



MAKING IT POSSIBLE



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

hen life gives you a pandemic, stay focused and get creative! Through another year of challenges, and another year of accomplishments, Twin Cedars has stayed mission-focused & made it possible for thousands of children, youth and families to succeed...even during these crazy times. *Making it possible*.

Twin Cedars' challenges this year were all tangled together. The pandemic closed down the court system, so referrals for our services slowed down. COVID illness resulted in staffing shortages that made it difficult to accept the referrals we did receive. As the year progressed, recruiting new staff became extremely difficult, again impacting our ability to accept children in need of our services. But we persevered! Our committed team worked together to cover the shifts and expand responsibilities to make sure the bases were covered. We applied for a second Payroll Protection Program loan that sustained us financially. We creatively redesigned many facets of our operations, including school, fundraising events, stakeholder interaction, and family visitation and therapy, to keep everyone safe and healthy. *Making it possible*.

"Making It Possible"? Making <u>WHAT</u> possible? When I see these words, "IT" means making this world we live in a better place for children and families. I'm proud to be part of this organization and the community that supports it. **Together** we are making it possible by:

- · Giving a voice to the unheard;
- · Healing the traumatized and abused;
- · Providing a second chance to succeed;
- Ensuring children have a Forever Family;
- · Connecting with our community to meet needs.

You'll see more in the pages that follow. Making it possible.

There is uncertainly even now related to the pandemic's ongoing impact. But after almost two years, we are confident in our ability to adjust, grow stronger and endure. The support and encouragement we have received from our community makes us resilient. We have moments of joy as our children and youth reach milestones in their journeys. We look forward with anticipation and will courageously step into the future. We are so grateful that you have chosen to join us in this good work! (Please check out page 18 for ways to get involved this coming year.) YOU make it possible!

Sincerely,

Sheri Cody, Executive Director

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Wendi Jenkins, **Board President** Louis Abbott, **Board Vice President** Beth Vaughan, **Board Secretary** Robert Persons, **Board Treasurer** Al Zachry, **Past President**

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Alice Owens
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Executive Director - Sheri Cody

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Director of Therapeutic Foster Care - Melinda Sams

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Director of Admissions - Sheila Scales

Director of Development and Marketing - Jennifer Shawa

Program Director, Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home - Ramon Allen

Program Director, Bradfield Center - Dr. Kimberley Bond

Program Director, Georgia Industrial Children's Home - Linda Finley

MAKING A VOICE POSSIBLE

We work to advocate on behalf of children who have been physically, emotionally, or sexually abused in order to promote justice and healing for these children.

CASA CUUKI APPUINIED SPECIAL ADVOCATE **COURT APPOINTED**

CHATTAHOOCHEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, GA & LEE COUNTY, AL

Our CASA trains community volunteers to serve as advocates for child victims of abuse and neglect. Volunteers advocate to improve a child's experience in foster care and work with the courts to ensure that each child is placed in a permanent safe home.



CASA - CHATTAHOOCHEE Judicial Circuit

Callie has been a CASA since 2016. "I decided to volunteer with CASA because I wanted to help give back to the community that raised me. The children that we serve face more difficulties and hardships than most adults. Every one of these children has a story. Every one of these children has a past. But more importantly, every child has a future. There is nothing more amazing than getting to know these kids and seeing them grow into strong, confident little people. There is nothing more beautiful than seeing a child realize their value. I couldn't imagine a more wonderful organization to volunteer for. I love being a CASA."

FOSTER

WFRF PLACED IN A SAFF AND **STABLE HOME WITH THE HELP OF OUR TRAINED CASA VOLUNTEERS THIS YEAR.**

"ADVOCATING FOR ONE CHILD'S LIFE CAN **CHANGE GENERATIONS OF FAMILIES TO EMBRACE HOPE INSTEAD OF HEARTACHE."**





MAKING JUSTICE POSSIBLE

CHILD ADVOCACY **CENTERS**



TWIN CEDARS CAC (OPELIKA, AL) CAC of Troup County (LaGrange, GA) CHILDREN'S TREE HOUSE (COLUMBUS, GA)

Our Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) protect children by providing a state-of-the-art location for child abuse investigations. Here, child victims of suspected abuse receive care while evidence is collected in a manner that minimizes further trauma & ensures that justice can be achieved for each child. The CAC provides ongoing counseling and walks with victims throughout court proceedings.

