



ANNUAL REPORT 2017





Gary Huelsmann
CEO



Matt Rakers
Board Chair

Message from the Chief Executive Officer and Board Chair

We live in interesting times, and “life” at Caritas Family Solutions was certainly interesting during FY2017. A record number of children, individuals and families all across Southern Illinois sought and were recipients of our services. We were able to help thousands of people despite an historic Illinois budget impasse that in many ways made life more difficult for both our clients and our staff. As a premier provider of quality human services, we are very pleased by what we were able to accomplish in this challenging environment.

Our consistent annual growth has made it necessary to reinforce the agency infrastructure so that we deliver high quality services in the most economical way possible. In FY 2017 we added several professional staff to our leadership team in order to support quality programming. These positions included an IT Director, Director of Facilities and Plant Operations, Director of Foster Care, Director of Performance Improvement, and a Financial Analyst. It is very important that we create systems to ensure the safety and well-being for the thousands of people we serve every day.

In order to accommodate increasing numbers of both clients and staff over the past decade, we moved our Regional Office in Belleville from the West Main location (where it had been since 1999 and where our Headquarters remains) to newly renovated spaces at our building on Royal Heights Road. The move in Fall 2016 has also allowed for more collaboration with and support between all regional programs including St. John Bosco Children’s Center (see story on page three) and our Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) which moved its base from the Regional Office in Mt. Vernon to the Belleville location in January 2017.

Also in January 2017, we launched our 70th anniversary celebration to recognize and communicate our presence as a nonprofit social service agency since July 31, 1947. This year-long celebration included staff and volunteer appreciation events and has inspired the sharing of several stories from the past.

There are still many unmet human needs in our Southern Illinois communities today. Caritas Family Solutions is at the forefront in addressing those needs and is committed to building agency capacity in order to guide more people to reach well-being in their lives. We certainly could not do this without the help of those who support us. We rely heavily on our donors, volunteers, foster parents, board members and others who contribute to our success. And we are very thankful to our amazing staff who work very difficult jobs in support of others. THANK YOU to each of you who have been a part of our story for the past 70 years!

Know that we are truly grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

Gary Huelsmann, MSW
Chief Executive Officer

Matt Rakers, Chair
Board of Directors

FY 2017 Board of Directors

Matt Rakers, *Chair*
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Jeff Hemker, *Treasurer*
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Ella York

Chief Executive Officer
Gary Huelsmann, MSW

The girls are in the house

By Rachel Price, Development Assistant

St. John Bosco Children's Center (SJBCC), a therapeutic residency program in Belleville for children and youth healing from traumatic life events, opened an all-female "neighborhood" on the second floor in August 2016. Thanks to generous donations throughout fiscal year 2017, the "new" neighborhood for girls has been transformed from a dreary nursing home wing to a vibrant community hall with colorful accent walls, décor and inspirational quotes.

Previously housing only boys in two wings on the first floor, the addition of a girls' neighborhood made SJBCC the only facility that provides residential care for younger girls in Southern Illinois, setting it apart from the majority (approx. 2/3) of Illinois youth care facilities. Now with rooms for up to 10 girls ages 6-16 years-old (with an average age being 12-13), the girls' neighborhood filled quickly once it opened, and has remained full since.

A large donation from the Presbyterian Women of First United Presbyterian Church in Belleville made it possible to prepare the space especially for girls. Because of this generous act, each girl was provided new bedding and personal items, as well as welcoming and home-like décor in the common areas. While the hallways resemble actual neighborhoods (with flooring designed to look like sidewalks and grass,) the individual bedrooms appear as temporary homes or houses, each with a separate entrance and colorful siding. The rooms are personalized for each young resident, creating a safe and homey environment where they learn how to take care of their own space and practice how to live in a home setting,

The girls' neighborhood also includes a "calming room" as a safe space for therapeutic interactions and stress release. "All of our children and youth have experienced different levels of trauma in their lives," said Elke Hansen, Caritas Regional Director in Belleville. "They express themselves, and the emotional challenges they are dealing with, in different ways. Some might get into fights and show aggression towards other people or items, more often seen with boys. Other youth tend to turn towards themselves more, e.g. with self-harming."

