



**Children's Aid Society**  
of Alabama

*serving Alabama  
since 1912*

CHANGING LIVES  
BUILDING FAMILIES  
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES



**Report to Our Community  
2016-2017  
[childrensaid.org](http://childrensaid.org)**

# A NOTE FROM OUR CEO, GAYLE WATTS

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Dear Friends,

Children's Aid Society of Alabama extends sincerest thanks to our partners, donors, volunteers, colleagues, families and clients. The need for our services has never been greater and your response to those needs has never been more powerful. It is our honor and privilege to fulfill the mission of CAS: **Changing Lives, Building Families, Strengthening Communities.**



For 105 years, CAS has believed that everyone deserves a family. Whether formed by birth, through adoption or reunification, each family is unique. Becoming – and remaining – a strong family unit is not simple or easy. CAS sees far too many of Alabama's youth exit the foster care system without an intact family or consistent adult support. **Abuse, neglect, addiction, homelessness and isolation are unacceptable outcomes for our children and communities.** With your help, CAS remains committed to bettering the lives of Alabama's children, youth and families.

This annual report summarizes direct services provided to 17,610 unique individuals during fiscal year 2017. While statistics are significant, we urge you to visualize these individuals and the impact we have on their lives with your partnership:

- Every time we recruit, counsel and prepare a potential adoptive family, a child waiting in the foster care system has the opportunity to find their forever home.
- Every time we counsel a family in crisis we increase the odds that the family will stay together, knowing that children thrive best in their own homes.
- Every time we lead a parenting class, we strengthen the families they hold dear.
- Every time we reach a teen in foster care, we reinforce that they matter and they can become successful, independent adults.
- Every time we provide stable housing for a homeless, parenting youth we stabilize a tender young family.
- Every time we train social service professionals in Trauma Informed Care and Resilience we increase the odds that more healthy families will be created, strengthened and sustained.
- Every time we educate and support an adult adoptee, birth or adoptive family, we ease their lifelong adoption journey.

These pages demonstrate that, **together**, we continue to change lives, build families and strengthen communities! Please call, email or schedule a site visit to learn more about supporting the mission of Children's Aid Society of Alabama.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gayle Watts". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional yet personal style.

Gayle Watts, LICSW  
Chief Executive Officer

# WHO WE SERVED

**17,610**

individuals served

**7,515**

adoptive families  
& young adoptees  
served by APAC

**180**

adults participated in  
EPIC parenting classes

**280**

youth in foster care &  
professionals received  
Independent Living  
services

**2,988**

individuals were provided  
Family Partners' in-home  
services to preserve  
their families

**409**

adult adoptees and  
others assisted by  
Adoption Support  
services

**147**

homeless young mothers &  
their children supported by  
Project Independence

**6,091**

additional children, youth, adults, professionals,  
educators and others served by CAS community  
outreach, trainings and special events

OCTOBER 2016 - SEPTEMBER 2017

## REQUEST OUR CAS SERVICES

To request or refer to CAS services call 205-251-7148 or visit our website:

[CHILDRENSAID.ORG/REQUEST](http://CHILDRENSAID.ORG/REQUEST)

# WHAT WE DID

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## APAC (ALABAMA PRE/POST ADOPTION CONNECTIONS)



*Providing Education and Support to Strengthen and Empower Alabama's Adoptive Families*

- Directly served 7,515 individuals and 1,225 households through community outreach.
- Recruited/trained adoptive families for children waiting in foster care.
- Hosted Camp APAC for adopted youth and siblings.
- Presented statewide trainings for pre/post adoptive families and the professionals who serve them.

## EPIC (EFFECTIVE PARENTING INSTRUCTION COURSE)

*Teaching Skills that Build Stronger Parents*

- Led parenting classes for 180 parents and caregivers.
- Served 1,357 households through community outreach.



## FAMILY PARTNERS

*Establishing Safe Homes Where Families Stay Together*

- Served 2,988 individuals in families at risk of losing their children by providing intensive in-home support.
- Successfully reunified 86% of referred families whose children had been removed for safety concerns, including provision of ongoing aftercare.



*"FAMILY MEANS NO ONE GETS LEFT BEHIND OR FORGOTTEN"*

*-DAVID OGDEN STIERS-*

## INDEPENDENT LIVING

*Guiding Youth Preparing to Leave Foster Care Toward Independent Adulthood*



- Directly served 280 youth preparing to leave the foster care system, including Camp Life retreats that provided age-appropriate life skills training.
- Supported 200 additional youth in care at regional events that included mentors, speakers, life skills training, team building and respite activities.

