



FIRST RESPONDERS 2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Jacksonville
Children's
Commission

Helping Jacksonville Grow Great Kids



LETTER FROM OUR LEADERS

For two decades, the Jacksonville Children's Commission has worked with hundreds of local nonprofit organizations to help children become educated, safe and healthy. We leverage city, state, federal and foundation funds, in-kind contributions, and volunteer resources to make a positive difference for children in Jacksonville. The Commission-provided funding delivered to our nonprofit partners goes even further, garnering additional resources and thousands of volunteers that expands support for Jacksonville's most vulnerable children and families and provides an impressive return on investment.

Our activities and partnerships improve the outcomes for Jacksonville's children while simultaneously saving taxpayer dollars; our Healthy Families program saves taxpayers \$72 for every \$1.80 spent by giving families who are the most at risk for abuse and neglect the tools to be good parents in the home and keeping them out of "the system"; our nationally recognized afterschool programs have continually shown in both yearly and national evaluations to produce better attendance and promotion rates; and our mentor training program has shown that children participating in the program are 46 percent less likely to start using drugs and 27 percent less likely to start drinking in relation to their peers. In short, investing in our children now means investing in our future, and it's the one of the most prudent and cost-effective investments the public can make.

This 2013-14 annual report showcases our work over the past year and provides an overview of the many wonderful programs and partners dedicated to Jacksonville's children and families. We are proud of the work we've done, but there's still much to do. Our continuing goal is to make a massive positive difference for the greatest number of children in the shortest period of time.

Sincerely,



Elder Lee Harris, Board Chair



Jon Heymann, CEO/Executive Director

"Every dollar invested in quality early childhood development for disadvantaged children produces a 7 to 10 percent return, per child, per year."

*James J. Heckman, Ph.D.
2000 Nobel Prize Winner in
Economics*

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INTRODUCTION



Our mission at the Jacksonville Children's Commission is to help families raise their children to be educated, safe and healthy. Along with our community partners, we work to ensure that critical needs of children in Jacksonville are met, so that they each have the opportunity to:

- Grow and develop during out-of-school time
- Enter kindergarten prepared to learn

- Have stable, nurturing families
- Get special help when they need it

As service providers for the physical, mental, emotional and educational needs of our community's most vulnerable children, we serve as the first line of defense for Duval County families in need. The Commission, along with its partners, responded to thousands of low-income children citywide in FY 2013-14, and each initiative and program was monitored and evaluated for quality and effectiveness.

With a combined budget of over \$31 million in local, state, federal and private dollars, the Commission is the first line of defense for families in need throughout our city. From advocating on behalf of more than 17,000 uninsured Jacksonville children, to treating 867 young people with outpatient mental health services, to serving more than 240,000 snacks to youth living in poverty, we are changing lives and brightening futures through proven early intervention programs.

We are also impacting the lives of at-risk teens, offering comprehensive case management, skills development and transitional housing assistance to 808 homeless youth aged 16-18 through a partnership with the Youth Crisis Center, Daniel Memorial, Sulzbacher Center and PACE Center for Girls.

The Commission's role as a first responder for vulnerable families in Jacksonville is transforming the lives of children, and represents an investment in our community's future. Children who receive our support services are more likely to stay in school, stay out of trouble and grow into productive adults. We are proud of what we've accomplished together and look forward to the work ahead.



GUIDING PRINCIPLE

CHILDREN GROW AND DEVELOP DURING OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME

OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS

Afterschool programs have been shown to improve academic achievement and reduce juvenile crime. According to numerous studies, at-risk students who participate in high quality afterschool programs have better attendance, standardized test scores and promotion rates than their peers. The Commission funds quality afterschool programs for children in school and community-based locations throughout Jacksonville, including three sites serving children with special needs. Based on FCAT levels, 72.5% of the students served are considered academically challenged, and 78.4% qualified for free or reduced lunch. To mitigate learning loss over the summer break, summer nutrition and learning programs are funded as well.

SCHOOL-BASED AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Commission partners with Duval County Public Schools and various youth-serving agencies to operate TEAM UP in 44 public schools.

8,069 YOUTH ATTENDED TEAM UP PROGRAMS, AND
7,766 ATTENDED FOR 30 DAYS OR MORE.

- Elementary school TEAM UP participants had a 20% better attendance rate than non-participants. 94% of participants were promoted to the next grade, compared to 91.3% of non-participants.
- Middle school TEAM UP participants had a 5.6% better attendance rate than non-participants. 96% of participants were promoted to the next grade, compared to 93.1% of non-participants.

COMMUNITY-BASED AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Community-based afterschool programs provide academic support and enrichment activities, such as field trips, sports and arts. Community-based sites are located throughout the city in various nonprofit facilities, park and recreation sites, and housing development community centers. The mission of Community-based afterschool programs is to improve the academic achievement and social skills of at-risk children, while providing a safe and structured environment for children to learn and grow.

2,411 YOUTH ATTENDED COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS.
1,887 ATTENDED FOR 30 DAYS OR MORE.

- 94% of participants were promoted to the next grade, a 5% increase from FY 2012-13.
- 79% of participants had fewer than 10 days of school absence.



Matthew, right, 12, helps out Aaminah, 10, in the computer math class during an afterschool TEAM UP program in Jacksonville.

