

BREAKING CYCLES. CHANGING LIVES.

For 25 years, Children's Harbor has been providing a harbor of hope and healing for children who have been impacted by the trauma of child abuse.



**We believe that children should feel safe.
We believe that family is worth fighting for.
We believe that cycles can be broken.**

AT A GLANCE



Children's Harbor is a nationally accredited nonprofit agency. Our mission is to help strengthen families who are struggling in our community, while providing safe shelter and support to teens in foster care so that they may grow into healthy, educated and productive adults.

We do 3 things.

We Keep Kids Safe.

Our main campus provides a family environment to teenagers in foster care and their younger siblings.

We Help Families Heal.

Our Family Strengthening team prevents kids from coming into foster care by providing in-house counseling and support to families who are struggling in our community.

We Shine a Light Toward Hope.

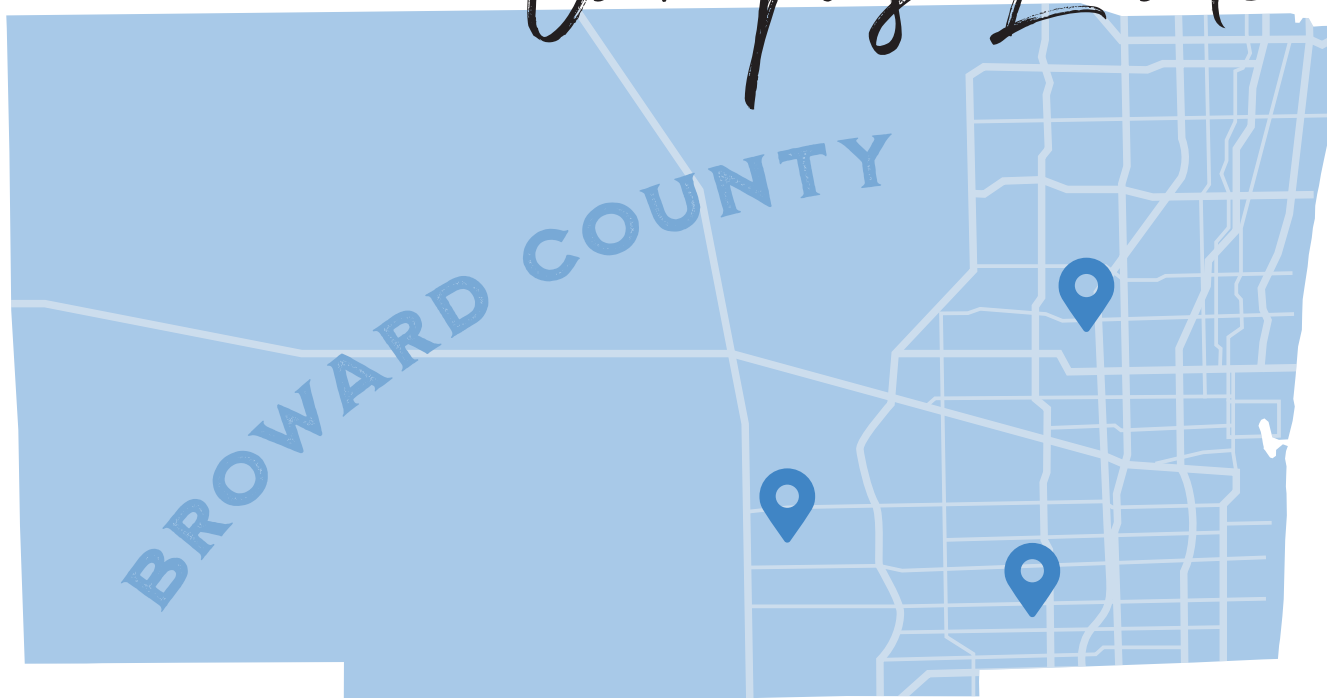
Our independent living programs provide support and wrap-around guidance to teens who have aged out of the foster care system through the early stages of adulthood.



