

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL



MARTIN COUNTY

Annual Report 2012-2013

Celebrating 25 years of service to Martin County





HELPING TO MAKE MARTIN COUNTY A PLACE WE ALL LOVE!

"The Boys & Girls Clubs and East Stuart Youth Initiative have truly changed my life over the past 11 years. They have opened doors to opportunities that one can only dream of. If it wasn't for the gentle, understanding guidance of the staff members and their everlasting support, I would not be where I am today. (And) if it were not for the generous funding of the Children's Services Council of Martin County, none of this would be possible."

-- Bria Anderson, 11-year Member of the East Stuart Branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs, as well as the 2011 and 2013 Youth of the Year

As someone who has been working for the Children's Services Council of Martin County for 24 of its 25 years, I wonder ... do you think Martin County would be a different place without it?

When the Council was first proposed, the group of concerned, long-range thinkers certainly thought so. The community leaders behind this home-grown concept include Joan Jefferson, Guy Noble, Hugh Glickstein, Pam Roebuck, Pam Black, Jonnie Wall Williams, Nancy Qwynne, Police Chief Charles White, Maggy Hurchella, Elmira Gainey, Sister Marie Celeste, Mabel Witham, Robert Arimony, Loraine Alvarez, Tom Weber and many others.

They recognized back then that we weren't adequately caring for our children and growing families, and state and local resources weren't keeping up with the demand. So they created a solution – to dedicate a portion of our local tax revenue to fill the gaps – that became a promise to help Martin County's youngest flourish and thrive so that our community could continue to be a great place to live and work.

Since these founders won the support of local voters through referendum back in 1988, the Children's Services Council's mission has not changed ... but our work has evolved. Our funding decisions and plans are research-driven and focused toward a strong return on a sound investment of public funds. The Council's reach is so broad here that I believe, yes, Martin County would be a very different place without this important work over these past 25 years.

The Council is a local solution to local concerns, without the need to rely on state or federal governments. That's why the Children's Services Council has been and remains so dedicated to our promise. The promise of a better future for our youth has been kept for a generation of children. We must keep that promise for all generations to come.



David L. Heaton
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Heaton".

Of the total collected funds from taxpayers from October 2011 to September 2012, the Children's Services Council of Martin County spent:

89% on Program Services
9.2% on Operating Costs (administration, salaries, communications)
1.5% on Collection Fees (from Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, etc.)
0.3% on Reserves

What is the Children's Services Council of Martin County?

As an independent, special district, the Children's Services Council is a dedicated funding source for local children's programs that make a measurable impact in the lives of all Martin County residents. The Council and its staff provide grants to not-for-profit agencies, running a variety of programs that address specific needs and targeted results to create a foundation of support for the future of our community.

Since 1988, the Council has been authorized to collect ad valorem taxes from homeowners in Martin County. This is a responsibility we take seriously by providing substantial programmatic and fiscal oversight to all funded agencies, as well as undergoing annual, independent financial audits and operating with full transparency.

The Council's mission is to enhance the lives of the children of Martin County and to enable them to attain their full potential. With this goal, the homeowners of our community have been investing in the future for 25 years – and it shows. The quality of life here is high and will continue to be, thanks to supporting our next generation of neighbors and friends.



All photography by Steven Martine.

The Current Members of the Children's Services Council are:

Elmira R. Gainey, Council Chair

Governor's Appointee

Laurel Hopper, Council Vice-Chair

Designee of the Florida Department of Children and Families

William Tulko, Council Treasurer

Governor's Appointee

Jody Bond

Governor's Appointee

Michael Busha

Martin County School Board Member

David Dees

Governor's Appointee

Laurie Gaylord

Martin County School Superintendent

Sarah Heard

Martin County Board of County Commissioners Chair

Deena Messinger

Governor's Appointee

Hon. Lawrence M. Mirman

Circuit Court Judge in the 19th Judicial Circuit presiding over Juvenile Cases in Martin County



A Look Back ...

It was a grassroots effort that brought about the Children's Services Council. Residents went door to door, talking to neighbors about the unmet needs for children and families in Martin County. In June 1988, the county commission passed an ordinance approving the Council's formation, and in November the voters approved our taxing authority by 62 percent.

