



"INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE"





All photography by Steven Martine



*Martin County's
future firefighter?*

PROFILE: Jefferson, 8, recipient of the Whole Child Connection program

Jefferson's mom came to the Whole Child Connection for the first time in 2011 to sign up for Medicaid, but she immediately learned from the Whole Child advisors that there were a lot of other programs for her children and family in Martin County. During that first visit, the family received help applying for food stamps and learned about subsidized child care. His mother learned she could actually work more because day care was no longer financially impossible. Plus, Jefferson was learning instead of watching TV! Being a single mom became easier. With help from a Whole Child advisor, Jefferson's mom earned her driver's license and better understood her son's needs, which included therapy.

"I am most grateful for the guidance, education and care Whole Child provides me," she said. "It is my hope that one day I will no longer need public assistance."

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 our community's future.

With a voter referendum in 1988, the Council has been authorized to collect ad valorem taxes from homeowners in Martin County. This is a responsibility the Children's Services Council takes 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, Martin County homeowners have made an investment in our community with measurable results.

Creating a foundation of support for Martin County's faces of the future

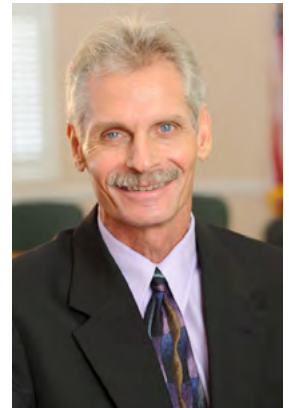
What did you want to be when you grew up? A firefighter, a major league baseball player, a doctor? Over the years as I grew up, I wanted to be an archeologist, a minister like my father and an architect. You see, our life experience often points us to these goals and dreams. That's why it's vitally important to foster an environment that encourages a belief in limitless possibilities for everyone.

The Children's Services Council of Martin County considers this a primary mission: creating a community where all children can reach their full potential to become whoever they want to be. This is an important element in the success of our community and nation. Have we provided ample educational opportunity, outlets for creative expression, leadership examples and spiritual guidance for those who will follow us to become our future leaders, caregivers, bankers and builders?

This foundation of support and encouragement is essential. The only way to improve outcomes, reduce costs, rebuild American prosperity and ensure our personal and national security is to guarantee every child the essential building blocks for hope and success.

This can be accomplished through evidence-based and research-directed programs and policies. The Council focuses on initiatives that support the health of pregnant women, increase the chance of healthy full-term birth and early childhood development. Also, Council-funded programs help young children grow ready to learn, support families and communities to care for their young children and improve the safety, physical environment and economic development of neighborhoods where children play and learn.

We are so fortunate in Martin County to have a dedicated funding source and strategy to accomplish this for our community, our children and our future. For about \$5 per month per property taxpayer, the Children's Services Council supports and monitors the quality of primary prevention programs for our children. Over the short term, this investment can save millions of dollars. Over the long-term, we will enrich ourselves by an unlimited number of futures.

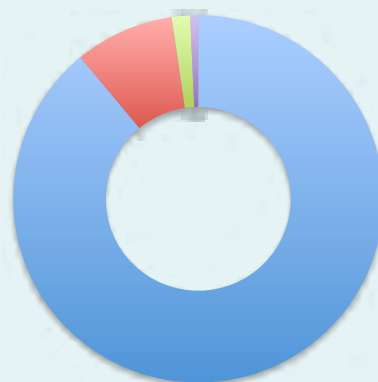






David L. Heaton
Executive Director

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

Spending breakdown

Of the total budgeted funds collected from taxpayers from October 2012 to September 2013, the Children's Services Council of Martin County spent:



-  **89% on Program Services**
-  **8.7% on Operating Costs (administration, communications)**
-  **1.6% on Collection Fees (from Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, etc.)**
-  **0.7% on Reserves**





Martin County's future mayor?

PROFILE: Eddric, 9, recipient of the City of Stuart's East Stuart Youth Initiative program

A member of the East Stuart Youth Initiative for three years, Eddric has grown from a shy, reserved child into someone who wants to be President someday! Since his mother is unable to care for him and his brother, they have lived with their aunt and uncle ever since their father passed away when he was about 5 years old. Since both of their guardians work, the after-school program in East Stuart (a collaboration among the City of Stuart, Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County, Tykes & Teens and the Stuart Police Department) has been a lifesaver.