Tiffani Dhooge
President/CEO

"We do everything that we can to shine light back into the lives of kids who have been impacted by the trauma of child abuse."

Campus Locations



25 years of hope and healing

11,000+ children

have been safely supported in their home and kept out of the foster care system by our Family Strengthening Team.

200 teen moms

were provided with education, coaching and the opportunity to live with their child and practice parenting skills within a supportive environment.

545 teenagers

were able to remain together with their younger siblings through our family group homes.

571 teens

who have aged out of the foster care system were provided with the housing, life skills and wrap-around support necessary to overcome their trauma and navigate through the early stages of adulthood.

\$4.7 MILLION ANNUAL BUDGET

86¢ of every dollar goes directly to our kids!

OUR HISTORY

Sometimes it doesn't just take a village; it takes an entire community

Our story begins in 1996, when a local businessman, Bill Mahoney, learned that there was a foster care crisis in our community. Children who had already suffered unspeakable abuse and neglect were being separated from their siblings and placed in different foster homes because of a shortage of placement options. Unable to ignore this reality, he reached out to other community-minded individuals. Together, they decided to create a solution.

Fast forward 25 years and thousands of lives have changed course because of the determination of a few.

Never doubt that a small group of *thoughtful, committed citizens* can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead

1996

Founded by a group of volunteers, Children's Harbor was officially established as a nonprofit child welfare organization. We then began in-home counseling to families in crisis throughout Broward County.

The City of Pembroke Pines gave Children's Harbor a 30-year lease for an 8-acre campus.

2006

Children's Harbor launched our on-site clinic and began offering trauma-focused individual and group therapy to children in our residential program.

Our second residential home opened to serve 12 siblings in foster care.

The playground was built with over 300 volunteers in one day.

2008

Our third house was built, serving 12 additional siblings.

2004

Our first residential home opened to serve 5 pregnant or parenting teens in foster care.



“Looking back, I’m most proud of the many children who have passed through our doors, put their trust in us and have gone on with their lives knowing that there were people who loved and cared for them and wanted them to be safe. You can’t put a price tag on that! We’d do it all over again in a heartbeat!”

- Bill Mahoney

2009

Awarded national accreditation through COA.



2011

Celebrated the first free throw on our brand new basketball court.

Children’s Harbor began providing an Academic & Life Skills Program to children on campus.

2012

The Paul Palank Memorial Foundation built a pavilion for our main campus.

2013

The 1st annual Harbor Lights Gala was held to raise funds.

Achieved national re-accreditation through COA.

2014

The 1st Annual Academic Achievement Event took place to celebrate the academic progress of our children.

2016

Partnered with the Selfless Love Foundation to open Brown’s Harbor, a supportive housing program for foster youth, ages 18-23, who have aged out of the foster care system.

Launched Grounded for Life, a weekly academic mentoring program for foster teens throughout Broward County.

Expansion to 1st satellite office.

Opened our second maternity home for pregnant/parenting teens.

2015

Awarded a \$5 million federal grant to provide services to former foster care youth.

2017

Achieved national re-accreditation through COA.

2018

President Trump signed federal legislation (FFPSA) that required sweeping reform of the child welfare system and provided the states with three years to prepare for implementation.

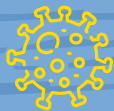
2019

Expanded Family Strengthening services to include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

CH community teams relocated to a larger satellite office in Lauderhill, FL.

2020

Navigated through a global pandemic.



Partnered with the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation to expand the services offered at Brown's Harbor to include financial literacy and workforce readiness programming.

2021

Achieved national re-accreditation through COA.

Partnered with FSU/Florida Institute for Child Welfare to provide qualitative subject matter expertise for their research study.

Awarded the community impact grant by New York Life for the buildout of a new basketball court.

Aligned our program model with new federal FFPSA expectations.

Celebrated our 25th Anniversary!




