



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Celebrating
25 YEARS
of Camp SOAR

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A LETTER FROM THE CEO

Looking back over the year 2024, we think gratefully of friends like you whose consistent generosity has provided a stable foundation on which to grow our services in youth mental health and at Camp SOAR. **Your support has made a true impact on the scope of our work**, and we are honored to count you as partners in CRT's mission.

As we celebrate the year's successes, we also recognize this is **a time of unprecedented challenges for CRT** and other organizations like ours. 97% of CRT's services are funded by donors and grants; historically, more than half of that has been from large government grants. But **beginning in 2024 we have seen a steep decline in the number of new federal funding opportunities**. As several of CRT's multi-year federal grants have come to an end, the typical replacement and renewal opportunities simply do not exist.

While we are actively exploring additional funding streams to **bridge the gap from reduced federal funding**, CRT must acknowledge that without new and/or increased support from funders we will be forced to reduce the number of children we serve. We will make every effort to avoid this scenario because we remain firmly committed to serving under resourced communities, particularly people of color, traumatized populations, youth with disabilities, and other marginalized groups from all backgrounds and identities.

Our goal is to serve not one child less, ensuring that at-risk children and families will continue to receive the care, support, and opportunities they need to thrive. We know we can do this with the strength of the CRT community that has stood with us for 27 years. **Together we can ensure that not one child loses access to the resources they deserve.**



Linda Schwartz, PhD
Chief Executive Officer

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES



1,368

Children &
Families Served



786

Parents, Caregivers, &
Professionals Trained



23

Community
Partners

Children's Research Triangle (CRT) **provides equitable access to research-driven behavioral health services to support the development and well-being of underserved children and youth**, partnering with their families and communities to help them reach their full potential. CRT's programs are designed for children and families with high unmet mental health needs and barriers to receiving services. **We celebrate our reach over the past year.**

CRT is one of few Illinois clinics specializing in assessment and mental health treatment for youth with complex histories of prenatal and environmental trauma, providing the following services:

- **TRAUMA SCREENING & ASSESSMENT**
- **EVIDENCE-BASED INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, & GROUP THERAPY**
- **COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL, DEVELOPMENTAL, & PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS**
- **TRAININGS FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS & CHILD-SERVING PROFESSIONALS**

**THE
CHILDREN CRT
SERVES ARE**



BIPOC--Primarily
Black & Latinx



Low
Income



Have Trauma
Histories

CRT'S IMPACT

Last year's evaluation data continues to demonstrate the impact of CRT's programs on the children and families served. We are honored to be a part of our clients' journeys to healing and hope.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

IN-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

CT has been placing therapists directly in Chicagoland schools since our first partnership with Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary School in 2008. Our community-based model, with therapists on-the-ground meeting with children and families in the neighborhoods where they live, was created specifically to increase accessibility to mental health services for those in areas with scarce resources. CRT partnered with 11 schools in 2024, located in Chicago's West- and Southside neighborhoods and near suburbs.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Our work in schools has a strong focus on dealing with trauma, as well as preventing interpersonal violence. Programming in the majority of CRT's partner schools is supported in part by funding from the Cook County Justice Advisory Council's (JAC) Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction Grant. The aim is to create system-wide changes in a school's approach to prevention and intervention in youth violence, including gun violence. Each of the schools is in an area identified by the mayor's office as being at higher risk of violence. The JAC grant supports the following activities:

- SCHOOL-BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TEAMS WITH CRT THERAPIST COLLABORATION
- UNIVERSAL SCREENING, PREVENTION AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES
- TRAUMA INFORMED ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENTS
- INTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOL PERSONNEL
- DROP-IN OFFICE HOURS AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT
- MENTAL HEALTH-RELATED STAFF TRAININGS
- GROUP, INDIVIDUAL, AND FAMILY THERAPY
- STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES

PROJECT LAUNCH

2024 brought the conclusion of Project LAUNCH, a 5-year grant from SAMSHA, in conjunction with the Partnership for Resilience, to improve the well-being of young children aged 0-8, in Chicago's south suburbs. LAUNCH's mission was to integrate the area's health, mental health and education systems through creation of sustainable community partnerships, education and training programs, and trauma informed mental health practices.