FROM A CHILD WHO RECEIVED CARE AT ONE OF OUR CACS

"Everyone has a meaning in the world, even you. Got to keep your head up. I know things hurt, but that doesn't mean give up. You're one of a kind and the world deserves someone like you. Maybe you have to change it or make it better for others. You're a miracle in the world."



"I FIGHT AGAINST CHILD ABUSE BECAUSE **ALL CHILDREN DESERVE** A CHANCE TO THRIVE."



MAKING HEALING POSSIBLE

Our residential programs provide a safe and caring home for children with specific behavioral needs and challenges, and opportunities for personal growth, therapy, and development while providing necessary structure and boundaries.

ANNE ELIZABETH SHEPHERD HOME

OLUMBUS, GA

REALITY HOUSE

COLUMBUS, GA

The Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home provides residential care for females, ages 10-17, who have experienced sexual trauma leading to emotional or behavioral disturbances. This program teaches the residents appropriate behaviors as they live and heal in a safe, staff- secured environment. Our on-campus school, Ault Academy. provides personalized support for academic progress.

Reality House is a teen development and step-down program for female adolescents, ages 14-21, and is designed to offer its participants the experience and opportunities needed to successfully transition from a residential environment to total independence.

"I've been at Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home and Reality House since January 2019. Since being here, I have graduated from high school and been accepted into four colleges: Columbus State University, Albany State University, Georgia State University, and Augusta State University.

My future plans are to graduate from college with a degree in Criminal Justice and get a job in the juvenile justice system. I want to work with youth who are in the same juvenile justice system as me. I also want to be a role model for them in hopes to let them know that they can overcome their past mistakes as I did.

The staff at the Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home had a huge impact on me. They didn't give up on me, regardless of how much I made it hard for them and how many times I made mistakes."

~K.G.- Resident - Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home



BRADFIELD CENTER

LAGRANGE, GA

Bradfield Center provides residential services for males, 9-17, who have experienced trauma related to sexual abuse and, as a result, face behavioral challenges requiring special care. Residents live in a safe, staff-secured setting and attend school on campus at Ault Academy.

CONNECTIONS

LAGRANGE, GA

Connections is designed to link residents, ages 14-21, to community, family, and resources for long-term success. This program functions as a step-down for residents who have successfully completed intensive treatment.



RESIDENT AT

"I'M THANKFUL FOR **EVERYTHING TWIN CEDARS** HAS DONE FOR ME, MY TREATMENTS, AND FOR PUTTING ME ON THE RIGHT PATH."

GEORGIA INDUSTRIAL CHILDREN'S HOME

MACON, GA

GICH provides residential services for males, ages 11-18, who have experienced trauma & need a safe place to heal from the emotional effects of the trauma. The young men reside in one of five cottages on our campus, offering a structured, home-like environment. An on-site school serves residents with specific academic needs.

MAKING SECOND CHANCES POSSIBLE

Our prevention programs provide education, training, and care to youth and families in our area.

ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION PROJECT

TROUP COUNTY, GA

ASAPP provides substance abuse prevention education to youth, and resources, training, and services to any community partners interested in supporting youth drug and alcohol abuse prevention.

CIRCLE OF CARE

Circle of Care serves pregnant or parenting teens/young adults, ages 13 to 23, and their children, providing assistance to help each mother achieve self-sufficiency while ensuring the safety of her children.

