



Annual Report 2018

creating new pathways

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 a 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 Team

Senior Leadership

Beth VanDerbeck
CEO

Wendi O'Connor
Sr. Director of Finance
and Special Projects

Cara Burban
Director of Foster Care

Robin Robinson
Director of Mental Health
Services

Vernon Andrews
Director of Residential
Services

Jessica Lynn
Director of Human
Resources

Lisa Johnson
Director of Development

Melinda Massey
Director of Finance

Board of Directors

Dean Bare: Chairman

Nick Doster: Vice-Chairman

Tonya D. Miller: Treasurer

Barbara Atchley: Secretary

Chip Beaton

Edwin J. (Jeff) Shadrick

Jerry House

John Turner

Katherine (Kaki) Thurber

Rick Shelnett

Vickie McClinton

Creating A New Pathway For the Incredible

Dear Morningstar Community,

It is always challenging to capture a year of organizational work and service impact within a few words and pages. 2018 was **a year of change** at Morningstar – added board and staff leadership, updated identity, and a strong step into sharing our work and story with the community. It was **a year of blessing** – added foster families, new volunteers, property improvements, and generous support from foundations, businesses and individual donors. It was **a year of thankfulness** – for the opportunities our staff had to assist children through various life challenges and watch them rise and move forward into brighter futures.



The numbers shared in this report provide a glimpse of the story of our year. We served many children and families with counseling support through our Brunswick and Reynolds communities, connected children with caring foster parents here in Coastal Georgia, and provided residential care for children from across the state at our Brunswick campus. The numbers do tell a story of our year, but you will know the heart of it as you read words shared by one of our campus residents. She found love, support and life change at Morningstar. As we enter 2019, it is our collective prayer to continue to **“create a new pathway for the incredible”** for each child who sits with our counselors, finds home with our foster families, or lives for a time on our campus.

It has been a busy, full year and a profound privilege to be leading the Morningstar team. There is much work ahead, and it is a deep honor to have you on this journey with us. We are endlessly energized by your commitment to our mission and empowered by your generosity. Thank you for your prayers, for your partnership, and for believing in brighter days for Georgia’s children!

– Beth VanDerbeck, Chief Executive Officer ✨

How We Serve

Community Counseling Our Mental Health Clinics are located in Brunswick and Reynolds, GA, and provide a full spectrum of services for children who are facing difficult challenges. Services include individual and group counseling, family therapy, life skills training, and medication assessment. We work in partnership with four school systems to provide immediate assistance to families in crisis. We currently offer onsite counseling, as well as, tele-medicine services. We believe that every child, youth, and family has their own strengths and abilities.

385

Children Assisted Through Community Counseling



Therapeutic Foster Care Finding families who consider fostering a child their calling opens the door to a home for children in Georgia's foster care system. Once we identify a potential home for a child, there is then an intensive, supportive, and ongoing training process to assist foster parents in becoming the most effective in meeting the child's needs. Morningstar foster families are located in Southeast Georgia. Our children come to us from all across Georgia.

22

Children Who Resided In Our Foster Homes

Residential Care Our residential program, which is therapeutic in nature, offers a unique campus-style layout surrounded by over 350 acres of historic marsh-land, trails, and forest. Residents are provided an array of services and opportunities to help them meet individual goals while in the program. Highlights include an on-site school program, qualified nursing staff, and a full mental health team.

76

Children Who Called Our Campus Home





What Our Kids Say

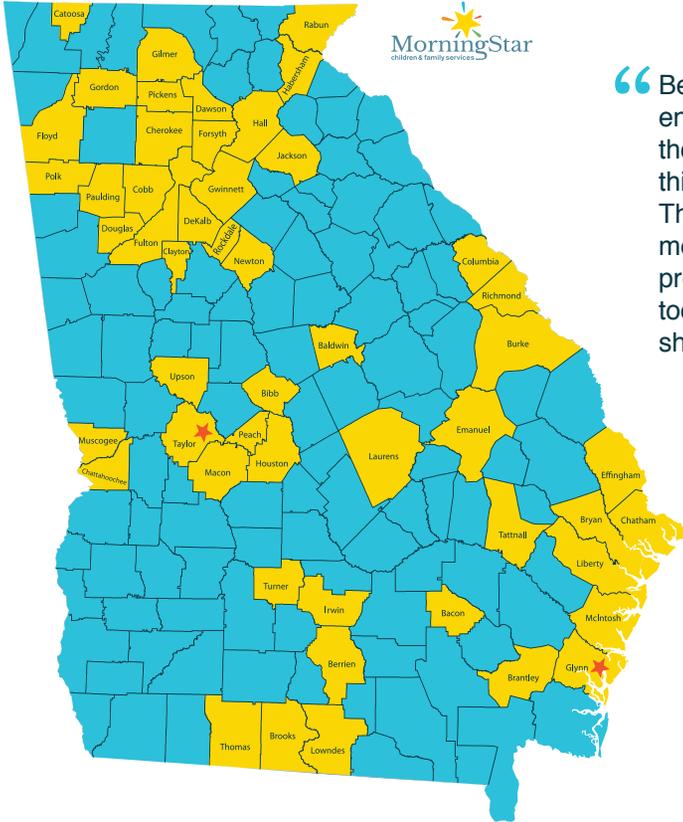
“ Being here at Morningstar has changed my entire life in many ways. I found things that I thought had never existed. And, I was given things that I thought I could never have. The things that Morningstar has helped me discover **changed everything** I had previously thought about life. Morningstar took this shy, quiet, sad, and scared girl and showed her all the things to be happy about.



