



**Second Story**  
Youth Services and Safe Shelters

# Annual Report 2020

## Our Mission

Second Story transforms the lives of children and youth, helping them stay safe, make positive decisions, achieve educational success, and overcome personal crises. We offer children, youth and families hope for brighter futures by providing counseling, shelter and neighborhood-based support.



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## A Letter from our CEO

Each year, Merriam-Webster's dictionary selects a word of the year. It's no surprise that this year the word was "pandemic." The pandemic certainly divided the year into pre-pandemic and everything that happened after mid-March. If I had to choose one word to describe this past year for all of us at Second Story, though, it would be "pivot," because that's just what we did.

We pivoted from doing our normal programming and began providing services in ways we'd never even thought of before. Although computers, smart phones, masks, and social distancing suddenly played a huge role in our day-to-day lives, our work itself remained the same: helping young people who were in crisis or unsafe situations by providing safe havens and opportunities for them to reach their dreams.

Still, each of our programs adapted in some way. Our after-school programs and Teen Center put the safety of young people and our staff first and closed their doors. Yet, young people still have been receiving the support they need. We just pivoted to provide it by dropping school supplies and food at young peoples' doorsteps, playing educational games and providing counseling via Zoom, and working with young peoples' families to make sure they had access to the technology they needed to continue school remotely.

At Second Story for Teens in Crisis we normally have two young people in each bedroom. We've now reconfigured to make sure that there's just one youth per room, added more computers so that youth who are staying with us can do their online schooling, and we're conducting family sessions via video conference.

At Second Story for Homeless Youth and Second Story for Young Mothers, counseling and case management continue via video conference and staff drop off food and supplies to young people on their doorsteps. In these programs more than 70% of our youth lost their jobs or had their hours severely cut back. We have stepped in with increased support to cover their rent and make sure they have sufficient food and access to education.

From the outside it looks different. But it's not. The young people in our programs have the same dreams as they did before the pandemic. They want to complete high school, attend college, find a career that fulfills them, and help others in our community. Our job remains the same: find ways to keep them safe and give them the tools and support they need to succeed.

We realize that these program adaptations do not automatically change with a new fiscal year. Though "pivot" has been the of word of this year, the sentiment persists as we move forward. We have learned so much from this past year, as we have learned from hardships in the past. With your help, we stand ready to continue supporting youth through whatever challenges they face.

Thank you for your support in this unique year.

**Judith Dittman**  
CEO



## Our Programs



### 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 Homeless Youth

Second Story for Homeless Youth helps homeless high school students and youth with housing and case management using a combination of host homes, rental assistance, and rapid re-housing.



### Second Story for Young Mothers

Second Story for Young Mothers provides housing, counseling and training to homeless women aged 16 to 24 who are pregnant or have young children. With a focus on parenting skills, completing an education, job readiness, and basic self-sufficiency, young women learn to support themselves and their children.



### Second Story in the Community

Second Story in the Community operates neighborhood-based drop-in centers and after-school programs for children, teens, and families in Culmore, Annandale, and Springfield. School-aged children have access to a safe place after school, tutoring, and daily meals, and their families can receive one-on-one support from staff as well as food, clothes, and help meeting their other basic needs.



## Grady's Story

"Grady" found out about Second Story for Homeless Youth through his school social worker. Grady was known as an excellent student, but the social worker began noticing his grades fall and hearing reports that he was falling asleep in class. After meeting with Grady, the social worker learned that Grady was being abused at home and had run away. Grady had found a place of his own to live, but in order to afford the rent he was working long hours, leaving him no time to do his homework and very little time to sleep.

The school social worker connected Grady with Second Story and he soon began receiving our support. We helped him find a safer and better place to live, and with our rent support he was able to refocus on his schoolwork. When the pandemic hit, Grady lost his income, leaving him in a desperate situation if not for Second Story. We began paying 100% of his rent and supporting him through virtual school, and Grady was able to finish the semester with honors and eventually get promoted at his job once he was able to resume work. Grady is now on track to graduate in the spring of 2021. We're so thankful that his growth has not been interrupted by COVID, and we are so proud of him for his resilience and work ethic.

## Residential Programs

### Second Story for Teens in Crisis



58 youth sheltered  
100% exited to a safe situation  
275 bed nights  
942 hotline calls

### Second Story for Young Mothers



10 mothers and their 11 children housed  
177 served non-residentially  
100% have or obtained their diploma or GED  
87% improved parenting skills  
100% exited to safe situation

### Second Story for Homeless Youth



**Transitional Living Program**  
30 youth and their 2 children housed  
40 received case management and other services

### FCPS Youth



23 youth and their 2 children housed  
100% graduated from high school  
95% exited to a safe situation  
44 received case management and other services

### Rapid Rehousing



32 youth and their 32 children housed

## Community-Based Services



### Culmore Teen Center

211 students served  
100% graduated from high school: 11 total, 4 at a local community college, 2 enlisting in the marines, and 5 employed  
100% accessed homework help



### Safe Youth Projects

75 students served  
100% accessed homework help



### Family Resource Centers

17,391 received drop-in services  
100% of students in the Teen Center and Safe Youth Projects stayed gang free  
14,400 meals distributed between the teen center and after-school programs  
10,780 individuals served at food distribution sites between March and June of 2020

A new initiative, **Opportunity Neighborhoods (ON)** began in Culmore. ON delivers necessary, accessible, and effective resources for vulnerable youth and their families.

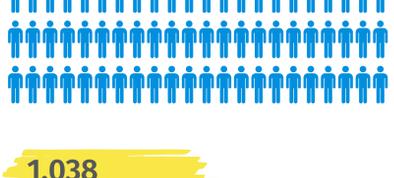
Program statistics obtained from 7/1/19 - 6/30/20

## Our Year in Review

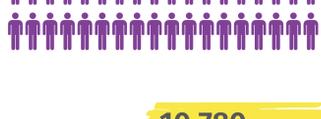
### Where Our Funding Comes From\*



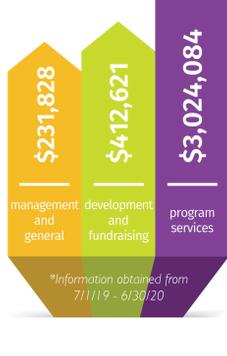
14,753 volunteer hours



1,038 volunteers



### Where Our Funding Goes\*



680 received school supplies



720 received clothing



10,780 meals served



The numbers for meals, clothing and school supplies measure our community-based distribution efforts.

Second Story is grateful for funding provided by Fairfax County Consolidated Community Funding Pool and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

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.