



ANNUAL REPORT 2018





Gary Huelsmann
CEO



Matt Rakers
Board Chair

Message from the Chief Executive Officer and Board Chair

Dear Friends of Caritas Family Solutions,

Thank you for your continued support of the agency and the thousands of people we serve each and every day. Our staff, volunteers, donors and countless other supporters continue to do a truly remarkable job of responding to the varied needs of the individuals, families and communities within our service area. Fiscal Year 2018 proved to be another very successful year highlighted by significant growth and expansion of our infrastructure.

The year began with a celebration of our 70th anniversary on July 31, 2017, in recognition of our incorporation on July 31, 1947. The celebrations continued all year and helped increase awareness of all our programs and services. There were several other important events and decisions made during FY18 that will continue to shape the future of the agency. We gained ownership of Fox River Apartments to allow for more effective management of our assisted living program. We decided to pursue a merger with Fontebella Maternity Home, which provides shelter and support for homeless, pregnant women. The merger will allow us to serve a new population of clients as well as increase assets. In addition, we made the decision to purchase a building for the Mt. Vernon regional office that will accommodate current and future growth in that region and be more cost effective.

Caritas was chosen by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to be an Immersion Agency to pilot a new and better core practice model for foster care. We hope to have a positive impact on the foster care system through this process. Although the State of Illinois passed a budget this year, we continue to lobby for a sustainable rate increase for our state-supported programs; there has not been a significant rate increase this century.

Despite this situation, we performed well financially in FY18. See the specific financial details later in this report.

The past year saw a substantial increase in the number of people we serve, and our staff continue to provide high quality services to all of our clients. However, many in our communities are still forced to go without needed services due to limited resources and budget constraints. Thus, we continue to pursue opportunities to expand services that support and align with our mission. We are so grateful to each and every one of you who have contributed to our ongoing success, whether through donating, volunteering, fostering or some other means of support. We would not be able to touch so many lives and create loving homes for so many without your help. Thank you, again, for believing in the work we do!

Sincerely,

Gary Huelsmann, MSW
Chief Executive Officer

Matt Rakers, Chair
Board of Directors

FY 2018 Board of Directors

Matt Rakers, *Chair*
John Slosar, Jr., *Vice-Chair*
Julie Reed, *Treasurer*
Jill Wenzel, *Secretary*

Stan Brandmeyer
Vikas Kaveti
Danny Lee
Lissa Lewis
Lisa McQuade
Trisha Murphy
George Paletta, Jr.
Justin Price
Kevin Riggs
Steve Telken
Ella York

Chief Executive Officer
Gary Huelsmann, MSW

38 families were served through **Private Adoption***

with **11** finalized Adoptions, **117** Adoptions through Foster Care,

and **13** birthmothers receiving **Pregnancy Care**

Why Human Services are essential

The following article was written by CEO Gary Huelsmann and printed as a guest viewpoint in the Belleville News Democrat in July 2017.

We all benefit when we make sure everyone reaches their personal capabilities. Maximizing the potential of the people who are our neighbors ensures that our communities remain vibrant places to live, work, and play. To keep our society functioning, and even thriving, we must develop systems to help support people in strengthening their well-being.

Much like constructing a home that will withstand all types of weather, building well-being requires a variety of materials, like community resources, social relationships, and opportunities to thrive. Just as one would turn to knowledgeable specialists to build a house, our community relies on organizations whose purpose is to help build well-being. These are called “human services” or “social services” organizations. They are set up not only to make repairs when well-being starts to break down, but also to build a strong foundation in the first place, and to maintain this strength over time.

Caritas Family Solutions (formerly *Catholic Social Services*) has been a premier social services agency in Southern Illinois for the past 70 years – providing support for thousands of individuals, children, and families who are seeking to build a stronger foundation before, during or after weathering the storms of life. Services provided by Caritas Family Solutions promote well-being for people regardless of what stage of life they are in and what obstacle they are facing. These services include: Adoption and Pregnancy Care, Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILAs) for developmentally disabled adults, Counseling, Foster Care, Multisystemic Therapy (MST) for Juvenile Offenders, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and assisted living for low-income seniors, and St. John Bosco Children’s Center for children healing from the trauma of abuse and/or neglect.

As the largest provider of foster care services in Southern Illinois, Caritas Family Solutions currently manages more than 1,300 youth in care. These

children attend school, soccer camp, and church with other children – yet they need the encouragement from a dedicated case manager, and a loving family to open their home and their hearts, to help them heal and build their happiness and security for the future.

