



*Renewal*  
Good Shepherd  
Children & Family Services  
**2018 Annual Report**



## *A Word from the Executive Director*

### Renewal

Our work and the theme of our 2018 Annual Report is based on the promise of Jesus Christ in the Book of Revelation 21:5 – “Behold, I make all things new.”

At Good Shepherd we work daily to reunite families torn apart by trauma; to rejoice in the loving gift of adoption; to renew hope in families overwhelmed by poverty, violence, mental illness, and/or homelessness; and to rebuild a life for a young mom and her baby. Collectively, this is also our work as a community, to recreate and support the loving bonds of family that God intended for every man, woman and child. As our friend, Bernadette, says later in this report: “We’re all part of God’s family.”

Our efforts are fueled by the kind of compassion she showed for her two adopted sons. We assisted 3,423 young people and family members in 2018, a 9% growth over the year before. Our Foster Care staff alone touched the lives of more than 1,500 people. Adoption Services assisted 747 direct and indirect clients, as compared to 561 the prior year. Ten percent more teen moms and their babies stayed in our Maternity Shelter, and there was a net increase of 100 clients in need of our Pregnancy & Parenting Support services.

Our Board members, partners and other community leaders and volunteers have embraced and improved upon the efforts of their predecessors to help guide our stewardship. The shaping of our strategic plan provided us with confidence to serve more by growing our reserves, growing

our professional staff, keeping a close eye on spending where our resources are most needed, and communicating our need as an agency to the St. Louis region.

The hard work of renewal happens in our caring contacts with those we serve, both in the community and within the walls of Good Shepherd, and for that we thank our dedicated and expert staff. However, that work would not be possible without the generous support from our donors, funders, and volunteers. As such, our success is a collaborative effort, and the fruits of that collaboration are a shared achievement. Thank you for playing a part in renewing the lives of our sisters and brothers in need.

*Michael P. Meehan, Ph.D.  
Executive Director*



## Education Makes the Difference

Homeless youth and youth who become pregnant during high school are far more likely to drop out of school and to experience school problems than their age-

peers. Because foster youth come disproportionately from communities impacted by poverty, substance abuse, violence, incarceration and instability, they are at substantial risk for school failure and dropout. Very few residential and maternity treatment centers or foster care programs statewide, particularly in the St. Louis region, have such an intense and comprehensive focus on individual education and life skills for our young clients than Good Shepherd. We recognize that educational attainment represents perhaps the single most important predictor of a successful transition to adulthood for our clients.

In 2018 our educational services continued a long record of serving our foster youth and teen moms with very good outcomes. More than 96% passed more than half of their core classes or earned credits toward their degrees. Three of our Maternity Shelter residents graduated high school in spring and all registered for St. Louis Community College in fall. Four of our Foster Care youth graduated high school and one registered to attend Southeast Missouri State University in fall.

Our Educational Coordinator and tutors form the frontline of educational services, including supporting Treatment Foster Care clinicians regarding school placement decision-making and advocating in school meetings. They are supported by a team of parenting specialists, foster care workers, and foster parents. The combined efforts and achievements of all these people also merited the financial support of many individuals whose generosity was awarded with charitable tax credits. Good Shepherd was awarded a Youth Opportunity Program grant from the Missouri Department of Economic Development to offer tax credits to our friends who invest in our Educational Attainment project. Good Shepherd received more than \$140,000 in YOP donations in 2018.

YOP projects are a true win for all involved – our young clients, our staff, contributors, and our community – but the greater part of the recognition goes to the students. The challenges for all young people to get a good education are well known, but for a young person starting out with so much stacked against them, the achievement is outstanding.



## Responding to God's Call by Fostering

Though the primary goal of foster care is always reunification with a birth family, there are a number of children who become legally free for adoption during their time in foster care. Thanks to the hard work of the staff and partners at Good Shepherd, we have had multiple wonderful adoptions be finalized over the course of the past year.

