding standards for safety, quality, and compliance.

These accomplishments directly impact children's lives. And they were made possible by the generosity of our extraordinary community. I wish you could be here every day to see the difference you are making, but I hope you enjoy reading about our work in the pages that follow.

Now in our 119th year, Tennyson is excited to build more paths to healing for kids who experience significant adversity. Already, one of the newest kids in our care told his mom that she didn't have to worry about him in school anymore. He was excited to make friends and try all the things his trauma kept him from enjoying in the past.

With Gratitude,

Mindy Watrous, President & CEO

# Community-Based Program

## **Meeting Kids and Families Where They Are**

Tennyson's Community-Based Program brings personalized therapy and support services directly to children's homes, schools, or any other place where they can best work towards healing. Services include:



#### **Intensive In-Home Therapy**

This service delivers personalized care and treatment to kids who are experiencing a crisis or mental heath emergency. Whether they need individual and family therapy, parenting support, or behavior management, Tennyson improves their wellbeing from the comfort of home. In-home care and teleheath reduces barriers to mental health support and allows clinicians to better address household dynamics.



# Intensive In-Home Therapy (BRANCH)

BRANCH stands for Behavior
Resources for Adaptive Needs in the
Community and Home. It provides
intensive in-home therapy for children
with autism spectrum disorder and
other intellectual/developmental
disabilities in addition to trauma. It's
unique from other autism services in its
focus on trauma and its incorporation
of individual and family therapy.



#### **Outpatient Services**

This offering serves kids and families with less intensives needs. Oftentimes, it provides ongoing support for children who are ready to "step down" from higher levels of care. Through individual and family therapy, diagnostic services, and care coordination, they continue building upon their progress to address the deeper causes of their mental health and behavioral challenges.



#### **Child First**

This service aims to prevent child abuse and neglect by supporting parents with kids 0-5. Child First strengthens the most vulnerable families who encounter poverty, mental health issues, homelessness, and other challenges. It's an evidence-based model that uses Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP), focused on growing the attachment between a parent and a young child.



#### **Families Together**

Families Together connects families who feel isolated with volunteer "Neighbors" who deliver meals, groceries, or care packages for six months. Neighbors also build a friendship through encouraging letters and phone calls. This added layer of community support helps stabilize families (often a foster or kinship family) and prevents a child from needing more intensive levels of care.



#### **Connect Parent**

Connect Parent is a support group that provides evidence-based parenting tools for caregivers with teenagers.

Members participate in one session per week for ten weeks.



My son Aris is smart and ambitious, but I worried about his future. After being abused by his stepfather, he was becoming violent and aggressive. When he had a blowup, the only thing I could do was call the police and place him under an Emergency Mental Health Hold. He would be hospitalized for ten days before returning with the same exact behaviors. In fact, his situation kept getting worse as the hospitalizations made him even more isolated and depressed.

I was referred to Tennyson during one of Aris's hospitalizations. It was the doctor's fourth time seeing Aris, and he said, "This isn't working. I'm going to write you a referral to Tennyson. They have many different therapists who practice different kinds of therapy, and I think they can help."

When we first partnered with Tennyson, my goal was to keep Aris out of hospitals, out of danger, and out of jail. Since then, he's become a completely different child. He's able to name what he's feeling and control his behaviors. The hospitalizations have decreased to the point where they are only triggered by significant, stressful events. Less time in hospitals has allowed him to be there for his little sister. I believe he will carry these coping skills into college and his career so he can be a successful adult who knows how to manage his stress.

Manna

Arianna, Tennyson Parent

"There is nowhere else like Tennyson for families looking for help for their teens."

of kids who received intensive in-home therapy avoided hospitalization or crisis centers for a mental health emergency.

Four kids who had prior interactions with the juvenile justice system reported no incidents in FY22.

of children in our Outpatient Services demonstrated a decrease in their traumarelated symptoms.