AFTERSCHOOL PROVIDERS

The Boselli Foundation
Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida
The Bridge of Northeast Florida, Inc.
The Carpenter's Shop Center, Inc.
Communities In Schools of Jacksonville, Inc.
Community Connections of Jacksonville, Inc.
YMCA of Florida's First Coast
Hope Haven Children's Clinic and Family Center

DLC Nurse and Learn, Inc.
Girls, Inc.
MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation
PACE Center for Girls, Inc.
PoliceAthleticLeagueofJacksonville,Inc.

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

Copious research has demonstrated that young people experience learning losses when they don't engage in educational activities during the summer, and this effect is magnified in lower-income students. To address the summer learning loss, the Commission supports a wide variety of summer camps lasting from five to eight weeks. Camps are focused around a variety of topics and activities, including science, technology, engineering, math, tennis and art, and all camp programs are required to include an academic component. Children aged 5-15 living in Duval County are eligible for services.

5,694

CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN THE SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM.



Jacksonville children learn how to surf during a Commission funded summer camp program.

THE WALLACE FOUNDATION: OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME (OST) SYSTEM BUILDING INITIATIVE

Significant progress has been achieved with our OST system building initiative to strengthen afterschool programs. Through a continued focus on Improving Quality, Expanding Participation and Enhancing Reliable Data we are working to create a stronger, more efficient system to support the education, health and safety of children in Jacksonville. In collaboration with the public and private sector, we've worked to engage the support of parents, the public school system, and the Mayor's office. With this strong team of support, we can ensure sustainability and alignment within afterschool programs to meet the critical needs of Jacksonville's children.

- NEW** • PROGRAM LOCATOR TOOL: Features an interactive map of afterschool and summer camp locations, program details, images sorted by zip code and city council district with address lookup. There were more than 3,800 visits between May and October 2014.
- NEW** • WEBSITE: The Commission's newly updated website (JaxKids.net) received more than 23,900 visits between March and October 2014. With video, featured stories, social media links and detailed descriptions of our programs and mission, our web presence now serves as an effective communication platform to all prospective audiences.
- NEW** • FLORIDA AFTERSCHOOL NETWORK (FAN) STANDARDS: With collaboration and support of the community and OST experts, the Commission has adopted the FAN Standards as a benchmark for its funded afterschool programs. FAN Standards training for afterschool providers is now part of the JCC Training Institute's curriculum with over 20 providers completing the course by the end of FY 13-14. Classes will be offered through 2015.
- NEW** • RESEARCH, ANALYSIS AND COLLABORATION: We are now working with The Northeast Florida Center for Community Initiatives (CCI) at The University of North Florida for in depth analysis of data. JCC has sought inclusive collaboration for this initiative by working with many organizations individually and collectively.
- NEW** • EVENTS: On May 9, 2014, the community came together to host "Soaring Beyond School Walls", a celebration of afterschool programs with more than 300 guests, including Mayor Alvin Brown, Superintendent Dr. Nikolai Vitti and local, state and national experts. The event was designed to build city-wide consensus, cooperation and momentum for strengthening Jacksonville's afterschool programs.



Supporting ideas.
Sharing solutions.
Expanding opportunities.

COVER JACKSONVILLE

In July of 2014, the National League of Cities (NLC) selected Jacksonville as one of eight cities across the US to receive a \$260,000 grant to address uninsured children of working families. With that, Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown appointed the City's first ever Health Commissioner, State Representative Mia Jones, and the Cover Jacksonville campaign was launched.

As Health Commissioner, Jones leads Cover Jacksonville, a campaign developed with Mayor Brown, Duval County Public Schools Superintendent Nikolai Vitti, JCC CEO Jon Heymann and other community leaders. The campaign targets families with parents who make too much money to qualify for Medicaid coverage but don't make enough to pay high insurance premiums.



Mayor Alvin Brown



State Rep. Mia Jones

National League of Cities praises Jacksonville

By Beth Reese Cravey Thu, Jul 17, 2014 @ 4:36 pm | updated Thu, Jul 17, 2014 @ 4:49 pm

Jacksonville's ongoing efforts to improve its young people's lives have not gone unnoticed.

A team from the National League of Cities was in town this week to announce Jacksonville's selection for two league-funded initiatives, one focusing on child health insurance, the other on black male achievement.

The city was selected for both programs because of its forward-thinking and collaborative approaches, said Clarence Anthony, the league's executive director.

"Jacksonville is leading," he said. "Jacksonville is developing programs that other cities all across America are looking at and trying to mimic. It is rare we come to a community and make two significant announcements."

Jacksonville.com

Cover Jacksonville builds on existing enrollment efforts and leverages community partnerships and existing resources in order to reduce the number of uninsured Duval County children by 20% by December 2015. In addition, the campaign also aims to provide access to more affordable health insurance options for adults seeking coverage. Through collaborative efforts, the partners will focus on four strategies for enrollment:

- Building capacity through training about the Florida KidCare program.
- Raising awareness through outreach, social media and events (www.coverjax211.com).
- Establishing a single point of access through 2-1-1.
- Identifying uninsured children through a public school pilot.