Since our inception, 55 members of the community have served on the Children's Services Council of Martin County either through their elected position or as an appointee of the Governor. With an emphasis on fiscal responsibility since 1989, the annual millage rate has risen less than a quarter per \$1,000 of assessed housing cost. Yet, the impact of these funds have made a dramatic difference in the lives of our community's children and families.



**STRATEGIC,
TARGETED
FUNDING FOR THE
BETTERMENT OF
OUR COMMUNITY**

“The Council believes in the positive growth and well-being of children and uses its funds to strategically target and then monitor those programs that deliver services to accomplish this goal. Receiving positive outcomes in these programs means children are receiving the support they need to develop socially and intellectually in healthy environments. This bodes well for the health of our community and the future of our children.”

— *Judith Weber, former
Council Chair and Vice-
President of Treasure
Florida’s Children*



**SIGNIFICANT
RETURN ON
INVESTMENT WITH
MEASURABLE
IMPACT IN MARTIN
COUNTY**

“We have made significant gains in maternal & child health in Martin County over the past five years: decreases in low birthweight and infant mortality, increases in women getting into prenatal care early. These changes would not have occurred without the investments of the Children’s Services Council.”

– Dale Martinez, Vice President of Seacoast National Bank and President of the Martin County Healthy Start Coalition

**Audited Financial Statement
Sept. 30, 2012**

For entire document, log on to www.cscmc.org/annual-budgets/

	Fiscal Year 2010-2011	Fiscal Year 2011-2012
Revenues:		
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$5,956,563	\$6,117,618
Grants & Rental Income	\$82,772	\$74,094
Interest Income	\$47,370	\$60,119
Fund Transfer	\$1,614,284	0
Total Revenues:	\$7,700,989	\$6,251,831
Expenditures:		
Program Services	\$5,070,584	\$5,019,468
General Government	\$1,195,590	\$1,023,710
Capital Outlay	\$1,434,815	\$639,887
Total Expenditures:	\$7,700,989	\$6,683,065



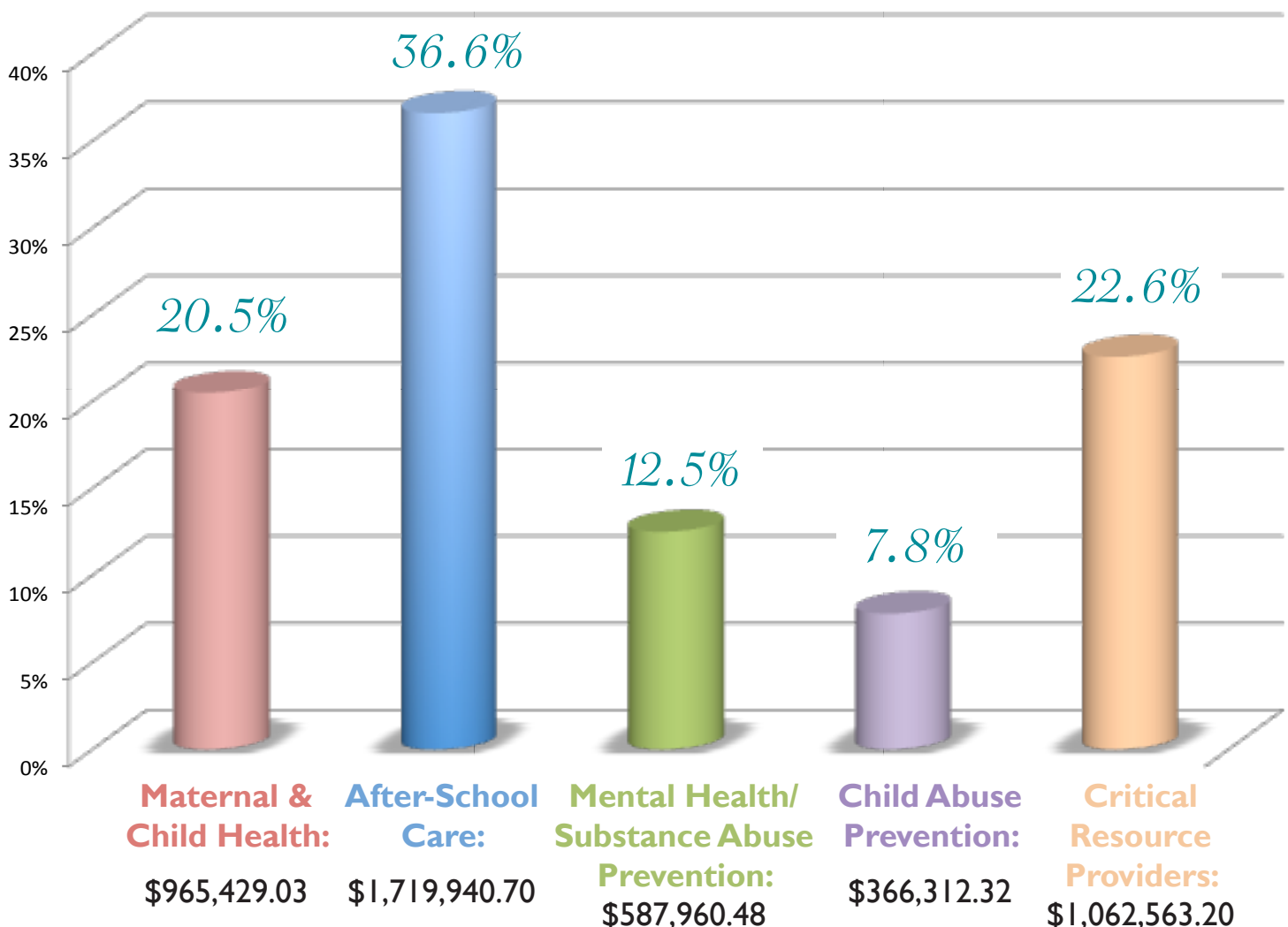
Agencies Funded by the Children's Services Council in 2011-2012