Items such as essential oils, a radio, and tactile therapy objects riddle the calming sensory room, "in order to assist them in learning how to regulate their emotions," explained Hansen. In addition, play-doh, hula hoops, stress and exercise balls, stretchy bands, and a rocking chair are provided and used for their calming effects.

Additional gifts to the SJBCC in FY17 included a generous grant by Women4Given to remodel the main kitchen and dining room, along with a donation of appliances, equipment, shelving and work tables by Duke Manufacturing. This major renovation project has had a profound impact on the center, since the kitchen is the heart of any home.

A bright, cheery space is much more therapeutic than a gray, mundane one, and the new community environment gifted through this past year's renovations at St. John Bosco Children's Center have proved to be very beneficial. "A child's environment," according to CEO Gary Huelsmann, "contributes to feeling loved and helps them to thrive. It is undeniably necessary for the kids to heal."

"We truly appreciate all the support we have received and need to continue to receive so we can make ongoing improvements and repairs to the center as needed," concluded Hansen.





Foster Care program continues to grow

One of the reasons why Caritas Family Solutions is growing as an agency is because of significant growth in the foster care program. In FY17 alone, the number of children in foster care through Caritas increased by 11.5%, from 866 at the end of June 2016 to 976 at the end of June 2017. There are many factors that contribute to this growth, but the bottom line is that there are more children in care who require more foster homes to provide for them and caseworkers to manage their placements.

While we embrace the opportunity to establish stability and safety in the lives of more children each year, we are faced with the challenges this also creates. Despite a lack of any increases in support from the state for an entire decade, we have survived the growing pains with careful stewardship of our resources, with staff who go above and beyond and continually do more with less, and with the help of generous financial supporters as well as volunteers who help us to fill in the gaps. We are grateful to everyone who selflessly steps up to be there for children and youth in care, to let them know that we are here for them and that they can and will be alright.

The need for quality foster homes is constant. If you or someone you know is interested in foster parenting, please contact us at 618-258-8750. More information and resources on foster parenting are also available at caritasfamilysolutions.org/fostercare and on social media using **#FosterTalkwithCaritas** or **#FosterCareFriday**.

Volunteer grant from Lutheran Foundation

Caritas Family Solutions was awarded a Christian Volunteerism grant from the Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis in the fall of 2016. The foundation is a grant-making ministry of 61 St. Louis area Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod congregations. Their vision is to see the church brought into the lives of hurting people and people in the healing life of the church.

The \$38,000 grant provided funding to build capacity in our volunteer program through new technology, training, and the means to recognize volunteers for their labor of love. The grant was renewed for FY18.

In FY17, Caritas hosted 474 volunteers who donated more than 2,197 hours of service. This equates to almost \$50,000 in donated time and talent. The dollars saved through volunteer work are then invested in strengthening programs that benefit those we serve. Significant volunteer projects in FY17 included: landscaping and painting at the CILA homes and the Regional Office in Belleville; setting up the Resource Center to collect and distribute donated items to clients; painting and refurbishing the Rumpus Room at St. John Bosco Children's Center; as well as many other activities including tutoring, hosting holiday parties, and serving on event committees.



Volunteer Coordinator Carly Jones was hired in January 2017. She explained how the grant funding has allowed her to obtain a laptop to bring to volunteer sites, provide refreshments to volunteers while they are working, and purchase incentive items to recruit volunteers and appreciation gifts to thank them. *"All these little things help to create a quality atmosphere for our volunteers so that they have positive experiences and want to return! Our volunteers help us to fulfill our mission across Southern Illinois and we couldn't do it without them."*

Caritas offers both long- and short-term volunteer opportunities to accommodate almost any schedule. If you would like to learn more, please contact Carly Jones at Carly.Jones@caritasfamily.org or 618-213-8716.