Cover Jacksonville's key partners include State Representative and Jacksonville Health Commissioner Mia Jones; Duval County Public Schools; Enroll America; the Florida Department of Children and Families; the Florida Department of Health in Duval County; THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health at Wolfson Children's Hospital; United Way of Northeast Florida; the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida; the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition; and the Northeast Florida Center for Community Initiatives at UNF.



Bridging The Gap For The Uninsured



NUTRITION SERVICES

Food insecurity and hunger can adversely affect children and pose long-term challenges, including physical and mental development, social and emotional well-being, academic readiness and numerous health risks. To help ensure Jacksonville's children have healthy food that fosters health, social and educational development, the Commission continued to support afterschool and summer nutrition programs.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

241,083 LUNCHES AND **197,743** SNACKS WERE SERVED TO YOUTH.

- 569 community volunteers and 73 seasonal staff were trained to assist with the implementation of program operations.
- 179 Summer BreakSpot sites were located in areas where 50% or more of local children qualified for the free or reduced lunch program. Sites operated in various faith-based institutions, public libraries, non-public schools, apartment complexes, early learning centers, city parks, summer camps, one hospital and one mobile unit.

NUTRITION EDUCATION

- 563 students were provided nutrition education on Serving Up MyPlate: A Yummy Curriculum.

AFTERSCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM

7,260 CHILDREN ENROLLED IN THE AFTERSCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM.

- 631,273 suppers and 332,182 snacks were served during the school year.
- 239 afterschool program staff were provided nutrition education and training to assist with the implementation of program operations.
- Meals were provided at 44 school-based sites, including two special needs and 14 community-based sites.

Mobile Feeding Units

The Commission launched its first mobile unit to address identified pockets of poverty in underserved areas. For many children and their families, the mobile site provided immediate and safe access to meals when transportation to a site was not feasible or walking may have posed safety concerns. The mobile unit served nearly 75 children each day at 3 locations. There are plans to expand the Summer Food Service Program by utilizing the mobile feeding unit in Summer 2015.



A child receives a lunch from a mobile feeding unit in Jacksonville.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

CHILDREN ENTER KINDERGARTEN PREPARED TO LEARN

EARLY LEARNING: QUALITY COACHING, TRAINING & ASSESSMENT

Children who attend high quality preschools have higher test scores, fewer behavior problems and higher rates of high school graduation. Because the benefits of early childhood education are directly linked to the quality of instruction, the Commission supports coaching, training and assessment activities for early learning teachers and directors.

University of Florida's Lastinger Center launched a new project in May 2014 through a partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of Duval and Commission-funded Early Learning Coaches. Early Learning Coaches from Episcopal Children's Services and JCC are the first in the state to participate in the Early Learning Coaching Certification Program.

The Lastinger Center has developed a coaching model to help coaches support teachers in improving their instructional strategies and child outcomes. Studies show that sustained support, such as coaching, can lead to significant gains in teacher knowledge across all contexts no matter what environment children are in (public, private or home-based).



A teacher in a toddler classroom receives instruction from an Early Learning Coach.

- Coaching is a successful professional development strategy to increase teacher implementation of new learning/practices in early learning environments. (e.g. Fox, Hemmeter, Snyder, Binder & Clarke, 2011; Hindman & Wasik, 2012; Hsieh et al., 2009; Neuman & Cunningham, 2009; Onchwari & Keengwe 2010; Pianta et al., 2008; Shidler, 2009).
- 28 Early Learning Coaches provided intensive weekly training and professional development to teachers and center directors.

6,324

CHILDREN BENEFITTED FROM IMPROVED TEACHER SKILLS AND HIGHER QUALITY LEARNING PROGRAMS.

- 643 teachers in 287 preschool classrooms and 356 infant/toddler classrooms who were provided weekly coaching focused on increasing their instructional effectiveness.
- 116 child care centers provided weekly coaching support in every classroom.

EARLY LITERACY: JAXKIDS BOOK CLUB

9,772

CHILDREN JOINED THE JAXKIDS BOOK CLUB IN 2013-14.

- 117,264 books were distributed to Book Club members to promote early literacy prior to entering kindergarten in FY 2013-14.
- Financial support during FY13-14 was provided by the following corporations: the Boeing Company, Early Learning Coalition of Duval, Inc., Florida Blue, The GATE Foundation, Jacksonville Jaguars, LLC, JM Family Enterprises/Southeast Toyota Distributors, LLC, and Regency Centers.



Inaugural year Book Club members pose with the first book of the collection "I Can Read".

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

CHILDREN HAVE STABLE, NURTURING FAMILIES

HEALTHY FAMILIES JACKSONVILLE

Healthy Families Florida is an evidence-based, voluntary home visiting program that is proven to prevent child abuse/neglect and improve outcomes for Florida's highest-risk families. The Commission serves as headquarters for this work in Jacksonville. Services begin prenatally or at birth and promote positive parent-child relationships, child health and development and increased family stability and self-sufficiency.

555 HIGH-RISK FAMILIES AND 1,137 INFANTS AND CHILDREN RECEIVED SERVICES, SUPPORT AND EDUCATION FROM A TRAINED IN-HOME VISITOR.