If poverty rates and crime rates increase, the need for services provided by Caritas Family Solutions also increases. For instance, individuals, children, and families experiencing a loss of income may need counseling services to help them cope with added stress instead of taking it out on their children.

When the building materials for well-being are not available, people and communities can falter. Just as poor construction can make a house unstable, the well-being of people who have not received proper support in life can be threatened when they do not have the social relationships, community resources, and opportunities to thrive.

Our communities are stronger when we all support well-being. Since 1947, Caritas Family Solutions has provided a foundation and has continued to grow to meet community needs. Last year alone, the agency supported 4,500 individuals, children, and families in reaching their full potential. Caritas invites you to join in their efforts to strengthen communities. Please visit caritasfamilysolutions.org for more information.



3,889

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

10

at-risk juveniles and
their families received
Multisystemic Therapy

Did you know?

Mike Philbin joined the staff as Director of Residential Services at **St. John Bosco Children's Center** (SJBCC) in November, 2017. "I immediately noticed the design of the neighborhoods and really liked how each resident has their own 'house,' complete with a 'porch light.' That's a feature I point out to every single guest I show around or person I talk to outside of SJBCC."

Since he first arrived, there have been a lot of adjustments to the program, however the staff have done a good job of making changes incremental so it doesn't *feel* like anything has changed much. "We have several staff members who have been here since the center first opened (in 1992) – and who were instrumental in helping me understand the agency, its culture, and showing me what really good direct-care practice looks like," said Mike. "We wanted our changes to be improvements to the program as opposed to a total overhaul. Our staff are very invested in helping our youth grow and transform and have generally welcomed the adjustments we've made."



Mike Philbin, St. John Bosco Children's Center

In the past year, SJBCC was highlighted as one of the providers most willing to "take a chance on a kid and think outside the box" (out of anyone statewide). "We've also received a lot of praise for our ability to work with professionals and entities all across the system to get the best possible results for the children and families we serve. When asked by the DCFS Director to name the top three leaders in all of child welfare across Illinois, the Deputy Chief of Staff pointed to Caritas Family Solutions and St. John Bosco Children's Center!"

When asked about his hope for the future of SJBCC, Mike replied, "SJBCC will be the best treatment program available to DCFS youth in Illinois. While that may seem like a big goal, we've actually set our sights higher. We want to become **world class**." In order to do that, he admits to the need for generous support from our donors. "State and federal funding is a major variable. Right now, Illinois is getting ready to begin implementing the Family First Prevention Services Act on October 1, 2019. At the same time, we are trying to launch managed care for youth in state custody, and navigate the complexities of various existing federal laws and consent decrees." What does all of this mean? "State government is going to have to invest the needed resources into the child welfare and healthcare systems if Illinois is going to be successful. Our state has a real opportunity to emerge from these challenging times as a national leader in how we provide residential and other specialized behavioral health therapy for our foster care youth and families. We need to fully fund our system or we're going to be left behind!"

According to Mike, "the community is everything to us. Contrary to the past notion that our youth needed to be removed from the community due to poor behavior, residential treatment today is about providing the intensive care a youth needs, in our specialized setting, and then re-integrating them into the community as quickly as possible. Our youth are in the community almost every day. They attend community schools, go to the YMCA for recreation, and play in local sports leagues. At the same time, some of our youth are not yet ready to be fully immersed in a mainstream community activity. That's where our community of volunteers helps set-up activities onsite, or provides a special mentor to help the middle schooler cope with the pressures of being on the school basketball team, for instance."

In such a challenging environment, what keeps Mike and his staff going? "I like so much about what I do. In terms of the agency, Caritas is truly a family environment. I've worked for companies that say they are about strong families but, unlike the others, at Caritas that means my family too!" says the new father. "I also appreciate knowing that I am accountable to my supervisors and reports. Accountability can sometimes be uncomfortable, however it helps a person grow. As long as we stay within the framework of our agency's core values and our profession's best practices, there is an appropriate and useful amount of room to try, fail, try again, and then succeed. Lastly, I absolutely love seeing the joy on an employee's face as they recount a youth or family's success. That is what really keeps me going every day and why I love being an administrator. Knowing that I'm leading a team that is building successful programs and changing lives all across Southern Illinois is everything to me!"

At St. John Bosco Children's Center

11,289

days of Residential Care
(24/7 care for an average
of 31 children per day)
were provided .

14

children returned
home or to a
foster home

Caritas Day highlighted 70th anniversary

Throughout 2017 and until one year following the actual anniversary date, we celebrated our 70th anniversary of incorporation as a nonprofit agency on July 31, 1947. Although we've been known as Caritas Family Solutions since 2014, we have an established history and a tradition of caring for people all across Southern Illinois, which is certainly something to celebrate!



