



BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD

WELCOME

YAY YOU'RE HERE

POSITIVE VIBES NEXT TURN

GOOD THINGS FORWARD

2019

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

Katrina Chisholm
Director of Counseling

Josh Johnson
Interim Director of Residential Care

Baxter Peffer
Director of Foster Care Services

Jessica Johnson
Director of Human Resources

Lisa Johnson
Director of Development

Melinda Massey
Director of Finance



Board of Directors

Dean Bare: Chairman

Nick Doster: Vice-Chairman

Barbara Atchley: Secretary

Chip Beaton

Kelly Combs

Jerry House

Vickie McClinton

Kate Sabbe

Linda Sewell

Rick Shelnett

John Turner

Good Things on the Road Forward

Dear Morningstar Community,

We recently added a fun sign at our entrance. We hope it brings a smile as children, staff, and volunteers drive through our gate and down the road onto campus. The sign reads: **Welcome. We're glad you are here. Brighter days are ahead.**

At Morningstar, **the road of 2019 was marked with accomplishments** that made us smile. We began by receiving affirmation of our quality of work from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). This three-year re-accreditation is a sign of our collective commitment to meet high standards of service in each of our program areas. We ended the year penning a new strategic plan, part inspiration and part practical application, which will drive our efforts forward. And in between, our staff showed up daily to provide supportive counseling, transformative training, and big hugs to the children in our care. We can truly say we do it for **T.H.E.M.** – and their hope, for a brighter and happier future, energizes us.



Many of you showed up this year to support our work with donations of time, resources, and financial gifts. Know that we are filled with thanksgiving and deep gratitude for your investment in our mission. To answer the call to serve more children in the year ahead, we established a Secure Family Fund to steward investments into the services of Morningstar and the needs of children for counseling, foster and residential care. We hope we can count on your continued investment into children through support of this funding and service initiative.

As we move into another year, know that I am continually thankful for your prayers, your partnership, and your belief in brighter days for Georgia's children!

–Beth VanDerbeck, Chief Executive Officer ✨



We Served 676 Children Through Our Three Programs:

Counseling



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

★ **573** Children Assisted Through Community Counseling in 2019

Foster Care



Morningstar **Foster Care Services** are based in Brunswick, Georgia, and provide training, child placement, and ongoing case management for area foster families. We are actively working to expand our foster family base to meet the growing needs of children in Coastal Georgia.



★ The above map represents our current Foster Family service areas in Southeast Georgia.

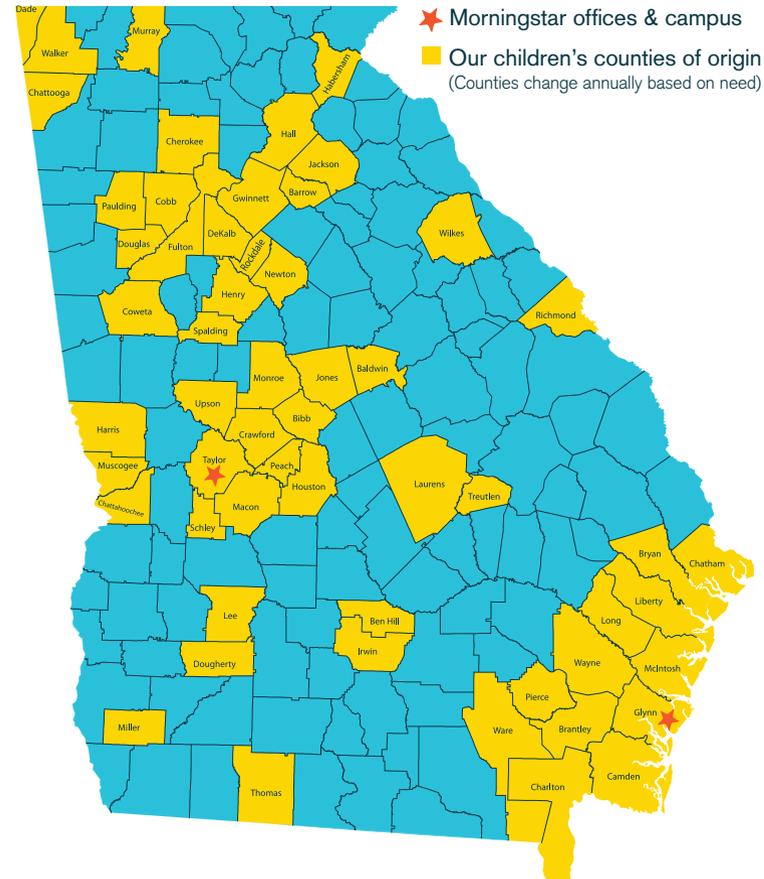
Residential



The **Morningstar Youth Estate Campus and Residential Care Facility** sits on 25 acres of beautiful Coastal Georgia. Our program serves children ages 12-18 who are in the foster care system and have profound developmental disabilities. All of our residents receive individualized services that address their physical, psychological, social, educational, and spiritual needs.