- 95% of children tracked did not experience abuse, neglect or abandonment more than one year after completion of the program.
- 98% of the participants and their children were connected to a medical provider.
- 96% of target children over 24 months old received the most recent well-child checks according to the recommended CDC schedule.
- 97% of mothers enrolled in the project did not have a subsequent pregnancy within two years of the target child's birth.



Shown: Amy and her daughter, Ava, next to their Healthy Families FSW Michelle Jones.



my began participating in Healthy Families in January 2011 when her daughter Ava was three months old. Read her story in her own words:

"At that time, I was going through postpartum depression. The Healthy Families program has been helpful by giving me ideas to help me feel better about being a mom. I feel that my Family Support Worker (FSW) has provided much needed support and through these and other services. I have become a stronger person and a good role model for my daughter.

The home visits provided a specific time that I could look forward to learning, especially when Ava was an infant. Since being in Healthy Families, I have become involved in three Mother's groups in the community. Through this, I am able to organize and go to play-dates for Ava and myself. I have also been able to give back to Healthy Families by talking to other parents at the monthly gathering and sharing my experiences with different mother's groups. The Healthy Families program is very good, especially for first time moms, because they give good advice on all types of topics, like safety guides and discipline ideas. Much of my success came from this program."

GRANDS/RAPPJAX

The Jacksonville Children's Commission partners with Aging True to support the Relatives as Parents Program through Grands/RAPPJAX. In addition to providing training, support and referrals for grandparents and other non-parent relatives raising children, this program provides valuable opportunities for caregivers to meet and share their experiences.

35 GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER NON-PARENT CAREGIVERS WERE PROVIDED WITH EDUCATIONAL TRAINING, SUPPORT, RESOURCES AND REFERRALS BY A MENTAL WELLNESS COUNSELOR.

- Participating families received a monthly newsletter, transportation and a holiday meal.



Shown: Kamia visiting with farm animals.

Kamia is just one of many students with special needs who attend DLC Nurse & Learn. When Kamia first started DLC she had been recently diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. Her parents were in desperate need of a childcare facility that could care for Kamia and keep up with her medical needs every day. They tried, without success, to find a quality child care center that offers VPK before calling DLC. They were both very distraught and felt they were running out of options for Kamia.

Kamia now attends our VPK program in Mrs. Erley's class, and she is such a sweet and fun-loving young girl. She made friends quickly, and is a very bright student. When she first started DLC her insulin levels were very unstable and our nurse, Mina Geisel, sat with her parents for over an hour making sure she wrote down the correct procedure for when Kamia needed her insulin shot and what worked for them in the past.

Fortunately, our staff has been able to get Kamia to have more stable insulin levels during the school day. This has been done by successfully charting what she's been eating, and what foods cause her insulin levels to drop too low, or spike too high.

In Kamia's case, diabetes is her special need. If our childcare center was not part of the community, Kamia's mother or father would be forced to stay home with her and regulate her insulin levels on their own, without the help of a trained nurse or medical personnel. We are certain that we have prevented Kamia from having to be hospitalized, and our medical staff has been working tirelessly to make sure her insulin levels become stable. We were able to intervene at the right time, and we have also been coaching her parents about the proper food, exercise and lifestyle for a young child with diabetes.

**Written by DLC Nurse & Learn*

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

CHILDREN GET SPECIAL HELP WHEN THEY NEED IT

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAMS:

NEW HEIGHTS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA AND DLC NURSE & LEARN

These programs provide therapeutic services to children with special needs due to conditions such as Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Microcephaly, and other medically complex situations preventing them from attending other programs.

353 CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS RECEIVED THERAPY, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, SELF-HELP SKILLS TRAINING AND NORMALIZED ACTIVITIES THROUGH IN-HOME AND AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS.

- 95% of students increased their developmental/adaptive areas as described in their Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals.
- 100% of participants maintained and improved their performance in functional academics during the 2013-14 school year.*
- 85% of children showed measurable improvement in self-help/adaptive functioning and fine motor/ daily living skills.
- 100% of parents reported that their children benefitted from services as evidenced from the parent survey.

*Hope Haven Children's Clinic and Family Center and the Police Athletic League of Jacksonville also provide afterschool programs for children with special needs (see more on this topic on page 3).



Children participate in summer camp activities.

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, teen pregnancy and childbearing have both immediate and long-term costs for teen parents and their children; pregnancy and birth are also a significant factor in high school drop-out rates among girls. Bridge Connection I provides intensive case management to boys and girls ages 9-14 to prevent teen parenthood.

99% OF THE 221 MALE AND FEMALE PARTICIPANTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE PROGRAM.

- 98% of youth who actively participated in the program were promoted to the next grade level.

ALTERNATIVE TO TRUANCY AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ATOSS)

Students suspended for 1-10 days are sent to an ATOSS center so they can continue to learn and receive additional support from a certified teacher, a social worker and a truant officer. *An attendance unit is defined as each day a student attends the center.

13,240 ATTENDANCE UNITS WERE REPORTED FROM FIVE ATOSS CENTERS IN 2013-14.

HELP FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS

Sulzbacher Center Teaching Enhancement

232 CHILDREN WERE SERVED IN THE COMMISSION-SPONSORED PROGRAM AT THE SULZBACHER CENTER.

- 100% of the parents residing at the Center were trained to recognize timely childhood developmental milestones.
- 100% of children identified as developmentally delayed were linked to resources designed to prevent academic failure.