211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast
 The ARC of Martin County
 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Palm Beach and
 Martin Counties
 Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County
 CASTLE
 City of Stuart Community Services Dept.
 Dunbar Center
 Early Learning Coalition of Indian River,
 Martin and Okeechobee Counties
 Easter Seals Florida

Father & Child Resource Center
 HPS, Helping People Succeed
 Martin County Parks & Recreation Dept.
 Martin County Health Dept.
 Martin County Healthy Start Coalition
 Martin Health System
 Project LIFT
 Shared Services Network of Martin County
 Tykes & Teens
 The Whole Child Connection
 YMCA of the Treasure Coast

Our Funding Priorities

Through a strategic planning process based on analysis of the latest research and data, the Council works collaboratively with other local funders to identify successes, gaps and emerging trends in our community. Funding priorities and distribution by priority area from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012, are:





ENHANCING SAFETY IN NEIGHBORHOODS THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTY

“The Children’s Services Council of Martin County has provided, through grant money, a nurturing and safe environment for children in my neighborhood. The after-school program has given the children opportunities to enhance physical, intellectual and citizenship skills. The R.E.A.C.H. Program is a source of pride in New Monrovia! Thank you, Children’s Services Council!

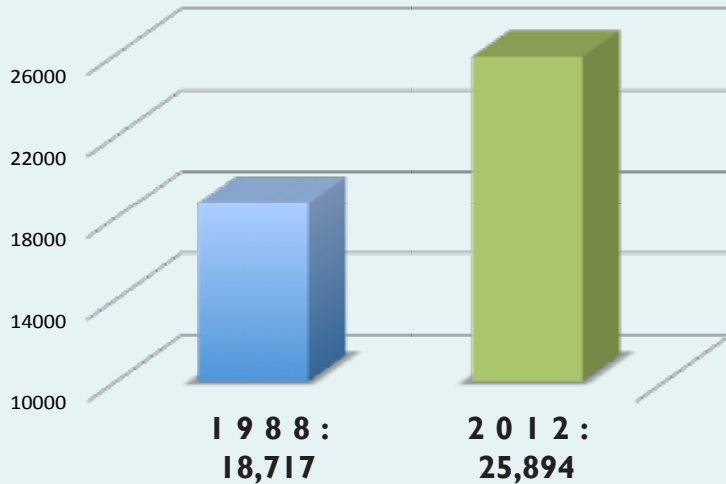
– Gloria McHardy,
former Council member
and community activist



Then and Now ...

Martin County has changed dramatically in the last 25 years, with an increased need for our growing population of young residents. Affordable programs for children and families are needed now more than ever.