I've had over 40 different placements. I can tell you that "home" isn't about where you sleep and eat. It's where you have people that care about you - and that you care about - and where you feel

safe to be yourself.

Out of all of the places I have been, this is the only place I've ever felt like I actually had "family."

- Kiara, age 17



A photograph of four young adults sitting on a grassy field. From left to right: a woman in a white tank top and black shorts, a man in a red t-shirt and white shorts, a woman in a blue t-shirt and jeans, and a man in a light green t-shirt and blue shorts. They are all looking towards the camera.

The work we accomplished through the True North program will be used **across the nation** to advance the child welfare community's understanding on how to effectively serve youth transitioning out of the foster care system.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2015, Children's Harbor was awarded a five-year, \$5 million Healthy Marriage Relationship Education (HMRE) grant by the Office of Family Assistance (OFA) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), which we titled True North. The motivation for True North was to help young adults who were aging out of the foster care system to forge a pathway to successful adulthood by providing the opportunity to participate in evidence-based marriage and relationship education programs and promising practices.

Children's Harbor was able to deliver holistic, trauma-informed, evidence-based programming to youth with foster care involvement, ultimately helping these youth to successfully transition out of foster care. The randomized controlled trial (RCT) impact evaluation was used in order to fully assess the impact of the program, augment the evidence-based relationship programming research, and to add value to the Office of Family Assistance (OFA) and Administration for Children and Families (ACF) learning agenda about HMRE programming.

The work we accomplished through the True North program will be used across the nation to advance the child welfare community's understanding of how to effectively serve youth transitioning out of the foster care system.



379 young adults participated in the True North research study.

FAMILY STRENGTHENING

Children's Harbor keeps children safe by improving the stability of their home lives. Our Family Support Counselors provide intensive in-home services, counseling and case management to families across Broward County.

In October 2019, we expanded our services to include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy so we could provide more intensive therapeutic services to our families!

STRESS impacts and often overwhelms.

Families all across Broward struggle with the “stuff” that life throws at them. For 23 years, our Family Support Counselors have been helping families heal through the unexpected challenges of life.

How we help.

Serving families for an average of 4-6 months, our team meets with each family on a weekly basis to provide counseling, teach parenting skills and connect them to additional resources in the community.

34% of our families have two parents living in the home.

44% of our families are single parent homes.

27% of our families report an annual household income of \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Harbor History

In 1999, Children's Harbor was one of the first providers to be awarded a Family Strengthening contract. To prevent children from entering the foster care system, the Family Strengthening team began offering in-home counseling and case management services to families across Broward County. Over the past 23 years, this team has impacted the lives of over 11,000 children!



“Children’s Harbor wasn’t just there for Ethan, they were there for the **entire family.**”

A Father’s Story

My wife had an aneurism. She was only 33 years old and we lost her. My little guy was the one who found her in the bathroom. We have three kids, all of them boys... and just like that, I was a single dad. They miss their mom, and I miss her, too. She was our world... she was everything to them. Ethan really had a hard time. He was having a lot of behavior issues. He was so closed off and secluded, he wouldn’t even talk about his feelings. I didn’t know what to do. He was suffering, and I didn’t want him to feel that way.

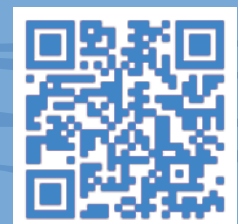
I wanted him to be bright and happy, like any normal kid. Going out playing, being able to make friends. Children’s Harbor wasn’t just there for Ethan, they were there for the entire family.

They had the key, and they stuck it in and just unlocked him. It was amazing. That’s another thing that Children’s Harbor is great for. They’re not just dealing with the person who is having the issue, they work with the whole family to learn how to work together as a team. I’m just eternally grateful to have the chance to speak to other people about what they did for me and my family and how **they took a really bad thing and made it into a beautiful thing.**

This program is funded by:



Hear more
from our
families!



FAMILY HOMES

Our family group homes provide wrap-around support to 24 teenagers who have been removed from their parents because of egregious abuse or neglect.