Ribbon Cutting for the renovated Komlos Rumpus Room at St. John Bosco Children's Center on Caritas Day 2017

The highlight of the celebrations was our inaugural Caritas Day on July 31, 2017. This special day was designed to connect staff, volunteers, donors and the community with the mission of Caritas Family Solutions in support of the many individuals, children and families we have served over the years. While online donations to continue our services was the focus, volunteer projects and donation drives rounded out the day. A special ribbon cutting was held at our new Belleville location following renovations to the "rumpus room" at St. John Bosco Children's Center and a Grand Opening for the Resource Center for agency clients brought several visitors from the community. Volunteers were active at several other agency locations and completed projects that saved thousands in time and labor costs for the agency. Overall the day was an amazing success, so much that it has already 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!

2018 Fund a Need: Capital projects

At the 2018 Heart & Soul Annual Gala in February 2018, guests raised an amazing **\$50,000** for capital projects throughout the agency. From renovations at the regional office in Carterville that converted unused space into three counseling rooms to the purchase of a new office building in Mt. Vernon to accommodate increasing numbers of clients and staff, the funds were put to good use. Projects in Belleville and East Alton are ongoing. All the proposed projects were necessary to address the growth in services provided by Caritas Family Solutions in today's challenging environment. We are grateful to all those who contributed.



"The regional office in Carterville recently renovated some space in order to accommodate counseling clients and allow families a visiting room. This has benefited our clients by providing a private hallway directly to the counselors and visitation room. Previously, clients had to walk past many staff offices decreasing confidentiality and privacy. Counseling is something that many people often desire to keep private, and we want to respect our clients by providing a separate environment for them. This also increases the ability of our staff to have confidential conversations. As a result of renovating our building, we will make an impact in the Southern Illinois area because we now have the space and the resources to better serve the community. These building improvements would not have been possible without the generous donations from individuals and businesses in the area."

Karen Henderson,
Regional Director
in Carterville

134

Participants in the

Senior Community Service
Employment Program (SCSEP)

logged **67,926** community service hours!

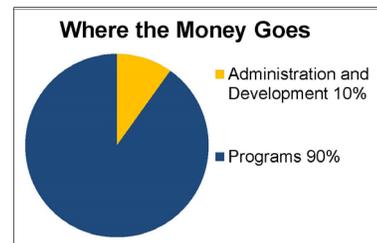
38

low income seniors
were served at

Fox River Apartments
Assisted Living

Financial Summary *for fiscal year ending June 30, 2018*

Support and Revenue:	2018	2017	2016
Grants and Contracts	\$19,982,697	\$17,557,568	\$13,781,452
Program Service Fees	922,681	\$977,431	\$1,452,734
Contributions	673,467	\$472,464	\$512,394
Fundraising Events (net)	97,744	\$138,798	\$204,688
Rental Income	257,262	\$122,258	\$21,513
Management Fee Income	8,064	\$114,853	—
Miscellaneous Income	997	\$880	\$5,315
Investment Income	76,066	\$88,185	\$7,561
Gain (loss) on sale of property/equipment	3,070	(757)	—
Net assets released from restrictions	142,893	\$292,644	\$53,173
Total Support & Revenue	\$22,164,941	\$19,764,324	\$16,038,830
Expenses:			
<i>Program Services:</i>			
Foster Care	12,761,667	\$11,843,925	\$10,388,854
Residential Treatment	3,296,636	\$2,628,267	\$1,622,592
CILA	985,132	\$955,912	\$719,037
Senior Employment	956,691	\$633,729	\$346,192
Adoption, Counseling and Other	401,495	\$382,257	\$396,393
Fox River Apartments	557,364	\$535,466	\$383,706
Management and General	2,372,007	\$2,159,799	\$1,879,967
Rental Expense	117,767	\$97,486	—
Total Expenses	\$21,511,573	\$19,236,841	\$15,736,741
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	(37,501)	(\$161,750)	\$143,274
Change in Net Assets	\$1,559,962	\$365,733	\$445,363
Assets:			
Cash	420,146	\$237,593	\$455,879
Accounts Receivable, net	2,140,589	\$1,847,758	\$1,198,447
Pledges Receivable	15,000	\$17,000	63,000
Certificate of Deposit	120,841	\$75,234	\$75,046
Investments, at fair value	732,704	\$668,600	\$591,456
Prepaid Expenses	255,889	\$224,577	\$216,283
Total Current Assets	\$3,685,169	\$3,070,762	\$2,600,111
Property and Equipment (Net)	7,233,353	\$5,520,276	\$4,625,962
Total Assets	\$11,071,622	\$8,591,038	\$7,226,073
Liabilities and Net Assets:			
Current Maturities of Notes Payable	1,012,822	\$346,145	\$328,295
Line of Credit	—	\$125,000	—
Accounts Payable	670,892	\$539,948	\$533,107
Accrued salaries and related expenses	1,288,788	\$1,082,091	\$749,934
Other Accrued Liabilities	110,576	\$90,670	\$128,931
Deferred revenue	—	—	\$48,213
Notes Payable, less current maturities	4,108,817	\$4,087,419	\$3,500,944
Net Assets: Unrestricted	3,819,531	\$2,222,068	\$1,740,202
Net Assets: Temporarily Restricted	60,196	\$97,697	\$196,447
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	11,071,622	\$8,591,038	\$7,226,073