Eddric credits the club for keeping him away from drugs on the streets, helping him in school, and learning how to control his anger and talk about his feelings. In school, he frequently earns all A's. Also through the East Stuart Youth Initiative, he takes judo lessons, which teaches him self-defense "the right way," he said. He also plays golf, football and is on the Little League baseball team. He hopes one day these sports will allow him to earn a scholarship to college.

"The most important thing I've learned at the club is how to eat healthy foods and stay away from drugs," he said. He's proud to be on a positive path to success, so he's got our vote!

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

Laurel Hopper, Council Chair

Designee of the Florida Department of Children and Families

Elmira R. Gainey, Council Vice-Chair

Governor's Appointee

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

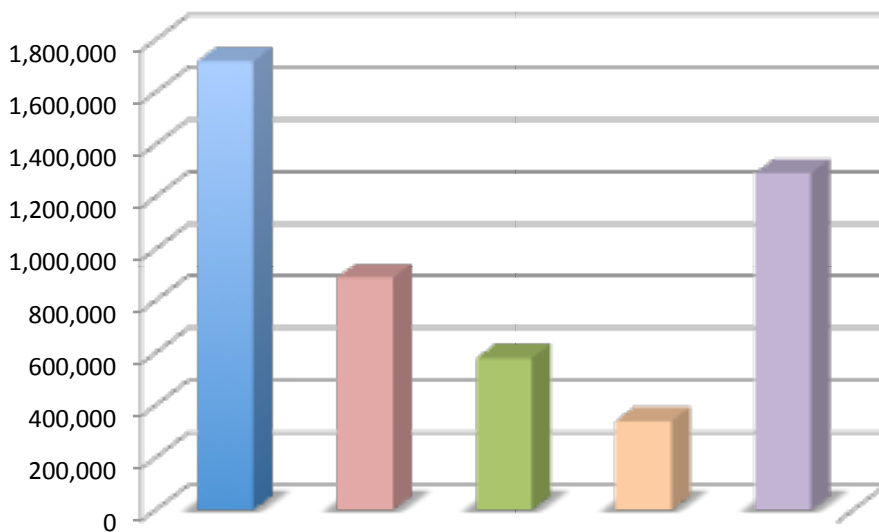
Agencies Funded by the Children's Services Council in 2012-2013

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

Funding by Priority Area

July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013



After-School Care
\$1,718,009

Maternal & Child Health
\$888,232

**Mental Health/Substance
Abuse Prevention**
\$580,212

Child Abuse Prevention
\$339,005

Critical Resource Providers
\$1,291,140

How does the Council decide which programs to fund?

Programs are funded through a strategic planning process created and implemented to target local dollars toward efforts proven to effectively improve the health and well-being of children and families in Martin County in ways they need it the most. In late 2013, the Council approved a five-year Strategic Plan, which was formed utilizing local data benchmarked against national, state and local qualitative and quantitative data with broad community input and research. This planning process helped identify areas that needed additional attention, as well as areas that were improving and new, emerging issues to be addressed.

The new Strategic Plan outlined four new funding priority areas: Healthy Children, Strong Families, Safe Communities and Success in School and Life. These will be implemented in the 2014-2015 grant cycle. Learn more at www.csmc.org/strategic-plan/.

Not-for-profit agencies in Martin County that have two additional, sustainable funding sources dedicated to the program and a proven track record for success are eligible to apply for a grant for a pilot program or an expansion to new sites. More information on this process is available at www.csmc.org/application-information/.



Martin County's future teacher?

PROFILE: Allyson, 11, recipient of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Palm Beach and Martin Counties' Start Something program

When Allyson moved to Martin County in 2008, she was in kindergarten, and her mother was in college studying to become a teacher and working part time. Without extended family nearby or a sufficient income, her mother struggled with the fresh start the move brought her. She reached out to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Palm Beach and Martin Counties in search of positive role models for both Allyson and her twin brother, Andy.

Soon, a match was found for Allyson. "This was perfect timing because she was having a lot of difficulty in school," her mom said. "Seeing her Big Sister became the highlight of her week, and she started to become more focused on her schoolwork and her road to academic success."

Under the wing of her Big Sister, Allyson's self-esteem started to grow. She became more assertive and proud of her achievements. Meanwhile, her mother was able to focus a little more time on her own studies. Not long after Allyson was matched, her brother gained a Big Brother. Andy's behavior in school improved dramatically. "His Big Brother has taught him how to be respectful, responsible and trustworthy, plus gave him some work ethic," their mom said. "He has been such a positive influence for my son, who does not have a father figure in his life."