Four homes dedicated to caring for teens in foster care and their siblings.



Each home cares for six foster children, providing safe shelter and wrap-around support for a total of 24 teenagers.



We break the cycle of abuse through trauma-informed interventions so that our kids can grow into healthy, educated and productive adults.

Children's Harbor is a community that was built on the very

foundation of hope.

It's a place where children can feel safe while their families have the chance to heal.



Harbor History

In 2006 we opened our first sibling homes, fulfilling our dream to create a safe space where brothers and sisters can live together while their family has the opportunity to heal. In 2008, we opened two additional homes and through the years, we have had the privilege of loving more than 545 children!

Our kids come to us broken.

On their own, children cannot recover from the devastating impact of abuse and neglect. They need specialized support to heal.

Our team of therapists immediately wrap our kids with support so they may begin to heal from their trauma.

Where there is light there is hope... and hope can restore a childhood.

Our life coaches provide one to one mentorship through evidence-based life skills programming to ensure that our teens graduate from high school and remain on track with their goals.



Did you know?

3x higher

High school dropout rates for foster youth than other at-risk children.

Over 40%

of youth in foster care have changed schools five or more times, causing them to fall behind academically.

Less than 1/2

of youth in foster care nationwide end up finishing high school.

80%

of children in foster care struggle with major depression, anxiety and/or PTSD, compared to approximately 20% of their peers.

Trauma has a profound impact on a child's academic performance. Because of the trauma they have experienced, our kids tend to struggle academically. For this reason, we added the Academic & Life Skills team to our continuum of care.

90%

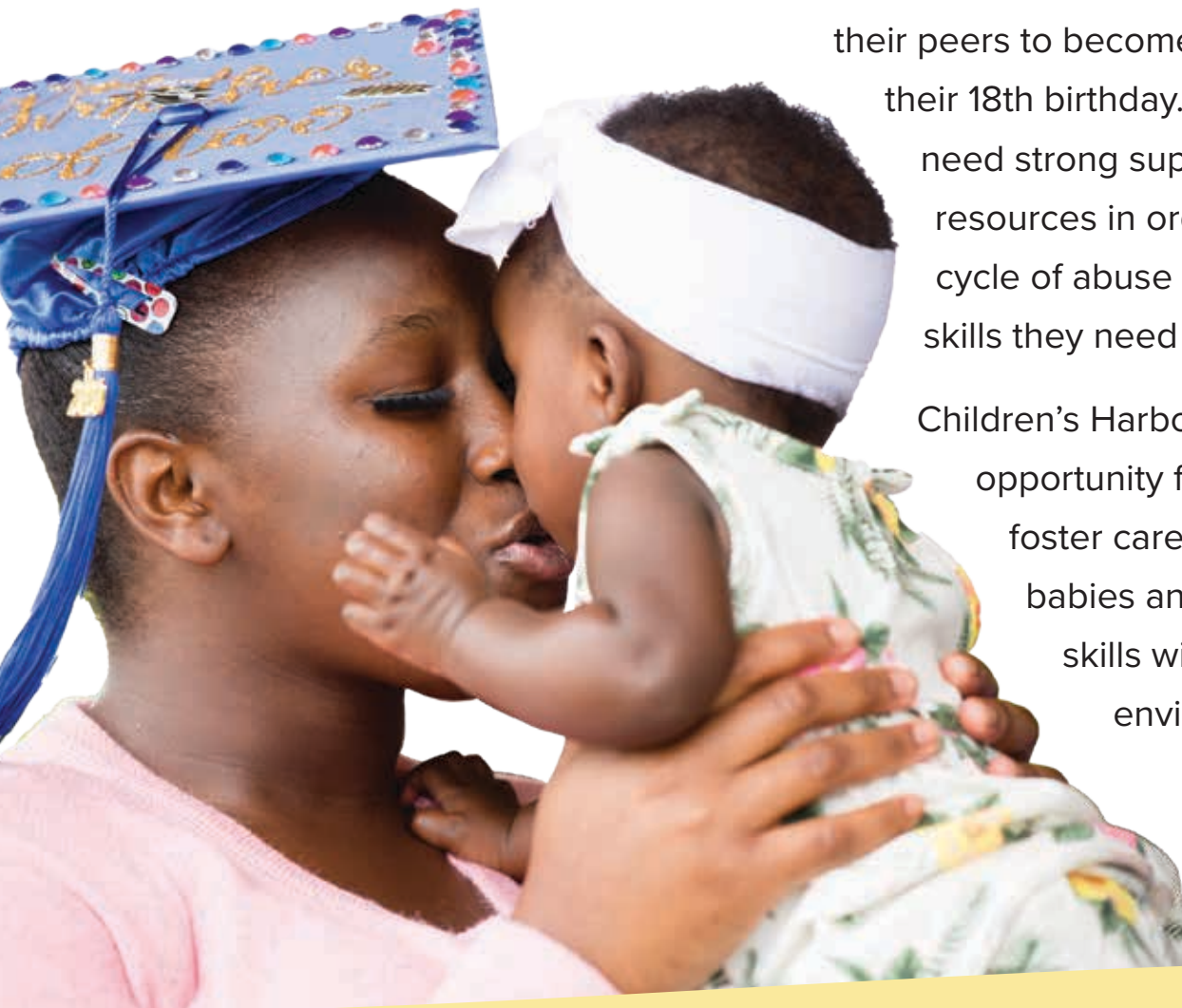
of our kids have maintained and/or improved academically

