



2019 Annual Report



Shelter, Inc.

Emergency housing for children and adolescents

A photograph of a man with sunglasses and a mustache, a woman with long red hair, and a young girl in a denim jacket. They are all smiling and hugging each other. The man is on the left, the woman is on the right, and the girl is in the center. The background is a bright, outdoor setting.

Imagine a world
where all children
grow up feeling safe,
nurtured and loved.

Today there will be 222 reports of child abuse in Illinois.

Last year, nearly 34,561 children in Illinois were victims of abuse or neglect.

Founded in 1975, Shelter, Inc. has become a leader in Chicagoland for providing emotional and physical care, programs and services that children need to build safer, healthier and brighter futures. We are the only agency in the state to provide comprehensive and community-based services for children and families at risk and in need.

Our mission is to end the cycle of child abuse by providing a comprehensive network of support, ensuring safe, healthy and nurturing environments to children, their families and our community. We are available **24 hours a day, 365 days a year.**

Our goal is to create a world where all children grow up in safe and nurturing environments.

From the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

2019 has been a year of challenges and growth. Despite the ups and downs, I am proud of the positive changes Shelter has made as we work tirelessly toward our vision--that all children grow up in safe and loving homes.

As I marked my first full year as the Executive Director of Shelter, I have been humbled at times by the enormous needs of our children and families in crisis. The tragic deaths of AJ Freund and Jahir Gibbons hit our community hard. But I have also been inspired by you, our community and our partners, for supporting our mission. There is no single person or agency who can combat child abuse alone.

Together, we can do more. We must do more. And in 2020, with your help, we will do more.

We are expanding our work with youth experiencing homelessness from age 21 to 24. We are educating the community about the realities of human trafficking. We are creating new partnerships with other agencies and expanding our reach more than ever before.

We couldn't do this without you. Thank you to those of you who made contributions in support of our mission. You may have helped sort donations in one of our group homes. You may have attended one of our events. You may have told others about the great work that we do. You have all made a difference and we hope you will continue to do so. We promise we won't give up until all children are safe and loved.

Together in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carina', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

Carina H. Santa Maria, MSW, LCSW

Healthy Families



Because abuse often perpetuates, breaking the cycle is crucial.

Healthy Families is an intensive home visiting program for at-risk, first-time parents. The program is voluntary, confidential and free.

Our multi-lingual staff works with parents during a child's most formative years - from birth through age 5 - to create safe and healthy environments for their babies. Through regular home visits, we teach parents fundamental skills such as stress management, effective discipline, health care and nutrition, and connect them to critical community resources.

In FY2019, 55 first-time families received the resources needed to be self-sufficient and stop abuse before it had a chance to start.

"We are trying our best...for our son. I want...to thank the person who made this possible for us. My son will finally have his own crib." - teen mom in our Healthy Families program

Emergency Group Homes

Providing temporary relief can improve family stability and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Shelter's Boys' Group Home and Jennings Group Home for Girls provide emergency housing for youth ages 11 - 17 who are experiencing crisis due to abuse or neglect, or are in need of emergency shelter due to family circumstances such as homelessness, illness or domestic violence.

Our homes are staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our staff provides trauma-informed care, and specialized support for the most marginalized populations such as children in the LGBTQ community and children who have been victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

In FY2019, 138 children in our emergency homes were given the physical and mental help they needed to heal from their trauma, with 3,640 days of care.

68% of the youth in our Emergency Group Homes returned home to their families with vital resources.



Foster Care



Shelter, Inc.'s Foster Care programs are for children from birth through 21. Our programs include home-of-relative and traditional foster care. Families, with the assistance of foster care caseworkers, work to resolve the problems that brought the children or adolescents into placement so that they can be reunited as quickly as possible. Whenever possible, children will be transported to their schools.

Home-of-Relative Foster Care gives children a sense of identity and belonging. Caseworkers work with family members to ensure a safe and secure environment while working to reunite families whenever possible. Traditional Foster Care can be arranged when there are no relatives available and a longer-term placement is appropriate.

In FY2019, 30 foster families were created, some temporarily, some permanently; bringing our total to 60 families. Children who were unsafe in their homes were brought together with families to love them in stable and healthy environments where they can not only grow but also flourish.

