

SAYS Talks



Summer 2019
Celebrating 30 Years of Service



Check Out the
Insert for
**Upcoming
Events**
to Support SAYS
in 2019

SAYS Community Programs Serve Male, Female, & LGBTQ+ Youth

SAYS Community programs serve hundreds of children in St. Johns and surrounding counties annually.

Carl Simone created St. Augustine Youth Services at the request of the Department of Children and Families to open a group home for girls.

When SAYS opened its doors 30 years ago, we had two specialized therapeutic group homes that

served only girls. However, we did not receive enough referrals to maintain the program.

The Casey Foundation reports that boys are 29% more likely to be placed in group homes than girls. The Board decided that in order to make the greatest impact,

we needed to serve those with the biggest need. By 1990, SAYS transitioned both group homes to serve boys.

What we have learned is that girls are more frequently referred to our outpatient community programs – Community Action Team, Mobile Crisis Response Team, Transitional Life Coaches, Targeted Case Management.

52.5% of Youth Served by SAYS Community Programs Last Year were Female.



Who Our Community Programs Serve

Mobile Crisis Response Team: St. Johns County. Ages 0-25.

Targeted Case Management: St. Johns County. Ages 0-18.

Community Action Team: St. Johns County. Ages 11-21.

Transitional Life Coaches: St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler, and Volusia counties. Ages 16-21.

Flip to page 3 to learn more about our growing community programs.

Community Program Impact

At 17 years old, Stasia attends St. Johns Technical High School and works part-time.

Stasia learned about SAYS services from the Mobile Crisis Response Team. She has used the counseling services when needed and since that time has added a SAYS Transitional Life Coach to her repertoire of tools to help her be successful.

A born leader, Stasia is described as "Completely focused on her future and her education. She's compassionate, fearless, and goes after her dreams," says Emma, MCRT Clinician.

"She is determined to prove those

wrong who think that she will not be successful. She uses the negativity that may surround her to fuel her ambitions," says Christiana, Transitional Life Coach.

Not only is Stasia working hard to achieve her own dreams of becoming a lawyer, but she is encouraging other youth who may be struggling with mental health



issues. Last year, Stasia was selected to speak on the panel at the Children's Behavioral Health Summit put on by the St. Johns County Behavioral Health Consortium. As the only youth invited to speak on the panel, she advocated for increased support in

schools, particularly peer support groups and strategies to decrease the stigma surrounding mental health.



Staff Spotlight

Janet Riley-Dalton

As we continue to celebrate our 30th Anniversary, we recognize how many staff have made SAYS their home for more than 25 years.

On November 24th, 1993 Janet Riley-Dalton joined SAYS as a part-time Bookkeeper. Soon after, she joined the team full-time.

In addition to Bookkeeping, Janet has served as the Awake Staff Supervisor, House Parent, and countless other roles as needed. Janet has always had a giving heart, whether it be caring for children, feeding the homeless, or serving the elderly.

Thank you, Janet, for your years of dedication to SAYS and those in need.



FCC Awards

Four of our SAYS staff were recently honored by the Florida Coalition for Children at their Annual Conference in Orlando, FL. Executive Director Schuyler Siefker was named **Committee Member of the Year**. Clinical Director Susan Zitsman was named **Champion for Children**. Professional Houseparents Connie and Milton Collins were named **Residential Caregivers of the Year**.



Dancing Stars of St. Johns County

Congratulations to our PIL Therapist, Marcus Folkes, for placing 1st at the Dancing Stars of St. Johns County annual fundraiser benefiting SACSPA.

SAYS Summer Snapshots

Each summer our residential kids are able to attend a summer camp of their choosing thanks to the St. Augustine Boating Club!

“ I am glad I got to go to basketball camp. I made some friends and practiced my basketball skills!
-Koby ”



“ I caught a catfish and other fish at fishing camp. I also learned how to play the recorder at art and music camp.
-Kaleb ”



40 Under 40

Congratulations to Chelsea Reppin (Director of Development) and Toni Oliva (Former Youth Counselor/TCM) for both

being named in the St. Augustine Record's 40 Under 40 Top Young Professionals.



