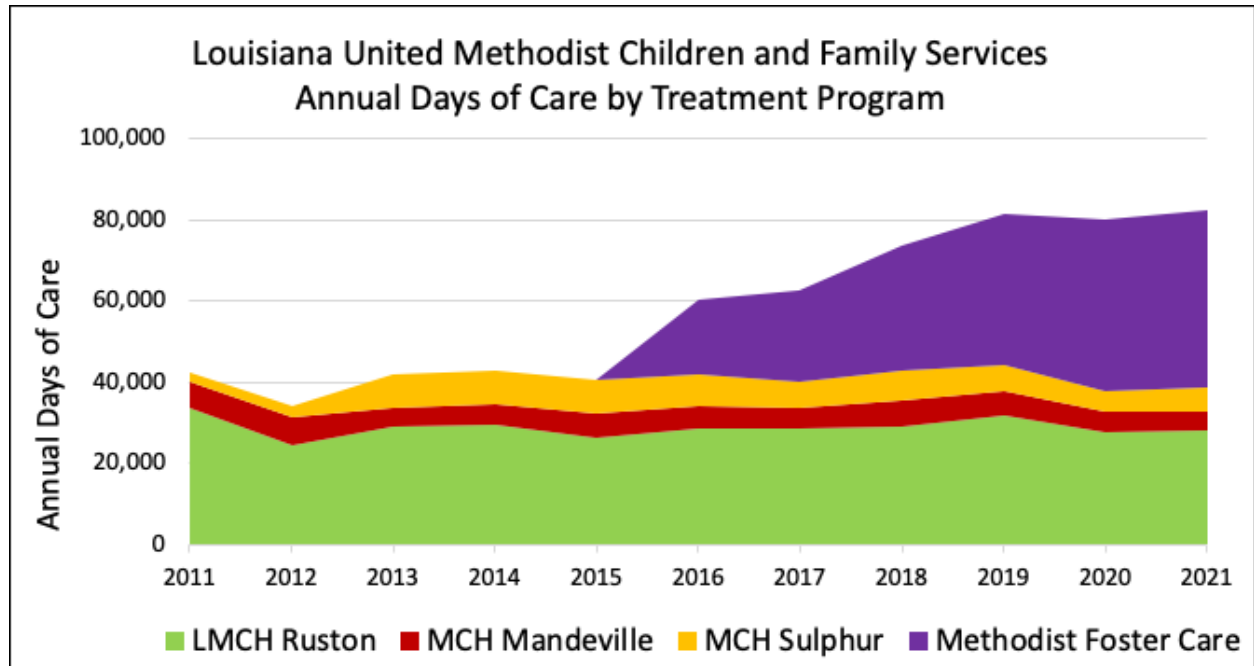


LOUISIANA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

We Serve Louisiana’s Children and Families

In 2021 Louisiana United Methodist Children and Family Services (LUMCFS) focused on the intentional pursuit of the organization’s Mission, our Vision for Louisiana’s children and families, and our commitments to Louisiana’s children, families, and stakeholders.

During the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, LUMCFS provided more days of intensive residential care and therapeutic foster care to more children than in any previous year. As a result, 2021 was a record year for services to Louisiana’s children and families.



Delivering More Services Than Ever Before

Last year’s Statistical Report of Services stated, “with the continued presence and spread of the SARS-Cov-2 virus, we do not anticipate much opportunity to increase days of care in LUMCFS’ three children’s homes during 2021.” While not recovering census to the pre-pandemic levels, we did increase the number of children and days of care provided in our intensive residential treatment facilities. The reduction of the census at LMCH due to our transition to single-occupancy rooms, the reopening of MCHSWLA in January following 90-days closure after Hurricane Laura in 2020, and our preparations for moving from Mandeville to our new Methodist Children’s Home of Southeast Louisiana were the three factors that most impacted census.

