



Annual Report 2021



Second Story

Youth Services and Safe Shelters



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 critical support at critical turning points in their lives.



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A Letter from our CEO

As we enter our third year of the pandemic, some things that seemed extraordinary last year have become the new normal this year. There is good and bad in that. For me, the bad part is that so many of us feel isolated and that is especially true for the young people in our programs. The good part is that it forces us to think out of the box and try new things.



For instance, pre-pandemic we never provided counseling nor checked in on the young people in our programs virtually. Now, it's unusual if we meet in person. The upside is our counselors have had far more success connecting with young people. The barriers of commute time and transportation have been removed.

We're also able to reach more parents for family counseling sessions using technology. Sometimes we're able to provide counseling that results in the family staying together rather than the youth running away and entering Second Story for Teens in Crisis. Wins all around.

However, the switch to all things digital has highlighted what we already knew existed – the digital divide. To overcome divisions, Second Story has used your generous donations to equip more young people with tablets and laptops to keep up with their education and counseling, so they can continue to grow and thrive. We've also stepped up our instruction to both youth and parents on how to connect to people and services using the internet.

One of the biggest impacts was the pause in employment that so many of our young people experienced this past year, but that also gave us pause. What if instead of just trying to get our youth back into the same paycheck-to-paycheck jobs, we really focused on providing the support they need to get the education and job training that will move them from subsistence to success? A new scholarship fund and a special \$100,000 donation represent the seeds from which this effort will grow.

While there are still many challenges, I am truly looking forward to the year ahead where we can use what we've learned about thinking out of the box to continue to have a real impact on young people's lives.

I'm also looking forward to 2022 because Second Story will mark our 50th Anniversary. Thanks to our supporters, donors, volunteers, and especially the youth in our programs, we look forward to celebrating this exciting milestone.

Judith Dittman, CEO

Contact us

PO Box 694, Dunn Loring, Virginia, 22027

703-506-9191

www.second-story.org

TTY 771

United Way #8893

CFC #41814

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

Follow @secondstoryorg on:



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



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 Homeless Youth

Second Story for Homeless Youth helps high school students and youth experiencing homelessness 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 and counseling 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 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.

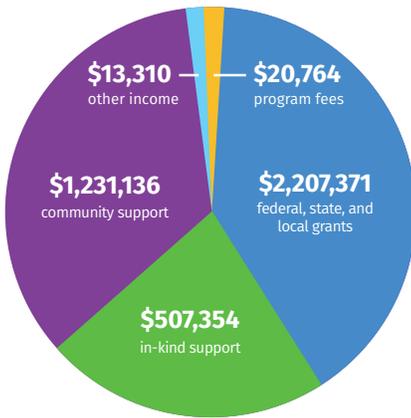
“Bethany” lived at home but didn’t receive much support from her family. Their interactions were often cold and unloving. While they offered her a roof over her head and food to eat, she had never learned much about taking care of herself or being independent. She didn’t know how to apply for a job and didn’t understand the importance of things like being on time. She wasn’t sure where to go for homework help. She completed high school but couldn’t afford college and knew she wasn’t equipped to survive living on her own. She was stuck.

So, when a friend told her about Second Story for Homeless Youth, she was hopeful. Bethany applied and was quickly accepted. Shortly after entering the program, she enrolled in classes at GMU and learned more about financial management. She met with our counselors, learned about job readiness, got connected with a therapist, and started saving money. When she graduated from our program she had stable and affordable housing through GMU, and she now has money saved as a safety net for independent living. She’s on track to graduate next year with a Bachelor’s degree in Engineering! With our help, Bethany is now equipped with tangible and intangible skills that will last a lifetime and will help her thrive on her own. We are so proud of her!

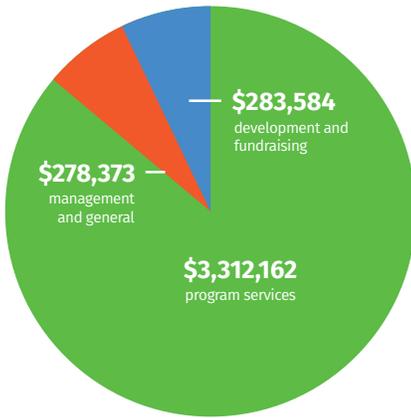


Bethany's name and photograph have been changed to protect her privacy.

where our funding comes from



where our funding goes



486 volunteers



8,486 volunteer hours



community-based services

1,330 backpacks distributed



Safe Youth Projects & Culmore Teen Center

- 312 students served
- 3,888 individual tutoring sessions
- 9,500 meals provided to after-school programs
- 100% of eligible seniors graduated from high school
- 100% remained gang-free



Family Resource Centers

- 25,000 food donations at our distribution sites
- 18,336 drop-in visits



Opportunity Neighborhoods (ON)

- 10 local Community Ambassadors recruited and trained
- 12 Youth Council Members trained and mobilized
- 6 Governance Council Members trained

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.

residential services

Second Story for Teens in Crisis



- 58 youth housed
- 99% exited to a safe situation
- 781 bed nights
- 448 hotline calls

Second Story for Young Mothers



- 8 mothers & their children housed
- 177 served non-residentially
- 88% have or obtained their diploma or GED
- 100% improved parenting skills
- 100% exited to a safe situation within 30 days

Second Story for Homeless Youth



Transitional Living Program

- 26 youth & their 3 children housed
- Over 90% exited to a safe situation
- 37 received case management & other services



FCPS Youth

- 12 youth & their 2 children housed
- 4 graduated from high school
- 100% exited to a safe situation
- 80 received case management and other services



Rapid Re-housing

- 19 youth & their 19 children housed
- 74% gained or increased their income while in the program