**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 FY2018, please visit caritasfamilysolutions.org/about/financials

FY2019 Budget:
\$24.5 million

17 Adults with developmental disabilities were served in our

Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILA) homes



Volunteers help us grow and make a difference

Sometimes all you can do is plant seeds and hope they flourish. Then it may take years for roots to establish themselves before noticeable growth occurs. Such is often the case when cultivating volunteers, and measuring their impact. Sue Schwegel is a case in point.

Sue was first introduced to our agency several years ago at her parish, Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Alton, Illinois. She knew a few parishioners who are agency employees and had participated in donation drives for our clients in the past. When she saw an article in the newspaper about our CEO, Gary Huelsmann, who is also a resident of Alton and a parishioner at Sts. Peter and Paul, she invited him to be a guest speaker at the next meeting of the Altar Sodality. From there, her commitment to the agency blossomed.

Impressed by the dedicated staff she has met at our regional office in East Alton and through an open house in Belleville, she first volunteered to be a Secret Santa for children in foster care. She began collecting toys together with students at Sts. Peter and Paul School and the Altar Sodality "as a way to bring children and adults together on a charitable project." This led to a campaign with the Council on Catholic Women to collect underwear and socks. They called it "Over the Toe and Under the Nose." Some of the students realized for the first time that some kids don't have new underwear and it "was a real eye-opener." This campaign idea spread to other parishes, and now many also hold fundraising events and donate the cash proceeds or gift cards to be used by the agency wherever it is needed most for children in foster care.

Married for 53 years, with three children and five grandchildren, Sue is no stranger to dedicated work. She has always put family first. But she realizes that "there are so many challenges in today's society, and people need help to cope." She feels for her peers who are grandparents raising grandchildren, which is another reason she supports the agency. Sue is also a supporter of efforts to combat human trafficking. She is amazed at how many needs exist, and is excited about learning more about our newest program, Fontebella Maternity Home.

You know what they say about all work and no play. In addition to the toy and clothing collections, Sue is a veteran volunteer at our annual Trivia Night in East Alton, where she serves as a judge. This will be her third year and she loves it. "You always have a wonderful crowd which makes it exciting."

What began from community outreach activities developed into a long-time friendship that has blessed hundreds of people. Sue Schwegel is just an example of so many good hearted members of the community who wish to be a part of our mission as volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator Kate Williams at 618-213-8716 or Kaitlin.Williams@caritasfamily.org.

"I have personally witnessed how devoted Caritas Family Solutions is to their clients. I have been in foster care since I was 14 and entering my freshman year in high school. Over the years, the staff at Caritas have been witnesses to my growth as a person and have helped me in every way that they could to succeed in my life journey."

Bree, age 19 and a student at SIUE, was guest speaker at the 2018 Heart & Soul Gala



512

children entered **Foster Care***

305

children achieved permanency (returned to biological home or adopted)

1,501

total children and their families were served, assisted by the loving hospitality of

998

 foster homes

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

THANK YOU!

During the 2018 fiscal year, more than 759 individuals, 279 businesses, 107 organizations, and 17 foundations invested in Caritas Family Solutions. Almost 500 volunteers donated more than 5,517 hours of time, a fair market value of \$136,215.

Thanks to the generosity of these incredible donors, we raised \$912,871 in FY 2018. More and more of you are helping us address social and emotional issues in our communities. As a result, we're able to help more people reach their full potential.

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!



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



WE CAN PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

your voice could be a child's only chance

protect the innocent. defend the abused. stand with survivors. be a voice.