



## *History and Programs*

CHRIS Kids was established to address the unmet needs of children with emotional and mental health challenges in Georgia's foster care system. Our core values are Creativity, Honor, Respect, Integrity, and Safety. Our mission is to heal children, strengthen families, and build community. For 27 years, CHRIS Kids has established itself as a solid leader among child advocacy and family welfare providers in Georgia. Our community-based treatment model is based on research indicating that positive behavioral changes are best sustained when they occur in the context of the community rather than an isolated environment or institutional setting. CHRIS Kids has many innovative programs based upon this model. Our programs include the following:

Eight Group Homes provide a safe haven for abused and neglected children (ages 6-17) with emotional and behavioral problems and offer therapeutic treatment at the CHRIS Counseling Center. Each home, located in neighborhoods throughout metro Atlanta, provides six children housing in a family-like setting, and opportunities to attend local public school and participate in enrichment activities.

Keeping Families Together provides services to families either at risk of having a child removed or reuniting with a child returning from foster care. By providing in-home therapy, parent education, community resource referral, and mentoring, the program seeks to strengthen families and provide safe and nurturing environments so children can succeed.

Independent Living Program aids youth (ages 17-21) transitioning out of foster care or juvenile justice to independent life. This program provides housing, tutoring and study skills instruction, occupational skills training, leadership development skills, comprehensive guidance and counseling, supportive services, and adult mentoring.

Rainbow Program is a specialized independent living program for homeless and runaway youth, who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. Youth participating in this program, the only program of its kind in the Southeast, receive the same services as youth in the Independent Living Program.

Camp CHRIS provides a nine-week summer day camp for children, ages 6-16, whose emotional and behavioral problems prevent their participation in other mainstream camps. The camp helps troubled youth develop self-esteem and coping skills in a fun setting, and enables their low-income parents to maintain employment over the summer without concern about supervision of their children.

CHRIS Counseling Center provides a range of specialized therapeutic services for children and families in the greater Atlanta area. These services include diagnostic, psychiatric, training and counseling services to youth with behavioral and substance abuse issues. Many services can be provided in a child's home, school or other community locations, six days a week throughout the day and evening. Services are provided in a manner to minimize disruption of a child's school day as well.