Highlights include infant and early childhood mental health consultation for preschool and early childhood programs and a home visiting program, stakeholder Young Child Wellness and Parent Councils, public awareness campaigns, trainings, and fully funded therapist learning collaboratives, all of which have created a legacy of long-lasting impact that will serve the south suburbs for many years to come.



COMMUNITY PARTNER NETWORK

CRT's community-based service delivery model addresses barriers to mental health care and maximizes impact in underserved and under-resourced Chicagoland communities.

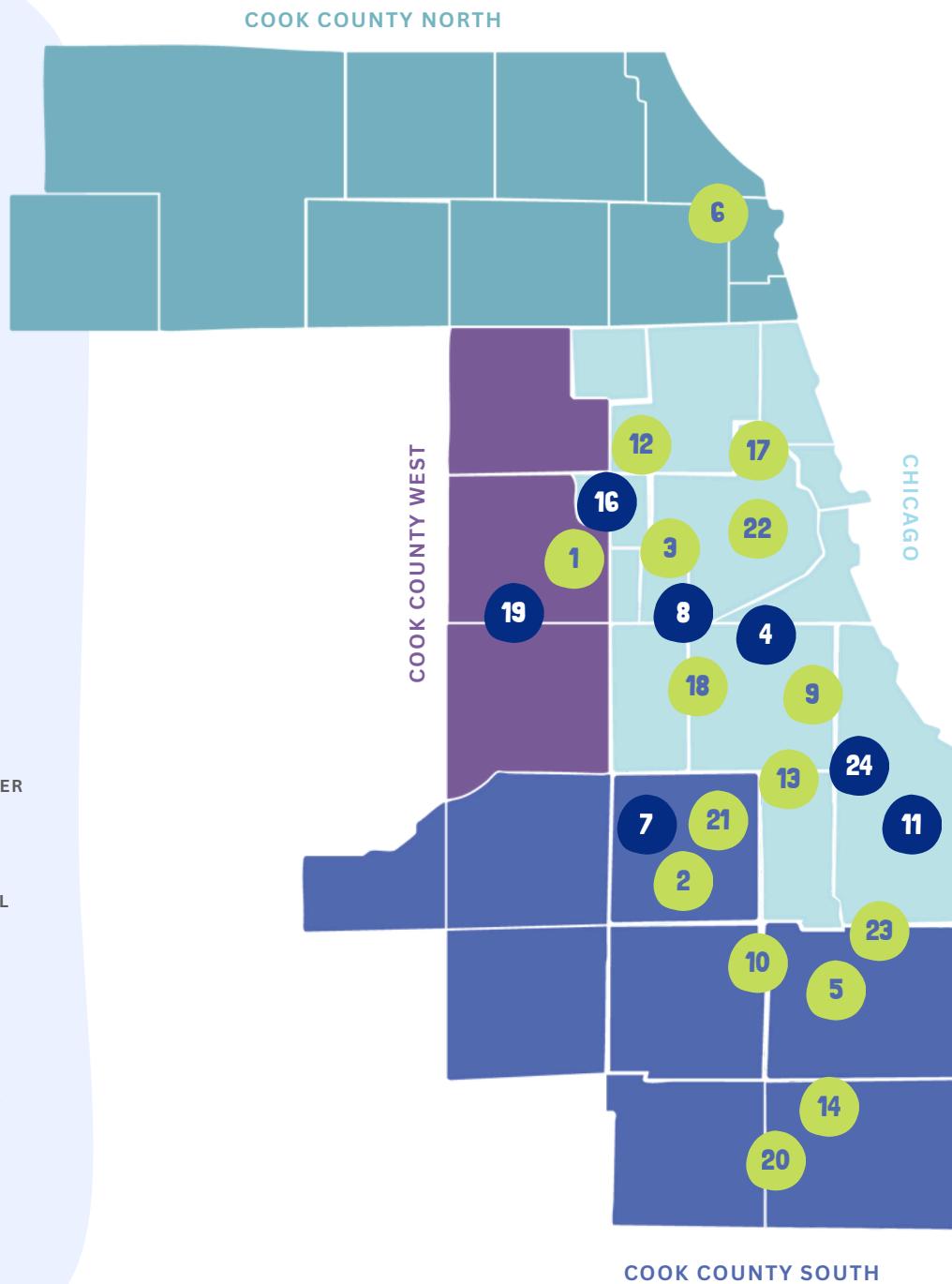


Community partners where
CRT therapists work on-site



Community partners that
provide referrals to CRT

- 1 A HOUSE IN AUSTIN
- 2 A. PHILIP RANDOLPH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 3 AL RABY HIGH SCHOOL
- 4 CHICAGO CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER
- 5 EDGAR ALLAN POE CLASSICAL SCHOOL
- 6 EVANSTON VET CENTER
- 7 FAMILY FOCUS ENGLEWOOD
- 8 FAMILY FOCUS NORTH LAWNDALE
- 9 FOCUS FAIRIES MENTORING
- 10 FORT DEARBORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 11 GIVING OTHERS DREAMS
- 12 JOHN HAY COMMUNITY ACADEMY
- 13 JOHNSON COLLEGE PREP HIGH SCHOOL
- 14 LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 15 MARY'S HOUSE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER
*LOCATION NOT SHOWN
- 16 NEW MOMS
- 17 NOBLE STREET COLLEGE PREP HIGH SCHOOL
- 18 NORTH LAWNDALE COLLEGE PREP
- 19 OAK PARK INFANT WELFARE SOCIETY
- 20 ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 21 THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF ENGLEWOOD
- 22 VOCEL
- 23 WENDELL SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 24 YWCA-FRANCIS CENTER



FOSTERING RESILIENCE THROUGH EDUCATION

CRT offers training to individuals and groups, equipping participants to more effectively work with youth who have experienced mental health challenges, trauma, prenatal substance exposure, or a combination of these and other factors.

Led by our experienced mental health team on a wide range of topics, CRT trains caregivers, schools, shelters, social workers, counselors and other helping professionals. Grant and donor support allows CRT to offer many trainings at no cost to participants.

**703**

Child-serving professionals, parents, and caregivers trained

**42**

Trainings Conducted

**82%**

Of trainees demonstrated knowledge improvement

COURSES & TOPICS