TOTAL POPULATION OF MARTIN COUNTY RESIDENTS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD (ESTIMATED)



MEDIAN INCOME

1990:	\$31,760
In 2013 dollars:	\$57,828
2011:	\$53,612
In 2013 dollars:	\$56,161

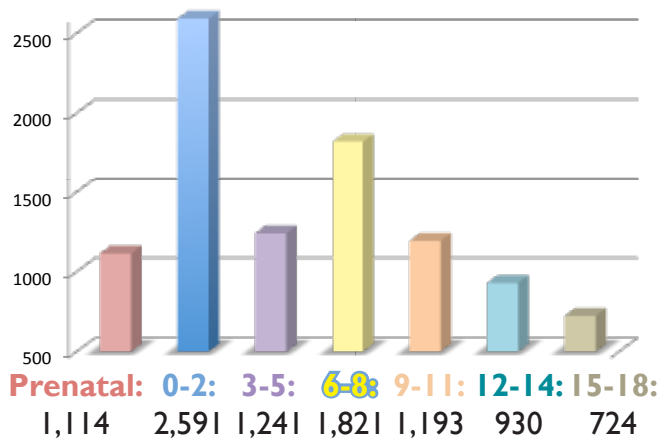
STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE AND/OR REDUCED COST LUNCH AT SCHOOL

1990:	20%
2012:	40.7%

sources: Palm Beach Post, U.S. Census, Children's Services Council's 1990 "Tending the Future" report