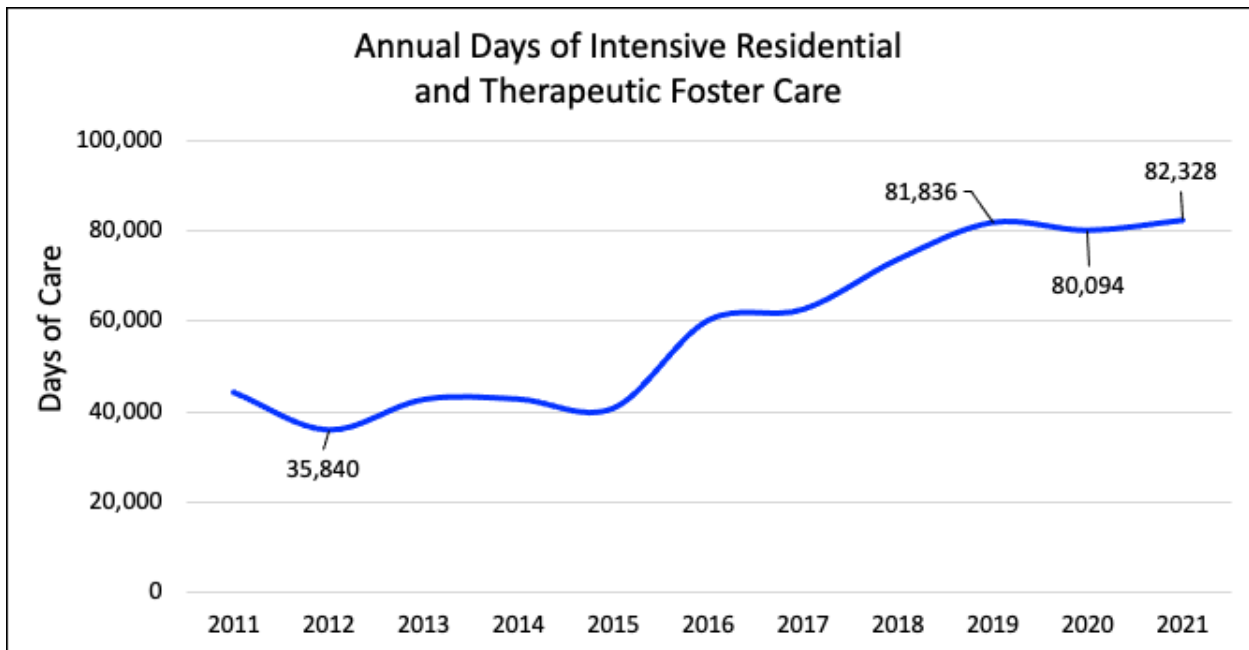
While services in the three PRTF facilities were stable compared to 2020, in 2021, Methodist Foster Care continued growing as we recruited, trained, certified, and supported new therapeutic foster families. The



continued growth of our therapeutic foster care services compensated for the stasis in residential care days due to the pandemic response by Louisiana Methodist Children’s Home in Ruston, Methodist Children’s Home of Southwest Louisiana in Sulphur, and Methodist Children’s Home of Greater New Orleans in Mandeville.

The combination of maintaining a 2021 census similar to 2020’s in our intensive residential services and growing our therapeutic foster care services yielded a record year for LUMCFS. **In 2021, we provided 82,328 days of care to 564 children, more days of care to more children than in any previous year.**

The following chart shows the previous 10-year history of the annual number of days of intensive residential care provided by LUMCFS’ three Methodist Children’s Home and in therapeutic foster care.



LUMCFS’ Three United Methodist Children’s Homes

Our organization’s three United Methodist children’s homes are located in the bootstrap, heel, and toe of Louisiana’s boot-shaped state. These strategic locations provide intensive residential care convenient to the geographic regions of our state. In addition to the residential care we provide at Louisiana Methodist Children’s Home, Methodist Children’s Home of Greater New Orleans, and Methodist Children’s Home of Southwest Louisiana, we also reach out from these facilities into communities across Louisiana with services for families and children.

