



2025 Annual Report

Lives Lived Here — Through Every Season





2025

Cherished friends of Morningstar,

What an incredible year! Like every season of meaningful work, our 2025 fiscal year held both challenges and celebrations, each adding depth and purpose to our mission. Through every high point and every hard lesson, it remains our greatest honor to be present for the foster youth on our campus as they write the next chapters of their lives with us.

We've structured this annual report a bit differently from years past in order to illustrate the point that lives are lived here. We are going to take you on a journey through each season of the year, highlighting events and programs that show what a year on our campus looks like. You might notice some similarities to your own life: lazy days by the pool, back-to-school shopping, Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas parties, graduations, and everything in between. Outside of the seasonal flow, we will detail some of our programs that make up the wrap-around services provided here at Morningstar.

It is through the tireless efforts of our staff, and the wise oversight of our Board of Directors that we are able to traverse all that a year brings. It is also through the generosity of people like you, dear reader, who are willing to invest in the lives of Georgia's youth, ensuring that difficult circumstances will not have the final word. Together, we can offer a brighter future to the children in our care.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Beth', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Beth VanDerbeck, *Chief Executive Officer*

Morningstar Children & Family Services Community Counseling | Residential Services



Community Counseling Services

Our Community Counseling Clinic provides accessible, mental health care for children, adolescents, and families. Our licensed clinicians deliver comprehensive assessments, individualized treatment planning, crisis intervention, therapy services, and medication management to support emotional well-being and long-term stability.



LEAP Program

Serving youth with complex medical, mental health and behavioral needs, our LEAP program provides structured, individualized support that focuses on building daily living skills, emotional regulation, and functional independence. Through consistent therapeutic intervention and a highly supportive environment, residents gain the tools necessary to transition successfully to family settings, foster homes, or the next appropriate level of care.



Workforce Development

The Workforce Development Program equips youth with the practical skills, training, and real-world work experience necessary to help achieve long-term independence and stability.

By pairing educational achievement with meaningful employment experience, we prepare our youth not only to enter the workforce, but to build lives marked with purpose, self-sufficiency, and hope.

At Morningstar, impact isn't measured only in milestones—it's found in everyday moments. In 2025, those moments unfolded across every season, shaping lives, restoring hope, and creating home.



winter

January
Through
March

Rooted
in Care



Through our counseling program, healing extended beyond daily routines—supporting emotional growth for boys on campus while also strengthening families and individuals throughout the surrounding community. This consistent, trauma-informed care helped turn stability into lasting change.

Impact at
a glance

Winter was marked by presence and consistency. While the world slowed, life on campus remained steady—meals shared, routines kept, trust built day by day. For boys who have known disruption, this season offered something powerful: reliability.

51 Boys received 24 hour daily care on the Morningstar campus.

70 dedicated staff members walked alongside youth each day with care and consistency.

Counseling staff provided approximately **2400 services to 166 clients** and families in the community.

Spring



Growing Hope

April
Through
June

This season also marked the renewal of **Coleman Cottage** — a space thoughtfully renovated to provide greater safety, comfort, and dignity for the boys who live there. Private bedrooms offer space to rest and recharge, while shared living areas encourage connection through everyday activities like games, puzzles, and movie nights.

This renovation was made possible through a legacy gift from Kathy Coleman and allows us to continue carrying out our mission of creating home and healing for the youth we serve.



Impact at a glance

Coleman Cottage was fully renovated and reopened April 2025

42 volunteers participated in our annual Day of Service on campus.

Gym facilities were renovated with updated restrooms and new windows.



Summer tells the story best.

These are the days of laughter, confidence-building, and connection – ordinary moments that carry extraordinary impact.

Beach and water park outings, enrichment activities, and cookouts remind us that healing often happens when kids are simply allowed to be kids.



Impact at a glance

Daily enrichment outings and summer experiences fostered learning, connection, and lasting childhood memories.

Morningstar Gives Back Week - Youth and staff volunteered **134 hours of service** to support our local community.

14 youth participated in GA CREW, a weekly summer work readiness learning program .

Splash into Summer campaign funded critical renovations to the **campus pool**.

summer

Making a Splash

July
Through
September



Fall

October
Through
December



**Making
an Impact
Together**

Fall gathered the year together through moments of connection and generosity. Community members came alongside Morningstar through meaningful events like the Swinging for the Stars Golf Tournament and Oktoberfest: Merriment with a Mission, celebrating shared purpose while directly supporting the boys who call our campus home. These gatherings strengthened relationships, fueled our mission, and carried hope into the season ahead.



**Impact at
a glance**

**\$414,500 raised through fall events
and year-end giving**

**168 golfers and sponsors supported
Swinging for the Stars**

**265 guests joined the merriment at the
Oktoberfest campus event**

Financial Overview & Funding Initiatives

Morningstar's three funding sources

1

Georgia Child Welfare System funds a portion of the cost for each resident

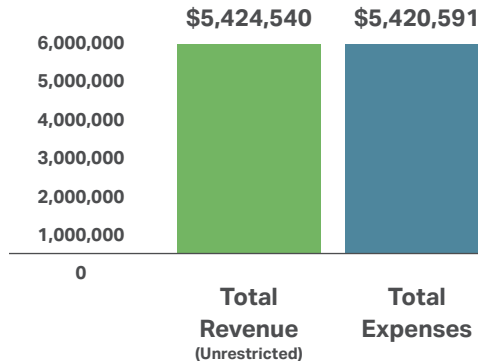
2

Insurance reimbursements support counseling services

3

Generous donors, churches, & foundations fill the service gap & support campus renovations

FY 2025



Expenses Breakdown



Join the Mission

Give



Online Giving:
morningstarcfs.org/donate



Mail Donations:
P.O. Box 370
Brunswick, GA 31521



Scan QR Code to Donate

Partner

Monthly giving makes daily transformation possible. Become a NorthStar Partner and ensure the steady, reliable support our youth count on every single day.
Sign up on our website at morningstarcfs.org/donate

Sustain

Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation – The Morningstar Children's Endowment Fund
National Christian Foundation– Single Charity Fund
Planned and Estate Gifts

Questions about giving:

Contact Laura Kitchens, Director of Development & Marketing
lkitchens@morningstarcfs.org or 912-267-3700 x2109

Senior Leadership

Beth VanDerbeck
CEO

Trevor Stratton
COO

Laura Kitchens
Development and Marketing Director

Katrina Chisholm
Mental Health Director

Breshonna Gilliam-Strader
Residential Care Director

James Riley
Finance Director

Board of Directors

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Cornell Harvey
Vice Chairman

Michael Scherneck
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Karen Wayes
Secretary

Cece Bowen

Cherise Cartwright

Judy Dodd

Doug Tingle

Susan Watts

Sarah Branch

Nick Doster

Zachary Harris

Kate Sabbe

Strategic Plan 2024-2027

Faith

We are committed to stay true to our Christian values as we work to provide home and healing to the children who find their way to our campus, our clinics, and our hearts.

Financial Health

We are committed to plan and work in ways which support financial stability, knowing that such supports risk mitigation, mission continuity, and program expansion.

Care

We are committed to CARE as the foundation for providing exceptional support to every child, ensuring their well-being and fostering their growth and development.

Strong Partnerships

We are committed to strong partnership with our state agencies, generous supporters, service communities, and campus neighborhood, knowing it takes all of us working together to create brighter futures for the children.



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