

PROGRAM UPDATE

For April, May & June 2024



Emergency Shelter Program

ESP services were provided for **28** children who received a total of **435** nights of service. The children represented ages 6-17, with neglect, and family violence being the reasons for placement. **9** counties were represented through shelter placement by the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services.

Runaway & Homeless Youth Program

RHY shelter services were provided for **0** youth, for a total of **0** nights of service. **0** crisis calls were managed by RHY staff, providing resources for youth in need of services. A total of **30** Safe Place Sites are available in a 5 county area to assist youth in crisis and connect them to local services.

Overnight Respite Program

Overnight respite services were provided for **3** foster care children for a total of **3** nights of service. The Overnight Respite Program offers foster parents a short respite from providing 24-hour care for children in the state foster care system.

Transitional Living Program

TLP services were provided for **4** youth for a total of **355** nights of service. **4** counties were represented through the services offered by TLP. Youth participated in life skills classes, volunteer activities, educational enrollment, and employment as part of the TLP program.

Children's Advocacy Center

CAC services were offered for **91** children and their non-offending caregivers. Services include forensic interviewing, victim advocacy, on-site mental health, and referrals for other services. These children represented child abuse cases involving alleged sexual abuse, physical abuse, and witnesses to a violent crime. **10** counties were represented through the services offered by the CAC, along with monthly Multi-disciplinary Meetings and case review in the counties of Clay, Choctaw, Lowndes, Oktibbeha, and Noxubee.

Sally Kate Winters Family Services provided a total of 2,379 meals for children in need during this quarter.

A total of 104 individuals donated 774.67 volunteer hours during the quarter.



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*Empowering children and families
to seek and experience an improved
quality of life.*



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“Summer Intern”

We were so thankful to have Hailey McCool from The W, Family Science program this summer. She assisted with all programs during her internship. We wish her best of luck on her last semester and in all her future endeavors.



The runaway and homeless youth – BCP project is supported by the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services as part of financial assistance totaling \$178,577 representing 70% funded by ACF/HHS and 30% funded by non-government sources. The content/opinion of SKWFS do not necessarily represent endorsement by ACF/HHS or the U.S. Government. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov>



Transforming Lives.

Volume 109, April-June, 2024

A MESSAGE:

Dear SKWFS Family, it's hard to believe we have come to the end of June already, but here we are at the start of a new quarter for SKWFS. We still have a lot of experiences and events to squeeze into this year, so let's plan to keep the momentum high.

I am so grateful to be a part of an organization where there is so much positivity, despite the challenging nature of our work. It may be hard to believe, given that we are a group dedicated to helping individuals overcome some of the toughest challenges they may ever face. It is an honor and a privilege to do what I do, an experience not many people have. Witnessing life-changing transformations on this scale is truly inspiring. My heart goes out to every person who walks through the doors of Sally Kate Winters Family Services. My hope is that they feel safe and can begin to build trust so that healing can take place.

In this newsletter, we are delighted to share with you the dedication of SKWFS staff, board, and volunteers. We hope you will be as impressed by our accomplishments as you are with what our future holds. Every donation to SKWFS tells a story of goodwill. Thank you to Pinelake Church –Starkville Campus for their donation and their Service Day, all our sponsors, and businesses that contributed to our Annual Child Abuse Prevention Month Fundraiser. Also, thanks to the Bank of Commerce, Renasant Bank, and Cadence Bank for their donations through the Children's Promise Tax Credit. Regardless of the donation size, it has a powerful impact on Sally Kate Winters Family Services. Every day, our donors make the significant decision to share their hearts with us, knowing we will steward their contributions with great care and the utmost gratitude.

Some of the highlights included in the Month of April were our 2nd Annual Black Tie & Blue Jeans Bingo fundraiser event to raise awareness for a great cause. We also had the opportunity to share impactful stories and raise awareness for Child Abuse Awareness Month during a radio segment with the Super Talk Mississippi Team. Additionally, we had another successful Child Abuse Prevention Parade which involved participation from many of the local schools, daycares, and individual volunteers. For the month of May, we observed Mental Health Awareness Month by highlighting ways and reasons why it's important to prioritize our mental health. In June, some of our youth participated in Adopt-A-Highway, and we also celebrated some bittersweet transitions of staff and happy milestones for some of our youth and kids at SKWFS.

As we reflect on the meaning of freedom this July, we are reminded of the incredible journeys of the families and children we serve at SKWFS. Our mission is to empower children and families to seek and experience an improved quality of life.

We are extremely grateful for your support, which drives our efforts to serve more. Join us in celebrating the freedoms our families and children achieve through SKWFS support. Your contributions make these transformations possible. Please consider donating, volunteering, and sharing our stories to reach more supporters in our community.