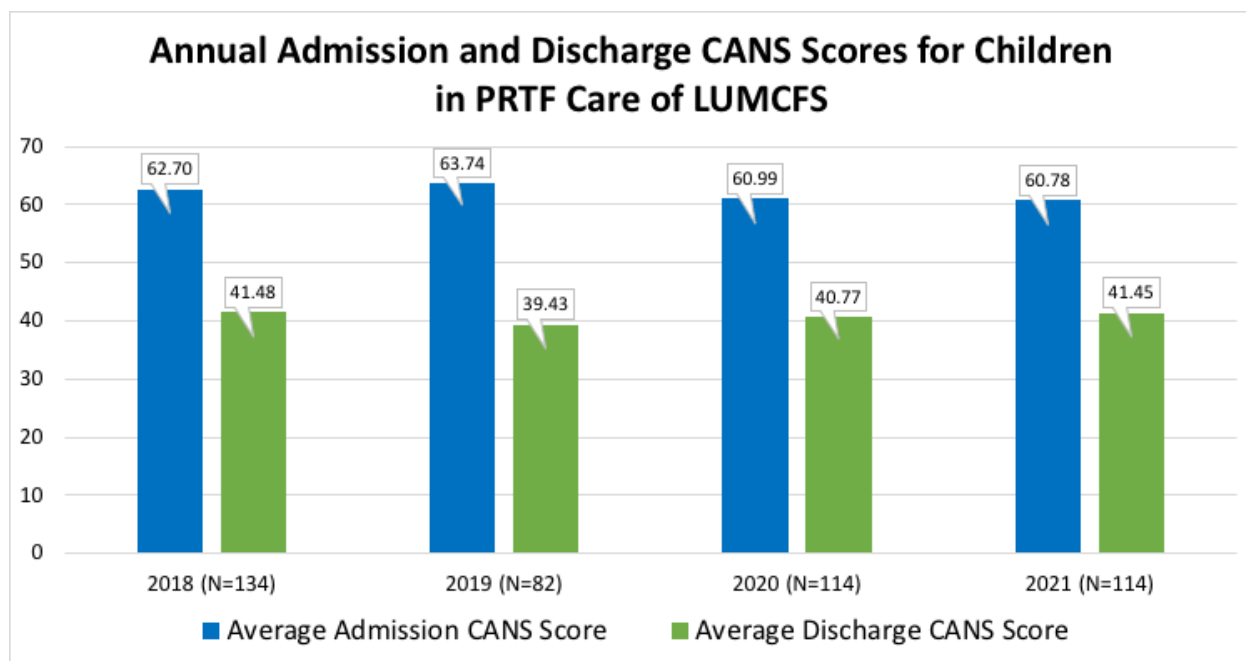
Children in Our Care Have Good Outcomes

We use objective assessments to evaluate the effectiveness of treatment. Treatment outcomes of residents are individually assessed using the *Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)*



assessment, a widely-used and comprehensive trauma-informed behavioral health evaluation and communication tool.

Individual children’s *CANS* assessments provide child-specific perspective for clinical decision-making and service planning. Also, aggregated *CANS* assessment scores from children participating in a treatment program help facilitate quality improvement activities. Aggregate results allow for outcomes monitoring and comparisons of the treatment program’s relative intensity of care and the effectiveness of treatment in general.



The average baseline admissions *CANS* score for children entering LUMCFS’ PRTF services during 2021 was 60.78, and the average discharge *CANS* was 41.45. These averages are based on aggregated data from 145 initial *CANS* and 100 discharge *CANS*. Reduction in the average discharge *CANS* over the average admissions *CANS* show children in LUMCFS’ PRTF care improve by 19.3 points.

Comprehensive Residential Care for Children

LUMCFS provides the most intensive, comprehensive, holistic residential care for Louisiana’s children and adolescents.

Our organization’s three intensive residential care facilities in Ruston, Sulphur, and Mandeville are licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health as Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities. We receive requests for care from throughout Louisiana from parents, other treatment

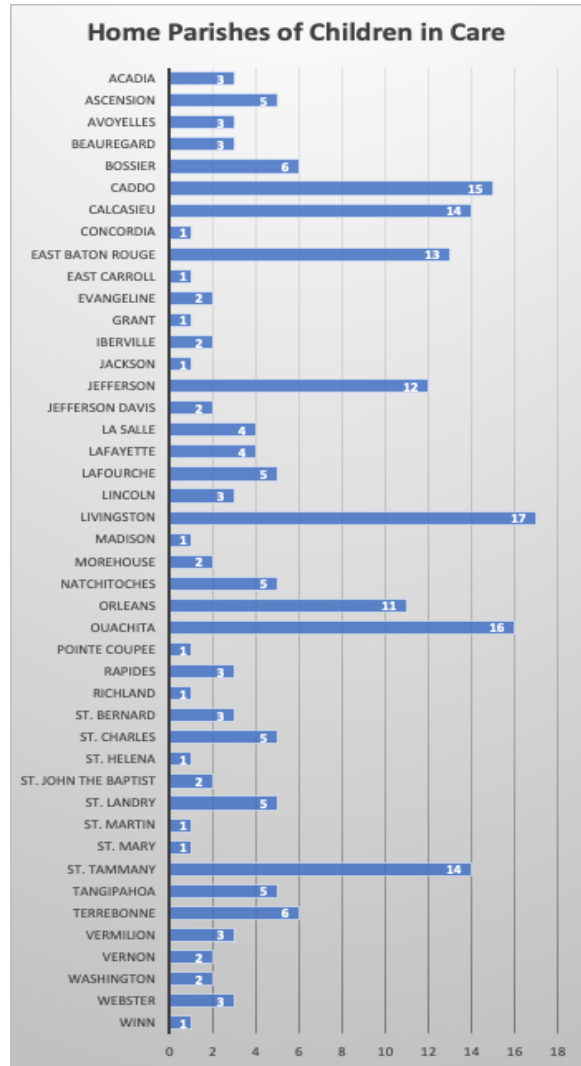


facilities, Medicaid management companies, custodial state agencies, including the Department of Children and Family Services, the Office of Juvenile Justice, and the Louisiana Department of Health, from clergy and healthcare professionals. In addition, LUMCFS receives requests for services from similar individuals and agencies located in other states.