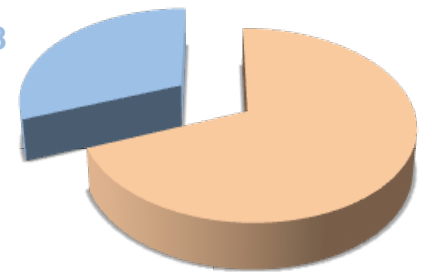
2011-2012 Program Recipients

CHILDREN SERVED BY AGE



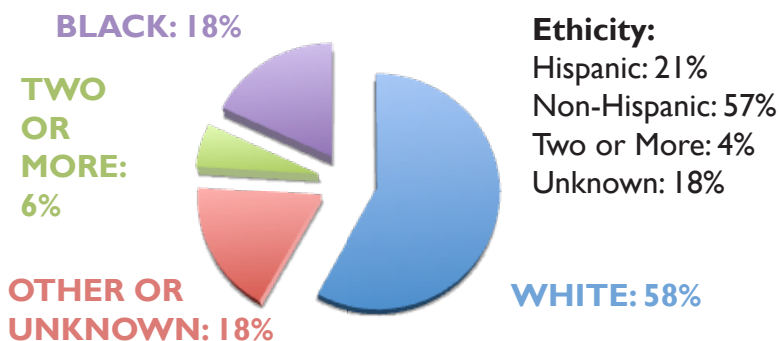
TOTAL NUMBER SERVED: 11,937

ADULTS: 3,698



YOUTH: 8,239

BY RACE



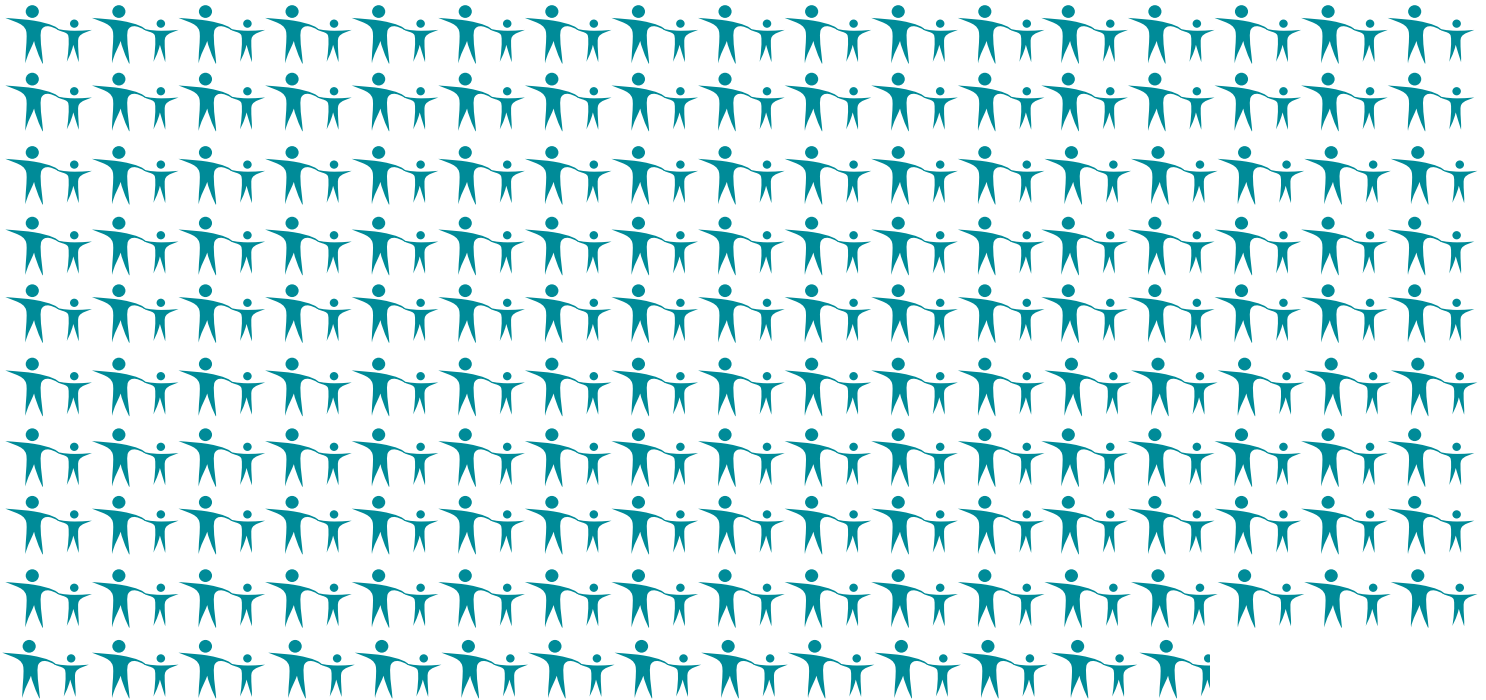
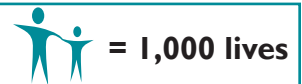
BY NEIGHBORHOOD



An Investment in Children

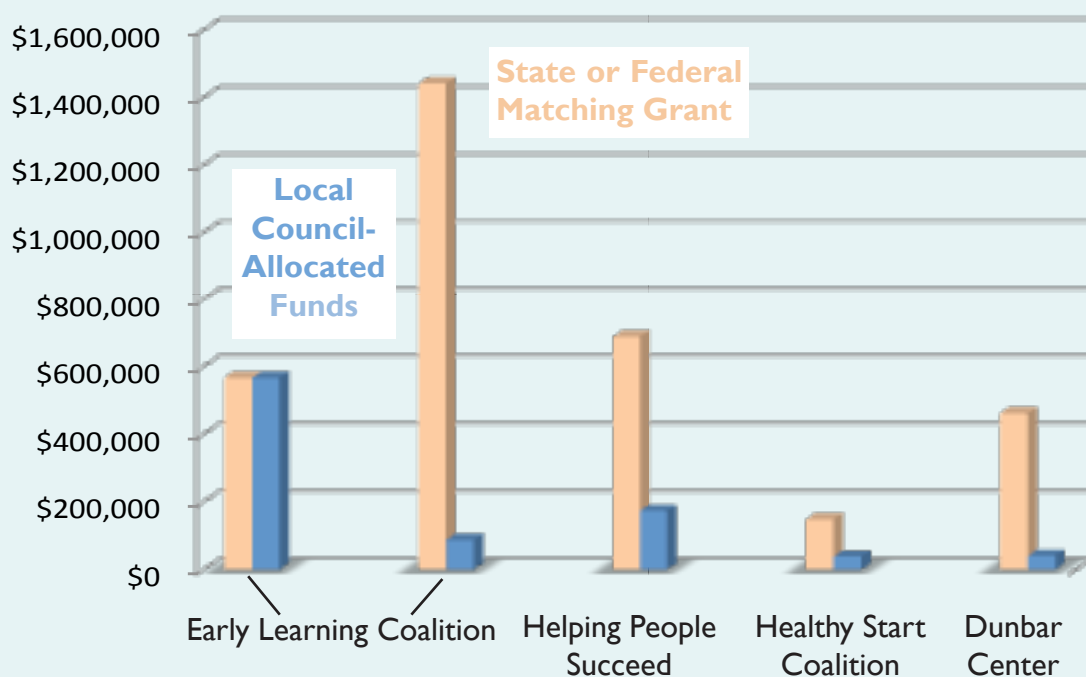
Over the last 25 years, the Children's Services Council of Martin County has helped more children than Martin County's total current population – all while providing a substantial economic return on the investment by taxpayers.