YOUTH TRAVEL TRUST FUND

The City of Jacksonville granted the Commission authority, upon appropriation by the City Council, for determining and authorizing funds from the Youth Travel Trust fund for certain types of youth travel that may be deemed a valid public purpose. It was the intent of the Council that the Youth Travel Grant Program be established to recognize exemplary achievement or performance that resulted in an invitation requiring travel.

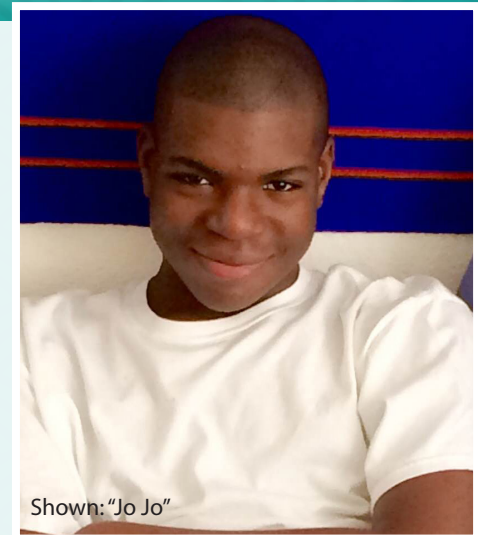
Last year the Commission appropriated nearly \$33,000 for student-related travel. The grantees included Daniel Memorial's Project Prepare, Young Christians in Action, Jacksonville Children's Chorus, the Police Athletic League and Project 180.



Joseph "Jo Jo", 13, a student at Matthew Gilbert Middle School, gets homework help from volunteer Craig Linsky in the Sulzbacher Center tutoring program funded by the Jacksonville Children's Commission. Joseph came to the Sulzbacher Center with a poor GPA of 1.5 and displayed characteristics of an at-risk potential dropout student.

JCC provided resources for tutoring services, and Joseph's attitude about school has changed drastically. He wants to be a teacher when he gets older, and consistently checks his homework with his volunteer tutor. Joseph now has a 2.7 GPA and his goal is to keep improving.

The Children's Program at the Sulzbacher Center has a staff committed to education. By building relationships with homeless children and utilizing funded resources, the staff ensures our children are also having fun along the way.



Shown: "Jo Jo"

CASE MANAGEMENT FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The Commission supports comprehensive case management, skills development and transitional housing assistance for homeless youth ages 16-18.

808

YOUTH RECEIVED CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FUNDED BY THE COMMISSION AND IMPLEMENTED BY YOUTH CRISIS CENTER, DANIEL MEMORIAL AND PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS.

- 99% of youth admitted to these programs completed the program without being expelled from school, running away from home or being adjudicated by the courts.
- 77% of clients were discharged from the programs with stable housing and employment.
- 98% of the youth were enrolled in an educational program.
- 95% of program graduates were not re-arrested.

Sisters Daniele and Lexi were referred to PACE in the spring of 2014. Their family was in direct need of services. They were living in a homeless shelter. Their family had a history of unstable living conditions, and both girls have a history of trauma and depression. The girls were very resentful toward their mom due to their homelessness, and it was one of the contributing factors of their depression and unwillingness to attend school. Because of the tenacity of PACE Jacksonville, the staff and family developed a trusting relationship leading the family to accept the services available to them.

Today, the girls are attending school regularly and receiving therapy, case management and afterschool enrichment. Their PACE counselor meets with the family monthly in-home. The family is now in a stable home environment, the girls are responding positively to counseling and their grades have improved. PACE Jacksonville provided the family with a meal basket, numerous toiletries, winter coats and king-size mattresses during the holidays.

It is through the smiles and successes of sisters like Daniele and Lexi that the staff of PACE Jacksonville are motivated to continue their work for children and families in our community.



Shown: Daniele and Lexi with their Mother.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mental health issues can negatively affect the functionality and success of children throughout their lives. According to the U.S. Department of Education, suspension and expulsion rates for children with mental illness are three times higher than their peers. Approximately 50% of students ages 14 and older with mental health conditions drop out of high school – the highest dropout rate of any disability group. Studies show that early intervention efforts, such as those supported by the Commission, can improve school readiness, health status and academic achievement and reduce the need for grade retention, special education services and welfare dependency.

COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

867 CHILDREN AND YOUTH RECEIVED OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

- 86% of clients who completed community-based treatment increased their functioning as measured by a therapeutic assessment scale.

FULL SERVICE SCHOOLS OF JACKSONVILLE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1,494 YOUTH RECEIVED MENTAL HEALTH AND/OR BEHAVIORAL SERVICES.

- 97% of clients who completed treatment increased on the Children's Functional Assessment Rating Scale (CFARS).
- 100% of parents or guardians reported overall satisfaction with the services received.



JACKSONVILLE SYSTEM OF CARE INITIATIVE

In 2010, the Commission received a \$9 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) and contracts with the Partnership for Child Health, the implementing agency, to facilitate the transformation of Northeast Florida's mental health services. The transformation into a system of care integrates home and community-based support for youth with serious emotional disturbances. Our program is family-driven, youth-guided and culturally responsive.