Residential Occupancy

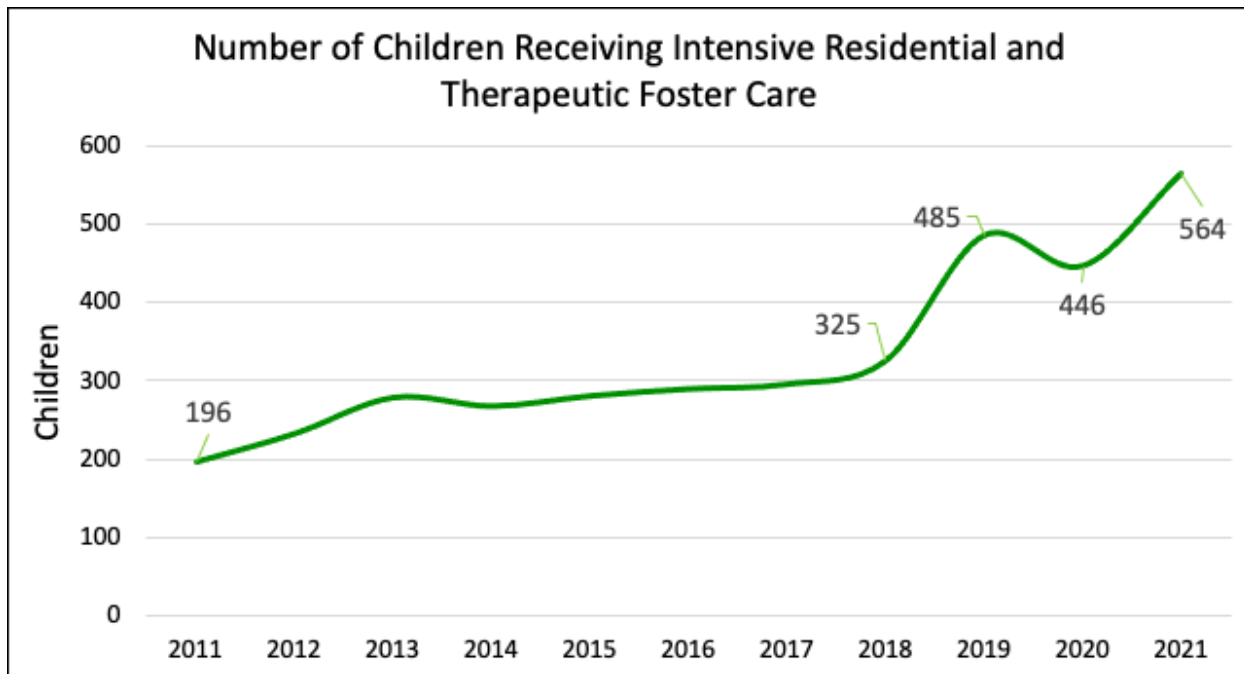
LUMCFS continued through 2021 with a reduced census for single occupancy at Louisiana Methodist Children’s Home in Ruston to control COVID-19. Also, admissions into care occurred in groups of boys or girls with 14-day admissions quarantines. At the beginning of 2021, LUMCFS reopened Methodist Children’s Home of Southwest Louisiana following its 90-day closure after Hurricane Laura in the fall of 2020.

These factors had a significant impact on the occupancy rates during 2021.



Residential Treatment Facility	Potential Days of Care	Actual Days of Care	Percentage of Capacity
Louisiana Methodist Children’s Home	30,660	28,041	91.46%
Methodist Children’s Home of Southeast Louisiana	6,560	4,849	73.92%
Methodist Children’s Home of Southwest Louisiana	8,790	5,645	64.22%
TOTAL	46,010	38,535	83.75%





Howard School

Background and Enrollment

Howard School, approved as an alternative school by the Louisiana Department of Education, is located on Louisiana Methodist Children’s Home campus. Howard School provided educational services to 244 youth during the 2021 calendar year.

Of these students, 240 were residents, and 4 were off-campus youth from the local school district. The average daily student count for educational services on any given day in 2021 was 77. This number was lower than the usual average of 83 due to the pandemic and lower student admissions/census in our facility. Our October 1, 2021, enrollment count submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education was 89. This number reflected the total enrolled in homeroom classes on that date; however, 14 were youth housed at our SELA location, with Howard School providing educational services.