TOTAL LIVES TOUCHED = 164,850 in 25 years



LEVERAGED FUNDS (in 2011-2012) = \$3,179,124

It's a 366% Return on Investment!





EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO RAISE HAPPY, HEALTHY CHILDREN

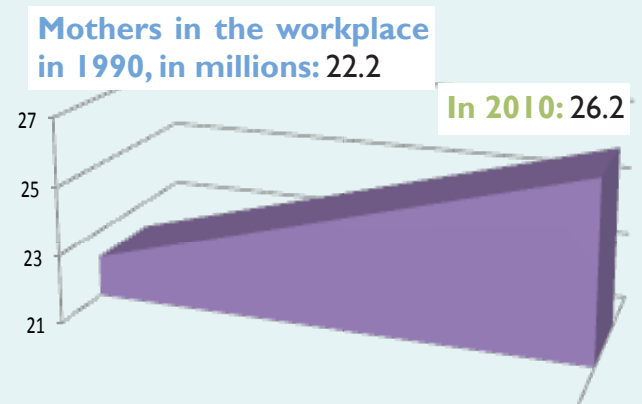
“When we first came home from the hospital, it was overwhelming with everything going on, since (my son) was jaundiced. It was reassuring to have someone checking on him and knowing that we were doing the best we could for him. It was a great program. So much has changed since I had my first son, so it was interesting to have the most current information to know that we are doing the right thing.”

— Kristine Gunn, Palm City resident and mother of Nicholas, speaking of the BRAIN program run by Helping People Succeed and Martin Health System

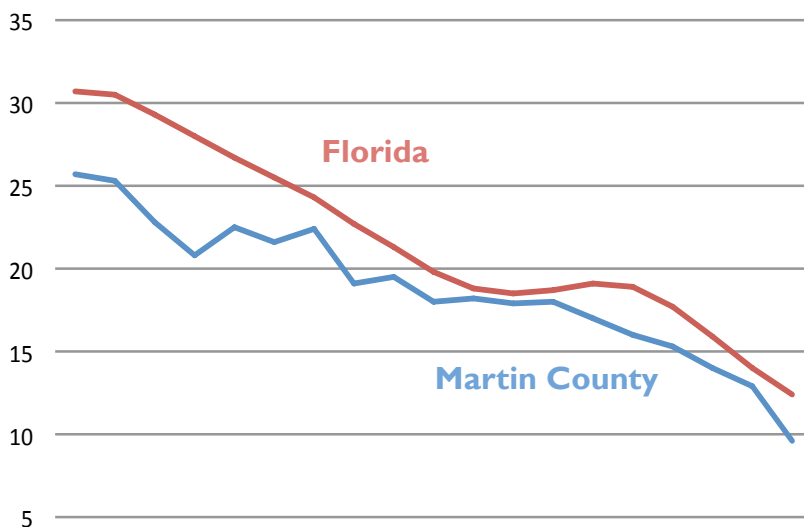
A Measurable Difference

Over the last 25 years, the Children's Services Council of Martin County has utilized targeted funding priorities to create a measurable impact for the betterment of our community – and the data shows these vital programs are helping to make Martin County the place we all love to live, play and grow.

INCREASED ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE AS NUMBERS OF MOTHERS IN WORKFORCE RISE THROUGHOUT NATION

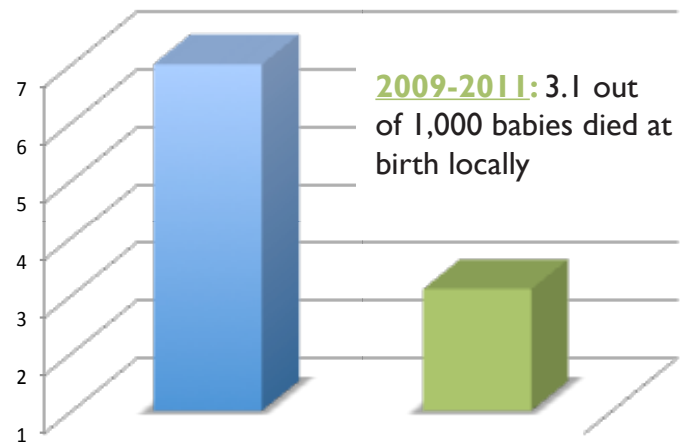


TEEN PREGNANCY DECREASING IN MARTIN COUNTY: 3-Year Rolling Rates of Births by Mothers Ages 12-18, from 1991-1993 to 2010-2012

