



hope  
lives  
here

2017  
annual report





# Hope Lives

at Methodist Children's Home Society

**What does hope look like?** This past year, at Methodist Children's Home Society, we continued to see hope all around us within our children and adolescents throughout all of our programs. We saw it in the eyes of Shannon and her new parents who had just adopted her. We saw it in the smiles of Sean and Mya, brother and sister who were reunited in our foster care program.

**What does hope sound like?** We heard it in the words of Damien, who got his first job as a waiter in our Independent Living Program and has hopes of attending culinary school someday. We heard it in the laughter of our children as they played in the annual softball game against our staff. And we heard it in the beautiful voice of Jazmin who sings in the church of her new foster family.

**What does hope feel like?** It's the immense joy we felt when our MCHS Hawks basketball team won their first basketball game, or the pride of Demante who made his school's honor roll after missing most of his last school year. It's the coziness and safety our children felt in their new pajamas—especially Joshua, who never had pajamas before.

Because of you, our children, from infancy to young adulthood, had reasons to hope and believe again. Whether you donated your time or a monetary gift, part of that donation was the gift of hope you helped restore. On behalf of the over 200 children and families we served last year, thank you.

I could go on and on about what we accomplished this past year—all of which was because of the generosity of our supporters as well as the hard work and dedication of our staff and Board. There was so much we accomplished in our 100<sup>th</sup> year that it couldn't possibly fit in this report. So, instead, come out and visit. Come and see what hope looks like. I'm convinced you'll experience the hope you helped build, as well as what we hope for in 2018 and beyond. From our family to yours, thank you so much.

All my best,

**Kevin Roach**  
Chief Executive Officer







## Mission

Methodist Children's Home Society provides individualized treatment, care, advocacy, and permanency to children and families impacted by childhood trauma.

## Vision

Building a community where every child and family has a safer and brighter future

## Core Values

- Celebrate the worth, diversity, and dignity of every youth and family.
- Work collectively together and through partnerships to provide the best care possible.
- Give voice to our youth and families who do not have a voice.
- Commit to results.
- Make a positive impact on our communities.



Hundreds of community members gather during the dedication of the Redford campus in 1929.





# 100 Years of MCHS

MCHS celebrates a century of caring for children & families in our community



Children from some of the agency's original foster homes.



Children playing games in an original cottage, Webber House, in the 1940s.



Third, fourth, and fifth graders taking part in on-campus schooling in Kresge Hall.

Founded with the tenacity of two women who wanted to do more, the vision of a director who was committed to giving children and families a fresh start, and the confidence of a family foundation that knew they could be the catalyst for change, Methodist Children's Home Society celebrated a full century of caring for some of Michigan's most fragile children in 2017.

For the past 100 years, MCHS has provided love and hope to thousands of children and families through our life-changing programs and services. With humble beginnings as a small orphanage in Highland Park to the now breathtaking 80-acre campus we call home in Redford, MCHS has been creating forever families for the thousands of children who have come to us searching for their childhood to begin.

There are still so many children who come to us searching for healing and hope as a result of the trauma they have experienced. With over 33,000 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect in Michigan, and Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties accounting for more than 8,000 of these cases annually, it's the responsibility of MCHS and our community to build these children up and teach them their past does not define their future.

In 2017, **90** boys found safety and belonging in our residential program, and **12** young men prepared for their futures in our independent living program. We found forever families for **17** children while another **80** children found hope and stability within a foster family.

After this celebratory centennial year, we're more aware than ever of the generous support we have from our donors, volunteers, and other supporters, and we are ready to take on the next century of creating brighter futures for Michigan children and families!



# Jeremiah's Journey

How he found love, hope & acceptance at MCHS

Jeremiah's father had been incarcerated for most of his life, and his mother's drug use and overlooked mental health issues meant he was often left alone with little food, no clean clothes, and only a nine-year-old's understanding of how to take care of himself. When his mother was home, she was verbally and emotionally abusive, would lock Jeremiah in his room for hours on end, and refused to do any more than keep a roof over his head. With no siblings or trusted adults in his life, Jeremiah slowly began to lose faith in himself and the world around him.

Unfortunately, Jeremiah's first day at MCHS was not his first day in foster care. He had been removed from his parents and placed in three different foster homes and two different residential facilities in under two years. Over and over, adults had failed him. Over and over, nobody believed in him enough. Over and over, life proved itself to be too cold for a tender, artistic, and introspective kid like Jeremiah.

Until he realized that MCHS was unlike any other place he had been! Here, he got his own bedroom—complete with welcome gifts of new outfits, school supplies, games, and toys. He was supported and encouraged in school by his on-site teachers. He even joined the MCHS basketball team, the MCHS Hawks, where he quickly bonded with his head coach.