The academic and life skills program is made possible through:



MATERNITY HOMES

In 2004, we opened our very first maternity home. Today, we continue to be the only maternity home in Broward County and have cared for more than 200 young moms!



Teens in foster care are twice as likely as their peers to become pregnant before their 18th birthday. These young moms need strong support networks and resources in order to break the cycle of abuse and develop the skills they need to parent effectively.

Children's Harbor provides an opportunity for young moms in foster care to live with their babies and practice parenting skills within a supportive environment.

“There are a lot of things I am facing, but at Children's Harbor I've learned that I'm not the only one facing them... and **I don't have to face them alone.**”

Have you seen Monica's story? Follow her as she transitions from our maternity program to Brown's Harbor!



Harbor History

In 2021, our team was invited to partner with the Florida Institute for Child Welfare/ Florida State University to provide qualitative subject matter expertise toward their mixed methods examination of maternal group homes. The information we contribute toward this research study will be used to improve maternal and child health outcomes across the state!



FLORIDA
INSTITUTE
for CHILD
WELFARE

Our maternity homes are designed to:


- Provide trauma-informed individual and group therapy to address the impact of their personal trauma
- Ensure that our young moms receive consistent medical attention, including prenatal and postpartum care
- Provide parenting education that promotes positive and essential parenting skills and emphasizes nurturing and age-appropriate discipline
- Provide education related to substance abuse, sexual health, the prevention of second pregnancies, and sexually transmitted infections
- Promote self-sufficiency and independent living outcomes by helping them obtain high school diplomas/GEDs and pursue additional education and employment opportunities, or job training, depending on their interests
- Assist our young moms in registering for other supports such as child care, Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program so they may access regular medical care, including developmental screenings



*We provide the education and wrap-around support that young moms need to **successfully care** for themselves and their child.*

Statistically, teen parents in foster care are...

- 1 Less likely to graduate from high school
- 2 Less likely to receive adequate health care
- 3 More likely to have mental health challenges, such as depression and anxiety
- 4 More likely to struggle with unemployment and the possibility of homelessness than teens not in foster care
- 5 More likely to smoke, have inadequate nutrition, and deliver babies with a low birth weight



Because of the trauma they have experienced, our kids struggle to form healthy relationships with a trusted and caring adult, and even their own child...