Instruction

Like 2020, 2021 was an equally challenging year for students and teachers at Howard School and our John Allen Vocational Center due to the COVID pandemic.

With the support of the Clinical Department and mental health specialists, youth attended classes at the school for a full day of instruction; however, sporadic isolations of students, teachers, and

staff did often prevent face-to-face teaching and learning. Consequently, teachers utilized Chromebooks and provided virtual instruction during those times.

Furthermore, the faculty and staff of Howard School and our John Allen Vocational Center prepared assignments that were delivered to the houses and units so that ongoing educational services could continue. Also, Howard School implemented an eight-period day to create a communication period when teachers could contact youth at their on-campus residence or the Southeast Louisiana location.

Howard School used Louisiana's standards-based Tier 1 instruction in the elementary and middle school grades of 2-8 and the high school grades of 9-12, based on the school's School-Wide Plan incorporated in the grant funding applications required of CIR schools across the State of Louisiana. In addition, school improvement areas focused on curriculum and technology directly linked to teacher staff development with the approved and adopted Tier 1 Curriculum.

Only one student was classified as a senior and remained enrolled at the end of the first semester.

Most students were in the school's eighth, ninth, and tenth grades during the 2021 calendar year, which was not unusual. However, the number of youth in the fall of 2021 was significantly greater in high school than in the lower and middle grades.

Middle school subjects of English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and physical education were the primary classes of instruction throughout the year.

In addition, all middle school youth enjoyed an elective period, career success skills, and language arts and mathematics remediation classes during the day's schedule.

High school classes included core subject classes as well as electives. After reviewing student records and transcripts, faculty developed class schedules that included courses specific to each youth. Then, the youth met individually with the school counselor or the principal to discuss the schedule that matched the graduation pathway selected by the child and guardian. The Jump Start TOPS Tech Career Diploma, TOPS University Diploma, or the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) pathways were the three options for high school students.

Sixteen high school students opted for the HiSET diploma pathway due to their age and lack of Carnegie Credits. Other high school youths were almost evenly split between the Jump Start and TOPS University pathways to graduation.

Teachers and Instructional Support Staff

The school, inclusive of the vocational center, comprised fourteen well-trained and certified professionals and five support staff who provided educational services to resident and non-

STATISTICAL REPORT OF SERVICES PROVIDED DURING 2021

resident youth. Of these employees, three teachers were Lincoln Parish School Board employees, two staff who served as teacher aides, and one, a behavioral interventionist. Other support staff employed by LUMCFS included a school secretary, a computer lab manager, a Clinical Department youth behavior coordinator/interventionist, and a timesheet substitute teacher/librarian.

All Howard School and John Allen Vocational Center teachers were certified through the Louisiana Department of Education and provided appropriate instruction for youth assigned to their grade level and courses. In addition, the teachers worked to address the Louisiana Curriculum, and the Louisiana Standards developed for that grade and or subject by the Louisiana Department of Education. All core teachers completed extensive training and provided instruction that mirrored teaching and learning in quality classrooms across the State.

Once again, in 2021, we were fortunate to have had the educational staff that ensured youth received appropriate, high-quality services throughout the year.

The Louisiana Methodist Children's Home Recreation Department provided Physical Education to all students. All middle school students received a daily period of physical education, while most high school students took Physical Education I or II. Several high school students captured one and a half Carnegie Credits of physical education and may not require another class for graduation purposes; however, all youth participated in some level of physical activity as arranged by the Recreation Department. The highly qualified team of Recreation Department staff did a tremendous job providing varied physical activities and sports training to the students.

This department worked closely with Howard School's school counselor, a certified physical education teacher. Their collaboration allowed for quality physical education for all youth in our care.

In addition, the school's part-time librarian, the Recreation Department staff, and the LMCH Library provided library services. Youth are encouraged to read and fully develop and enrich their literacy skills.

An extensive collection of books is available to youth to check out at the school library and in the Recreation Department's library.

The school counselor reviewed student transcripts, met with new students upon admission, developed student schedules, discussed student graduation plans, monitored student progress, and served as School Test Coordinator handling all Louisiana assessments. The State moved forward with student testing in 2021 even though the pandemic had continued. High school students were still required to pass End of Course tests for Carnegie Credits, but promotion for middle school students was not tied to the results of the Louisiana assessments in the spring of



2021. Critical aspects of the school counselor's job were to keep up with individual student assessments and schedule testing for all youth using the online testing platform.