Funded by SAMHSA since 2018, the Youth Mental Health First Aid certification course teaches adults how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges in youth. Other training topics range from the impacts of trauma, prenatal substance exposure, abuse and violence to mental health challenges, emotional disorders and many others, such as:

- UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA
- COMPASSION FATIGUE & SECONDARY TRAUMATIC STRESS
- CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE: UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA & ATTACHMENT
- FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS
- BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM
- ANXIETY OR DEPRESSION IN SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

“

This was a great presentation. I learned a lot, and you were such wonderful and engaging instructors that the time seemed (almost) to fly right by.



“Thank you so much! This was so helpful and informative!”

“

“Very helpful putting it all together. Loved the videos. Help make it more immediate.”



EVALUATION GOES HIGH TECH

In 2024, CRT's Evaluation Team fully integrated Q-interactive, a 1:1 iPad-based testing system that helps administer, score, and report many different clinical assessments. Fun and accessible for clients, it is equally or more effective for children with neurodevelopmental disorders. It saves time for clinicians, provides the most current assessment tools, and reduces costs associated with outdated paper test forms. Thanks to generous donor support, CRT was finally able to acquire this long-awaited tool, which has greatly improved efficiency and enhanced the evaluation experience for both clients and staff.

CRT also continues to invest in our TherapyNotes practice management software, which has enabled the Evaluation Team to conduct intake and feedback sessions via telehealth. In turn, we can better serve clients who travel long distances to our clinic and spend more time on test administration.

All of this technology means more time for client assessment and care. In 2024, we provided 120 evaluations, an increase of 5%, and increased the number of foster children evaluated by 9%. The number of free and low-cost evaluations also increased over the previous year.

IN-HOUSE RESEARCH

The comprehensive program evaluation and support provided by CRT's Research Team sets us apart from other organizations. With a fully in-house research group, we build strong relationships between our clinicians and the researchers assigned to their projects. Our Research Buddies initiative partners therapists with project researchers. Buddies meet twice a month, allowing us to fine-tune our work in real time.