★ **96** Children Who Called Our Campus Home in 2019

Morningstar accepts referrals from all Georgia counties.



“ Why I Supported Morningstar in 2019

Our leadership, staff, and volunteers have the **passion and compassion** to make a difference by helping mend broken lives. Their commitment and zeal for the well-being of our children is contagious. It is a privilege to serve and play a small part in positively impacting the lives of [Georgia's] children.

— *Board Member of 3 years* ”



Our doctor at Morningstar always listens to us and takes the time to understand our concerns. I didn't want to put my child on medication and he **worked with us** to explore alternative ways to help her.

— *Mother of 12 year old with anxiety disorder* ”

Jaida came into my courtroom as a child who had been in foster care her entire life. She could not speak due to trauma and abuse. **Due to the treatment and care she received at Morningstar**, when I saw her again she was receiving her high school diploma.



— *Former Juvenile Court Judge* ”

Community Support and Engagement

Oak Grove Island Couples Golf Tournament



The Oak Grove Island Couples Golf Association held their 13th Annual Golf for the Children Tournament and Silent Auction on September 28th, 2019, raising \$22,000 for our programs. This was a record year for the tournament. Before the big event, Morningstar Board Member Jerry House and golf professional Bubba Clark provided the children a fun afternoon on the OGI course. The 14th Annual Golf Tournament benefiting Morningstar is scheduled for September 26, 2020.

Brunswick Women's Club

Thank you to the Brunswick Women's Club for creating beautiful space in the activity room of the girl's cottage. Fresh paint, handmade curtains, rugs and chair pillows have provided room details that will be enjoyed for years by the staff and children. Your care for our girls through improving their living space is greatly appreciated.

"When people walk into a place that has been carefully prepared, they are more likely to surrender themselves to it, trusting that whoever cared so much for the room might also care for them." –Barbara Brown Taylor



Campus Beautification Day



Local partner organizations, including Golden Isles Career Academy, Kiwanis Club of Brunswick, and Synovus Bank, joined us in April for a day of campus beautification. Over 80 students worked to improve our living spaces. Others helped with major landscape needs. It was a great day of community support! Century Metals, Grimes Landscape, and Neptune Garden Club also helped improve our landscape in 2019.

2019 Dinner Under the Stars

Have you ever attended a fundraiser in the middle of a tropical storm? 270 of our closest friends did just that on October 19, 2019! When Tropical Storm Nestor required we move the event indoors, the entire team came together to stage a perfect farm-to-table event. Suzy and the Bird Dogs rocked the house, Halyard's catered an amazing meal, and our volunteers made sure every aspect of the event was perfect. It was a record event for Morningstar, thanks to our sponsors, silent auction donors, and attendees. A special thank you to our Title Sponsor Georgia Ports Authority and Event Chair Millie Wilcox.



SAVE THE DATE for Dinner Under the Stars Oct. 17, 2020!



Thank you, 2019 Event Sponsors!

- ★★★★★ **Title Sponsor** ★★★★★
Georgia Ports Authority
- ★★★★ **Premier Partners** ★★★★★
 - Georgia-Pacific/GP Cellulose
 - The Jack and Kathleen Thornton Fund
- ★★★ **Prominent Partners** ★★★
 - Berkshire Hathaway, Hodnett Cooper
 - Halyards Restaurant and Catering
 - Southeast Georgia Health System
 - SunCoast Paper & Chemical
 - Turner & Associates Insurance

- ★★ **Significant Partners** ★★
 - Art & Lindee Lucas
 - Beachview Event Rentals & Design
 - Becky Livingston
 - Elegant Island Living
 - Georgia Theatre Company
 - Grimes Lawn Care
 - h2o Creative Group
 - Northside Drive Baptist Church

- ★ **Patron Sponsors** ★
 - Amanda F. Williams, Attorney At Law
 - Arline & Wiggins, CPAs, LLC
 - Commonground Creative
 - First Coast Benefits Solutions, Inc.
 - Frances Dyal Family Law
 - GardnerKeim Coastal Realty
 - Henshaw Companies
 - Island Promos
 - James & Lillie Smith
 - Killian Law Firm



- ★★ **Significant Partners** ★★
 - Overhead Door Company of Brunswick
 - PAR Systems
 - Pate, Johnson, & Church Law Firm
 - Rusty & Linda Sewell
 - Synovus Bank
 - The A/C Guys
 - Tom & Linda Heagy