♀ TROUP & HEARD COUNTY, GA

CIRCLE OF WERE HELPED BY EMERGENCY COVID FUNDS TO PAY RENT, UTILITIES, INTERNET AND **TELEPHONE BILLS** THIS YEAR.



CIRCLE OF CARE COORDINATOR WITH TROUP COUNTY SOLICITOR'S OFFICE DONATIONS



LAGRANGE, GA

Darkness to Light offers an evidence-informed, 2-hour training course called Stewards of Children, equipping adults with the training to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to signs of child sexual abuse.

SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

LAGRANGE, GA

Safe Families for Children wraps around families experiencing a crisis and connects them to caring, compassionate community. Through many different volunteer roles, we serve families who lack social networks and live in isolation without support of family and friends.

IN 2021. SAFE FAMILIES ADDED TWO NEW CHURCHES TO THE SFFC NETWORK.

A mother found herself needing assistance with her children when she began to seek help for her mental health. Safe Families for Children went into action.

Two of our Host Families & Family Coaches from our local faith-based communities rallied together to support this mom and her four children.

Because our volunteers made this placement possible, the mom was able to receive the inpatient care she needed while the children were cared for in safe and loving Host Homes.

We were so excited to reunite the children with their mom and are so proud of her for taking the steps to better herself in order to better the lives of her children.

Another family kept safe and together!

OF THE CHILDREN WERE RETURNED TO THEIR PARENTS AT THE END OF THEIR HOSTINGS



FAMILY WITH 2 HOST FAMILIES WHO VOLUNTEER THROUGH SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

KEEPING FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Keeping Family Connections works with children and non-custodial parents to promote healthy bonds, increase parenting skills and end the cycle of abuse.



MAKING FAMILIES POSSIBLE

THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE

Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) provides placement & care in specially trained foster homes for children with a variety of specific needs, such as emotional, behavioral, developmental or medical challenges, while equipping and supporting the foster parents to serve these children in the community.

COLUMBUS, GA LAGRANGE, GA MACON, GA

Twin Cedars foster parents, Nate & Allie Crawford, began serving with our program in February 2017. Over the years, they served several different children, but always expressed a desire in their hearts for a baby.

On February 20, 2019, the Crawfords had their own sweet daughter, Margo. We were uncertain the family would want to manage two babies, but knew we had to call them when the referral came in for a newborn boy. Nate and Allie talked it over and said, "Yes!" They came to the hospital for training regarding the child's special feeding needs and spent hours getting to know all about this new life that would change their family forever. It began on October 29, 2019.

New big sister, Margo, quickly took a liking to baby Jude. The adorable two were "Doing great! Two little peas in a pod!" While it was not without hurdles and bumps along the road, the destination was worth the journey!

On May 24, 2021, Jude was no longer a Twin Cedars foster child. He officially became the Crawfords' son!







MAKING TEAMWORK POSSIBLE

TEAM Building

Through carefully-designed & led activities, we assist individuals and teams as they explore different types of communication, group dynamics, and other team-related topics such as leadership, collaboration, and inclusion.

 ♀ | COLUMBUS, GA
 | LAGRANGE, GA
 | MACON, GA



"I CANNOT IMAGINE
A BETTER WAY FOR
BONDING DAY TO HAVE
OCCURRED. THANK YOU!"
- LEADERSHIP COLUMBUS

LEADERSHIP TROUP | ENHANCED LEADERSHIP PROGRAM THROUGH TROUP COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE





MAKING CONNECTING POSSIBLE

CONNECTING WITH

ENOCH MINISTRIES

PINE MOUNTAIN, GA

Twin Cedars partners with Enoch Ministries, a non-profit counseling program that uses horses in sessions to help individuals, residents of group homes, military and their families who have experienced trauma, depression, anxiety, and a variety of other mental health concerns.

"I love the way the boys [from Bradfield Center] compassionately want to understand the horses and learn how to make their relationships healthier. They talk to the horses. What they say does not matter to me. It's not my business. But I see them soften as they share. They become part of the herd. It's really cool.