Their mother eventually earned her Master's Degree in education and worked as a substitute teacher for five years. That's when a position opened up at Big Brothers Big Sisters. "They helped my children and me become productive members of this community," she said. "I will be forever grateful."

Audited Financial Statement Sept. 30, 2013

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

	Fiscal Year 2011-2012	Fiscal Year 2012-2013
Revenues:		
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$6,117,618	\$6,071,189
Grants & Rental Income	\$74,094	\$77,214
Interest Income	\$60,119	\$31,135
Total Revenues:	\$6,251,831	\$6,179,538
Expenditures:		
Program Services	\$5,019,468	\$5,105,494
General Government	\$1,023,710	\$965,177
Capital Outlay	\$639,887	\$4,346
Total Expenditures:	\$6,683,065	\$6,075,017

A Return on Investment:

Many agencies leverage funds administered by the Children's Services Council to draw down state and federal dollars that otherwise wouldn't come into Martin County:

• **Dunbar Center** •
\$461,293

• **Early Learning Coalition** •
\$2,008,901

• **Helping People Succeed** •
\$688,000

• **Martin County Healthy Start** •
\$147,900

**TOTAL LEVERAGED FUNDS
in 2012-2013:**
\$3,306,094



Martin County's future nurse?

PROFILE: Lovely, 18, recipient of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County's High-Yield Learning program

As a member of the Palm City branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County for eight years, Lovely was recently named the clubs' 2014 Youth of the Year.

She's taken full advantage of opportunities both in and out of the Club – and she really will be a future Martin County nurse! She graduated as a dual-enrollment student at Clark Advanced Learning Center and Indian River State College in May, and she plans to enroll at Florida Atlantic University, where she will study to become a neonatal nurse practitioner.

At the Boys & Girls Clubs, Lovely has grown into a leader who cares about her community. Last year, she completed 325 hours of community service and was the president of the Keystone Club, a leadership development group. "If you come to our Club, you may find her teaching a group of girls a dance routine, assisting with homework, helping staff members with a program, or simply being a friend to her peers and younger Club Members," said Kim Lucas, a former staff member who mentored Lovely.

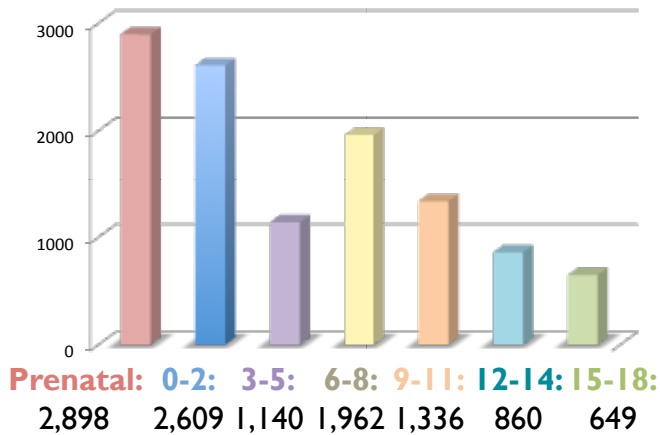
Lovely's interest in nursing is personal, having been born a premature baby. With a weighed GPA of 5.31, she was selected for a prestigious internship at one of the largest neonatal intensive care units. "I want every baby to grow up healthy," she said.





2012-2013 Program Recipients

CHILDREN SERVED BY AGE



TOTAL NUMBER SERVED: 11,504

ADULTS: 3,128



YOUTH: 8,376

BY RACE

WHITE: 58%

BLACK: 18%

TWO
OR
MORE:
6%

Ethnicity:

Hispanic: 22%

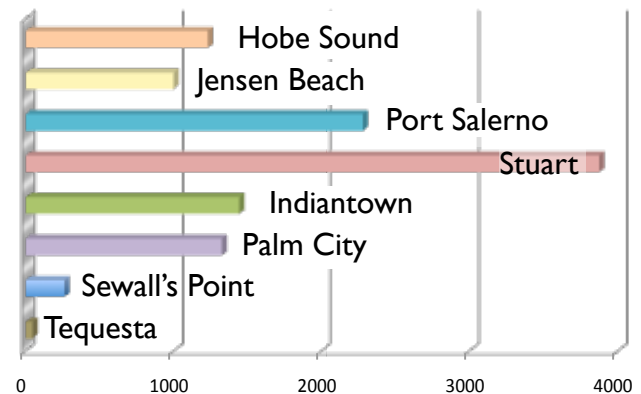
Non-Hispanic: 35%

Two or More: 4%

Unknown: 39%

OTHER OR
UNKNOWN: 18%

BY NEIGHBORHOOD



Martin County's future baker?

