



# 2020-2021



annual report

MorningStar  
children & family services



## VISION

Brighter futures for all Georgia children

## MISSION

Morningstar is a sanctuary where transformative teaching and healing affirms our children through real relationships

## VALUES

### **We look toward the stars...**

believing that we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

### **We shine like the stars...**

reflecting the goodness and light that is in all of us.

### **We reach for the stars...**

knowing our best effort makes a difference, every day.

### **We guide like the stars...**

mentoring those in our care through positive words and actions.

### **We connect like the stars...**

linking together to create a community of hope and encouragement for all.

# Our Leadership Team

## Senior Leadership

**Beth VanDerbeck**  
CEO

**Brian Bean**  
COO

**Katrina Chisholm**  
Director of  
Community Counseling

**Lisa Johnson**  
Director of Development

**Baxter Pepper**  
Quality Assurance  
Coordinator

**LaToya Scott**  
Director of  
Residential Services



## Board of Directors

Nick Doster: Chairman  
Rick Shelnett: Vice-Chairman  
Barbara Atchley: Secretary  
Bryce Bunting  
Cherise Cartwright  
Jim Davis  
Cornell Harvey  
Jerry House  
Kate Sabbe  
Mike Scherneck  
John Turner  
Susan Watts  
Karen Wayes

# Home is Always Open

Dear Morningstar Friends,

It is not an understatement to sum up the past year as one of extremes. We celebrated major facility improvements on campus, joyed in providing counseling services from a new office in Perry, GA, and rejoiced in the accomplishments of the boys and girls cared for at the Children's Home. But also, like many of you, we were often thrust into crisis mode and had to pivot to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the urgent needs that surfaced from it. As we look back on ups and downs from the year, two extremes are worthy of our focus.

**Extreme Care** - Throughout the year, our staff were diligent and compassionate in their service to the children. While many businesses closed or adjusted hours in the short-staffed pandemic environment, the Children's Home remained open all day, every day because **HOME IS ALWAYS OPEN!** Cottage, nursing, kitchen, and counseling staff, like other healthcare professionals, came to work, every day. Despite the pandemic challenges, the children still enjoyed birthday and holiday celebrations, summer swimming and bike riding, as well as, successful accomplishments in their school and counseling programs. Our mental health staff continued to care for children in both Coastal and Middle Georgia, embracing new service technology and returning to face to face services when possible. As children and families reached out to us, our team answered the call. They are the heroes and we cannot thank them enough.



**Extreme Generosity** - The extraordinary generosity of our giving community also deserves our continued thanks. The pandemic created increased costs that required us to reach out for support. At every ask, individuals, businesses, and foundations gave abundantly toward our needs. We made it through the financial challenge of the year because of the big hearts and generous donations provided by you, our giving community. We are deeply grateful for your care for the children and investment in our mission. As we move into another year, know that we need you. We are continually thankful for your prayers, your partnership, and your belief in brighter days for Georgia's children. We truly do the work of serving Georgia's children, together.

—Beth VanDerbeck, Chief Executive Officer ★



# Counseling Year in Review

Morningstar's **Community Counseling Clinics** are located in Brunswick and Perry, Georgia. Each clinic provides comprehensive child and adolescent mental health assessments, treatment planning, crisis intervention, therapy services, and medication management.

During the pandemic, our team quickly pivoted to serve families virtually. In December 2020, we opened a new office in Perry, Georgia to better serve the needs of our children and families. This office provides a space for those who are more comfortable in a traditional therapeutic setting. Our team is happy to be a part of the Perry and Houston County community.



# Residential Year in Review

The **Morningstar Youth Estate Campus and Residential Care Facility** sits on 25 acres of beautiful Coastal Georgia. Our program serves children ages 12-20 who are in the foster care system and have developmental disabilities. All of our residents receive individualized services to address their physical, psychological, social, educational, and spiritual needs.

As you can imagine, creating home for up to 52 children through two years of a pandemic presented many challenges. We wish to thank our many partners for their extraordinary generosity!

**Google**  
Reviews ★★★★★

Past Resident



"Y'all changed my whole life!"



"Thank you to the staff for all they did for me."



A fun afternoon on campus with the ice cream truck.



It was great to hug again!

# Community Support and Engagement

## Oak Grove Island Couples Golf Tournament



It was a record-shattering year for the OGI Couples Tournament. What an impactful gift!