With the animals having the ability to except or reject them authentically, the boys have had instantaneous feedback on how they are perceived by the animals. This gives them the opportunity to change and experience the changes in their interactions due to changes in the animals' perception of them. If they feel the herd change, the boys begin to see an outside factor of a different peer's interactions. With words, they tell that peer how the herd is experiencing them. I find it very accurate, and I watch as they are being taught empathy and how to see emotional responses with a protective compassion for the animals.

I have seen many of them melt and embrace the animals as they have felt unconditional acceptance and positive regard. When they hold space for the animals and each other they get to witness anxiety decrease, fear dissipate, and trust grow."

-Leigh Ellen Ertle, LPC Executive Director, Enoch Ministries, Inc.



INTERACTING WITH A HORSE DURING THERAPY

CONNECTING WITH

TEEN ADVISORS, INC.

Twin Cedars partners with Teen Advisors, Inc., a high-impact, faith-based non-profit empowering and equipping students to impact their peers through positive peer pressure.

COLUMBUS, GA



Teen Advisors. Inc. blessed the girls at the Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home during the holiday season! They made special signs for each girl with their names on them with sweet handwritten messages on the back. They provided the girls with face masks, bracelets, and sweet cards to remind them they are loved and cherished. Thank you, Teen Advisors, for all you do for our community!!

CONNECTING WITH GEORGIA RIDERS

The Georgia Riders made dreams come true for the boys at the Georgia Industrial Children's Home through the Future Hope Foundation run! The Georgia Riders had each child at the home make a Christmas wish list. Then they went shopping, bought gifts, wrapped them, and delivered the gifts to the home. We can't say THANK YOU enough to the Georgia Riders! What fun it was to see them all roaring onto our campus on their motorcycles to make this delivery! We are so grateful for their kindness and commitment to making Christmas very special for these children.



MAKING GRATITUDE POSSIBLE

Our Child Advocacy Centers help families seek justice & healing when their children have been the witness or victim of a crime. We recently received this note of gratitude from a family served at Twin Cedars.

Dear Troup County Child Advocacy Center,

I wanted to reach out to express my appreciation and respect for a member of your team. My children and I received services from your advocacy center here in Lagrange, Ga, and, although the circumstances in which we were brought to your center were unfortunate, the care and blessings that followed were priceless. I came into the situation so distraught, hurt, angry and concerned, but then I met Child Advocacy Center staff member, Andritta Lewis. It was like she could see right into the hearts of my children. She provided us with a safe place to talk, express our concerns, and have a better understanding of the situation we were facing. So many other opportunities came from that tough situation, and she was well-equipped and experienced to handle and help navigate our tough time. Andritta also partnered us with programs in the community to supply both my daughters with new beds, necessities for Christmas, counseling for my daughter, and checking in on us often to offer support and encouragement for all of us. I am so thankful that the memories I now have of that situation have a **beacon of light** which, for us, was Andritta. Thank you so much for putting her in place to guide us through the process.

Thank you! Mrs. D.

While children live on Twin Cedars campuses, they receive therapy and guidance to help them recover from the traumatic circumstances that they have experienced, with the goal of healing and moving forward successfully. We love to see their confidence and determination to succeed!

"I WANTED TO TELL Y'ALL THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING Y'ALL NEVER HATED ME. Y'ALL NEVER LOST FAITH IN MY POTENTIAL TO DO RIGHT, Y'ALL HELPED ME REALIZE MY PASSION FOR POEMS, AND HELPED ME LOOK TOWARDS THE FUTURE WHILE NOT FORGETTING THE PAST. Y'ALL NEVER GAVE UP ON ANYONE. I CAN'T WAIT FOR Y'ALL TO SEE ME MAKE IT!"



MAKING FUTURES POSSIBLE

We are grateful to our monthly supporters and the investment they make in our children's success.