Student Achievement

In 2021, students participated in end-of-course testing for applicable high school courses. Howard Schools' average passing rate was 67% among the courses requiring the EOC. As in the past, most high school students still enrolled at the end of the school year earned Carnegie Credits due to passing their high school courses. Based on promotion rates using the number of Carnegie Credits earned to determine the student's level of advancement to the next high school grade, 63% of the high school students promoted to the next classification level. In comparison, 37% remained in their current classification.

In our middle school, the passing rate based on the students' performance of their Louisiana assessments yielded a 62% passing rate; however, the Louisiana Department of Education waived the impact of the assessments on student promotion. Therefore, based on passing rates using student grades at the end of the year, 81% of middle-grade students passed, with 19% retained.

Two students enrolled in classes at our John Allen Vocational Center earned HiSET diplomas in July 2021, which was great news considering the previous year of not having any youth due to the COVID shutdown of the school in March 2020, with a re-opening in August of 2020. The enrollment in the HiSET program had declined by the fall of 2021 to 10-12 students on average. Only 8.3% of the students who attended school in January 2021 were present and counted in the October 1, 2021, MFP State count and were present on the last day of the first nine weeks, October 22, 2021. In addition, Howard School experienced a significant discharge/student turnover rate in approximately a year, which upped the challenge to retain potential graduates among the population served in the school and vo-tech.

Instruction via Online Learning

In the high school computer lab, the web-based credit recovery program allowed students to take Carnegie Credit hours courses toward a high school diploma during the 3rd nine weeks or first quarter of 2021 and once again in the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2021. As a result, youth earned course credit in classes that they may have previously failed and earned credit in classes that would not have otherwise been available through on-campus instructors. For example, in 2021, ten credits were earned by youth enrolled in computer-based credit Edgenuity courses; this increased over the previous year despite ongoing pandemic isolations and youth discharges.

Summary

The Lorraine Howard Educational Center and the John Allen Vocational Center offered quality educational experiences for all youth at the Louisiana Methodist Children's Home in 2021 during

another year of handling schooling in a year of pandemic. Teaching and learning moved forward by navigating, adapting, and embracing new technologies and unique instructional methods during the extraordinarily challenging days. As a result, the Education Department of LUMCFS accomplished its mission. All educators and support staff continued to embrace helping every child achieve their fullest academic potential while providing the essential supports of safety, care, and guidance.

OWL Equine Center

The OWL Equine Center provides a variety of therapeutic and recreational experiences for Louisiana Methodist Children's Home's residents, individuals from the larger community, and children participating in the special education programs of local schools.

26 Volunteers performed 310 hours of service doing 62 hours of barn chores and providing 250 hours of lesson assistance.

The OWL Equine Center provided services to 537 individuals from 14 community groups during 2021. In addition, the center gave 346 riding lessons to LMCH residents, 896 lessons to individuals from the community, and 138 lessons to students participating in special education programs.

Youth are taught to safely handle, care for, and ride horses, with each week's lesson focused on a life skills-related theme, such as responsibility, setting goals, following directions, and respect. These classes are an excellent opportunity for our youth to practice communication, compassion, and patience.

The OWL Center

The OWL Center booked events for 4784 individuals from 92 community groups in 2021 to use the Challenge Course, fish in the pond, camp, play in the fields, and enjoy the maze.

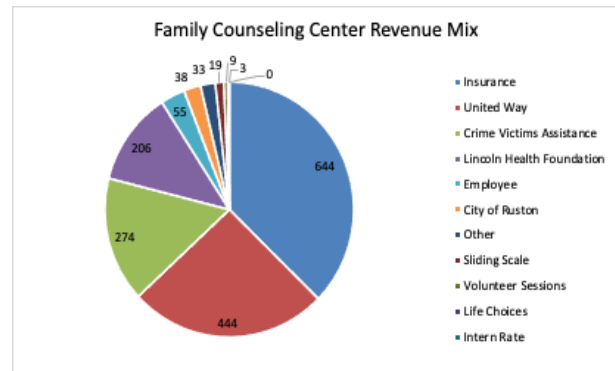
The staff and youth from Louisiana Methodist Children's Home continued to use the Challenge Course and had the opportunity to participate in high and low ropes challenges. These elements provide youth with a chance to get out of their comfort zones and develop problem-solving and communication skills. In addition, working through the Challenge Course together helps children and staff improve relationships.

The OWL Center hosted several volunteer groups that helped us clear trails, construct fencing, work in the orchard, paint and clean buildings, and build a pavilion near the barn.

OWL Center staff have successfully maintained a safe environment, and individuals have enjoyed the OWL Center throughout the year. Notably, the Family Lodge has continued to provide opportunities for children in care at LMCH and the families to enjoy weekend visits in a pleasant, low-stress environment.

