

# CEDARS



HOME FOR CHILDREN FOUNDATION

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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017

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## A MESSAGE FROM JIM BLUE

Each day, over one thousand children and youth participate in CEDARS programs. Each one has a story.

Our devoted staff are dedicated to carrying out our mission and work every day to provide safety and stability to these vulnerable children and help them write their next chapter— a chapter full of hope and optimism.

While we know there are far too many children and youth experiencing crisis, we also know that the nationally accredited services at CEDARS can and do change the lives of kids every day. I am so grateful this organization exists to help children,

youth and families improve their lives— and their stories.

I am also very grateful to our loyal supporters like you who make it possible for us to care for so many children and families in crisis. Truthfully, it could not happen without you.

**Your generosity to CEDARS, large or small, makes all the difference.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Jim Blue". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a smaller "B".

Jim Blue  
President/CEO



## WHO WE SERVE

CEDARS Home for Children has been supporting children, youth and families for 70 years and remains committed to helping kids in crisis and building strong families. CEDARS mission is to help abused, neglected and homeless children and youth achieve safety, stability and enduring family relationships.



### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO ARE UNABLE TO LIVE AT HOME.**

For those children and youth unable to live at home due to neglect, abuse, homelessness, running away, or other family crises, CEDARS provides an array of safe places to stay that offer structure and support while working to facilitate a successful transition to a permanent living situation.



### **UNDER-RESOURCED FAMILIES AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING CRISIS.**

Family resources focus on maintaining healthy connections and helping families remain together with services designed to help the entire family. CEDARS also provides children with early and ongoing developmental opportunities in an inclusive, diverse environment to help them become better learners in nationally accredited classrooms.



### **YOUTH INVOLVED IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAM.**

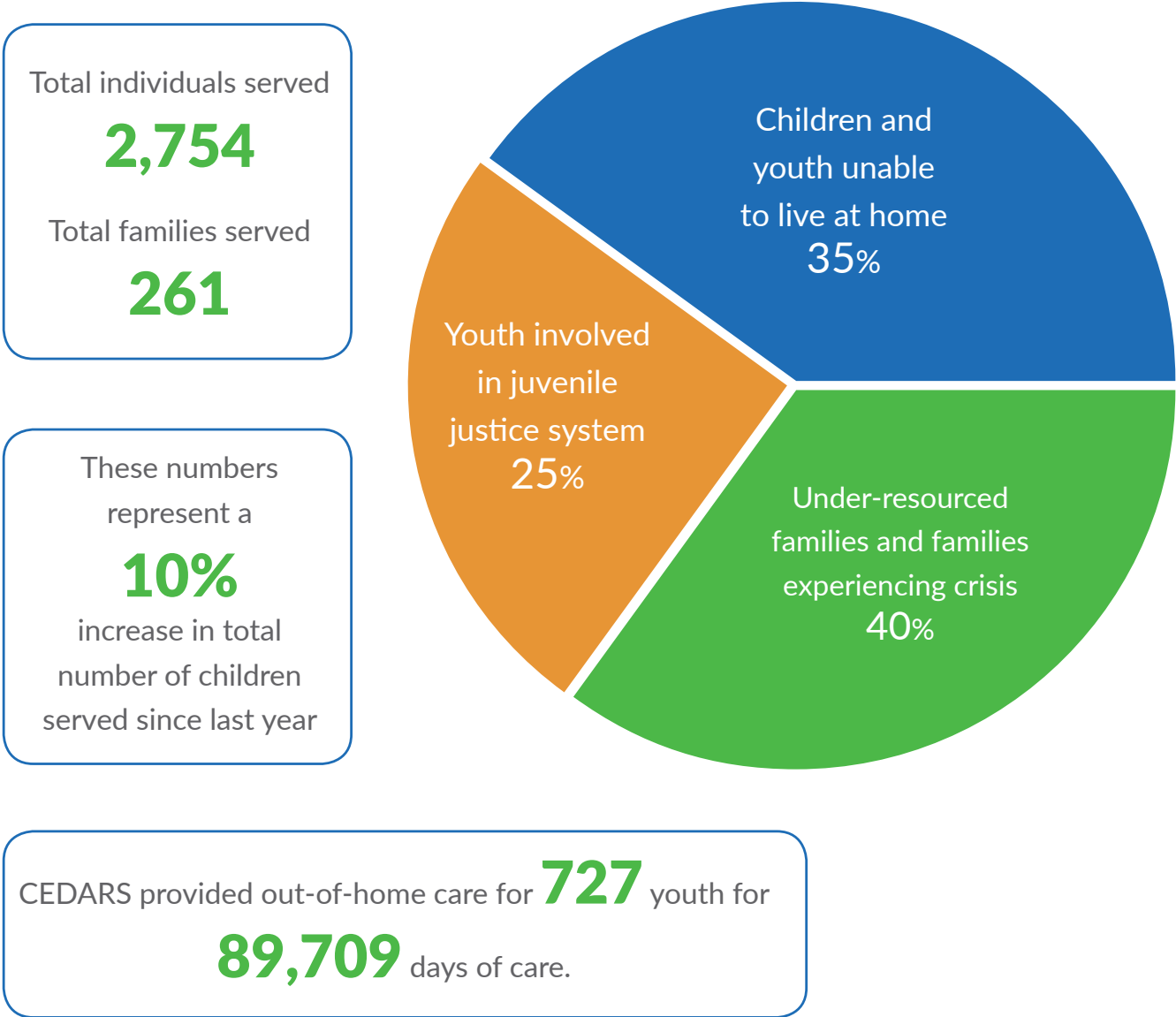
For youth who are at risk for, or who have committed law violations, CEDARS provides positive development programs to prevent subsequent law violations and prepare them to live successfully in the community. Youth receive support in the areas of education, employment, basic living skills, crisis intervention, and healthy relationships.