70th Anniversary Activities

At the beginning of 2017, we launched a celebration of our 70th anniversary, marking the years since we incorporated as a nonprofit agency in the State of Illinois on July 31, 1947. We chose to make the celebration year-long, and have even extended the use of the anniversary logo into 2018. The celebrations highlighted significant dates in the agency's history, as well as successes both past and present. We wanted to emphasize that although we've only been known as Caritas Family Solutions since 2014, we have an established history and a tradition of caring for people all across Southern Illinois.

Appreciation events were held for volunteers and staff who fulfill and sustain our mission now more than ever. The anniversary also allowed for awareness campaigns, including an Open House at our Effingham Office and the establishment of our first ever Caritas Day on July 31, 2017, which will become an annual event.

We are grateful to all who have played a role in sustaining us for the past 70 years and look forward to many more!



Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) expands in FY17

In January 2017, Caritas Family Solutions was awarded a grant of \$527,089 from Senior Service America, Inc. to provide temporary employment for low-income older adults who participate in the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). A major program of the Older Americans Act, SCSEP is the only federal government program mandated to assist unemployed older adults seeking to rejoin the workforce by working in their community. More than ever before, older Americans are working longer, trying new things, and engaging in their communities. They're taking charge, striving for wellness, focusing on independence, and advocating for themselves and others.

Caritas Family Solutions has received an annual SCSEP grant since 1974. Previously the grant covered positions in the eastern counties of Southern Illinois, and the program was based out of Mt. Carmel for many years and more recently from our regional office in Mt. Vernon.

The current grant provides 90 positions for seniors living in Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Marion, Montgomery, Scott and St. Clair counties. As a result of this move to these southwestern Illinois counties, the program is now based out of our Regional Office in Belleville.

In December 2017, a celebration was held to recognize the 22 participants who secured permanent full-time employment through Caritas SCSEP in 2017. We are grateful to those businesses and organizations who not only serve as host agencies but put their trust in these older Americans and give them a chance to live without government assistance.

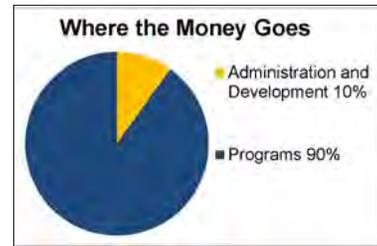


For more information, contact Gary Woods, SCSEP Program Manager at gary.woods@caritasfamily.org or 618-688-1127, or visit caritasfamilysolutions.org/scsep.



