

HELPING YOUTH & FAMILIES WRITE THEIR SECOND STORIES
SINCE 1972



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Our Mission

Second Story transforms the lives of children, youth and their families by providing **safe havens and opportunities** for them to grow and thrive. Our programs provide support at **critical turning points** in their lives.

A Letter From Our CEO

Every year Merriam Webster comes up with the word of the year. In 2023 that word was **"authentic."** I think they nailed it. It certainly describes what has been going on at Second Story: **authentic, real and sometimes heroic efforts** to be there for young people when they are in crisis and need help and support.



The authenticity of our work is recognized in many ways. It's recognized by our receiving the highest possible ratings given by the major charity vetting organizations, including a 100% from Charity Navigator. It's recognized by the number of young people entering our programs and trusting us to provide the helping hand they need, and it's recognized by you and others in our community with your continued support.

When you work with young people in crisis, **you must be authentic.** They face so many people trying to lead them astray. The increases in meth and opioid use in our communities are alarming. Gang activity is also increasing, as is the amount of child abuse and domestic violence we see affecting young people. To fight these trends, we're providing more education and support and strengthening community-wide efforts to stem the tide.

Young people know that Second Story is **authentic** and can be trusted. **Our staff mirror the diversity of the youth we serve,** and some have also faced first-hand the life experiences of the young people in our programs.

Because they know our young people so well, our staff members can identify stumbling blocks that others wouldn't think about -- barriers that prevent our youth from consistently getting to school and work. With our help with challenges like transportation, childcare, medical assistance, and mental health needs, our youth were able to focus on achieving their education and employment goals. And when they did, the results were amazing. **100% of the eligible seniors in our programs graduated from high school** and approximately 50% enrolled in college and job training programs.

In the coming year, we intend to build on these successes. We're increasing our education and prevention efforts against opioid use. We're adding more financial literacy classes to educate young people about wise financial and credit choices and how to repair poor credit if it has already happened.

Our goal is to step up efforts to make sure youth in our programs don't just survive but thrive! We will do this by being **authentic** with you and the young people in our programs. We will do it by being **true to our mission** to make sure all youth are safe and have opportunities to reach their dreams.

As always, we couldn't do it without you. Thank you for your support this past year and watch for amazing things to come.



Contact Us

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📞 For help call 1-800-SAY-TEEN or text TEENHELP 855-11 to reach a live counselor.

🎧 Listen to our podcast, **Second Stories**, on all listening platforms.

Follow @secondstoryorg on:



Our Programs

All services are provided at no cost to youth or their families.



SECOND STORY FOR TEENS IN CRISIS

Second Story for Teens in Crisis is a completely voluntary program for **young people 13 to 17 years old**. In addition to safe shelter, food, and clothing, each teen receives intensive individual, group, and family counseling and help keeping up with their education.



SECOND STORY FOR YOUNG MOTHERS

Second Story for Young Mothers provides housing, counseling, and other services to **young mothers experiencing homelessness** so they can learn to support themselves and their children. They focus on parenting skills, education, job readiness, and self-sufficiency.



SECOND STORY FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

Second Story for Homeless Youth helps **high school students and youth experiencing homelessness** with housing, counseling, and other services.



SECOND STORY IN THE COMMUNITY

Second Story serves the communities of **Culmore, Annandale, and Springfield** through Family Resource Centers, Safe Youth Projects, and a Teen Center. Second Story also proudly serves as the lead agency for the Bailey's Crossroads area as part of Opportunity Neighborhoods (ON). Through ON, we work alongside residents, government, public schools, and other partners to elevate community voices, provide training, and deliver resources to the community.

Meet Sam



"Sam" came to **Second Story for Teens in Crisis** after his adoptive parents refused to pick him up from a residential mental health facility, requiring Child Protective Services (CPS) to intervene. The rejection devastated Sam. He sank into a deep depression and believed he only had two options: to run away or commit suicide.