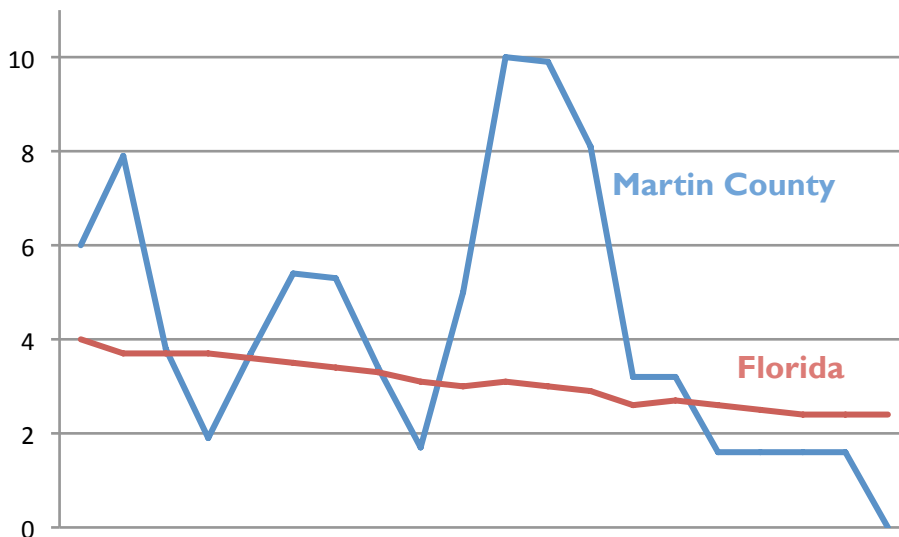


INFANT MORTALITY RATES REDUCED BY MORE THAN HALF IN MARTIN COUNTY:

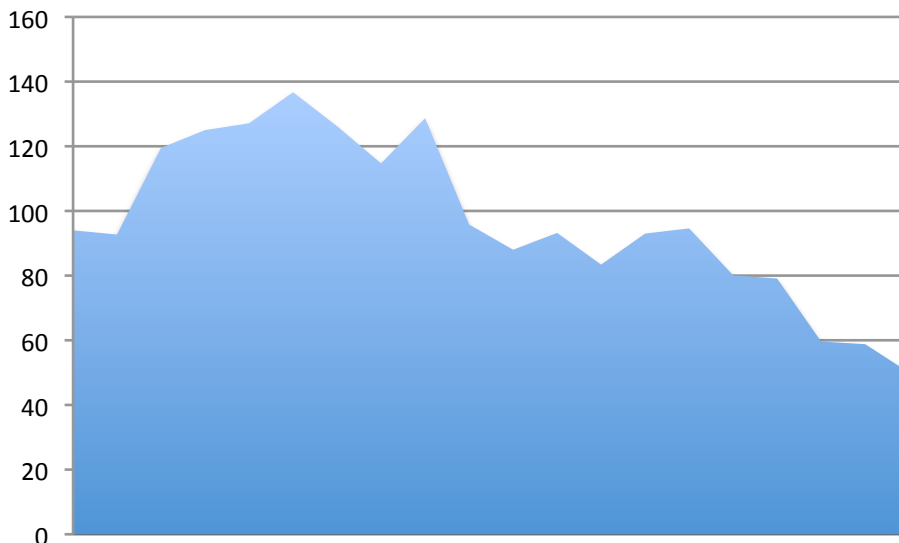
1988-1990: 7 out of
1,000 babies died at
birth locally



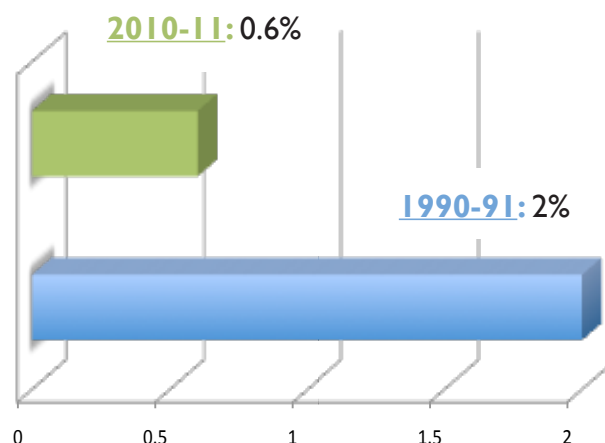
FEWER DROWNINGS:
3-Year Rolling Rates of Unintentional Drownings by
Children Ages 0-14, from 1991-1993 to 2010-2012