“ I had so much fun. We had pizza and played games. My favorite sport that we played was lacrosse.
-Daniel ”

Residential Group Homes

This spring we celebrated the opening of our 4th group home, the Ameris Bailey House, which increases our residential capacity from 30 to 40 beds. Our sincere thanks to everyone who supported our 4th house campaign.



Capacity Increase From
30 to 40 Beds

Mobile Crisis Response Team

As of January 2019, our Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) has expanded to provide services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The team also now serves youth up to the age of 25.

MCRT has provided more than 1,000 assessments to date.



Service Hours Expanded To
**24 Hours
7 Days** Per Week

Transitional Life Coaches

This year, our COACHES program is partnering with the System of Care and Magellan Health to bring MY LIFE groups to Circuit 7 (St. Johns, Putnam, Volusia, and Flagler). Magellan Youth Leaders Inspiring Future Empowerment (MY LIFE) is helping to improve the lives of youth between the ages of 13 and 23 who are dealing with issues related to mental health, substance use, foster care and juvenile justice. MY LIFE gives youth the chance to become leaders in their communities.



Serving
4 Counties

Community Action Team

Launched in July 2018, the Community Action Team (CAT) is a safe and effective alternative to out-of-home placement for children with serious



Served
65 Youth Last Year

behavioral health conditions. The team, based on a family centered approach, consists of a Team Leader, Mental Health Clinicians, a Psychiatrist, a Registered Nurse, Therapeutic Mentors and Case Managers. The team works collaboratively to deliver behavioral health services and assists the family in developing or strengthening their natural support system.

Targeted Case Management

This year our Targeted Case Management (TCM) Program completed the State of Florida Wraparound Care Coordination method of service delivery training.

This training places our TCM in a position to empower the youth and families served to identify their own goals and develop a truly individualized plan of care. SAYS' TCM remains the only community-serving TCM in St. Johns County.



Served
32 Youth
Last Fiscal Year



Have You Visited SAYS Lately?
Schedule a tour of our beautiful campus!
Email ChelseaR@sayskids.org for more information

Wildwood Fishing Tournament



We had a blast at our 20th Anniversary Fishing Tourn. presented by Florida Certified Contractors! Special thanks to our sponsors, volunteers, and chairman John Ravan for another great year.



Round Up

Thank you to Hagan Ace Hardware for donating their round up proceeds to



SAYS! They and their generous customers raised nearly \$2,000 for SAYS programs.

Bike Shelters

Leadership St. Johns, Old City Homes, and WFOY teamed up to bring four brand new bike shelters to SAYS' campus! Now our kids have a safe place to store their beloved bikes and skateboards. Thank you to everyone who made this project possible.



Thank you to THE PLAYERS[®] PLAYERS Championship Red Coats Committee for their generous donation towards our campus playground. Thanks to THE PLAYERS and The Hardy Family, the SAYS playground will soon be complete!

McGee and Sons

Thank you to McGee and Sons for their generous donations to our SAYS campus!



Women Ensuring Bright Futures

Thank you to Marsh Creek Women's Association and the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club for their incredible support towards our SAYS Young Professionals Program. The SAYS Young Professionals Program provides job training and employment opportunities to youth in our residential programs.



Thank you to Colonial Oak Music Park who raised nearly \$2,000 for Oak Outreach charities at their Spring Fundraiser. Be sure to mark your calendars for the Winter Fundraiser happening on December 7th.

4th Home Appreciation

Thank you to the Publix Super Markets Charities and Edna Sproull Williams Foundation for their financial contribution to the building of our 4th residential group home.



PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS CHARITIES

Thank you to the Publix Super Markets Charities and

Summertime Appreciation

Thank you to our SAYS Summertime Heroes who donated swim trunks,



pool supplies, sunscreen, and more to ensure our kids had the ultimate summer break!



SAYS Kids Awards Dinner

Our Annual Awards Dinner provides a special evening out for our residential kids and gives us the opportunity to celebrate the qualities that make them unique. Special thanks to the Bailey, Morabito, and Shee families.



GATE House

In honor of the GATE Foundation's extraordinary support, our Pre-Independent Living Group Home has now been named the GATE House.