FAMILY COUNSELING CENTER

In 2020, Louisiana Methodist Children’s Home repurposed the Family Counseling Center (FCC) building converting it into the COVID-19 infirmary for residents. In 2021, FCC recovered from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which the FCC experienced in 2020. In early 2021, FCC reopened to the public in a new location on Reynolds Drive in Ruston, which places FCC in the middle of the community.



2021 Family Counseling Center Accomplishments

- FCC reopened in the Chautauqua Building on Reynolds Drive in Ruston.
- FCC offers in-office sessions and telehealth sessions when appropriate or preferred.
- FCC continued significant relationships with Lincoln Parish School Board, City of Ruston, and United Way of Northeast Louisiana, participated in our community partnerships and a working referral network with other counseling agencies
- FCC continued participating with the Chamber of Commerce and the 2021-2022 Leadership Lincoln Program
- In September 2021, FCC held an open house and Ribbon Cutting for our new space and programs.
- FCC’s three therapists provided 1,208 counseling sessions in 2021.
- FCC touched about 20,000 through publications, marketing, and training events.
- FCC provided Eating Disorder Training to LUMCFS licensed therapists, social workers and dieticians, and other professionals in the region. Forty-four individuals participated in this training in Ruston and via Lifesize in Mandeville and Sulphur.
- FCC developed two new services, which were not readily available in north-central Louisiana, Family and Civil Mediation Services and Psychological Testing. Both services are now open and have a footprint on our website and social media platforms.

Funding: The Family Counseling Center is funded by fee for service revenue, grants, and the charitable support received from donors whose contributions support FCC’s continued service to the community.

LIFE SKILLS TRAINING CENTER

Four Life Skills Training Centers serve residents of the three Methodist Children’s Homes and children living in group homes and foster homes in twenty-nine parishes in the following regions: Monroe, Covington, Lafayette, and Lake Charles. This program provides the opportunity for youth to learn the life skills necessary to transition successfully into independence. These youth also have the chance to return after completing the program from ages 18-21 to “brush up” on their skills and receive Case Management Services.

In 2021, we continued with a new program design to move away from heavy classroom life skills groups. The new services provided include:

- Independent Living Skills Preparation with ages 14-15.
- In-home Support Services to youth ages 16-23.
- Case Management Services to young adults ages 18-23.
- Social Learning and Youth Engagement Activities.
- Summer and Holiday Classes.
- NYTD surveys and youth support.

In response to COVID-19 in general and specific periods of a surge, as needed, we have offered services through virtual learning during the current pandemic.

The chart below details the services our four Life Skills Training Centers provided during 2021.

LUMCFS Life Skills Training Centers 2021 Services	REGIONS				TOTAL
	Monroe	Covington	Lafayette	Lake Charles	
<i>Service Events and Sessions</i>	222	253	110	55	640
Summer/Holiday Classes and Social Events	21	18	20	15	74
In-home Support Sessions	201	235	90	40	566
<i>Number of Youth Served</i>	185	115	107	71	478
Ages 14-15	88	10	62	42	202
Ages 16-17	82	77	43	26	228
DCFS Custody	152	115	103	71	441
OJJ Custody	18	0	2	0	20
Males	71	37	45	30	183
Females	99	50	60	38	247
<i>Progress</i>	50%	13%	15%	NA	26%
Pre-Test Average Score	42%	19%	67%	75%	51%
Post-Test Average Score	92%	32%	82%	NA	69%
<i>Case Management Recipients (Ages 18 to 23)</i>	15	28	2	3	48
Males	3	11	0	2	16
Females	12	17	2	1	32

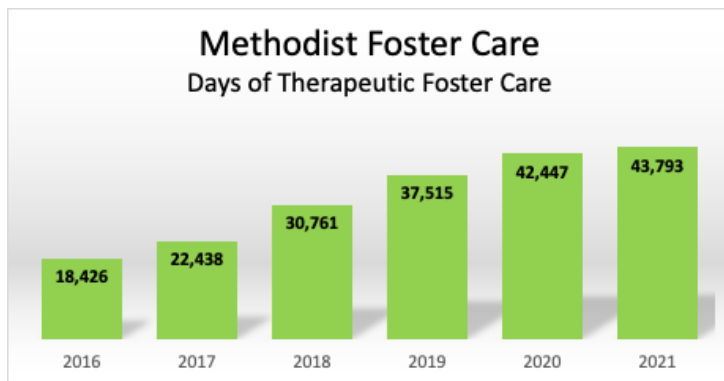
METHODIST FOSTER CARE

LUMCFS created Methodist Foster Care in December 2015 to provide Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) services to children in the custody of the Department of Children and Family Services. In 2019, Methodist Foster Care created two new support services for individuals who provide care to children in foster care. Our Kinship Navigator program assists DCFS in certifying Louisiana’s relative caregivers. Methodist Foster Care created the Louisiana Foster Care Support Organization, a statewide support service for all of Louisiana’s foster and kinship caregivers.