1,040 CHILDREN AGES 0-5 WERE SCREENED AND REFERRED FOR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL ISSUES.

- 495 high-risk foster care children and youth were screened and referred for physical and behavioral health issues.
- More than 7,000 adolescents were screened for suicide and depression by their pediatricians.
- More than 1,200 children 0-5 were screened for early childhood emotional and behavioral problems by their pediatricians.
- 1,913 provider staff, youth and families received training in cultural competency and evidence-based practices.
- 181 girls received individual and group therapy through the Giving Girls a Voice program in partnership with the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center.



THE JACKSONVILLE CHILDREN'S COMMISSION TRAINING INSTITUTE

The Jacksonville Children's Commission's Training Institute readily engages youth programs and other nonprofit agencies to attend relevant trainings to improve the quality of our workforce. The Training Institute is committed to this success by improving technology for ease of online training registration and reminder emails. All trainings are offered at low or no-cost to the public to encourage access to resources. Our partnership with SAMSHA, Jacksonville System of Care and Wallace Grant has helped secure funding to improve the quality of our training facility and upgrade technology to attract trainers and guest speakers from numerous organizations and areas of expertise. Participants evaluate trainings and this data is recorded to further evaluate and improve our services.

MENTOR TRAINING

816 NEW MENTORS WERE TRAINED AND SCREENED AT NO-COST TO THE MENTOR.

- In February 2014, the Introduction to Mentoring training was updated to reflect current trends and best practices in youth mentoring.
- Mentors primarily went to the following agencies: Big Brothers Big Sisters, Communities In Schools, United Way's Achievers For Life and Take Stock in Children.
- Several new agencies were added this year to expand services to children: Kim's Open Door, Teen Leaders of America, Vision For Excellence, Annie Ruth Foundation and R.A.D.I.A.N.C.E.

ANNUAL TRAININGS

Trainings are provided for community members and professional youth workers throughout the year. The Jacksonville Children's Commission is able to provide CEs and CEUs for continuing education credits for licensed therapists and early learning center teachers and directors.

2,101 PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED A TOTAL OF 241 TRAINING CLASSES AT LITTLE OR NO-COST.

- Participants who attended trainings exhibited a 13% to 43% range of knowledge gained, depending on the training and individual skill level.
- Partnered with Duval County Public Schools Parent Academy and the Jacksonville Public Library to offer training for 150 summer camp provider staff.
- More than 60 individuals attended a back to school kick off event for TEAM UP and community-based afterschool programs in August of 2014.



Volunteers go through JCC's mentor training program.

NEW TOWN SUCCESS ZONE

Together with a broad range of community stakeholders, the Commission continued to support a place-based continuum of care for children and their families living in the New Town neighborhood, located west of Downtown Jacksonville and East of the Farmer's Market behind Edward Waters College. Leveraging an investment of \$90,000 from the Commission, New Town Success Zone attracted an additional \$515,000 to support its activities.

200

NEW TOWN CHILDREN WERE PROVIDED WITH FREE VISION AND HEARING SCREENING AND 200 RECEIVED FREE PHYSICALS DURING AN AUGUST 2013 BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT PROVIDED BY VOLUNTEERS FROM CELEBRATION CHURCH, ST. VINCENT'S HEALTHCARE, BAPTIST HEALTH AND THE FILIPINO MEDICAL SOCIETY.

- 75 boys and girls from S.P. Livingston Elementary School, Eugene Butler Leadership academy and William M. Raines were matched with mentors from Edward Waters College, University of North Florida and Florida State College at Jacksonville for the school year.
- 25 homes were built or repaired by Habijax in 2014.
- A partnership with the University of Florida has provided residents with the opportunity to participate in clinical trials and health research; participants were also connected with needed social services.

MENTORING

The Commission provides funding and oversight for mentoring programs that match elementary, middle and high school-aged children with a caring adult. The programs are operated by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida, The Bridge of Northeast Florida, Wayman Community Development Corporation and Take Stock in Children.

1,134

CHILDREN WERE LINKED TO A CARING ADULT THROUGH COMMISSION-FUNDED MENTOR PROGRAMS.

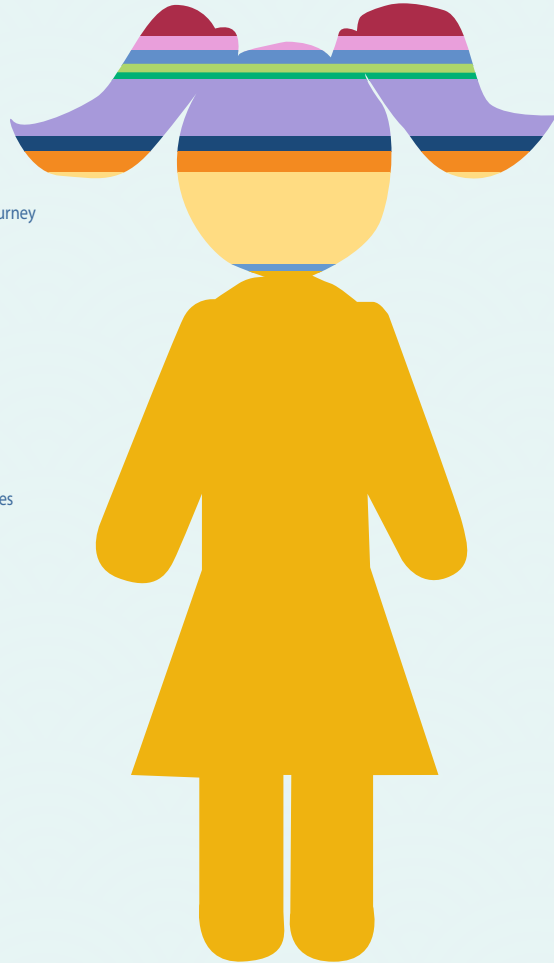
- 92% of students who participated in a mentoring program have been promoted to the next grade level, while 95% showed conduct improvement as indicated by report cards and parents.
- 100% of students with at least two years of mentoring graduated from high school.
- 94% of students entered college with a Florida Prepaid scholarship.
- 95% of mentored students improved their school attendance and were absent from school less than 21 days.