# **SCHOOL & DAY TREATMENT:**

## **Removing Barriers to Education**

When a child has complex trauma, it can spill out into the classroom in the form of behavioral and cognitive issues. Our fully-accredited K-12 school provides a holistic education for kids whose needs are too great for public schools to meet. In addition to academic support, students and their families receive individual, family, and group therapy with certified clinicians. This multi-disciplinary education team provides social, emotional, and behavioral learning to help students return to their neighborhood schools.

ASPEN (Adaptive Skills for People with Emotional Needs) is a service within our school for students with intellectual and/or physical disabilities in addition to trauma. ASPEN classrooms are designed to have consistent routines that create calming environments for the kids and help develop their emotional regulation skills.



Personalized care with a 3:1 student-to-staff ratio



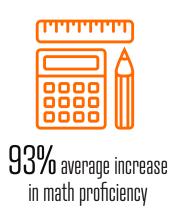
3 or more hours of individual and group therapy per week

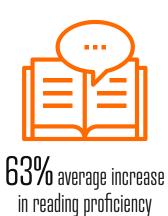


40 fun and informative summer school field trips



of kids who discharged from this program returned to their neighborhood schools







## "TENNYSON CENTER GAVE US OUR SON BACK"

Nicholas was referred to us after struggling in his elementary school. He was in a program for kids with autism that failed to meet his individual needs. "I had to leave work every day because they'd put him in what looked like a little jail cell with no windows," his mother recalls. "One time he smashed his head against the wall until he was bleeding."

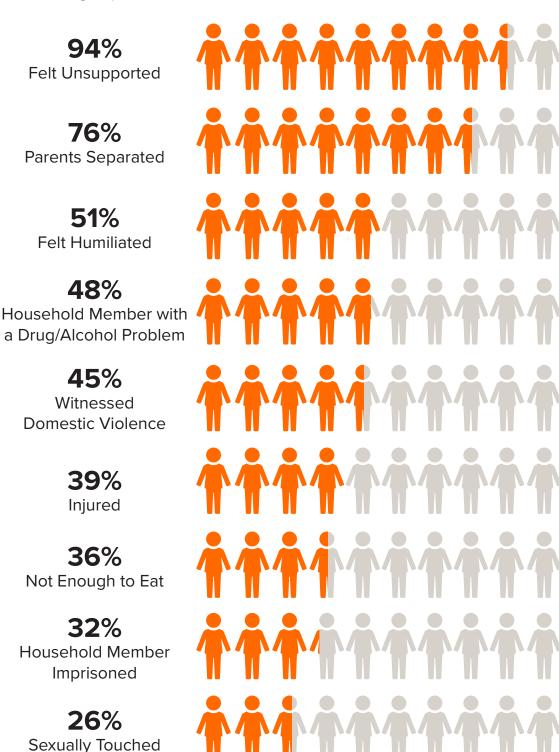
In our classrooms, Nicholas received more intensive and personalized support right away. His mother says his greatest achievement was learning to communicate. "It was traumatic what he had gone through, but he wasn't able to express himself in full sentences. I used to cry about it. I never thought I'd get to hear what my son is feeling. Then one day in the car he said, 'I don't have any friends. No one likes me.' It was painful to hear, but it was also the first time he showed me what was bothering him."

Since then, Nicholas has continued to develop meaningful relationships. He dances and sings karaoke with the kids in his class, and he thinks of his teachers as friends. "He has a warmth and a sense of identity now," his father says. "Tennyson Center gave us our son back."

# WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

## **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are traumatic events that occur during childhood and adolescence. They can include physical, emotional, and sexual abuse; neglect; and household dysfunction. These experiences can have a profound effect on areas of the brain that control how we cope and interact with our environment. According to Dr. Bruce Perry, "This is why asking 'What happened to you?' is so important in understanding what's going on with you now." The children we serve reported the following experiences at intake:



# **ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES**

## Finding Individualized Paths to Healing

When a child has adverse childhood experiences, that memory is stored deep in the brain where it can impact every aspect of their mental and physical health. To treat the widespread effects of trauma, we added these alternative therapies to our list of services in 2022:

#### **Speech & Language Therapy**

by Ellen Ratigan, Speech Language Pathologist

Speech and Language Therapy typically targets fluency, articulation, and voice. At Tennyson, I also help to improve children's social communication skills (like interacting with new people, understanding what's appropriate or inappropriate, or knowing how to express and read other people's emotions).