"If we can give everyone the tools they need...they can succeed and do great things. Because it's love and family that matters." - Lindsey, former foster parent

Transitional Living

Aging out of foster care leaves our youth in a situation in which they are vulnerable to homelessness.

Shelter's Transitional Living Program (TLP) supports young men ages 17 - 21 who are homeless and aging out of the child welfare system. The goal of the two-year program is to provide support in a safe, appropriate, and stable home-like environment as they learn to transition to sustainable, healthy and independent living.

Support services target continuing education, stable employment, permanent connections, and social and emotional well-being. Life skills training includes essential skills from cooking and nutrition to budgeting, work ethics, and building self-esteem. In most cases, this is the last opportunity for these young men to learn healthy choices, resist gangs, crime and drugs while living off the streets, and to build productive lives with promising futures.

Eight young men who were transitioning out of the child welfare system, and headed toward adulthood living on the streets, participated in our TLP. Two graduated this year from the two-year program with bright futures ahead.

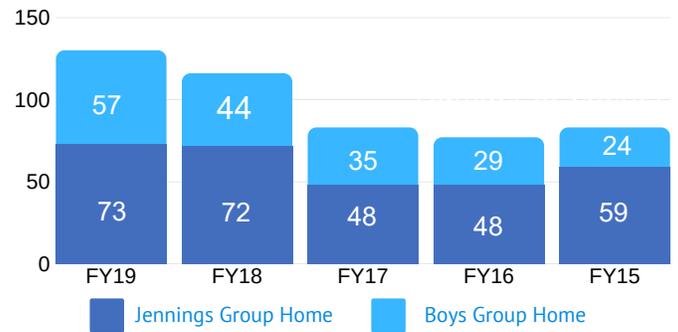
Our Impact: 5 Year Overview



EMERGENCY GROUP HOMES

138 children in our emergency homes were given the physical and mental help they needed to heal from their trauma, with 3,640 days of care.

68% of children were reunited with their families.



15.6%

Increase in number of cases over last year

FOSTER CARE

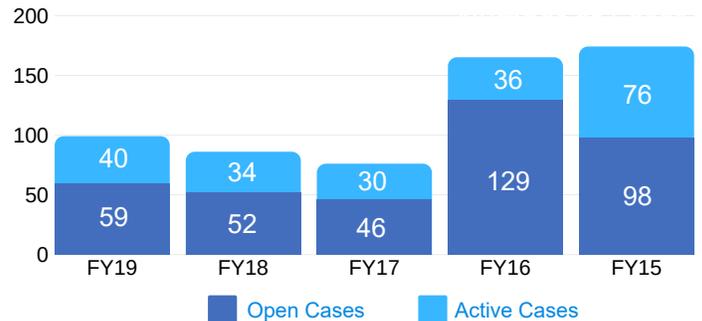
30 foster families were created, some temporarily, some permanently; bringing our total to 60 families.

Two adoptions were completed this past year.



HEALTHY FAMILIES

59 first-time families with multiple challenges at risk for abuse received the help needed to be self-sufficient, and stop abuse before it had a chance to start