## Young Agents Tournament

Thank you to Independent Insurance Agents of Georgia, Young Agents. With Sean Stewart at the helm of this group, the tournament was held locally, with Morningstar as the beneficiary. Pictured here are Bruce Peddle and Carrie Cheeks of Risk Innovations, presenting Sponsor. Also pictured Sean Stewart and Beth VanDerbeck.



## Change for Brighter Days

Change for Brighter Days kicked off in the summer of 2021, with our long-term partner Georgia Peach World. Every customer who walks through the doors of the five locations of Georgia Peach World has the opportunity to make a difference for the children of Morningstar by rounding their purchase up to support our programs. We are actively seeking to expand this initiative with additional partners in 2022. If you have an interest in partnering, contact Lisa Johnson at 912-267-3700 EXT. 2122.





Dinner Under Your Stars was a one-year plan that turned into two! Pivoting to make our annual fundraiser a success took much effort on the part of our planning committee. We thank each member who helped to reimagine and shape the event.

### Thank you, 2020 Event Sponsors!

#### ★★★★ Premier Sponsors ★★★★★

- Georgia-Pacific/GP Cellulose
- The Jack and Kathleen Thornton Fund
- Georgia Ports Authority

#### ★★★ Prominent Sponsors ★★★

- Becky Livingston
- Halyards Restaurant and Catering
- Southeast Georgia Health System
- Linda & Rusty Sewell
- Turner & Associates Insurance
- Wommack Dentistry

#### ★★ Significant Sponsors ★★

- Advanced Valve & Instrument, Inc.
- Darien Telephone Company
- Elizabeth Bruno
- Georgia Theatre Company
- Jim & Trina Davis
- Jonathan Wilson
- Mike & Kathy Scherneck
- Northside Drive Baptist Church
- PaR Marine/Jered LLC
- Service Master A1
- SunCoast Paper & Chemical
- Synovus
- The Vine

#### ★ Patron Sponsors ★

- Arline & Wiggins LLC
- First Coast Benefits
- Frances Dyal Family Law
- Harrison Design
- Jim & Carolynn Trueblood
- Killian Law Firm LLC
- Lindsay Stewart Photography
- McLain & Merritt, P.C.
- Moore, Stephens, Tiller
- Premier Printing
- Tad & Carrie Wessel
- Teamwork Services
- Tucker & Cheryl Grigg
- VanDerbeck Managed Technology

**SAVE THE DATE for  
Dinner Under the Stars  
Oct. 15, 2022!**



### Thank you, 2021 Event Sponsors!

#### ★★★★★ Title Sponsor ★★★★★

Georgia Peach World

#### ★★★★ Premier Sponsors ★★★★★

- Jack & Kathleen Thornton
- Art & Lindee Lucas

#### ★★★ Prominent Sponsors ★★★

- Premier Restoration Services
- Jim & Trina Davis
- Georgia Power
- Halyards
- Southeast Georgia Health System
- h2o Creative Group
- Turner & Associates

#### ★★ Significant Sponsors ★★

- V-Inc
- Gope Management/CB Yadav
- Becky Livingston
- Darien Telephone Company
- Northside Baptist Church
- Susan Watts & Leo Pieri
- Kathy & Mike Scherneck
- The Wessel Family
- Rusty & Linda Sewell
- The A/C Guys
- Lindsay Stewart Photography
- Suncoast
- Schell & Hogan, LLC
- Light of Hope Learning Center
- Killian Law Firm
- Advanced Valve & Instrument
- Elegant Island Living

#### ★ Patron Sponsors ★

- Brown, Readdick, Bumgartner, Carter, Strickland, & Watkins, LLC
- First Coast Benefit Solutions, Inc.
- Francis Dyal Family Law
- Yates Astro
- Carol & Ben Slade
- Judy & Kenny Dodd
- Lisa & Ellis Johnson
- Maddox Events
- Millie Wilcox
- MST
- James Kleen
- Lewis & Nancy Glenn

# Gym Renovations

What would become one of the most significant relationships in the history of our agency began as a labor of love from a donor. Through PillowGrace, Julie Rowland creates a pillowcase with encouraging verses for each child who comes to Morningstar. Julie facilitated a meeting with Hank Rowland, Advisory Director for the Stuart and Eulene Murray Foundation. The Foundation provided funding for the gym renovation.