This service is especially important for the kids we serve because they may not have grown up in a language-rich environment, or they may have learned destructive communication habits if they grew up in an abusive household.

I've already seen kids make great progress, like the student who was finally able to answer a question in class or the child who found the courage to ask her classmates if she could sit with them during lunch.

#### **Horticulture Therapy**

by Nick Wininger, Garden Manager

Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) helped us launch a pilot program that uses gardening to improve children's mental and physical health. Plants are therapeutic for kids who need routines and calming environments, such as kids with autism. In the garden, they can explore with their senses without being overstimulated.

For similar reasons, it helps kids who are high-energy or in a state of dysregulation. We want to give teachers and clinicians another tool in their toolkit. We already have high-energy spaces like playgrounds. By adding a lower-energy space, we are giving kids more ways to work through their challenges.

One of the kids here has a special interest in bugs, and he's excited to help release ladybugs in the Spring!



# **ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES**

#### **Continued**

#### **Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT)**

Exposure to animals can be a powerful tool for reducing stress and anxiety, practicing social skills, building confidence, and learning emotional regulation. Kids in our School & Day Treatment program now

have access to two forms of AAT. They can receive weekly equine therapy with horses at Mustard Seed Ranch or interact with a variety of therapy animals at the Community Farm owned by Intricate Roots. Two clinicians and their dogs also became certified to offer AAT to families in their homes.

#### **Recreational Therapy**

by Jennifer Link, Recreational Therapist

Recreational Therapy uses games and activities to work towards specific goals. It's about finding the activities that bring someone joy or adapting activities so they can participate. It's especially important for Tennyson kids who may not be able to participate in activities they once loved because of a traumatic event. Even the simplest activities can be triggering for children with trauma, but recreational therapy helps them feel safe and accomplished.

At the end of a session, I ask kids to reflect on the things they did well. It's important for kids to recognize that even if a game didn't go as they hoped or planned, there are positive things to come out of each attempt.

Recently, I used basketball to improve a child's breath control, which was limiting his speech. With each dribble, we took a breath. For free throws, we would inhale, exhale, and then shoot. It showed the power of recreational therapy—using the things we love to achieve difficult goals.



## **FUNDRAISING EVENTS**

## **Engaging New and Loyal Supporters**



# Spring Luncheon to Benefit Kids & Families April 28, 2022 | Seawell Ballroom at the DCPA \$115,000 Raised, 210 Attendees, 50 New Donors

In April, we held our first-ever luncheon in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month! This inspirational hour included a speech from a Tennyson parent, a profile of a Tennyson board member who grew up in the foster care system, and employee and volunteer awards. Save the date for the next luncheon on April 27, 2023!



# FORE! Our Kids Golf Classic presented by RE/MAX LLC

August 22, 2022 | Sanctuary Golf Course \$261,866 Raised, 102 Attendees, 56 New Donors

Our annual golf tournament is a special chance to improve kids' lives while playing Colorado's most beautiful course. Sanctuary Golf Course is played exclusively by invitation or through charity events. We were one of only 25 nonprofits chosen to host a charity golf tournament at Sanctuary. The largest donation of the day came from Fortress Development Solutions. Hit the links with us at the next golf classic on July 31, 2023!