## PROJECT INDEPENDENCE

*Empowering Young Mothers to Establish Strong and Stable Homes*



- Provided temporary housing and support for 28 young mothers and their 11 children.
- Served 147 current clients and program graduates with counseling, parenting skills, education and workforce training, financial education and community connections.

## ADOPTION SUPPORT

*Navigating the Lifelong Adoption Journey*



- Managed 979 requests for assistance.
- Supported adults previously placed for adoption by CAS.\*
- Provided assessments, home studies and counseling for families seeking to adopt, adult adoptees and birth parents.

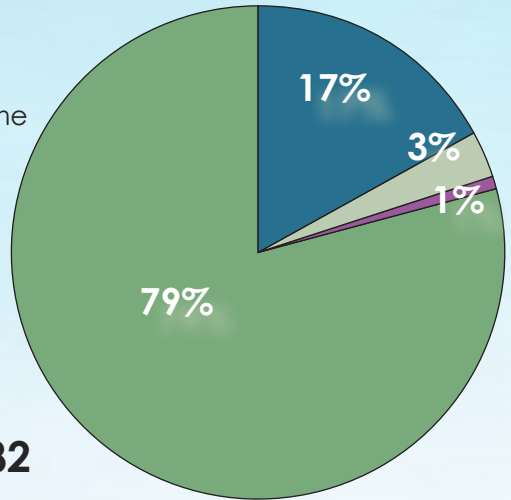
*\*CAS served as an adoption placement agency until 1993.*



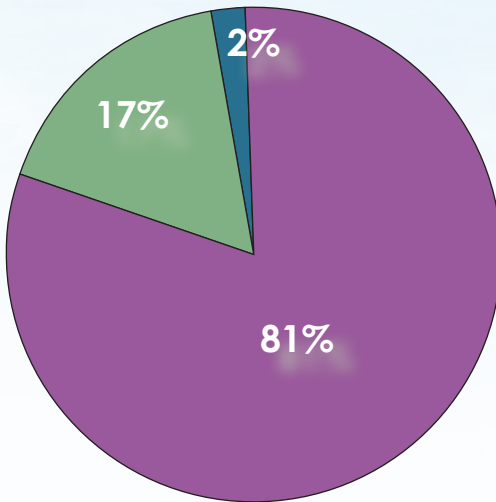
# 2016-2017 FINANCIAL RECAP

**Revenue: \$5,562,382**

- Federal and State Contracts
- United Way
- Contributions and Grants
- Program Fees and Misc Income



**Expenses: \$5,562,382**



- Program Services
- Mgt and General
- Development

Complete IRS Form 990 may be viewed at [childrensaid.org/financials](http://childrensaid.org/financials)

## WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS



# OUR VALUES

ENABLING CHILDREN OF ALL AGES TO GROW IN FAMILIES.

BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES TO MAKE STRONG COMMUNITIES.

EMBODYING TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE AS THE STRENGTH BASED  
FOUNDATION OF ALL SERVICES.

POSITIVELY IMPACTING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND THEIR  
FAMILIES, AND OUR COMMUNITIES.

EMBRACING & INCORPORATING DIVERSITY.

PARTNERING WITH INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WHEN ASSESSING,  
PLANNING, AND DELIVERING SERVICES.

SEEKING INPUT FROM ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO IMPROVE SERVICES AND  
RESPONSE TO CHANGING NEEDS.

PROVIDING ETHICAL, RESPONSIBLE, AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.

BEING ACCOUNTABLE TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS.

DEMONSTRATING SERVICE EFFECTIVENESS THROUGH OUTCOMES.

FAITHFULLY STEWARDING RESOURCES.

## YOU CAN HELP

- Strengthen and sustain families in our communities
- Provide mentoring, skills and confidence in hundreds of youth who are exiting foster care
- Build the resilience of young homeless parents or expectant mothers and increase the likelihood of their families staying together

[CHILDRENSAID.ORG/DONATE](https://CHILDRENSAID.ORG/DONATE)



Member since 1923



Member since 1981



Children's Aid Society of Alabama  
2141 14th Avenue South  
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[childrensaid.org](http://childrensaid.org)

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Advancement & Excellence

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