80%

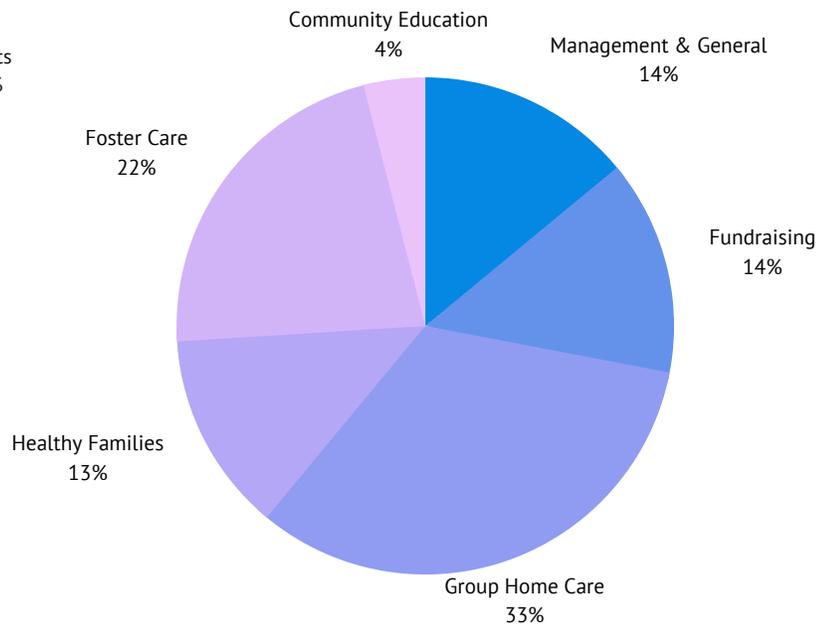
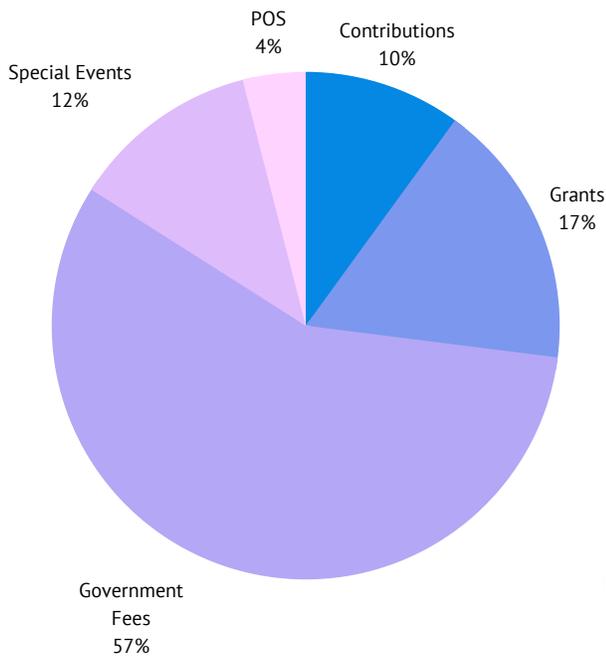
Job/Education placement rate during residency

TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM

Eight young men who were transitioning out of the child welfare system, and headed toward adulthood living on the streets, participated in our TLP. They learned the skills and were provided the role models needed to become successful adults. **Two young men graduated this year from the two year program with bright futures ahead.**



Financial Report



REVENUE

for the year ended June 30, 2019

	2019	2018
Contributions	\$297,229	\$150,938
Grants	461,878	156,00
Government Fees	1,598,051	1,320,992
Special Events	331,789	428,012
Purchase of Services (POS)	100,317	62,665
Other	2,323	-
Total Revenue	\$2,791,587	\$2,118,607

EXPENSES

Supporting Services

Management and General	\$375,921	\$248,745
Fundraising	356,242	320,954

Program Services

Group Home Care	875,346	808,591
Healthy Families	347,778	284,221
Foster Care	571,371	515,132
Community Education and Development	98,176	192,828

Total Program Services	\$1,892,671	\$1,800,772
Total Functional Expenses	\$2,624,834	\$2,370,471
Change in Net Assets	166,753	(251,864)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$284,299	\$536,163
Net Assets, End of Year	\$451,052	\$284,299

Leadership

Board of Directors

Leslie A. Carlson
President

Guy W. Eisenhuth
Vice President

Carlos Cruz
Secretary

John M. Stomper
Treasurer

Gerald F. Fitzgerald, Jr.

Rebecca Helkowski

Dominic M. Mangone

Heather Moss

Michael J. O'Malley

Jennifer Ryder

Executive Staff

Carina H. Santa Maria, MSW, LCSW
Executive Director

Maria Zeller Brauer
Senior Director of Development

Diana Morris
Human Resources Specialist

Lisa Gierlach
Accounting Coordinator

Gina Ciulla
Clinical Director

Michelle French
Foster Care Director

Lynn Puckelwartz
Healthy Families Program Director



Events & Volunteers



Perfect house
 SSRVLSSM

Thank you so much

JENNINGS HOUSE

- be safe
- happy
- Always together
- Always nice people
- lovely

helpful

Holiness



Shelter, Inc.

Emergency housing for children and adolescents

1616 N. Arlington Heights Road
 Arlington Heights, IL 60004

24 Hour Referral Line: 847.255.8060

shelter@shelter-inc.org

www.shelter-inc.org