#### Mile High Country Q & Brew

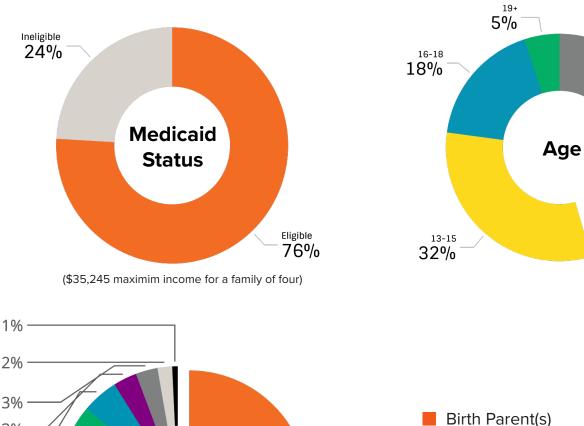
October 7, 2022 | Mile High Station \$183,047 Raised, 475 Attendees, 146 New Donors

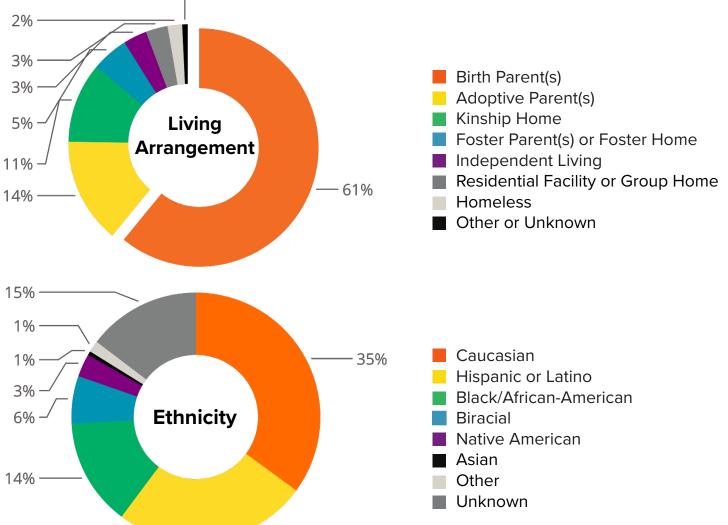
Q & Brew brings Coloradans together for local food, cold brews, good music, and a great cause! We often attract the next big name in country music, and this year's performer was rising star Adam Doleac. Guests rode the mechanical bull and supported kids and families through the auctions and the paddle raise. Join us for the next Q & Brew in September 2023!

# **CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS**

0-6 12%

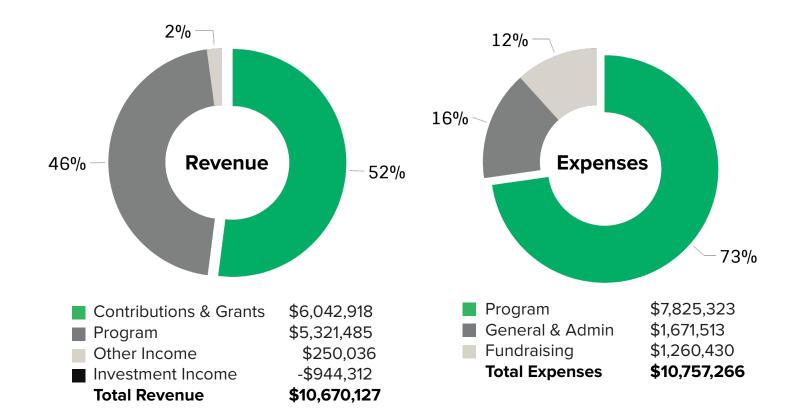
> <sup>7-12</sup> 33%





25%

# **FINANCIALS**



### **Statement of Financial Position**

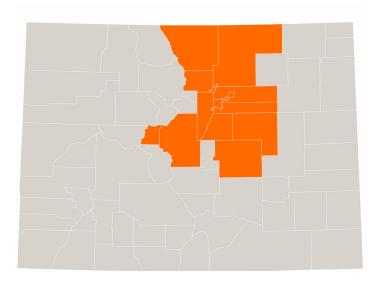
Assets	2022	2021
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$2,653,534	\$1,294,553
Accounts Receivable, Net	\$950,961	\$829,091
Contributions and Grants Receivable, Net	\$48,151	\$554,486
Prepaid Expenses	\$297,553	\$334,919
Investments	\$2,843,771	\$3,637,735
Restricted Cash for Unemployment Claims	\$93,057	\$132,801
Charitable Lead Trusts Receivable	\$1,160,169	\$1,201,661
Charitable Remainder Trust Receivable	\$1,131,954	\$1,468,191
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts	\$745,186	\$843,844
Notes Receivable	\$531,607	\$547,386
Property and Equipment, Net	\$6,299,562	\$6,015,899
TOTAL ASSETS	\$16,755,505	\$16,860,566