Financial Summary *for fiscal year ending June 30, 2017*

Support and Revenue:	2017	2016	2015
Grants and Contracts	\$17,557,568	\$13,781,452	\$13,080,101
Program Service Fees	\$977,431	\$1,452,734	\$1,215,009
Contributions	\$472,464	\$512,394	\$211,525
Fundraising Events	\$138,798	\$204,688	\$139,605
Rental Income	\$122,258	\$21,513	\$26,100
Management Fee Income	\$114,853	—	—
Miscellaneous Income	\$123	\$5,315	\$3,744
Investment Income	\$88,185	\$7,561	\$8,429
Net assets released from restrictions	\$292,644	\$53,173	\$55,777
Total Support & Revenue	\$19,764,324	\$16,038,830	\$14,740,290
Expenses:			
<i>Program Services:</i>			
Foster Care	\$11,843,925	\$10,388,854	\$9,576,077
Residential Treatment	\$2,628,267	\$1,622,592	\$1,713,831
CILA	\$955,912	\$719,037	\$437,936
Senior Employment	\$633,729	\$346,192	\$449,373
Adoption, Counseling and Other	\$382,257	\$396,393	\$472,541
Fox River Apartments	\$535,466	\$383,706	\$377,780
Management and General	\$2,159,799	\$1,879,967	\$1,694,194
Rental Expense	\$97,486	—	—
Total Expenses	\$19,236,841	\$15,736,741	\$14,721,732
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	(\$161,750)	\$143,274	(\$2,604)
Change in Net Assets	\$365,733	\$445,363	\$15,954
Assets:			
Cash	\$220,210	\$455,879	\$566,999
Accounts Receivable, net	\$1,847,758	\$1,198,447	\$906,088
Pledges Receivable	\$17,000	63,000	—
Certificate of Deposit	\$75,234	\$75,046	—
Investments	\$668,600	\$591,456	\$535,948
Prepaid Expenses	\$224,577	\$216,283	\$184,620
Total Current Assets	\$3,053,379	\$2,600,111	\$2,193,655
Property and Equipment (Net)	\$5,520,276	\$4,625,962	\$3,678,860
Total Assets	\$8,573,655	\$7,226,073	\$5,872,515
Liabilities and Net Assets:			
Current Maturities of Notes Payable	\$346,145	\$328,295	\$315,835
Line of Credit	\$125,000	-	\$274,000
Accounts Payable	\$539,948	\$533,107	\$438,162
Accrued Compensation and Vacation	\$1,082,091	\$749,934	\$557,585
Other Accrued Liabilities	\$90,670	\$128,931	\$55,173
Deferred revenue	-	\$48,213	-
Notes Payable, less current maturities	\$4,087,419	\$3,500,944	\$2,687,107
Net Assets: Unrestricted	\$2,204,685	\$1,740,202	\$1,438,113
Net Assets: Temporarily Restricted	\$97,697	\$196,447	\$53,173
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$8,573,655	\$7,226,073	\$5,872,515



**Keep Your Legacy Alive –
Make Caritas Family
Solutions a Part of
Your Estate Plan**

By naming Caritas Family Solutions in your estate plan, your gift will make a positive difference in the lives of more than 4,400 children and families each year.

*For more information,
contact Judy Woodruff,
Chief Development Officer
at 618-213-8703 or
judy.woodruff@caritasfamily.org.*

To view our complete audited financials for FY2017, please visit caritasfamilysolutions.org/about/financials

Services By the Numbers

Between July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017:



56

families were served through
Private Adoption*

with **11** finalized Adoptions

133 Adoptions through Foster Care
and **10** birthmothers receiving **Pregnancy Care**

540 children entered
Foster Care*

266 children achieved permanency
(returned to biological home
or adopted)

1,312 total children and their families were served
assisted by the loving hospitality of **800+** foster homes

8,580

days of Residential Care
(24/7 care for an average
of 23.5 children per day)
were provided at

**St. John Bosco
Children's Center**

10 children returned
home or to a
foster home

16

Adults with developmental
disabilities entered our

**Community Integrated
Living Arrangements
(CILA) program**

37

low income seniors
were served at

**Fox River Apartments
Assisted Living
Center**

27

at-risk juveniles and
their families received

**Multisystemic
Therapy**

118

Participants in the
**Senior Community Service
Employment Program**

logged **48,808**
community service hours!

5,443

Counseling hours
were provided (an average of
22 hours per business day)

More than **4,400** served...in more than **42** counties...

*Caritas Family Solutions is licensed as a Child Welfare Agency by the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services License #003976.

**St. John Bosco Children's Center is licensed as a Child Care Institution by the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services License #180025.

THANK YOU!

We are better today because of YOU!

To learn more and/or to make a donation, go to caritasfamilysolutions.org.

Mission Statement

“As a visible expression of God’s loving community and consistent with the example of Jesus Christ, Caritas Family Solutions provides direct services to persons of all backgrounds with social and emotional needs across the continuum of life.”

Follow us!



HEART
& SOUL
Annual Gala 2017