Stuart and Eulene Murray established the Foundation so that generations of their family could continue to make a philanthropic impact





# Kitchen & Pavilion Renovations

Projects on our campus did not take a break for COVID. We were able to accomplish a number of critical renovation needs, with the support of amazing community partners. The renovation of our kitchen, through the generosity of a local foundation, transformed the way our food service team works.

The renovation of the Pavilion, through a gift from the Art and Lindee Lucas Foundation, created a welcoming space for family visitation. With an indoor and outdoor transformation, we now have options to offer our families.





# Strategic Plan 2020-2022

Our New Strategic Focus is **Them**: **They** are the reason we exist. **They** are children in need. **They** are families facing unimaginable challenges. **They** are daughters, sons, mothers, fathers. **They** are our clients. **They** are our employees. **They** are volunteers. **They** are partner organizations. **They** are donors. **They** are our leaders. **They** are the communities we serve. **They** are people with needs. Each one of **them**. Our strategy is to understand **them**. To help **them**. To educate **them**. To meet **their** needs. Because only by focusing first on **them** will Morningstar grow and thrive.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1:

### THEY BELIEVE IN US

We will bring expertise to every area of service

We will deliver the highest level of care, supported by measurable outcomes

We will share the Morningstar story with passion and consistency

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2:

### THEY ARE LOYAL

We will listen and react to legislation, trends, and client voices to stay current and responsive in service delivery

We will expand our reach and impact through increased opportunities and access to mission-aligned services

We will innovate; challenging ourselves to embrace new partners, processes, and programs

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3:

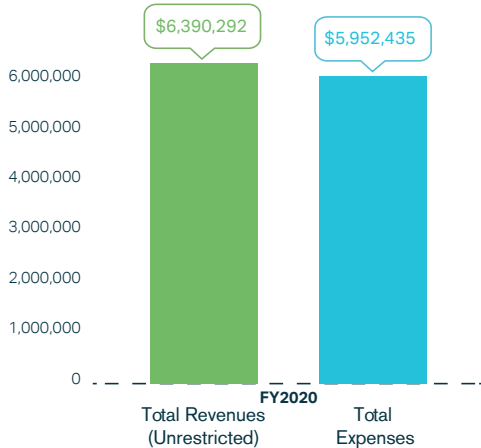
### THEY GIVE GENEROUSLY

We will cultivate and steward funding for programs through a growing portfolio of giving opportunities

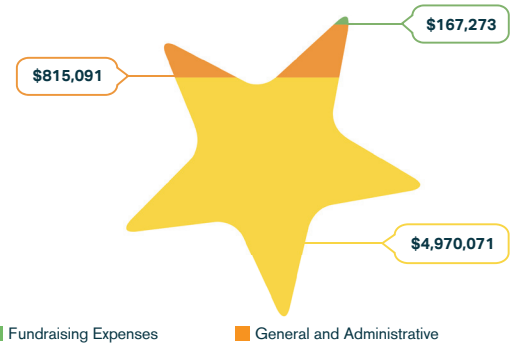
We will create meaningful and structured ways for individuals and groups to engage with Morningstar

We will target in-kind donations to meet organizational needs

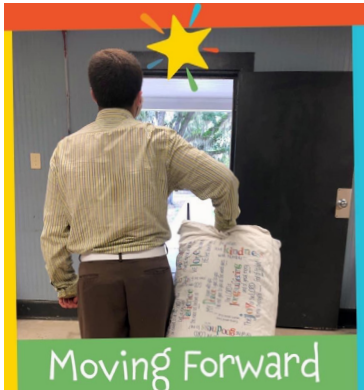
# Financial Overview and Funding Initiatives



Georgia's child welfare system reimburses less than the cost of care for each resident. Community contributions, essential to the ongoing work of Morningstar, make up the difference in the cost of caring for those we serve.



Expenses Breakdown ■ Program Expenses ■ Fundraising Expenses ■ General and Administrative



## The Morningstar Children's Endowment Fund

In 2020, through a designated philanthropic investment, this fund was established with Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation. The designated fund supports the mission of Morningstar Children and Family Services to provide residential and community counseling services to children, youth, and their families. When you make a gift to the fund, you are making an investment in the future of the children we serve. For more information, contact Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation at 912-268-2561.

connecting  
kids  
with brighter  
days



**WAYS TO GIVE TO MORNINGSTAR**



**CHECK**

P.O. Box 370, Brunswick, GA 31521



**WEBSITE**

[MorningstarCFS.Org/Donate](http://MorningstarCFS.Org/Donate)