CRT's exceptional Research Internship program allows undergraduate students to build knowledge in a wide range of areas, from scoring measures and graphing to reporting results and more. In 2024, CRT hosted 18 interns who provided nearly 2,000 hours of research support to our teams. Students came from around the country, from schools including Smith College, Boston University, University of Illinois, University of Wisconsin and more.





THE BEST WEEK OF THE SUMMER!

Camp SOAR's anniversary year was full of joy as we celebrated 25 years of offering this amazing overnight camp for children and youth with developmental disabilities. In June 2024, we invited campers and counselors past and present to a Camp SOAR reunion, generously sponsored by North Star Investment Management Corp. In July 2024, we welcomed 88 campers supported by 120 volunteer counselors and staff for two weeks of summer camp fun. And in November, we culminated the celebrations at the annual Heroes of Our Hearts Gala, where 380 guests gathered to support Camp SOAR and CRT.

Few summer camp opportunities exist for children with significant disabilities requiring full-time support, and those that do are expensive and can be out of reach for families grappling with the many extra costs of raising a child with disabilities. **Camp SOAR tuition is kept low, and CRT raises an additional \$1,500 for every camper who attends.**

Simply put, your donations make Camp SOAR happen. We remain extremely grateful for the generosity of our donors, and deeply appreciate your ongoing support of this program that means so much to our campers, counselors, and families.

“Being at Camp SOAR shows me that inclusion is not as difficult as it is often portrayed... It is easy to hang out with, enjoy the company of, and have fun with people with disabilities. Camp shows me the beauty of neurodiversity through the myriad of interests and personalities of our campers.”

CAMP SOAR
COUNSELOR

“Camp has been such an important part of our lives for so many years that it is impossible to sum up what it has meant to us and our son. He looks forward to it each year, and he will constantly ask when he is going to return. It has always been his ‘special thing’ that he tells everyone about.”

CAMP SOAR
PARENT



CAMP SOAR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

In June 2024, Camp SOAR campers and counselors past and present gathered to celebrate 25 years of camp! Thank you to our generous reunion sponsor, North Star, who made the day of reconnection, food, and fun possible.



CAMP SOAR 2024 COUNSELORS



NORTH STAR
20TH ANNIVERSARY
Guiding Investors • Navigating Markets
Decades of Experience

CABIN & ACTIVITY LEADERS

CAMP COUNSELORS

Nicole Baker	Alivia Albright	Ellie Fagan	Ava Lichstein	Brooke Semple
Savita Chandarana	Emmy Altschul	Ava Falk	Hayato Majoros	Liam Sheridan
Lucky Deutsch	Aarna Arora	Ellie Falk	Makoto Majoros	Aidan Simon
Allison Eby	Alexa Bailey	Alli Feeney	Naoto Majoros	Luke Smith
Dori Eby	Kendall Bailey	Anne Figueroa	Elle McLennan	Hannah Speechley
Derrick Graves	Connor Ballard	Anna Friedman	Grace McLeod	Axel Stansfield
Kylie Graves	Brianna Banser	Lauren Geier	Emily Meyers	Hana Stansfield
Cara Johnson	Bella Bassing	Anna Gordon	Mia Michaels	Abby Thompson
Milo McNabb	Emily Bosco	Lauren Hammer	Grace Millar	Annabelle Thomson
Nolan McNabb	Alena Brandt	Zoe Hessell	Jackson Miller	Maddie Thomson
Grace Murphy	Bode Bryant	Lyndzy Hickman	Tristan Miller	Charlie Titus
Julia Niklewicz	Brandon Casey	Chloe Hong	Haley Morgan	Lizzy Titus
Naomi Salinas	Bria Chandarana	Kevin Hou	Blanka Muron	Grant Turcich
Emma Schwartz-Dodek	Maya Chandarana	Anna Hynes	Abigail Naughton	Caleb Turnock
Nora Smith	Hanna Clousing	Hayden Johnsen	AJ Palumbo	Abby Voelker
Dani Stassen	Bryce Counihan	Matilda (Tilly) Johnsen	Luis Penzini	Kathleen Weitzel
Abby Vaughan	Anna Crabbe	Ireland Kaufman	Josephine Petrelis	Sydney Wetherill
	Joey Crabbe	Kiran Koshy	Mary Petrelis	Trey Wetherill
	Eva Cuevas	Austin Koulentes	Olivia Rich	Peter Winslow
	Brooklynn Dalke	Addison Krupinski	Francesca Santori	Ava Withers
	Ramiyah Evans	Phoebe Kunzler	Anna Semple	Camden Wulforst
	Ari Fagan			

THANK YOU

TO CRT'S 2024 CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION PARTNERS!

