

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



Family
CONNECTION Inc.™

Helping Children - Connecting Families

SHELTER - COUNSELING - SAFETY

AFFILIATIONS

- National Safe Place Network
- Alabama Association of Nonprofits
- United Way of Central Alabama
- Standards for Excellence - Tier Two

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT...

a message from Susan Johnston, Executive Director



Often, I am asked to speak about Family Connection and the services we provide in the community. I usually begin the presentation by showing the audience two apples. One of the apples is a regular looking apple, while the other apple has bruises and is displeasing aesthetically. I tell the audience that the regular apple represents most young people, while the other apple represents a young person who receives services provided by Family Connection. I talk about how we help homeless young people in our overnight shelter and drop-in Day Shelter, I talk about Safe Place where young people in crisis have immediate access to help, I mention the TXT4HELP number and I include information about our community outreach programs providing counseling support in the schools. I conclude my presentation by reminding the group about the apples which represented two types of young people and ask a volunteer to cut the apples into two pieces. Taking a piece of the regular apple and a piece of the bruised apple, I point out two things. First, although the apples may look different on the outside, on the inside the apples are the same. You see, children are children – all children need love, support and understanding no matter what they look like. Second, there is a symbol of a star in the middle of each apple, which says to me...all children can shine if they are given the right opportunity.

Family Connection has achieved many accomplishments in our forty-six years of existence – ranging from implementing specialized services, developing innovative programs and collaborating with distinguished partners to provide services for children, youth and families. It is because of the dedication of the Board of Directors and employees, community members, faith-based community, civic groups and individuals that such accomplishments have been achieved. We continue, as a community service provider, to make progress with high expectations and a commitment to excellence. We are dedicated to providing safe and supportive services where young people are given the opportunity to reach their potential and shine.

Thank you for your dedication and support of Family Connection and the services we provide in the community!

My Best to you always,

Susan Johnston



MISSION STATEMENT

To strengthen families and communities by providing shelter, counseling and safety for young people in crisis.



Chelsea Fire Station #31 is a Safe Place Site for young people



Individual counseling session conducted by the Adolescent Counselor



Food Packets for homeless young people

CONNECT WITH US

CALL..... (205) 663-6301

EMAIL..... services@familyconnection-inc.org

ONLINE..... www.familyconnection-inc.org

FACEBOOK..... Family Connection Inc

TWITTER..... @FamilyConnectAL

OUR IMPACT

Youth Shelter

The Youth Shelter provides a stable living environment for youth in the midst of crisis. Through intensive individual, group and family counseling the shelter provides a safe environment while focusing on family reunification.

Youth Shelter Operates Effectively:

- *Family Connection's Youth Shelter provided 1,025 nights of shelter for youth in crisis;
- *245 family counseling sessions were conducted for youth and their families;
- *56 individuals participated in Aftercare Services;
- *345 individual counseling sessions were conducted with youth;
- *375 group counseling sessions were provided for youth;
- *95% of parents participating in family counseling indicated that they learned new parenting skills;
- *Shelter youth participated in 48 Community Service group activities;
- *48 Aftercare Group Sessions were conducted for youth completing the Youth Shelter program;
- *90% of youth returned home without further disruption;
- *100% of all Runaway and Homeless youth exited the Youth Shelter to a safe environment;
- *275 individuals received referral assistance through our HELP-Line.

J.P.'s Story

J.P. had a difficult and unstable home life. His parents divorced when he was seven and he lived with his mother. His family was homeless for six months and he had attended six different schools in the past three years. Because of these constant disruptions, he fell behind in school and became angry with his living situation. J.P. was referred to Family Connection and entered the Youth Shelter after a physical altercation with his mother. He quickly became acquainted with the program services and stated that he felt safe since he was in a safe stable environment. Through individual counseling, he learned skills that helped him address his anger and anxiety. He also actively participated in group counseling, which helped him learn effective communication skills. During family counseling, he focused on rebuilding trust and respect with both his mother and his father. He worked diligently on his school work and was able to complete all of his classroom and homework assignments. Program staff assisted J.P. in transitioning into his father's home while he completed his high school education. After graduating in May, he plans on enlisting in the Army Reserve.

SHELTER

OUR IMPACT

Project HOPE

Project HOPE's Drop-In Center provides homeless youth, ages 16 – 21, with immediate access to services while linking them to the resources to gain safe housing and independency.

Project HOPE Operates Effectively:

- *Assisted 16 homeless/street youth in returning home;
- *Provided 3,017 survival aid packets to youth who are runaway, homeless or living on streets;
- *37 homeless youth received assistance in securing overnight shelter;
- *1,012 Day Shelter units were provided for runaway, homeless and street youth;
- *Assisted 6 homeless youth in continuing their education (college & vocational);
- *Assisted 37 homeless youth in securing employment.