A mentor provides help and guidance to a Jacksonville youth.

FINANCES

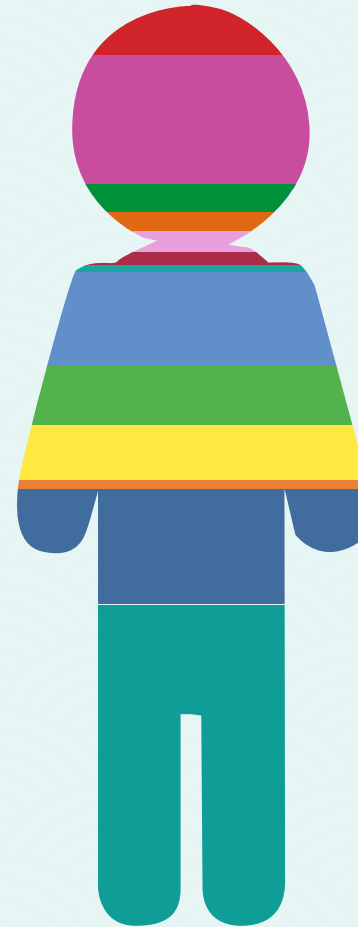
ACTUAL REVENUES



- City of Jacksonville, Jacksonville Journey \$1,064,568
- Miscellaneous Contributions \$497,696
- Fund Balance \$500,000
- National League of Cities COVER JAX \$157,500
- Duval County School Board \$294,300
- US Dept. of Health & Human Services \$1,988,337
- FL Dept of Education 21st Century Grants \$462,552
- Florida Ounce of Prevention Fund \$666,728
- US Dept of Agriculture \$2,965,961
- Wallace Foundation \$270,013
- City of Jacksonville, General Fund \$22,008,767

\$30,876,422

ACTUAL EXPENDITURES



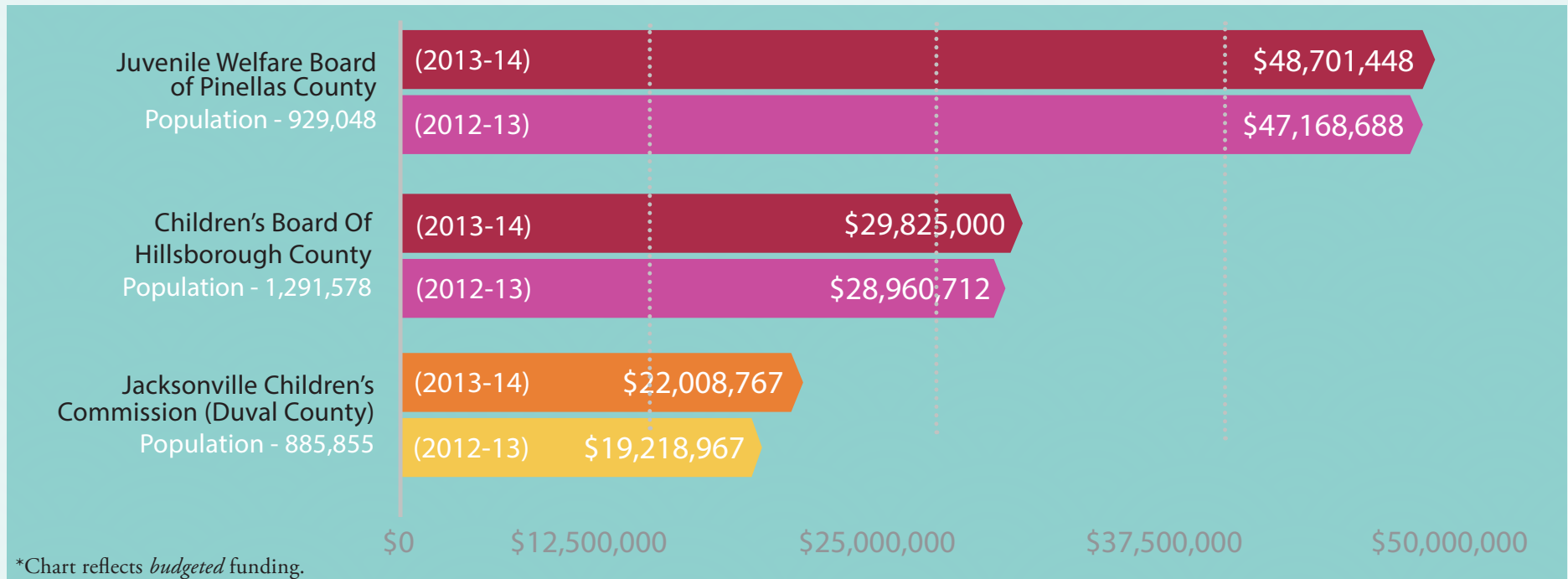
- Healthy Families Program \$1,779,188
- Mental Health Initiatives \$4,259,833
- Alternative Schools \$887,217
- Other Programs \$648,067
- Special Needs & Case Management \$674,901
- Mentoring \$431,528
- Wallace Foundation Grant \$220,370
- Nutrition Programs \$2,985,961
- Summer Camp Programs \$1,893,378
- Administration \$1,774,345
- Youth Worker Training & Screening \$315,893
- Early Literacy Initiative \$3,665,676
- Afterschool Programs \$10,337,178