One such story is about a pair of two brothers: Sterling and Carlos. Sterling and Carlos were placed with their foster mom, Bernadette. Bernadette was not only a biological parent herself, but also a grandparent. She became a foster parent initially to provide a temporary home for children to grow and heal until they could be reunified with their biological

parents or another family member, as a way to give back to the community. Instead, when the boys' case began moving towards adoption, Bernadette saw her family growing. "The plan was to continue to do fostering. It has to be God, because it sure wasn't me". Sterling and Carlos fit perfectly into Bernadette's family, which also includes two grown children and two young grandchildren, and were adopted in December of 2017. Bernadette urges others to give back to others. "It could be your time, it could be taking care of someone, or doing something for someone," she said. "It's all about, I need you, you need me. We're all part of God's family."

*Sterling and Carlos are featured on the cover of this report.*



## #Compassion

Good Shepherd introduced a new fundraising event in 2012 – Dodge Ball. The concept was simple. We wanted to introduce our mission to more people, especially to men and women who had babies or young kids and adolescents or were thinking about having kids. We wanted to offer an affordable night out and we wanted the event to be ... kid-like ... fun. And if they just liked the movie, that would be cool, too. A few of our Board members came up with the idea (at first, kind of like a joke) and that first year at St. Mary's High School gym attracted about 200 people, 20 Dodge Ball teams, and raised about \$10,000.

In 2018 our new Dodge Ball partner elevated this kids' game to unimagined heights. Our title sponsor Keeley Companies helped attract 450 people, 35 teams, and more than \$42,000 to help our foster youth, teen moms, expectant parents and those seeking adoption services.

Our friends at the Keeley Companies (ADB, L Keeley Construction, Zero Day, Mercury, KDG) helped us tap into the secret sauce of success – compassion.

Compassion for our young clients and their families has always been a real, tangible thing at Good Shepherd. It is built into our DNA, our programs, words and actions and has recently been given a simple clarity by Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J., author of *Tattoos on the Heart*, who said: "Just assume the answer to every question is compassion." At about the same time that Good Shepherd Dodge Ball was building steam, the folks at the Keeley Companies were launching an employee community engagement experience called #KEELEYCARES built on five core values including – you guessed it – compassion.

The values of #KEELEYCARES are compassion, action, relationships, empower and serve – spelling out the CARES part of the hashtag. It is driven by the employees who want to do more than a good day's work. They want to be a part of something

bigger. They want to help make our community better and they recognize the fun and the power of taking action together, like a strong family. We thought that sounded a lot like Good Shepherd and they thought Dodge Ball sounded like Keeley.

Half the people and the majority of teams at Dodge Ball were from the Keeley Companies and they (led by Rusty and Julie Keeley, the James Family and a team of Good Shepherd Board members) invited a lot of their friends from the St. Louis business community to be sponsors and competing teams. Our Good Shepherd staff volunteers were moved by the interest in and questions about the work we do and the at-risk youth and troubled families we serve. Good Shepherd is proud to be one of the many great causes that #KEELEYCARES has adopted. They are transforming not only a fun little event into something big, but making the St. Louis community better through their compassion – the answer to our partnership and just about every question.

Good Shepherd  
Children & Family Services  
Schedule of Activities  
for the year ended  
June 30, 2018



**CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS**

Revenues and gains:

Contributions, Pledges, Bequests and Grants	58,968
Government Fees and Grants	2,192,381
Investment Income	161,190
Fees and Services	422,875
Net gain (loss) sale, disposal or impairment of property	(14,407)
Other Revenue	16,913
Total unrestricted revenues and gains	3,137,920

**Net assets released from restrictions:**

Restrictions satisfied by time	560,429
Restrictions satisfied by purpose	621,427
Total net assets released from restrictions	1,181,856

**Total unrestricted revenues, gains and other support** **4,319,776**

**EXPENSES**

Program	3,748,473
Management and general	326,212
Fund-raising	267,572
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>4,342,258</b>

Changes in unrestricted net assets from operating activities (22,482)

**Non-operating:**

Transfers for recovery of past deficiencies of endowment investments	
Total non-operating	
Change in unrestricted net assets	(22,482)

**CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:**

Contributions and other – net	1,130,057
Net investment gain	
Net assets released from restrictions	(1,181,856)
Transfers for recovery of past deficiencies of endowment investments	
Change in temporarily restricted net assets	(51,799)

CHANGES IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS 66,787

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (7,494)

NET ASSETS – Beginning of year 9,808,653

NET ASSETS – End of year 9,801,160