## CEDARS BY THE NUMBERS

When CEDARS was established 70 years ago, our founders knew that too many children in our community suffered physical abuse, neglect, homelessness and instability. This is still true today. The work we do to bring safety and stability to children remains as important as ever. Each day CEDARS serves nearly 1,000 children and youth.

### FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017



*\* note some services overlap*





**210** safety kits, which included items like car seats, smoke detectors, and baby gates, were distributed to help keep families safe.



**82%** of children and youth were discharged from CEDARS emergency shelter back home or to a more permanent living arrangement.



On average, **236** kids were served in CEDARS foster homes each day.





## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

We know that our work is impacting children and families every day. And we take great pride in caring for these families with integrity and professionalism. Each year, CEDARS surveys the kids, families and partners we work with to ensure that they agree they are receiving exceptional care. Here are a few highlights from their feedback.



**100%** of parents\* surveyed agreed with these statements:  
I felt my child was safe in CEDARS care and  
I am satisfied with the support my child received from CEDARS and found the service helpful



**95%** of youth in foster care felt satisfied with the support they received at CEDARS (the other 5% indicated neutrality to the statement)



**100%** of referrals to CEDARS Family Support program were satisfied with the support their client received at CEDARS.

### A few comments from the survey:

“I’m a lot happier here.” - CEDARS foster care youth

“CEDARS staff have very thorough communication, which is very helpful!” - referral

“I like that it was a comfortable place with lots of fun people” - CEDARS youth

“[I like] being able to call or text with problems or concerns.” - CEDARS foster parent

*\* parents of a child in out of home or emergency services*



On any given day  
in the past year,  
**236**  
children and youth  
find safety with  
CEDARS foster  
families.

## Tyson's Story

Tyson came to CEDARS in need of a loving foster family. He had many big emotions about the changes that were happening in his life and at first **it was hard for him** to adjust.

CEDARS foster parents play a special role in the lives of children. **With open hearts, they give kids stability and room to grow as individuals.** In a nurturing family setting, a child will discover a healthy understanding of relationships, learn to connect and how to develop a loving family of their own one day.

**CEDARS staff walk alongside children and families every step of the way.** With encouragement and guidance, the foster parents and foster care team have the honor of watching lives change.

As Tyson's foster parents patiently demonstrated love, understanding and support, **Tyson began to open up about his feelings and feel secure in his new home.**



CEDARS helps  
families near a  
breaking point  
**remain  
together**

## Amy's Story

Amy felt overwhelmed trying to provide for her family. She often didn't know where the next meal would come from. With the holidays approaching, Amy knew she wouldn't be able to give her children gifts, and dreaded seeing their disappointed faces.

CEDARS helped Amy establish a monthly budget and healthy meal planning, and shared parenting tools to help her understand the normal development of her young children.

After learning a consistent style of parenting, Amy felt more confident in providing for her family. Her children are growing up in a safe, loving home.

And thanks to generous donors, the children also had the joy of opening holiday gifts.







CEDARS helps  
youth facing homelessness  
find safe ways to  
**leave the  
streets**

## Aisha's Story

At 17, Aisha found herself living in her car while trying to finish high school. She was frightened and on-guard all of the time. She couldn't concentrate on an empty stomach, and her grades had dropped drastically because of it. Worry about her future kept her awake at night.

Without pressure or judgment the CEDARS Street Outreach team offered her safe ways to leave the streets. Team members kept in contact with her to ensure she had

food, hygiene products and gas for her car. Once she understood that our team could be trusted, Aisha transitioned to safe, permanent housing through CEDARS Bridges Transitional Living Program.

Free of the anxieties of facing homelessness, Aisha's outlook has skyrocketed. She plans to graduate from high school and pursue a college education.



CEDARS helps  
youth get  
**back on  
track**  
before they become  
more deeply  
involved with law  
enforcement.

## Cory's Story

Cory and his mom struggled to understand each other. Frustrated, Cory reacted with poor behaviors. Cory started skipping classes and got in trouble with law enforcement.