Written by 16 year old resident of 2 yrs, C.H.

Morningstar has shown me, as well as everyone else, that you don't have to be perfect to be loved, and that you don't have to be related to be considered family. Morningstar takes in children that the world says “no” to and says “yes.” Yes, you are cared for. Yes, you can have hope. Yes, you can be yourself. And yes, **this is going to get better. Life is going to get better.** And when the world says, “you can't do it alone”, Morningstar says “you don't have to, we'll help you”.

True, no one here in this world is perfect, but Morningstar helps you to be your own type of perfect. Morningstar is like a support system, whatever you have to go through to get better, there is almost always someone there for you to help you get through it. When you think the road for good is lost, this small community **creates a new pathway for the incredible.** And, if we follow the lead of the mentors and staff, we will never get lost again. ”



Where our children came from in FY18

Morningstar offices and campus

Community Engagement

Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors and volunteers for making 2018 amazing for our children!



Rich Products team made a community investment grant to Morningstar, allowing for the installation of a new playground.



Village Inn and Pub partnered with Morningstar in a big way in 2018. As our title sponsor for Dinner Under the Stars, and a key partner in campus improvement, they have been instrumental in moving our mission forward.



GA Pacific held their annual retiree's dinner in our gym, as they have for over a decade!



We are thankful for our partnership with Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation. CCGF made a grant to improve our school's art program.



Dinner Under the Stars was one of our most memorable highlights from 2018. Our sponsors and attendees made this year a huge success. This will be an annual event for Morningstar.



Dave Snyder, Halyards Catering provided an incredible meal.



Suzy & the Bird Dogs rocked the house.



208 guests joined us for this inaugural event, making our first year a sellout.



Millie Wilcox, Event Chair ringing the antique dinner bell.

A special thank you to all of the businesses and artists who donated to our silent auction!



Thank you to our Dinner Under the Stars sponsors!



Village Inn and Pub



Georgia Ports Authority



- Berkshire Hathaway, Hodnett Cooper
- Beachview Event Rentals & Design
- Halyards
- GP Cellulose
- Turner & Associates Insurance

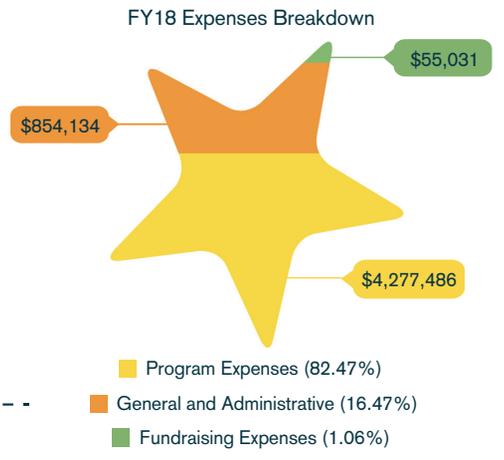
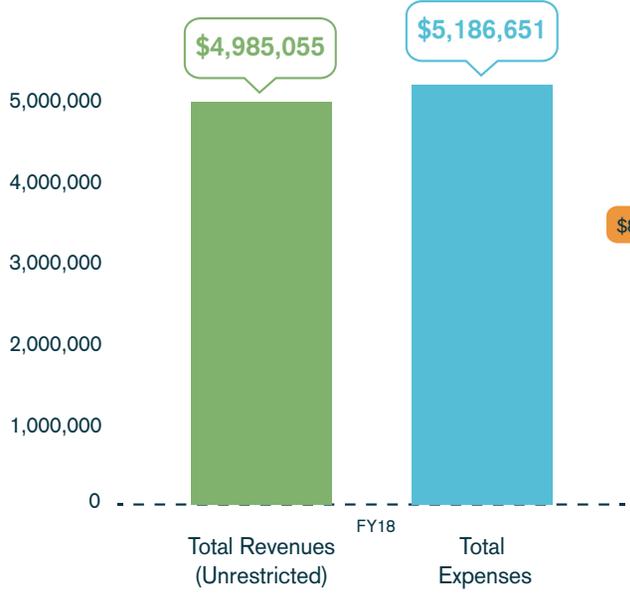


- Brunswick
- Southeast Georgia Health System
- Kiwanis Club
- Georgia Power
- Georgia Theatre Company
- Suncoast Paper Company
- Northside Drive Baptist Church
- Synovous Bank
- Par Systems
- Thaw's Electric Service
- Pineland Paper
- The Vine



- Ace Garden Center
- Amanda Williams, Attorney At Law
- Arline & Wiggins
- Brunswick News Publishing
- Dr. Suzanne Haley
- Duckworth Properties
- Frances Dyal, Attorney At Law
- J.W. Merchant Solutions
- Killian Law Firm
- Moore Stephens Tiller, CPAs
- Peachtree Pest Control
- Premier Printing
- Rich Products Corporation
- United Community Bank

Our Financial Year In Review



Unique donors contributed approx.



185,000 to Morningstar in FY18.

connecting
with kids
brighter
days



**Donate to Morningstar
Children & Family Services**

P.O. Box 370
Brunswick, GA 31521

Morningstar Mental Health Clinics

220 Santo Domingo Drive
Brunswick, GA 31525

13 N Winston Street
Reynolds, GA 31076

**Morningstar Youth Estate Campus
and Foster Care Services**

1 Youth Estate Drive
Brunswick, GA 31525

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