PROFILE: Kaylee, 8, recipient of the YMCA of the Treasure Coast's Strong Families program

Kaylee has been a part of childcare and sports programs with the YMCA for the better part of six years. During this time, she and her mother participated in the Strong Families program, which provides scholarships funded by the Children's Services Council. This scholarship has allowed Kaylee to receive after-school care, go to summer camp and be a member of the swim team at a drastically reduced rate.

Her mother, Gabby, is raising Kaylee by herself. The Y's flexible hours help her when she's working late to support her family.

"I can say honestly both the Stuart YMCA and YMCA SportsWorld have been a great impact on Kaylee, getting to know other kids and making new friends (in a safe and inclusive environment)," she said. "I love that, as a mom, I get to see a smile on my daughter's face coming home from the day after the Y."





Martin County's future mechanic?

PROFILE: Kyle, 16, recipient of Project LIFT's program

A sophomore at Spectrum Junior/Senior High School, Kyle was smoking marijuana every day and drinking alcohol every weekend. With his father in jail, his mother was very hands-on but struggled herself with her own issues. Kyle was running with a bad crowd, so it wasn't much of a surprise when he was arrested for drug possession and paraphernalia.

Kyle went to Drug Court, an opportunity in the legal system for him to expunge his record if he successfully completes specific programs. Project LIFT is one, and in September, 2013 he was referred to the program that combines outpatient intensive mental health therapy with vocational skill development and mentoring.

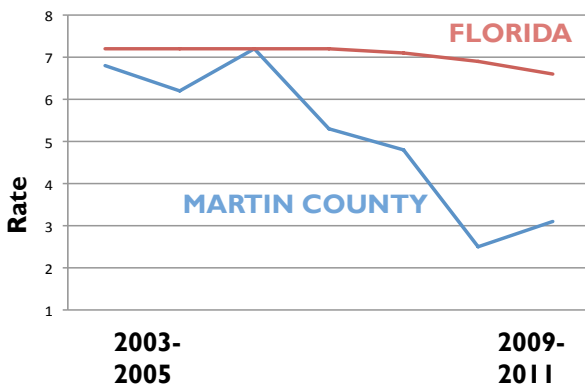
"When we first started, his mom would call me every day, crying in tears, unable to get him out of bed to go to school," said Bob Zaccheo, Project LIFT's executive director. "Once we cleaned up the drug and alcohol problem, he never missed school."

Now sober since September, Kyle has completed the 14-week intensive program, will soon graduate Drug Court and voluntarily continues with Project LIFT. He especially enjoys learning automobile and boat repair, and he's now back on track to graduate high school. And what's more, he's learning skills that will help him get a job and become a tax-paying productive citizen for the betterment of Martin County!

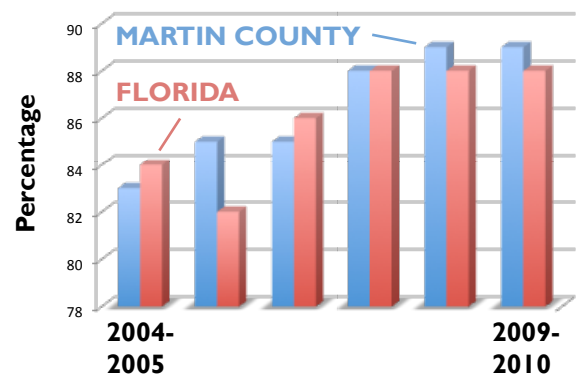
A history of measurable success

For a look at all the Youth Health and Well-Being Indicators tracked to determine the community-wide impact of Council-funded programs and complementary work, log on to <http://www.cscmc.org/youth-health-well-being-report/>

