Strong youth. Strong families. Strong community.

EPWORTH Children & Family Services

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION, VISION, VALUES

MISSION

To help youth and families find strengths, break through obstacles, and build brighter futures.

VISION

Strong Youth, Strong Families, Strong Community

VALUES Commitment, Accountability, Respect, Empowerment, Safety

DemonstratingC ommitmentEmbracingA ccountabilityTeachingR espectFosteringE mpowermentAssuringS afety

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

"...we are living our mission each day..."

Strength.

At Epworth we talk a lot about strength: strong youth, strong families, strong community. It is our vision. Each day, our 230+ employees strive to live our mission by helping youth and families find their own strength.

In 2013, our programs and services reached over 7,500 people in St. Louis and the surrounding communities. As CEO of Epworth, I can attest this proves we are living our mission each day and it is evidenced by our successes over the past year.

AWARDS – Top Workplace Award from the Post-Dispatch STAFF – Workplace safety program was recognized by Missouri Employers Mutual PROGRAMS – Doubled our HHS Family and Youth Services Bureau RHY grant through 2016 LEADERSHIP – A merger with Progressive Youth Connection proved a 100% retention rate DEVELOPMENT – It was a record-breaking year for funds raised and community engagement FACILITIES – Acquired & renovated new 15,000 square foot building in Normandy ADVOCACY – Establishment of statewide older youth summits for 2013-2014

Looking ahead, we want to continue the growth we have seen over the past few years. We strive to be stronger as individuals, stronger as an agency and stronger as a community, so we can build the futures of those around us.

As you read through the pages of our annual report, please remember – Epworth, and the community we serve, would not be as strong if it weren't for the support of our staff, board, volunteers, donors and community partners.

Thank you to each and every one of you,

Kevin Drollinger *Chief Executive Officer*

PROGRAMS & SERVICES





AGING OUT INITIATIVE: 248 individuals enrolled

Youth-driven program dedicated to equipping those leaving foster care with skills for independence and self-sufficiency by age 25.



CHAFEE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM: 503 individuals served

Foster care youth, ages 14 to 21, are provided training and support through classes and individual meetings that focus on independent living skills.



EPWORTH SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL: 171 individuals served

Serves students grades K-12 who display behaviors that impede their educational progress at their home schools.



FAMILY FOCUS TREATMENT: 5 families served

Assists in transitioning youth from residential treatment to life at home with biological parents or foster families.



FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK: 581 families served

Works to prevent child abuse and neglect through in-home therapy to improve family communication and provide effective stress management and conflict resolution methods.



FOSTER CARE: 82 individuals served

Matches youth with families where they can learn to trust and reap the benefits of a devoted family unit.



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Strong programs.



KIDS FIRST AFTERCARE: 14 families served

Supports family reunification, relative/foster home placement or more independent community placements for six months.



PROGRESSIVE YOUTH CONNECTION: 2,966 individuals & groups served

Provides prevention programs to help children develop the skills they need to make positive choices in life and promote a violence-free environment that ensures academic and social success.



RESIDENTIAL & INTENSIVE TREATMENT: 84 individuals served

Three levels of care provided for ages 11 to 18; intensive 24-hour supervised care to less restrictive support.



STREET OUTREACH SERVICES & DROP-IN CENTER: 5,843* contacts served

Connects with homeless youth to educate and encourage them into permanent housing, keep them safe off the streets and connect them to resources to develop their independence. **may include multiple encounters with the same individual*