**With Appreciation,
Cindy Tucker
Executive Director**

Cindy Tucker, LSW
Executive Director
Natalie White, LPC
Clinical Program Coordinator
Kasy Ates, LMSW
Shelter Counselor
Cynthia Mathews
Case Manager
Sara Gallman, LMSW
CAC Clinical Coordinator
Ashton Woodson
CAC Pilot Project Manager
Genika McGee, MS, CMHT
TLP Advisor
Kelly Michael, BSW
Outreach/Office Assistant
Jessica Robinson, BSW
TLP Life Skills Coach
Maryauna Sterling, MS
CAC Advocate/Therapist
Larina Sparks
Shelter Supervisor
Jennifer Spears, LSW
Forensic Interviewer
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CAC Intake Coordinator
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Parthina Rogers; Quatta Gandy;
Doris Bigbee; Kenya Sudduth,
Kristina Dixon, Desmeyer
Bankhead; Shelia Bush; Lakita
Goss, and Yanci Lavender

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Brenda Gentry & Aubrey Johnson
By DC & Vicki Dimino

In Memory of Robert Smith
By ABNB Board of Directors

In Memory of Robert Smith
By Linda & John Scarbrough

In Memory of Robert Smith
By Mark & Rene Hunt

In Memory of Arlen Wright
By Dean Wright

In Memory of Robert Smith
By Herman Quattlebaum

In Memory of Robert Smith
By Robbie & Susan Robinson

In Memory of John Randle
By Kyle Chandler IV Family

In Memory of Henry Tex Brown & Mike J. Brown
By Tex & Barbara Brown

In Memory of Mrs. Shirley Miller
By Robin McCormick

In Memory of Martin Harpole
By Ed & Debbie Baker

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By Scottie Swan

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“Child Abuse Prevention Month Sponsors”

Big Thank You to our Sponsor's for Child Abuse Prevention Month!

Bank of Commerce, Cadence Bank, Renasant Bank

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“Transitional Living Program”

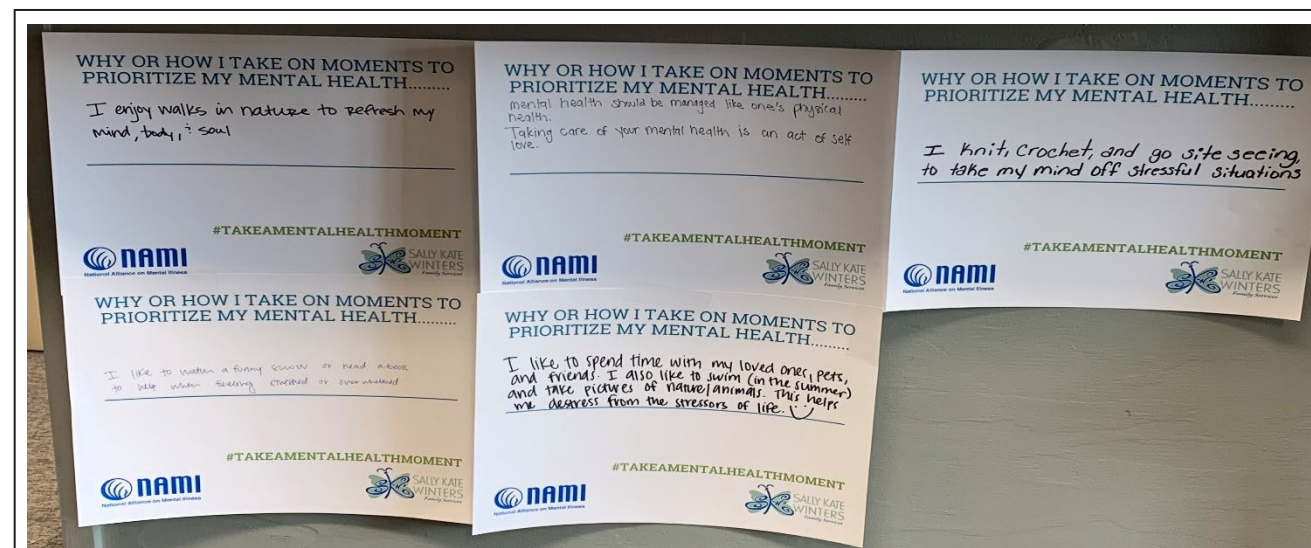
Sally Kate Winters Family Services Transitional Living Program (TLP) provides housing, life skills training, and support services to youth ages 16-22 on a first come, first serve basis for up to 18 months. The purpose of the program is to help participants who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or need transitional living services in order to become independent and achieve self-sufficiency. The program is completely voluntary and there is no cost.

This quarter they have been participating in Adopt a Highway and attended Life Skills Class with WCBI presenting weather preparedness.



“Mental Health Awareness Month”

Mental Health Awareness month is recognized during May. We joined NAMI in stating how we prioritize our mental health with Why and How we take mental health moments.



“Child Abuse Prevention Month”

Another successful year was had bringing awareness to Child Abuse Prevention Month. We had our Child Abuse Prevention Parade, Second annual SuperTalk event and Black Tie & Blue Jeans BINGO event. We thank all who participated and donated to make these events a success!