D.J.'s Story

D.J. was in continued conflict with his mother, so she told him to leave her home. He stayed with a friend for a couple of weeks until he was asked to contribute financially. With no job and no money, he was told to leave the friend's home. With the help of a relative, he purchased a ticket to Birmingham in hopes of finding a place to live. When he arrived in Birmingham, he began sleeping in an abandoned building. The Project HOPE Street Outreach Team met D.J. on the streets and began a conversation. They offered him food, clothing and other necessities and they talked with him about his future. D.J. told the Team that he needed help finding a place to live and a job. The team secured him a bed in an overnight shelter and encouraged him to come to the Project HOPE Drop-in Shelter the next day.

D.J. arrived at the Drop-in Shelter the next day and staff assisted him with applying for housing and helped him complete job applications. He was provided transportation to an interview at a local fast food restaurant and was offered a job at the restaurant. He stayed in the overnight shelter until he was approved for an apartment. Project HOPE staff continued to provide him with supportive services to help him maintain stability. During a follow-up contact, D.J. reported that he enjoys his job and having a place to call home.

SHELTER

OUR IMPACT

TOPS (Therapeutic Outreach Program in Schools)

Individual, group and family counseling for middle school aged students with specialized services for students who exhibit bullying behavior and students who are targets of bullying behavior.

The TOPS Program Operates Effectively:

*45 individuals received counseling services through the TOPS Program;

*95% of the students receiving counseling through the TOPS Program reported that they learned how to effectively solve problems;

*95% of youth that received services indicated that they learned new skills that helped them make better choices.

S.W.'s Story

S.W. was a quiet and shy middle school aged girl. She was referred to the TOPS program to help her with self esteem issues. At first, S.W. was reluctant to participate in counseling sessions. As time progressed, she began to talk openly about being bullied during physical education and class activities. Some of her fellow students would laugh and call her names.

Counseling sessions focused on self-esteem building and identifying steps to help address the bullying she was experiencing. After each session, S.W. began to gain confidence in herself and was willing to engage in some of the class activities. By the end of the semester, S.W. proudly announced that she had participated in kickball during her physical education class. She stated that she was confident while playing and no one laughed at her. She was utilizing the skill sets that she learned in counseling which included accepting that no one is perfect and not to allow others to control her feelings. As S.W. continued to participate, she was accepted by her fellow students and the bullying subsided.

COUNSELING

OUR IMPACT

Safe Place

Safe Place is a national crisis prevention program for youth operated locally by Family Connection. Safe Place connects any youth in crisis to immediate help and safety.

The Safe Place Program Operates Effectively:

- *There are 47 Safe Place sites within the community for youth to access;
- *4,195 students received information on how to access Safe Place services;
- *100% of youth served through Safe Place indicated that they would recommend it to a friend that needed help.

R.P's Story

R.P's mother would not allow her to spend time with her boyfriend, which led to constant conflict. She ended up running away from home and staying with friends. She continued to attend school and work a part-time job. Her option of staying with friends quickly ended and she had nowhere to live. One of her friends reminded her that she could call Safe Place for help. R.P. called and was connected to Family Connection, the local affiliate of the national Safe Place program.

Once in the shelter, R.P. talked about her current issues with her mother and how stressed and anxious she was feeling. It did not take long for her to engage with the staff in developing a plan that would work for her future. She began developing goals which included graduating from high school, enlisting in the military and becoming a nurse. Program staff provided her transportation to school, and facilitated a meeting with a military recruiter. Soon she took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and decided that the military would be her best plan for the future. Both R.P. and her mother agreed that she would return home until she entered the military. In May, R.P. graduated from high school and awaited her date to start basic training. Her future plans include becoming a nurse once she completes her obligations to the military.

SAFETY

Family Connection Board of Directors

Executive Leadership Team



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President
Retired AT&T



David Bobo
Vice President
Jefferson State
Community College



Cindy Nicholson
Secretary
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Clay Hammac, Shelby County Sheriff's Office

Buster Ellis, Retired

Melissa Youngblood, Shelby County Schools

2022 Statement of Financial Position

2022 Financial Resources Budget:

United Way	\$ 188,978
Federal Grants	\$ 362,131
All Other Funding	\$ 367,007
TOTAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES	\$ 918,116

2022 Actual Expenditures:

Program Expenses	\$ 875,820
Management & General	\$ 85,609
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 7,065
TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENDITURES:	\$ 968,494

A complete annual financial statement is available upon request.

Family Connection receives 35% of its funding to provide services for runaway and homeless youth from the Department of Health and Human Services. Contents of this report do not represent the opinion of the Department of Health and Human Services or the United States Government.

For more information please contact us at:

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