CEDARS came alongside Cory to help him stay accountable. Throughout the day, the CEDARS Tracker team kept in touch with him to ensure his success at school and at home. Cory's Tracker served as an advocate

for him, but also held him accountable for his responsibilities and goals.

Cory's attitude began to shift. He became engaged at school and eager to learn. At home Cory began to have constructive conversations with his mom. They are both optimistic about his future.





Providing refuge to  
kids with no other

**safe  
place**

to stay is the core of  
CEDARS mission.

## Piper's Story

CEDARS Pioneers Center is the only emergency shelter for unaccompanied youth in Southeast Nebraska. When a youth, like Piper, has no other safe place to spend the night, CEDARS is able to provide a bed, meals, group activities, and in certain situations, therapeutic support until safe, permanent housing can be arranged.

When Piper came to CEDARS, the only belongings she had were carried in a trash

bag. The CEDARS team quickly replaced it with a duffle bag filled with new essentials, which provided Piper a real sense of dignity.

When arrangements were secured for Piper to move in with relatives nearby, she excitedly packed her belongings into her new duffle bag that she could proudly carry to her new home.

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

CEDARS Consolidated Financial Highlights  
(Fiscal Year End June 30, 2017)

## ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Total Assets	\$32,109,915
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,286,126
Total Net Assets	\$29,823,789

## REVENUES

Contributions & Support	\$ 1,474,397
Grant & Service Revenue	\$10,575,488
Investment Income	\$ 3,077,310
TOTAL REVENUES	\$15,127,195

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

CEDARS Program Expenses  
(Fiscal Year End June 30, 2017)

## PROGRAM SERVICES

Out of Home & Emergency Services	\$5,488,986
Family Resources & Education	\$2,722,422
Juvenile Justice	\$1,543,914
Evaluation	\$ 111,091
Shared Indirect	\$1,603,092
Total Program Services	\$11,469,505

## SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Management & General	\$ 969,035
Fundraising	\$ 452,137
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,890,677





# DONOR SUPPORT

The important work of helping kids in crisis and building strong families would not be possible without the generosity of our loyal donors. They play an integral role in ensuring that we are able to open our doors to vulnerable children for years to come.

CEDARS Home for Children Foundation exists to raise funds in support of CEDARS mission. The Foundation works with donors both locally and across the nation to support the thousands of children who receive care from CEDARS each year. The CEDARS Home for Children Foundation is committed to the highest quality stewardship of the gifts given by its donors. Eighty-nine percent of every dollar raised is used to meet the direct needs of children through CEDARS various programs.

Our special [Circle of Life](#) donors of distinction lay the groundwork for future generations by leaving a lasting legacy that will live on in perpetuity. These individuals have planned a gift to ensure that CEDARS will always be here to provide care to children in need.

Irene and Eilif Andersen  
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Each year, CEDARS pays tribute to our friends who have made significant contributions to the children of CEDARS through the years. They are honored here as Lifetime Benefactors.

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in caring for children, youth, and families.

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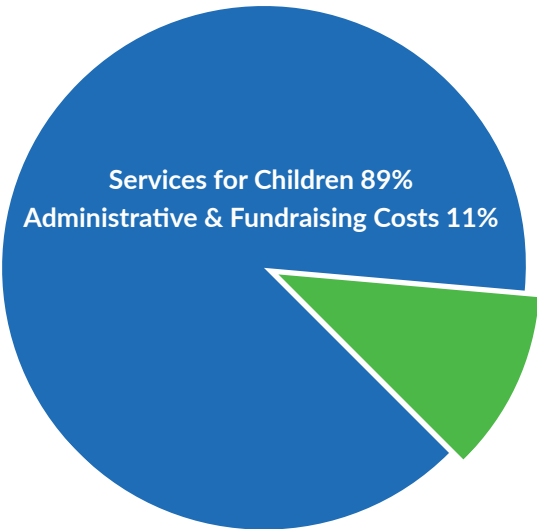
# AN ORGANIZATION YOU CAN TRUST

CEDARS is:  
a safe place where children are welcomed night or day  
a provider of care for 1,000 children each day  
a provider of care for 2,750 children each year  
a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, CEDARS consolidated agencies spent 89% of all expenditures on services for children. Percentages are based on the formula set forth by the Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance, whose standard recommends at least 65% of an organization’s total expenses be spent on program activities.

CEDARS is accredited through the Council on Accreditation and the National Association for the Education of Young Children. CEDARS is a four star charity with Charity Navigator, a top-rated charity with the American Institute of Philanthropy, a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity, and a United Way partner.

2016-2017 Fiscal Year  
Expenditures for CEDARS Consolidated:





# CEDARS

HOME FOR CHILDREN FOUNDATION

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LINCOLN, NE 68506  
402.434.5437 [cedarskids.org](http://cedarskids.org)