JUVENILE JUSTICE REFERRALS REDUCED:
Martin County Referral Rates per 1,000 Children
Ages 10-17, from 1992-1993 to 2011-2012



MARTIN COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL
DROPOUT RATE
DECREASED BY
70 PERCENT:
Rate for all high
schools in county



SERVING AS MARTIN
COUNTY'S PREMIER
ADVOCATE AND
PLANNING AGENCY
FOR CHILDREN

"Having served in a leadership role in a non-profit organization previously has proved invaluable now that I'm with the Children's Services Council, where I have the opportunity to work with providers on community planning, advocacy, program development and quality improvement. I really appreciate all that Martin County has to offer in terms of the quality of services provided and the collaborative nature of our agencies, funders and decision makers."

— Sarah Gosney, Council Director of Policy and Operations and former Executive Director of Martin County Healthy Start Coalition



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN

“This community is a better place for children and families due to the collaborations that the Council has created and the measurable impact it has had on the health and education of Martin County youth. Support from the Children’s Services Council has been key to our agency being able to provide vital mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services to local youth, regardless of financial status and without a waiting list. This ensures timely treatment and avoidance of long term issues for the child.”

– Jeff Shearer, Executive
Director of Tykes &
Teens



Empowering Families for Success

The programs funded by the Children's Services Council of Martin County have helped an entire generation of our community's children. There is no greater evidence of our success than watching children graduate high school and become productive, tax-paying citizens. Many families benefit from more than one program funded by the Children's Services Council, but sometimes, just one program makes all the difference.

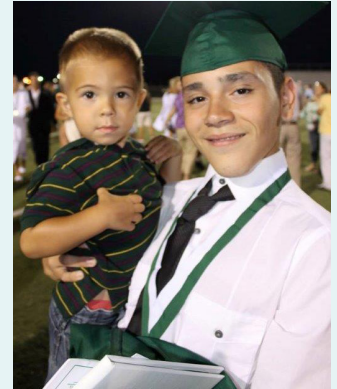
Leigh Holt and her husband, Ken, moved to Martin County in 1996 for her husband's work as a pastor – and they came with a lot of needs. They had just recently agreed to foster (and later adopt) two children, 3-year-old Tina and her baby brother, Raul. Raul suffered a number of medical and developmental conditions, and by the time he was 14 months old, Raul was so frustrated from not learning how to communicate or walk that he started banging his head against the floor.

The family was grateful to be referred to Tri-County TEC, the non-profit agency that's now known as Helping People Succeed, under a federal program that helped pay for a wide variety of screenings and treatments. Unfortunately, there was a four-month wait for services.

"In the life of a child, four months is a really long time," she said.

Thankfully, at the time, the Children's Services Council of Martin County funded a program that filled in the gaps and allowed services to begin immediately. During the first visit, a therapist taught Raul two sign language words. Instantly, he stopped banging his head. By kindergarten, no one could tell that he had developmental issues growing up.

"We were shocked when we moved (away from Martin County) at the lack of services. We have waiting lists for everything, and sometimes you can't afford to wait."



Raul Holt on his high school graduation day, with his nephew, Asher

Today, Raul is a recent high school graduate with straight A's, and he's planning to attend Brevard County Community College in the fall to pursue hospitality management. Leigh, whose family moved to Melbourne not long after Raul started school, noticed a big difference between a county that has an independent special district that funds children's programs – like the Children's Services Council – and one that does not.

"We were shocked when we moved (away from Martin County) at the lack of services. We have waiting lists for everything, and sometimes you can't afford to wait," she said. "If we hadn't gotten services for him when we did, he wouldn't be where he is today."



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MARTIN COUNTY

"INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE"

*Learn more about
how we help make
Martin County the
place we all love!*

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Stuart, FL 34994

(772) 288-5758

www.cscmc.org • www.facebook.com/cscmc

Council meetings are held at 10 a.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. We welcome public participation!