\$29,873,535

LOOKING FORWARD...

BRINGING OUR PROGRAMS TO SCALE

The Jacksonville Children's Commission is one of eight members comprising the Florida Children's Council. The chart below shows county investments in two similar member organizations over the past two years. The counties were chosen for their comparative population to Duval.*



Although the Commission does not receive as much budgeted funding as other children's services councils in counties of relative size, this was the first year in the last seven years that the Commission did not incur significant budget cuts. Looking forward, our goal is not to create new, untried programs, but rather to bring to scale the many programs we have that we already know work. Investing in our children is an investment in their future, as well as our own. According to the recent report *The Economics of Early Childhood Investment* by the Executive Office of the President of the United States, existing research suggests expanding childhood initiatives would "provide benefits to society of roughly \$8.60 for every \$1 spent, about half of which comes from increased earnings for children when they grow up."

PARTNERS

CONTRACT OR GRANT FUNDERS

Atlantic Philanthropies
Arby's Foundation
City of Jacksonville
Duval County Public Schools
Early Learning Coalition of Duval, Inc.
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Florida Department of Children and Families
Florida Department of Education
Florida Impact/Share our Strength/No Kid Hungry
IBM
Jessie Ball duPont Fund
National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Families
Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, Inc.
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Child Mental Health Initiative
U.S. Department of Agriculture
The Wallace Foundation

FUNDED AGENCY PARTNERS

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida, Inc.
The Boselli Foundation, Inc.
Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida
The Bridge of Northeast Florida, Inc.
The Carpenter's Shop Center, Inc.
Child Guidance Center, Inc.
Communities In Schools of Jacksonville, Inc.
Community Connections of Jacksonville, Inc.
Cornerstone Neighborhood School, Inc.
Daniel Memorial, Inc.
DLC Nurse and Learn, Inc.
Don't Miss a Beat, Inc.
Duval County Public Schools
Early Learning Coalition of Duval, Inc.
Edward Waters College/New Town Success Zone
Episcopal Children's Services, Inc.
Father's H.A.R.B.O.R. Academy

Florida State College at Jacksonville/Take Stock in Children
Girls, Inc. Jacksonville
Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida
Hope Haven Children's Clinic and Family Center
Household of Faith Community Center, Inc.
Jacksonville Children's Chorus
JaxParks
Joshua Christian Academy, Inc.
Kids Are Special, Inc.
Living Way Christian Fellowship Church International, Inc.
MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation
Mental Health Resource Center, Inc.
New Heights of Northeast Florida, Inc.
North Florida Educational Institute
Northeast Florida Center for Community Initiatives at The University of North Florida
Northside Church of Christ
Northwest Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
PACE Center for Girls, Inc.
Partnership for Child Health/Jacksonville System of Care
Police Athletic League of Jacksonville, Inc.
Project 180
River Region Human Services, Inc.
Sulzbacher Center
Tiphne Darshay Hollis Foundation
THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health, Wolfson Children's Hospital
United Way of Northeast Florida, 211 Call Center
Wayman Community Development Corporation
Waverly Academy, Inc.
YMCA of Florida's First Coast
Young Christians in Action
Youth Crisis Center, Inc.

LOCAL, STATE & NATIONAL PARTNERS

Afterschool Alliance
The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida
Edward Waters College
Enroll America
Florida Afterschool Association
Florida Afterschool Network
Florida Children's Council
Florida Healthy Kids Corporation/Florida KidCare
Florida State College at Jacksonville
Foundations, Inc.
Healthy Families Florida
Jacksonville Kids Coalition
Jacksonville Public Education Fund
Jacksonville University, Davis College of Business
Public Policy Institute
Mathematica Policy Research
Mental Health America
National Institute for Out of School Time
National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education & Families
National Summer Learning Association
Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.
MomsRising
United Way of Northeast Florida
University of North Florida
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Youth Move Jacksonville

JAXKIDS BOOK CLUB SPONSORS

The Boeing Company
Early Learning Coalition of Duval, Inc.
Florida Blue
The GATE Foundation
Jacksonville Jaguars, LLC
JM Family Enterprises/Southeast Toyota Distributors, LLC
Regency Centers



Jacksonville
Children's
Commission

Helping Jacksonville Grow Great Kids

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