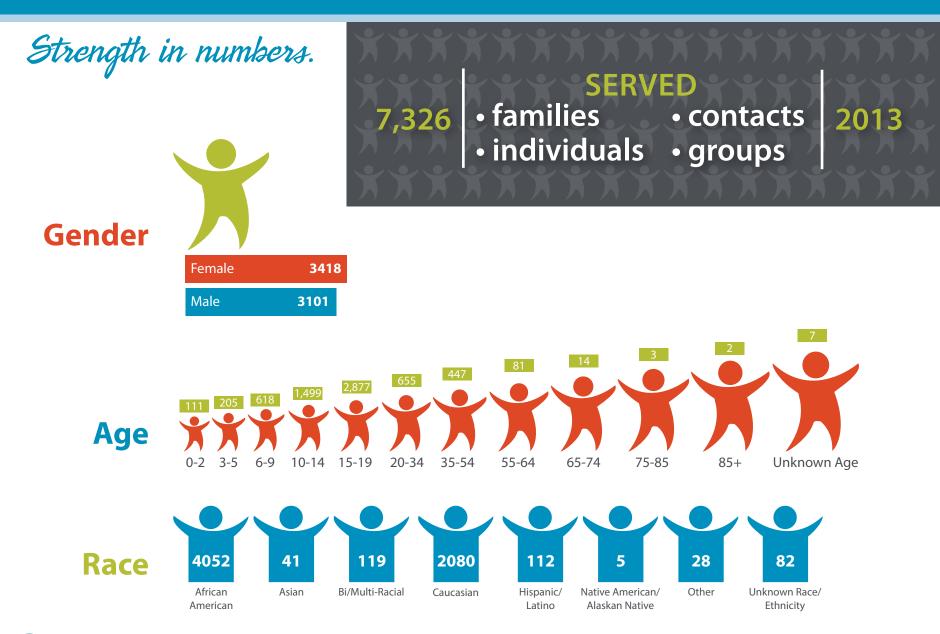
TRANSITIONAL & INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS: 134 individuals served Teaching important life skills to youth ages 16 to 21 to allow for emotional, physical and financial independence.



YOUTH EMERGENCY SERVICES CRISIS SHELTER: 229 individuals served

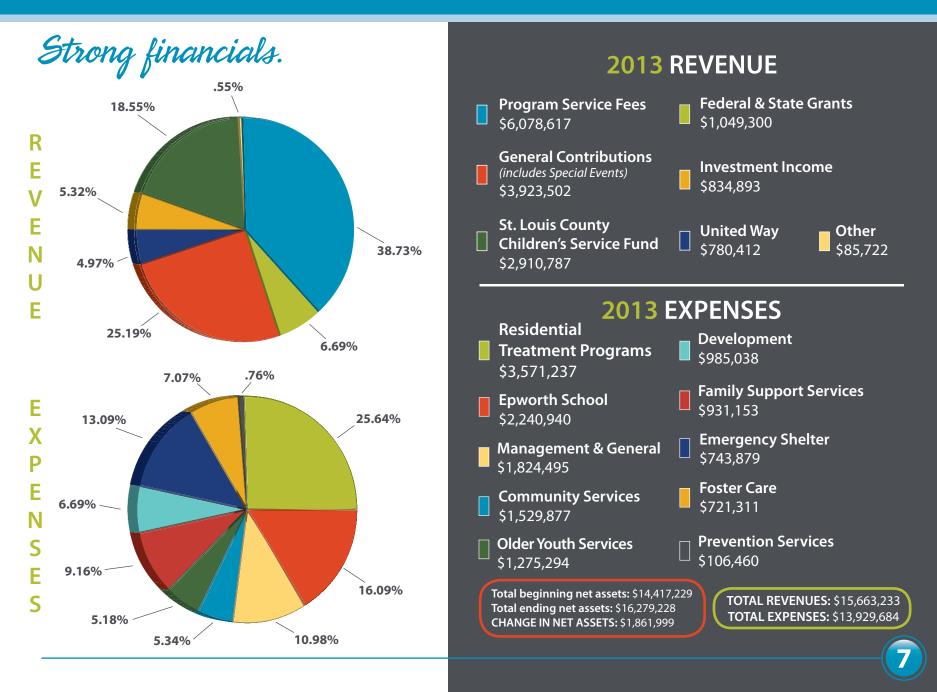
Emergency shelter, food and therapeutic support for ages 11 to 19 experiencing abuse, neglect, homelessness or family conflict.

DEMOGRAPHICS SERVED



Note: Demographics reported are for unique Direct Clients served and do not include Indirect Clients or duplicate records.

FINANCIAL REPORT



SUCCESS STORY

Strong people.

For Christy Phelps, finding her strength and independence began at an age when most girls are getting their ears pierced or going to sleepovers. At age thirteen, Christy learned she was pregnant and turned to her mother for support. Unwilling to deal with her daughter's situation, Christy's mother took her to Epworth's Emergency Youth Services (YES) shelter in University City drove and away.

It was at YES where Christy first began to trust those around her. The staff helped her to grow into her maturity and fostered her sense of **independence**. As she matured, her personal strength continued to grow. She learned how to sew to focus her mind and soon gave birth to a healthy baby boy – Terrence.