Imani's Story

Imani was brought to Children's Harbor at the age of 15, when she was 5 months pregnant; "I've never been so scared in my life." Determined to make it on her own, Imani fought her way through her first few months at the Harbor. "It's not like they didn't try to help. I couldn't feel anything but mad. When someone would try to help me that made me even MORE mad. I didn't even know why I was mad. I was just mad. It took over everything, even when I didn't want it to. I felt like I was on fire. I couldn't control it and everything I touched, everyone I talked to, ended up being burned too."

Imani's anger continued to worsen. She stayed in her room planning her next escape, refusing to participate in group activities or therapy. She lashed out at the other girls in the home and her house parent, Ms. B. "I kept waiting for them to give notice on me and send me somewhere else, but they never did. Ms. B kept saying, '...That's ok, you're not here to meet my needs, but I'm going

to do everything I can to meet yours. Let me know when you are ready to talk.' No matter what I did, they wouldn't change my placement and I was like, what the heck is wrong with these people?!?!?"

Weeks turned to months and Imani slowly started to engage. "Ms. B kept saying: 'Imani. You are so much more than you are allowing yourself to be.'" Angry grunts became full sentences and eventually reciprocated conversations. "No matter what I did, they never gave up. This place is my home now and I feel loved here." She participates in individual and group therapy and has learned that journaling comes naturally to her as a form of self-expression. She gave birth to a beautiful baby boy (with Ms. B right there beside her, holding her hand) and is writing out her story, "so that Jacob will know where he came from and what he will never have to overcome."

"I want Jacob to know where he came from and what he will never have to overcome."



INDEPENDENT LIVING

Brown's Harbor is a uniquely designed supportive housing program for youth, ages 18-23, who are transitioning out of the foster care system. Our program provides beautiful, affordable apartments, on-site support and guidance, and most importantly, a vibrant community where they feel they belong.

Guiding youth toward independence is at the very heart of our mission to ensure that every child that we are entrusted to serve is empowered and equipped with the tools they need to overcome their trauma and grow into

healthy, educated and productive adults.

Our Independent Living Team:

- Utilizes the Transition to Independence Process (TIP) Model[®]. This youth-driven, strength-based, evidence-supported framework focuses on guiding young adults to improve their real-life outcomes across transition domains such as Education, Employment, Career, Housing and Community Life Functioning.
- Promotes self-sufficiency and independent living outcomes by helping young adults obtain high school diplomas/GEDs and pursue additional education and employment opportunities, depending on their individual interests.
- Assists our young moms in registering for other supports such as child care, Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program so they may access regular medical care, including developmental screenings.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “AGE OUT” OF THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM?

It doesn't take long for a young adult to realize that they aren't as ready as they thought they were to be “free.”

On their 18th birthday, rather than step out into the world alone, our kids have the opportunity to transition to Brown's Harbor, a supportive housing program for youth ages 18-23 who are transitioning out of the foster care system.

At Brown's Harbor, our Success Coaches meet weekly with each young adult to specifically focus on financial literacy, career planning and employability skills so they can develop the hard and soft skills needed to position themselves to a higher level of employment. Together, they develop an individualized success plan that helps focus each young adult on long term goals and self-sufficiency.

1/2

will struggle with substance abuse.

50%

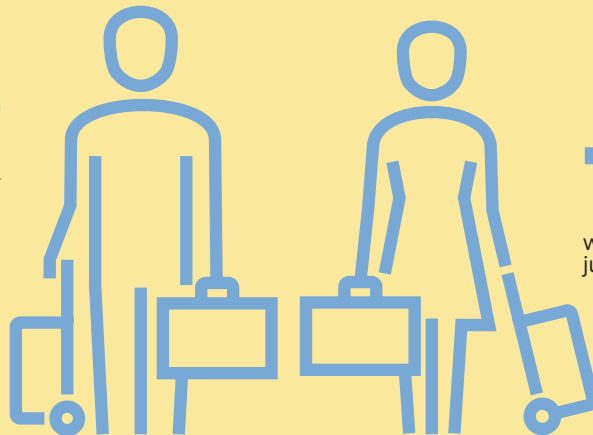
will have some form of gainful employment by the age of 24.