The adults in his cottage took the time to really listen to Jeremiah when he spoke. His therapist explored new and innovative ways of talking with him. And his mentor never failed to show up at the same time every week. At MCHS, Jeremiah finally experienced the kind of attention he so deeply wanted and deserved. He learned that not every adult in his life would let him down, he should not lose faith in the world around him, and, most importantly, he is worthy of a loving home!



In 2017, **10** children participated in the inaugural season for the MCHS Hawks, our basketball team.





**75%**

children in  
the residential  
program who left  
MCHS to live with  
a family

**48%**

children in the  
residential program  
who have one or  
more incarcerated  
parents

**45**

licensed foster  
families who  
opened their  
hearts and homes  
to children who  
needed them  
most

**10%**

increased  
occupancy from  
2016 to 2017



# The Next Century

is in the hands of those committed to life-changing results

In 2017, MCHS underwent a comprehensive capital improvements project addressing ways to make the agency's 80-acre campus more conducive to the therapeutic healing necessary for the children and families we serve. This nearly \$3 million project allowed for the creation of many new spaces within eight of the 22 existing buildings on the agency's campus.



## Specialized Education

Kresge Hall offers our children a chance to reclaim their education after so many years of being swept up by the turmoil of trauma and abuse. Completely renovated and reimagined classrooms and specialized learning areas have been designed to fit our kids' unique needs and offer our students enhanced opportunities to excel academically.



## Clinical & Therapeutic Services

The boys in our residential program have been provided with more safe spaces to process their trauma, overcome their past, and embrace their future through therapies including TF-CBT, sensory, and play. With more space to work with our clinical team, our children can learn, grow, and make new beginnings.



## Recreation

Our kids are enjoying more fun spaces where they can play, explore their imaginations, and spend time with peers. Renovations to our outdoor spaces as well as indoor recreational areas have allowed our kids to embrace the simple joys of childhood.



## Foster Care & Adoption

Our expanded foster care and adoption spaces have created inviting, home-like settings where our children and potential foster and adoptive parents can make lifelong memories bonding with the newest members of their family.

## We need your help to create brighter and safer futures!

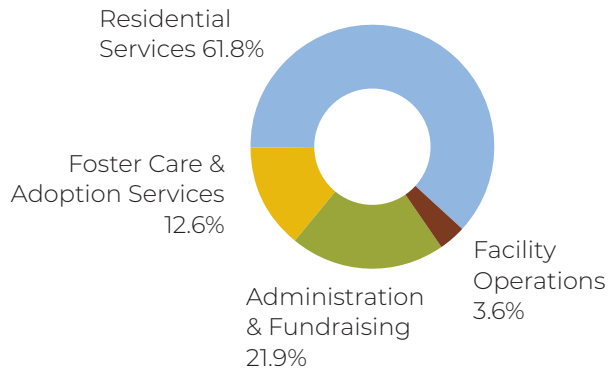
We need the support of our community more than ever before in order to ensure a fruitful future for MCHS and the children and families we serve. Whether you're making a monetary donation, volunteering your time as a mentor or coach, or inviting members of your business or community group to a special event or a campus tour, you are truly making a difference in the lives of our kids! Contact us at 313-531-4060 or email [info@mchsmi.org](mailto:info@mchsmi.org) to learn more and get involved.



# Agency Financials

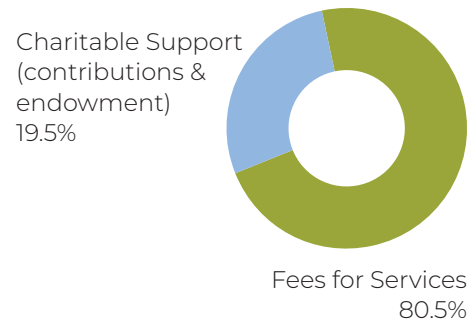
## Expenditures

\$8,469,595



## Revenue

\$8,469,595



## Board of Directors

**David Bennett, President**  
**Dr. Douglas Ross, Vice-President**  
**Carrie Russell, Secretary**  
**Christine Weemhoff, Treasurer**  
Rev. William Amundsen  
Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue  
Peter Bowen  
Murray Brown

Marianne Conner  
Steven Docsa  
William Johnston  
Peter Lenz  
Eric Pelton, Esq.  
Les Ryckman  
Juli Stephens  
Tom Wegehaupt

## 2017 Strategic Plan

**Strategy 1:** By implementing nontraditional, yet research-based individualized care practices, MCHS provides comprehensive and evidence-based treatment and aftercare to children and families throughout all of the agency's programs and services.

**Strategy 2:** MCHS diversifies treatment programming and child welfare services to serve more youth and families in southeast Michigan through behavioral health services, in-home programming, and expansion of transitional living options.