Thankfully, that changed. Through counseling sessions, we realized that practically every adult in Sam's life had abandoned him in some way. **Yet, he was resilient.** He had an open heart and was ready to learn. As therapy continued, Sam **started to see his worth**, strengthened his coping skills, and gradually emerged from his depression. The staff started to see his personality emerge as well. He was outgoing, brought joy to the other staff and struggling teens, and laughed a lot. He also worked on life skills, like budgeting, applying for jobs, and meal planning to prepare for independent living.

Second Story worked alongside CPS to **find a safe place** for Sam to move to near the college he wanted to attend. After leaving the program, **Sam worked hard** and even saved up to buy a car! He often calls us to check in and helps spread the word about Second Story's programs to other teens.

Sam's name and photo have been changed to protect his privacy.

Funding

Residential Services

SECOND STORY FOR TEENS IN CRISIS

- 77 youth housed
- 99% exited to a safe situation
- 921 bed nights
- 100% received daily counseling
- 494 hotline calls

SECOND STORY FOR YOUNG MOTHERS

- 10 mothers and their 12 children housed
- 236 mothers received counseling, baby equipment, or other supplies
- 70% obtained a diploma or GED
- 100% of mothers improved their parenting skills
- 100% exited to a safe situation

SECOND STORY FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

Rapid Re-Housing

- 28 young adults and their 9 children served
- 75% gained or increased income
- Average length of stay: 326 days
- 100% exited to a safe situation

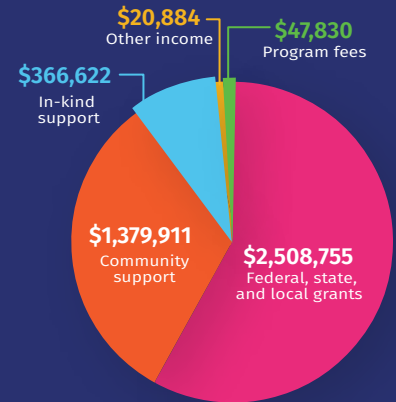
FCPS Youth

- 16 youth housed
- 60 youth received case management and other services
- 100% exited to a safe situation
- 100% of eligible seniors graduated

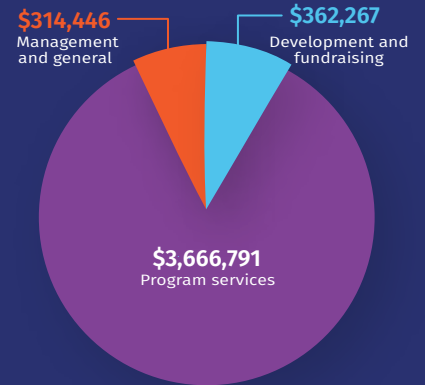
Transitional Living Program

- 22 youth and their 2 children housed
- 100% exited to safe situations
- 25 youth received case management and other services
- 94% were employed or in school more than 30 hours per week

WHERE OUR FUNDING COMES FROM



WHERE OUR FUNDING GOES



Community-Based Services

SAFE YOUTH PROJECTS + CULMORE TEEN CENTER

- 401 students served
- 30 high school seniors graduated
- 4,300 individual tutoring sessions
- 11,600 snacks or meals provided
- 100% remained gang free

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

- 14,037 food distributions
- 23,833 drop-in consultations
- 1,500 toiletries distributed

OPPORTUNITY NEIGHBORHOODS (ON)

- Financial literacy classes for 238 community members
- Health literacy classes for 255 community members
- Adults and children received 119 coats, gloves, hats

 1,445 BACKPACKS DISTRIBUTED

 **302**
VOLUNTEERS

 **18,588**
VOLUNTEER HOURS

The data included in this report comes from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Second Story is grateful for funding provided by Fairfax County Consolidated Community Funding Pool, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Housing and supportive services are provided to eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, familial status, or handicap, and particularly to those who were least likely to apply in the absence of special outreach.