

# CHRIS Kids, Inc. Fact Sheet

## **CHRIS Kids Quick Facts: About CHRIS Kids, Inc. Programs**

- CHRIS Kids was founded in 1981 by the Atlanta Junior League and the Menninger Foundation.
- The CHRIS Kids mission is to heal children, strengthen families and build community.
- In 2008, CHRIS Kids is projected to provide support to more than 1,000 youth and family members in need through a variety of innovative programs.
- CHRIS Kids operates eight Group Homes serving over 100 children.
- CHRIS Kids Group Homes are an intervention alternative in the community for children with high needs who would otherwise be placed in large campus/institutional settings and serve abused and neglected children, ages 6 – 17.
- CHRIS Kids Independent Living Programs provide residential services to youth aging out of foster care and homeless young adults ages 17-21.
- 70% of the youth enrolled in CHRIS Kids Independent Living Program have aged out of foster care and 30% of the youth were homeless prior to entering the program. The CHRIS Kids Keeping Families Together program provides assessment, treatment and basic human needs to more than 330 families in crisis before the intervention of overburdened state welfare, juvenile justice and mental health systems.
- Camp CHRIS, a nine-week summer, day-camp experience for children with severe behavioral problems, is the only camp in Georgia with a no-eject policy.
- The CHRIS Counseling Center will serve thousands of children, youth and families with income-sensitive mental health and substance abuse treatment in the current fiscal year (January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008).
- CHRIS Kids is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children and is a member of the Child Welfare League of America.
- CHRIS Kids, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization based in Atlanta.

## **CHRIS Kids Quick Facts: How our programs benefit Georgia's youth**

- Children living in CHRIS Kids' Group Homes show an average 73% improvement in mental and emotional health as measured on the Child and Family Assessment Scale (CAFAS).
- During 2007, almost 50% of the children in CHRIS Kids Group Homes were discharged to their own family or a family setting in the community and 20% went on to the Independent Living Program, college, Job Corp or entered the military.
- 88% of the families participating in CHRIS Kids' Keeping Families Together program remain intact.
- Children receiving assistance through the CHRIS Kids' Keeping Families Together program show an average 48% improvement in mental and emotional health, as measured on the Child and Family Assessment Scale (CAFAS).
- During 2007, 100% of the youth in CHRIS Kids Independent Living Program displayed improvement in life-skills knowledge and application, as measured by the Ansell-Casey Life Skills assessment. In addition, 92% were gainfully employed upon discharge and 89% were enrolled in appropriate educational or vocational training.
- 95% of Camp CHRIS camper parents were able to maintain uninterrupted employment while their child/ren participated at Camp CHRIS and 86% of parents stated that their child/ren showed improvement in abilities or skills in their individualized target areas for improvement.

### **CHRIS Kids Quick Facts: The plight of at-risk youth**

- There is a daily average of 15,000 children in foster care in the state of Georgia – children removed from their families because of abuse and neglect.
- Georgia ranks 39 out of 50 states in terms of overall child wellbeing.
- 25% of foster care youth will experience chronic homelessness.
- 85% of youth who age out of foster care do not graduate from high school by their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Homeless young people are 40% more likely to experience sexual exploitation than children with stable homes.
- Of the total homeless youth population in the United States, up to 56% self-identify as a sexual minority – most have run away from abuse or rejection by their families of origin.

### **CHRIS Kids Quick Facts: The need for support and contributions**

- In 2007, Camp CHRIS was unable to serve 40 children who applied due to funding limitations.
- In 2008, demand for Camp CHRIS is at an all-time high because Medicaid has eliminated funding for day treatment programs during the summer.
- Approximately 70% of the funding for the children in the CHRIS Kids Group Homes is state funding. Charitable funding is required to fill the gap and provide the essentials that help the children succeed.
- Future CHRIS Kids plans include the renovation of an apartment complex in the Graham Circle area, with the organization currently at 60% toward its \$5.5 million capital campaign goal, enabling CHRIS Kids to triple the number of youth served in four years.