<3%

will earn a college degree at any point in their life.

80%

struggle with major depression and anxiety, compared to approximately 20% of their peers.



7/10 girls

will be single moms before the age of 21.

75% of girls

will need to receive government benefits just to meet their basic needs.

1/4

will age out and still struggle with PTSD due to the trauma they have faced.



In 2020, we partnered with the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation to launch the Brown's Harbor Success Coach Program. This program works as an intensive supplement to a young adult's existing life coach services during the first 12 months of their experience at Brown's Harbor.

WE SHINE A LIGHT TOWARD HOPE.
...until our kids have successfully navigated through the early stages of adulthood to reach a point of self-sufficiency.

Harbor History

In 2016, our dream to provide supportive housing to youth who were aging out of the foster care system was made possible through the generosity of our benefactors, Ed & Ashley Brown and their nonprofit, the Selfless Love Foundation.

YOUTH VOICE MATTERS

“All my life, I had to fight to make it, but now I only fight to **do the right thing.**”

-Chloe



“The hardest thing about being in foster care is that you never really feel like you belong anywhere. You’re just in everybody’s way. You feel like you should apologize for breathing. It doesn’t feel that way now. **It feels real here.**”

-Carnell



“It’s all about family here. I finally found a place where I can feel safe. They always want you to reach higher and believe that **you can make a difference in your own life.**”
-Tiara

“The fact that I can bring anything - any issue that is going on in my life and they will help me... it means that **I’m not alone anymore.** They are literally a second parent... the parent I always wished I had.”
-Taina



“The best part about Browns Harbor is the staff. ...It doesn’t seem like they are just doing their job when they are with you. It seems genuine. It’s like **it’s their mission in life to make us believe in ourselves.** They go above and beyond.”
-Bryanna

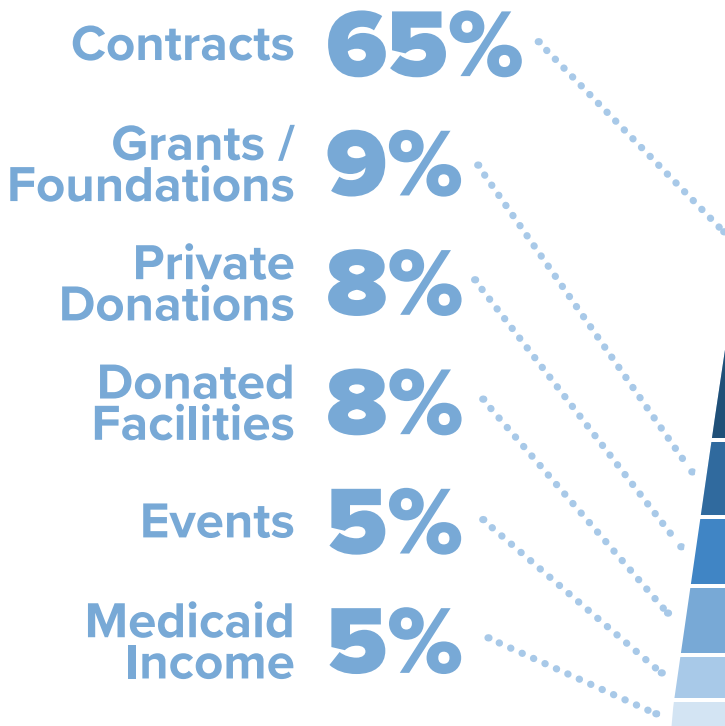
Curious about Browns Harbor? Our kids have a lot to say about their experience!



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Providing hope, safety and stability to the children and families we are entrusted to serve costs over \$4.7 million annually.

Children's Harbor relies on our generous community of Harbor Keepers for approximately 13% of our budget. This equates to more than \$611k per year.