2021 MONTHLY GIVING CLUB MEMBERS

FRIENDS OF CHATTAHOOCHEE **CASA**

Andy Redmond

FRIENDS OF TWIN CEDARS

Terri Grant Katherine Hudson Karen & Matt Stroer

KEEPING KIDS SAFE | Safe Families for Children-West GA

Claire & Jamie Bradfield Lauranne Buchanan Joe & Meagan Frye Rusvelt & Ory Gari Mr. & Mrs. John Gibbons Nick & Leslie Gooden **Kevin & Cowenda Jefferson**

MUMFORD SOCIETY | Georgia Industrial Children's Home

Louis & Jana Abbott Leslie Bean Terri & John Crook Kerri Hatcher **Greg & Kim Moore Robert & Sherry Pruett Greg Tapley** Ryan & Brigette Terrell **Lotus Equities**

SHEPHERD CIRCLE | Anne Elizabeth | Shepherd Home

Cathy Alford Justin & Amber Beal Wendi & Bill Jenkins Shamima Enterprise Gwen & Todd Lewis Laura Smith Christina & Josh Wagner Jesse & Harley Warren Kim Worstell



CHRISTINA | MONTHLY GIVER TO THE SHEPHERD CIRCLE

"I BELIEVE EVEN THE SMALLEST INVOLVEMENT YOU CAN GIVE MIGHT **MEAN SO MUCH MORE** THAN YOU REALIZE."

MAKING TWIN CEDARS POSSIBLE

Thank you to our major donors who make a difference in the lives of children.

INDIVIDUALS

Louis & Jana Abbott Mr. & Mrs. Gary Abbott, Sr.

Nancy Adam

Dale & Alis Albritton

Robert Aldrich

Shari Alligood

Regina Arnold

Ross Barintine

Kenneth Barnes William & Kimberly Bishop

Christopher Blake

Justin Bowen

Jamie & Claire Bradfield

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Christina & Josh Wagner

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Clint Ward

JoAnna Watson

Mark Watson

Michael Whiting

Brad Wilson

Kaye Wilson

Harold Woods

Mr & Mrs. Al Zachry

ORGANIZATIONS

AirMark Heating Air & Refrigeration

Alex`s PC Solutions LLC

Angstadt Consulting & Team Building Services

Atlantic Bay Mortgage Group

Barge Design Solutions Community Fund Of Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee



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Cadence Bank

Callaway Baptist Church

Charter Foundation Inc.

Cherokee Brick & Tile Company

Children's Dentistry of West Georgia, LLC

Columbus Fire & Safety Equipment Com

Committee to Elect Debbie Buckner

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Community Foundation of Chattahoochee Valley

Community Foundation of East Alabama, Inc.

Conditioned Air Inc.

D. Tate Morris CPA, LLC

Davison Bruce Foundation

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Duracell

Ekkebus Charitable Foundation

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ETI

Exchange Club of Columbus

First Presbyterian Church

GEC a Terracon Company

Geico Philanthropic Foundation

Georgia Center for Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Georgia Exchange Foundation for the Prevention

of Child Abuse, Inc.

Georgia Industrial Children's Home Foundation, Inc.

Globe Life Liberty National Division

Harvey's Plumbing & Irrigation

Heaven's Saints Motorcycle Ministry

HMMG. LLC

Hometown Family Medicine

Houston Auto Auction Inc.

IHop LaGrange

J.W. Woodruff and Ethel Woodruff Foundation

Jack Hughston Memorial Hospital

Junior Service League of LaGrange

Kappa Alpha Theta Auburn Alumnae Club

Keeney Memorial United Methodist Church

Kemp's Dalton West Flooring

Kiwanis Club of Greater Columbus

LaGrange Grocery Company, Inc.

Lotus Equities PC

Lynch Cadillac of Auburn

Macon Civic Club

Macon Lions Charities. Inc.

McClure Family Foundation

McKenney's

Network For Good

Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker, & Ford, P.C.