- ★ **Patron Sponsors** ★
 - Lang Building Supply
 - Lindsay Stewart Photography
 - Moore Stephens Tiller, LLC
 - Premier Printing
 - Rich Products Corporation
 - ServiceMaster by A1
 - Teamwork Services, Inc.
 - United Community Bank
 - VanDerbeck Managed Technology
 - Vickie & Domenic McClinton

Strengthening the Agency Through Partnerships

Throughout 2019, the Morningstar team focused on building partnerships, both local and statewide. **We are indeed fortunate to have so many local partners helping to strengthen our mission.** While we could never list them all, we would like to highlight a few:

Our friends at **PillowGrace** have come alongside us to make sure our children are welcomed to our campus through the gift of God's word. The team at **Peach World** shared their story and delicious products at a special event on our campus. Our longtime friends at **Golden Isles Association of Realtors** are



so wonderful. They are always ready to spend quality time with our children, and make sure that fun is had by all! Speaking of fun....**Georgia Theatre Company** included Morningstar in their 16th Annual Cinema for a Cause event. This was a great opportunity for both fundraising and building awareness of our mission.



Partnerships around Georgia proved to be critical for us as the hurricane season unfolded. When we had to flee Hurricane Dorian in early September, our friends at **Pittman Park**



United Methodist Church welcomed us with open arms. Lending a helping hand during the evacuation were the teams at **The Lodge at Bethany, Fostering Bulloch, and Grimes Landscaping.**

We offer a collective thanks to our **church partners.** We receive statewide support from many church bodies, allowing us to carry out activities essential to our mission.

together georgia

An Alliance of Inspired Services Providers

Joining **Together Georgia**, a statewide provider advocacy group, provided an opportunity to expand our network, as well as gain support from other agencies engaged in the work of serving Georgia's children. We are extremely proud to support this alliance.

Christmas Morning 2019



Thank you **volunteers, child wish list sponsors, and donors** for making this holiday season memorable for our residential and foster care children.

Residential Campus Café Update

The shine on our newly renovated café at Morningstar Residential finally matches the bright outlook of our amazing kitchen team. Tracie Yates, Morningstar Kitchen Coordinator, and her team create a real sense of home for our children. Ask any child at Morningstar what they like best, and food will usually top the list. The remodel project was made possible by a grant from a local foundation. A special thanks goes to Lorraine Desola, owner of Desola Design and Interiors, for donating her time and talent to ensure the project was perfectly coordinated.



Support Us While You Shop



When you shop at www.smile.amazon.com and choose "Morningstar Children and Family Services Inc" as your charity of choice, Amazon donates to our mission. Our Amazon Wish List can be found on our website under "You Can Help", and contains items our children need and frequently request.

CARF Re-Accreditation

We are a CARF® accredited organization and have received this high level of recognition consecutively since 2007. This achievement is an indication of our organization's dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the lives of the persons served. We take great pride in having achieved this high level of accreditation.



Engage With Us While You Scroll

@morningstarcs  



Follow us on social media and share our updates with friends. The more people know about Morningstar, the more we can help Georgia's children.



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

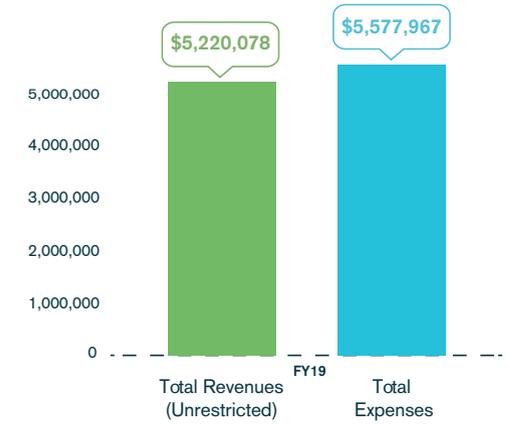
- We will listen and react to legislation, trends, and client voices to stay current and responsive in service delivery
- We will expand our reach and impact through increased opportunities and access to mission-aligned services
- We will innovate; challenging ourselves to embrace new partners, processes, 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.



The Secure Family Fund



Our Residential Program provides a safe and supportive home for up to 52 children, a home not found anywhere else in our state. Providing a group-home environment for at-risk youth requires more than simply shelter. Morningstar employs over 100 support staff. State funding always falls short of our need, and generous foundations, churches, businesses, and individuals step in to fill the gap. You may help through donating to our Secure Family Fund's two initiatives: our Permanent Support Fund, or our Greatest Need Fund. Visit our website to learn more.

connecting
with kids
brighter
days



WAYS  TO GIVE  TO MORNINGSTAR



TEXT2GIVE

Text "Give" to 912-205-6331



CHECK

P.O. Box 370, Brunswick, GA 31521



WEBSITE

MorningstarCFS.Org/Donate