86¢ of every dollar goes directly to our kids!

How Can You Help?

At Children's Harbor, we have big plans to change lives, but we can't do it alone.

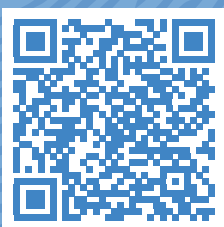
We are actively building a community of "Harbor Keepers" who are determined to light tomorrow with today. We call this community the Safe Harbor Society.

The Safe Harbor Society is made up of an extraordinary network of individuals, corporations and private foundations determined to make a positive, redemptive and transformative impact on the lives of those we serve.

Together, we continue to accomplish the extraordinary.

The Safe Harbor Society ensures that our kids experience the *childhood they deserve* and not simply the childhood that is dictated by the bottom line.

- Tiffani Dhooge, President/CEO



Become a Harbor Keeper!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Paul Smith

Director of Operations, Child Welfare Programs | Sunshine Health

 @pmichaelsmith

“Children’s Harbor strives to positively affect the trajectory of everyone who engages in our programs. I am honored and blessed to work with a team that is passionately committed to fostering healing and transformation in the lives of children, young adults, and families.”

Stephanie Parker

VP of Operations | First Service Residential

 @stephanieparker

“Children’s Harbor is unique in so, so many ways, but most importantly in how the leadership team, dedicated professionals and onsite team members manage to create a home and also a family for young people who may have never experienced that before. I’ve never seen anything like it and I am humbled by the youth, and the team, every single day.”



Debra Lage

Senior Principal | Mercer

 @debralage

“A child needs a place to feel loved and safe in an environment that provides guidance and the tools to help them continue to grow regardless of the experiences and tragedies they have endured. Children’s Harbor is that place. I am privileged and honored to be part of such an amazing organization.”

Martin J. Alexander, Esq.

Equity Partner | Holland and Knight

 @martyalexander

“I believe that the most important part of our mission at Children’s Harbor is providing a place where there is love. I am most proud of the fact that we not only provide services but we do it in a way that lets our kids know and their families know that we truly care about each and every one of them.”



Dawn Quaranta

Vice President, Regional Operations |
Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, Memorial Healthcare System

"I think about my kids at home and can't imagine how anyone their age, going through tough situations like the children at Children's Harbor, are coping. It's important that we continue to talk to our legislators about the importance of group homes with an increased focus on keeping sibling sets together."



Adriene McCoy

Senior Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer |
Baptist Health South Florida

 @adrienemccoy

"I know the importance of stability, siblings staying together and an organization that values family. I am most proud of the dedication to ensuring the children have a warm, loving and supportive environment."



Patrik Dahlgren

SVP Global Marine Operations | Royal Caribbean Group

 @patrikdahlgren

"What makes me most proud is the way Children's Harbor strives to close the gap that exists in child welfare. They continue to reinvent themselves wherever they can make a difference. Making it possible for so many children and young adults to forge a life path that otherwise would not be able to do so. Serving on the Board for Children's Harbor is a true privilege."



Troy Sorel

Senior Financial Advisor, Partner | SlateStone Wealth, LLC

 @troysorel

"I chose to serve on this board because of the direct short and long-term impact this incredible organization has on children in the community."



Jo Carol Rutherford

Consultant | Shepherd Advisory Practice, LLC

 @jocarolrutherford

"Children's Harbor is an organization which truly embodies its mission in all they do. Having the opportunity to work with this team and be part of the change they are making in our community is a privilege."



"Beautiful"

We all have unique stories; however, that's what makes us beautiful.

We all have beautiful souls. We all come from different backgrounds, and we all have different futures. We come in different shapes and sizes. We come in different shades of color... but one thing about us, we are beautiful.

Times like this are a moment to cherish. People are coming and going; but their time here has left a beautiful imprint.

Our past should not determine our future. All of us have experienced trauma in our life; but that didn't break us.

While we are here, let's make this time beautiful.