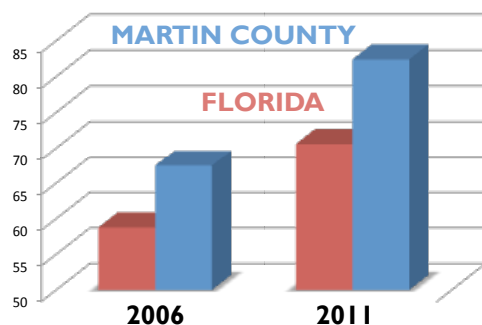
FEWER INFANT DEATHS
(Per 1,000 Live Births, Rolling Rates)



READY FOR KINDERGARTEN
Source: Dept. of Education

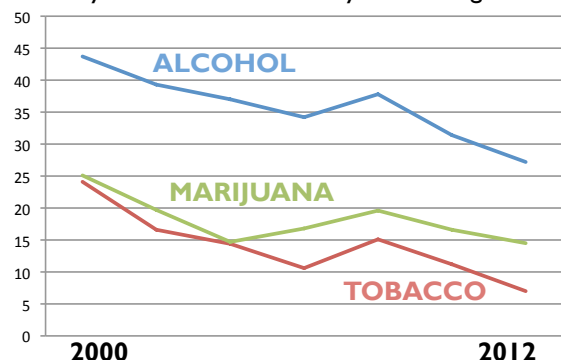


BETTER GRADUATION RATES



LESS TEEN ALCOHOL & DRUG USE

Past 30-Day Use for Martin County Middle/High Schools





Martin County's future doctors?

PROFILE: Courtney, 3, and Kaitlyn, 5, recipients of Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee Counties' Subsidized Child Care

As a single mom, Stephanie was busy juggling her full-time job, studying accounting at Indian River State College and driving an hour to and from Port St. Lucie to bring her two daughters to a small, private day care that she could afford. When her mother told her about the potential for subsidized day care through the Early Learning Coalition, she quickly scheduled herself to be seen by a member of the staff.

After presenting her pay stub, birth certificates, proof of residency and other financial information, both daughters began attending Apple Tree Academy in Jensen Beach last summer.

"They are preparing Kaitlyn for kindergarten," she said. "It's surprising when she comes home and wants to practice. She can write her name and 'I love you,' It's really cool to see that."

Stephanie added that she would have trouble making ends meet without the subsidized child care, in part because her daughters are so close in age. Thanks to the matching grant from the Children's Services Council, she is confident her daughters will be prepared for school.

"The teachers they have are really great, and the girls seem to be really happy," she said. "It's really fun for them, but they still learn a lot at the same time."

Voter Reauthorization Scheduled for November 4, 2014:

For the first time since voters approved the formation of the Children's Services Council of Martin County 26 years ago, the Council is back on the ballot for reauthorization of taxing authority to continue serving the community. The ballot language reads:

The Children's Services Council of Martin County is an independent special taxing district approved by Martin County's voters in 1988 to enhance health and well being of Martin County's children. Shall the Children's Services Council of Martin County be reauthorized to fund services for Martin County's children as provided by law unless dissolved by the County Commission or special act of Legislature?

_____ Yes for approval
_____ No for rejection

For more information on this very important vote for all Martin County registered voters, please visit www.cscmc.org.

Special Thanks:

The Children's Services Council of Martin County would like to thank the following businesses for their help in supplying costumes and locations for the photographs in this Annual Report: Allegro Independent Living, Bridges Montessori School, The Children's Museum of the Treasure Coast, City of Stuart, Gusto's Italian Cuisine, Importico's Bakery, Martin Health System, Matt Stone Photography, Sheffer Automotive, Visiting Nurse Association of Florida and Steven Martine Photography.





PROFILE: Adam, 2, recipient of the Martin Health System and Helping People Succeed's BRAIN visit, Helping People Succeed's Developmental Intervention program and Easter Seal Florida's Early Steps program

When their first baby, Adam, came home from the hospital, his parents received a BRAIN Program visit to check his health and enrolled in the follow-up developmental monitoring surveys.

After four months of tracking his development with the monitoring surveys, his mother became concerned and eventually called Helping People Succeed. She was connected with a Developmental Specialist, who visited her home to assess his skills. Indeed, he was behind in meeting some typical milestones for his age. So they scheduled weekly visits, where she learned valuable skills to help teach her son. Adam also received a referral to the Easter Seals' Early Steps program, which further improved his development.

Thanks to his caring parents and Council-funded programs, Adam is now on target in all areas and has a much better chance of entering kindergarten on track and ready to learn!



*Building a foundation
of support for
Martin County's
Faces of the Future.*

101 S.E. Central Parkway
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!