Parkway Motors

Pearls for Life Foundation

Primary Pediatrics

R.A. Bowen Trust

Roland, Abbott & Dezoort Insurance

Rotary Club of Macon Georgia

Schuster Enterprises, Inc.

Schwartz & Son

SDH Design Solutions, Inc.

Sellers Construction Company, LLC

Sonny's BBQ

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Summit Commercial Services

Synovus

The Hart Family Foundation, Inc.

The Hughston Clinic

The Loudermilk Family Christian Foundation

Troy Bank & Trust Co.

True North Investments

TSYS

Twin Cedars Foundation, Inc.

United Way of Chattahoochee Valley

United Way of West Georgia

W.T. Miller. LLC

Wind Walkers Motorcycle Club

Wind Walkers Motorcycle Club

Zachry Charitable Fund

FY 2021 AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT

Public Support and Revenues

Government Grants and Nonprofit Contracts Contributions and Private Pay Program Revenue Special Events Rental Income Interest & Dividends Realized Gain on Investments Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments Gain/(Loss) on Sale of Assets Total Public Support and Revenues	\$ 13,734,182 489,820 218,034 239,740 31,000 3,302 15,971 31,871 1,000
Expenses Program Services Supporting Services Total Expenses	\$ 12,382,723 2,118,005 14,500,728
Change in Net Assets - From Operations	\$ 264,192
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$ 4,207,728
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 4,471,920

MAKING INVOLVEMENT POSSIBLE

ADVOCATE

- Be a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate).
- Take our Darkness to Light training. Learn how to recognize & respond responsibly to signs of child sexual abuse.
- Sign up for our e-newsletter.

VOLUNTEER

- Consider a community service project on our campus.
- Be an intern through your college.
- Join/start an auxiliary to provide special experiences for foster kids in our care.

DONATE

- Give online by visiting www.twincedars.org.
- Make a tax deductible contribution by mail: PO Box 1526, LaGrange, GA. 30241

BE A FOSTER PARENT

• Foster homes are needed in Columbus, LaGrange, and Macon, GA.

PLAN A **LEGACY GIFT**

• Consider including Twin Cedars in your estate.

SUPPORT

- Let us help you start your own fundraiser!
- Attend one of our signature fundraising events.

TO LEARN MORE OR GET STARTED, EMAIL JENNIFER SHAWA AT JSHAWA@TWINCEDARS.ORG.







OLUMBUS, LAGRANGE, MACON, & EAST ALABAMA

TWIN CEDARS YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

COLUMBUS, GA

Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home & Reality House

751 Double Churches Road Columbus, GA 31904 706.322.8984

Twin Cedars at Third Avenue

Chattahoochee CASA, Children's Tree House Child Advocacy Center, & Therapeutic Foster Care

1225 3rd Avenue Columbus, GA 31901 706.327.9612

EAST ALABAMA

Twin Cedars Child Advocacy Center, Inc.

1810 Corporate Drive Opelika, AL 36801 334.705.0770

Lee County CASA

202 North 26th Street Opelika, AL 36801 334.703.4066

Keeping Family Connections

202 North 26th Street Opelika, AL 36801 334.502.8600

Admissions Office: 706.298.0050 · ext. 1084

LAGRANGE, GA

Bradfield Center & Connections

1022 East Depot Street LaGrange, GA 30240 706.884.1717

Coleman Community Center

Children's Advocacy Center of Troup County, Safe Families for Children-West Georgia, & Therapeutic Foster Care

701 Lincoln Street / PO Box 1526 LaGrange, GA 30241 706.298.0050 • Ext. 1051

Magnolias Campus

| Circle of Care & Partners in Prevention Project 99 Johnson Street LaGrange, GA. 30241 706.298.2148

MACON, GA

Georgia Industrial Children's Home

4690 North Mumford Road Macon, GA 31210 478.474.8220

Therapeutic Foster Care

2250 Northside Crossing Macon, GA 31210 478.812.8284



