**Strategy 3:** Through completion of a capital improvements project and implementation of volunteer programs, MCHS strengthens programs and services by investing in systems and infrastructure to benefit children, families, and staff.

**Strategy 4:** MCHS enhances fund development, marketing, and community relations functions to increase and diversify funding sources while also spreading awareness and advocating on behalf of children and families throughout Michigan.

## Leadership Team



**Brooke Adams**  
Chief Marketing Officer



**Sheena Gorecki, Ph.D.**  
Chief Program Officer



**David Miller, MSA, CPA**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Kevin Roach, MSW**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Kathryn Woodstock, MHSA**  
Chief Development Officer



# Ensuring our Future

A year of fun and fundraising with support from our community



## Annual Dinner

Our Annual Dinner welcomed 300 guests to the Fairlane Club in Dearborn to celebrate the volunteers and donors whose support allows us to continue our life-changing work! Kelsea Clark, a former foster child, and Towne Mortgage won our Volunteer of the Year awards, and Neil Wester, longtime board member, received the Legacy Award.



## Golf Classic

More than 100 golfers hit the links at Plymouth's Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center "Fore the Kids!" Sponsors included Pharmascrit, The Brice Group at Graystone Consulting, Vision Computer Solutions, DTE Energy, Inteva Products, Kienbaum Oppenwall Hardy & Pelton, Guy Hurley Insurance, Advantage Living Centers, Dykema, Oswald Insurance, E&L Construction, T&P Development, BHS, Yeo & Yeo CPAs, and Walt's Electric.



## In Bloom Luncheon

We were able to show off our beautiful 80-acre campus to the nearly 150 guests who joined us at our first luncheon! Faith Fowler, senior pastor at Cass Community UMC and executive director of Cass Community Social Services, keynoted the program and guests received tours of the campus in the midst of the capital improvements renovations.



## Centennial Celebration

In order to culminate a full year of celebrating 100 years of service to the community, MCHS's most dedicated supporters joined together at the agency's Centennial Celebration hosted at the Laurel Manor in Livonia. Corporate sponsors included Masco Corporation, Enchant Ventures, E&L Construction Group, Pharmascrit, The Brice Group at Graystone Consulting, and Vision Computer Solutions.





Our residential boys received a visit from a few special guests during their Star Wars movie night.



The Redford Township emergency response teams helped us host a health and safety event for our kids and families.



With the creation of the Hawks basketball team, our outdoor courts were the most active space during the warm weather.

17%

of our residential children were able to live with a sibling while on campus at MCHS

60%

of our residential children celebrated their birthday because of our "birthday club" volunteers and donors

77%

of our residential children are unaware of their biological father's whereabouts

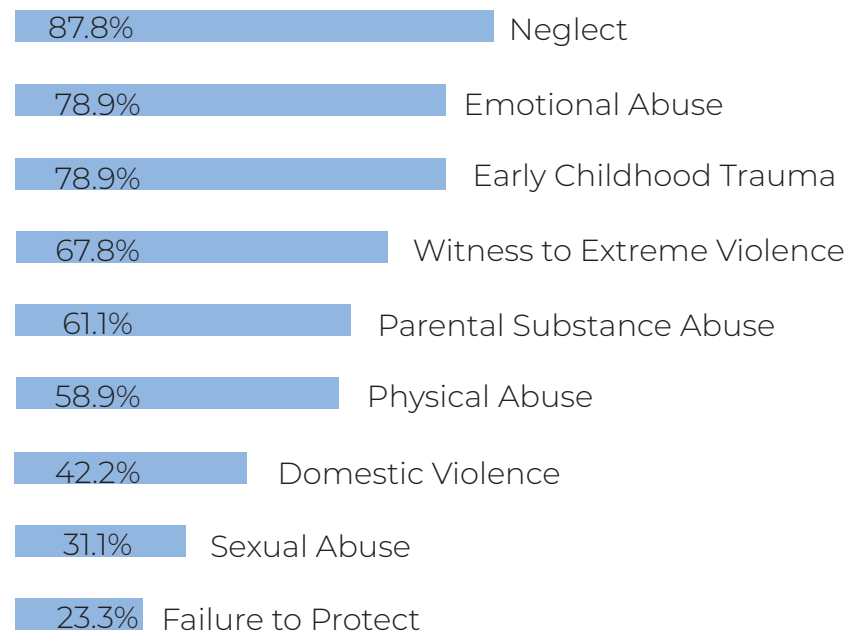
"I am handsome, strong, talented, & smart. I am awesome!"

-a 13-year-old resident on the day he left to live with a family when asked what he learned about himself while at MCHS



# MCHS Kids Count

## Types of Trauma Experienced by MCHS Residents



The average child at MCHS has experienced 3 types of trauma throughout their life.





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