Liabilities	2022	2021
Accounts Payable	\$137,184	\$253,413
Accrued Expenses	\$373,876	\$408,229
Refundable Advance	\$132,660	_
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$643,720	\$661,642

<b>Net Assets</b>	2022	2021
No Donor Restrictions— Operating	\$3,166,825	\$1,611,663
No Donor Restrictions— Property & Equipment	\$6,299,562	\$6,015,899
TOTAL WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS	\$9,466,387	\$7,627,562
With Donor Restrictions	\$6,645,398	\$8,571,362
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$16,111,785	\$16,198,924
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$16,755,505	\$16,860,566



#### **13 Counties Served**



Tennyson worked with the most kids and families in Denver county but also provided services in Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Douglas, El Paso, Elbert, Jefferson, Lake, Larimer, Park, and Weld.

# Over 19,000 Hours of Therapy & Support Services



6,599 In-home



6,092 School



4,180 Telehealth

+

2,542 Other\*

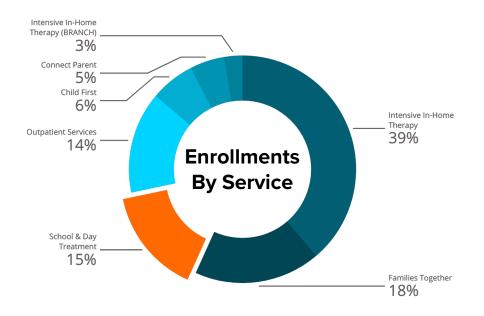
19,413

**Total** 

<sup>\*</sup>e.g. detention centers, other mental health facilities



# Two Main Programs Seven Targeted Services

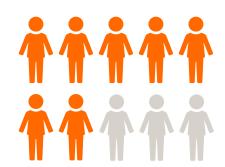


School & Day TreatmentCommunity-Based Program

Note: This graph shows the distribution of kids served by
Tennyson programs and services. For services that work with an entire family
(Intensive In-home Therapy, BRANCH, Families Together, and Child First), the
entire family is counted as one "client." For programs that primarily serve an
individual child (School & Day Treatment, Outpatient Services, and Connect
Parent), each child is counted as one "client."

# Improved Mental Health

7/10 clients across all our services showed a decrease in their traumarelated symptoms





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Michael and Suanne Yarbrough 🖈 Debi Yates Sierra Yearsley Mary Yoakum Bronwyn Chaney York Kathryn Young Jamison and Sara Young Jeff Youngstrom Karen Yount Alfred J. Zarlengo II Andrea and Wally Zediker George and Vera Zeigler John Zeising Matthew and Molly Zeman Sheryl and Steven Ziegler Erin Zielinski \* Cathy Ziemba Jay and Carol Zimbelman James and Judy Zimmerman Loren and Ann Zweig

Shortly after starting at Tennyson, I began working with a six-year-old boy. He had a history of traumatic events including severe neglect in several foster care placements. He was adopted around the age of two by parents of a different race. The family has since had two more children. As I began working with the child and his family, it became clear that he struggled with low self-esteem and has internalized a narrative of being unwanted, unlovable, and a 'bad guy.' He frequently compares himself to his siblings and peers—especially if they are meeting developmental milestones quicker than he is. So far, I have watched this child make great strides in his ability to communicate and discuss negative emotions with the adults in his life. He's started to challenge the negative narratives that he believed about himself."



Give a gift today that will make a difference in the life of a vulnerable child.