Methodist Foster Care offices in the Monroe, Lafayette, Rapides, Covington, and Shreveport regions hold Child Placing Agency licenses. From these regional offices, Methodist Foster Care reaches into surrounding areas to provide three foster care services throughout Louisiana: Therapeutic Foster Care, Kinship Navigator services, and the Louisiana Foster Care Support Organization.

Therapeutic Foster Care

During 2021, Methodist Foster Care continued recruiting, training, and certifying Therapeutic Foster Homes throughout Louisiana. During 2021, Methodist Foster Care’s Therapeutic Foster Homes cared for 233 children and averaged 120 children in care each day of the year.



Kinship Navigator

Kinship Care is the full-time care of children by individuals who have a kinship bond with a child and whose parent is not living in the home. Children receiving appropriate care from relatives benefit by receiving care and affection from someone known to them and by having important attachments, family ties, and relationships preserved. Additionally, when parents are unable to do so, kinship caregivers are often able to provide the safe care needed, eliminating the need for formal child welfare intervention. However, should children have to enter foster care, relatives may be best able to provide care as certified kinship caregivers within the Department of Children and Family Services.

Methodist Foster Care’s Kinship Navigator program helps DCFS certify Kinship homes for children. In 2021, DCFS referred 166 homes to our Kinship Navigator program. Of these 166 homes, we completed 113 full home studies and 29 partial home studies. Of the 166 families referred for a home study, 6 could not be contacted, 7 changed their minds, the child was moved from 5 of the home, 4 were non-compliant with the home study requirements, 1 was not completed due to COVID-19, and 1 dropped out when the child moved into extended foster care.

In addition to walking relative caregivers through the certification process, our Kinship Navigator staff make support calls at 30, 60, and 90-day intervals. Chief supports requested by kinship caregivers during these support calls include requests that we assist by following up with DCFS on board payments owed to

Kinship families, and connecting Kinship families to community resources for clothing, food, furniture, diapers, and support groups. We also connect families with Early Intervention (Early Steps) and school system resources. We assist kinship families with submitting reimbursement forms for school supplies and school uniforms to DCFS case workers. Our Kinship Specialists worked at building relationships with DCFS Foster Care Workers in order to further assist Kinship families. By phone and in person, our staff provided crisis intervention using TBRI® principles in order to stabilize placement until family/child could be linked to counseling services.

Foster Care Support Organization

Launched at the right time to provide support to Louisiana's foster care community, Methodist Foster Care's Foster Care Support Organization continues playing a critical role in providing information and support to Louisiana's foster caregivers.

Statewide activities of the Foster Care Support Organization during 2021 included:

- Developing and holding monthly virtual support groups for foster caregivers in each of the nine regions.
- We are holding quarterly tri-regional virtual meetings with support and resource providers to connect them, establishing a broader support network for foster caregivers. Each Ambassador is holding one meeting per quarter in their coverage area.
- We conducted our first virtual meeting of all support and resource providers in Louisiana to inform them of significant support efforts in the different regions to encourage replication.
- We created a private Facebook group for support providers to communicate with each other.
- We increased the frequency of our Foster Care Support Organization newsletters.
- In collaboration with Louisiana Baptist Children's Home, the Families First Foundation, and the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, we held a virtual conference, *Foster the Connection*. This conference seeks to teach foster parents, DCFS workers, and other community partners what types of supports are out there to raise awareness for their communities. This will become an annual event, with the next conference scheduled for May 5, 2022.
- We held a foster youth event in partnership with the University of Louisiana in Monroe.
- We added eight new support and resource organizations to the list. Some of these organizations were created by their members, and our Foster Care Ambassadors assisted some.

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- We continue building out the Foster Parent Mentor Program, which is now in 3 regions. A small number of referrals from DCFS hinders steady progress.
- We continue to offer one-on-one assistance to foster parents with TBRI® support, connecting foster caregivers to outside community partners and linking them to DCFS for answers.
- We are developing Louisiana's Foster Parent Advisory Board, which will replace our *Listening Posts*. The DCFS Assistant Secretary of Child Welfare is spearheading this. Louisiana has no Child Ombudsman yet, but this may help in the interim.