Christy went on to marry her son's father and move to Alabama where they had two more boys – Thaddeus and Theodore. Christy spent the next few decades being the source of strength for her family – raising her boys, supporting her husband's career and working through nursing school.

It was during the painful divorce from her husband that Christy returned to **St. Louis** to reestablish her independence. She worked several jobs, supported her three sons through college and would turn to sewing – the skill she learned as a teenager – as a way to calm herself from the day's stressors.

Feeling settled back in St. Louis, Christy began thinking about her days at the YES shelter. She wondered if it was still there, still how she remembered it. She had many memories of YES – walking to the gas station, relaxing in the backyard, and her most vivid memory, the **wooden twin beds** she slept on. After searching the now-unfamiliar neighborhood, Christy went online to see if she could find the place she temporarily called home. It wasn't long before she found Epworth Children & Family Services.

Christy wanted to give back to the place that had given her so much and began volunteering to **mentor** residential youth. She wanted to share her story and teach them how to sew – the skill she had learned so long ago. When she learned YES was still at the same location, she jumped at the chance to take a tour with the child she had been pregnant with during her stay over 25 years ago.

When Christy and Terrence pulled up to the building, it was obvious that it was unfamiliar to her. Christy seemed nervous, anxious. Had her memories deceived her? Was this really the place? As the tour continued to the backyard – now paved with a patio – the memory of relaxing on the grass did not match the new, hard surroundings. They entered the first floor offices, and Christy noted..."This used to be a patio. There is much more security now." The stairs provided a familiar landmark, but much had changed. Again, she was confused – was this really the place?

"Past hardships make your life today...better." Christy Phelps

As she walked down the long, dark hall and entered a bedroom at the back of the building, her face lit with emotion. Shock, fear, exhaustion, appreciation and happiness filled the tears that streamed down her face. The bedroom, filled with basic necessities, purple bedding, brightly colored wall murals and those **wooden twin beds** made her past a reality. To keep from collapsing, Christy leaned on her son who, since even before he was born, has been *her* source of strength.

VOLUNTEERS

Strong hearts.

For as long as he can remember, Reverend Adam Mustoe has loved working with children. He has **dedicated** nearly ten years of his life to being a leader at Living Word United Methodist Church. When Adam sought volunteer opportunities that would incorporate his love for God with the desire to help people, a long-time friend recommended he look into Epworth Children & Family Services.

Beginning in 2009, Adam became involved in the Residential & Intensive Treatment program. This program provides a safe and stable living environment while youth work through emotional and behavioral issues that often stem from a history of abuse or neglect. Knowing that, Adam strives to be a **positive** and consistent presence and positive adult role model for the kids he works with.

"The most **rewarding** feeling is when a kid lets you know how much they appreciate you," says Adam. "The children at Epworth have been conditioned to create an exterior and not show emotion, and when I break through those walls, I am instantly moved."

One of Adam's volunteering duties includes leading a Chapel Service one Sunday a month. He and fellow volunteers provide consistent **spiritual guidance** through Bible study, music and prayer.

"When I get to integrate music with helping these children..., they instantly brighten up and exude **happiness**," says Adam. "This creation of a fun atmosphere is the reason I do what I do."

Adam sees it as his **goal** in life is to reach beyond his own family to those children who could use another strong adult in their lives.

"I am so grateful that God lead me to this path of helping the children and families of Epworth," says Adam. "Epworth's volunteers and staff will continue to build on the individual strengths of youth and families, helping them to be **successful**."

Volunteers are essential to Epworth's success. *Thank you* to all of our volunteers for your many hours of service.

1,853 volunteers

11,026 volunteer hours

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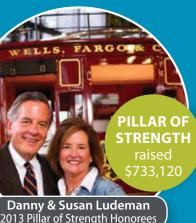
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"...To some kids this is their only home... I am so impressed seeing the residents giving back to others..." Laurie DeJohn



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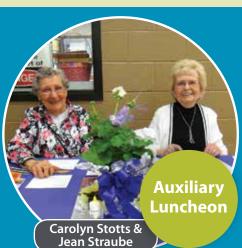
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*Epworth Children & Family Services regrets the misspelling of names or the omission of any gift. If you would like to change your listing, contact us at cegan@epworth.org or 314.918.3411.





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