Alben F. Bates and
Clara G. Bates Foundation

THE
ALBERT PICK, JR.
FUND

Blowitz-Ridgeway
FOUNDATION

 BOB WOODRUFF FOUNDATION
Investing in the Next Chapter for Veterans

CRT's Veteran and Military Family Services is made possible in part by funding from the Bob Woodruff Foundation, which is dedicated to ensuring that our nation's veterans, service members, and their families - those who stood for us - have stable and successful futures.

Anonymous Donor
Advised Fund at **The Chicago
Community Foundation**

 CHICAGO WHITE SOX
Community Fund
A MCGRAW HILL FUND

 CME GROUP
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SCREW CORP.

Morgan Stanley

THE SHECHTMAN GROUP
AT MORGAN STANLEY

North
Shore
Exchange

 NORTHERN
TRUST

 OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST
Community Foundation

Funds for the Trauma Treatment Program were received from Women Leaders in Philanthropy, a giving group of the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation.

Peggy and Steve
Fossett Foundation

The Psaltis Group, Morgan
Stanley Wealth Management

 Quantiq Partners

United Jewish Foundation
of Detroit

 United Way

United Way
of Metro Chicago

VNA  Foundation

The Wescott Group

W.P. & H.B. White Foundation

 W.E.
TRADING

DONORS

Thank you to CRT's generous donors who are mission partners with us in our work to provide youth mental health and Camp SOAR. We are grateful for donations of any amount; here we list those donors of \$1,000 or more in 2024.

\$75,000 & ABOVE

Bob Woodruff Foundation
Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Inc.
Cook County Health
Cook County Justice Advisory Council
Crown Family Philanthropies
EA Foundation
Morgan Stanley

\$50,000-\$74,999

The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust
Illinois Attorney General
Violent Crime Victim Assistance
Frank ten Brink and Jeannine Cleary
VNA Foundation

\$25,000-\$49,999

Anonymous Donor Advised Fund at
The Chicago Community Foundation
Chicago White Sox Community Fund, a Fund of the
Robert R. McCormick Foundation
Jerome G. and Annette S. Zimmerman Foundation
North Shore Exchange
WP & HB White Foundation
The Wescott Group
WH Trading LLC

\$15,000-\$24,999

Anonymous
Fred J. Brunner Foundation
Northern Trust Fund, a Fund of the
Robert R. McCormick Foundation
Linda Schwartz and Alvin Dodek



\$10,000-\$14,999

Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation
Mike and Diane Dowd
Daniel and Tara Hanson
Help for Children
Dave and Jen Lewis
Patrick and Jane Marcoux
Peggy and Steve Fossett Foundation
John Paul and Jennifer Turcich
United Way Metro Chicago
The Wescott Group

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous
The Davis Benedict Group, Merrill Lynch
Wealth Management
Darcy DeWolfe and Aaron Rappaport
Robert Hinz
Will and Julie Hobert
Patrick and Sarah Lahey
Benjamin and Miriam Lichstein
Robert and Elizabeth Pantley
Quantic Partners LLC
John and Debra Schlaefke
Doug and Beth Shabelman
The Shechtman Group at Morgan Stanley
Daniel Thomas

\$2,500-\$4,999

Andy and Stephanie Baker
Stone Brogan and JoAnnna Park
John and Agatha DeFranco
Thomas and Jennifer Durkin
Jason Fishbein and Tali Kogan
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Komar Screw Corporation
Dr. Skip Nitardy and Lindsay Nitardy
Nirmal and Nisha Patel
Paypal Giving Fund
Morris and Fran Schwartz
Ambaj and Kinnery Sharma
Vineet and Dana Singla
Alex and Parita Singla
Robert Whittaker

THANK YOU

TO OUR CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY SPONSOR, WH TRADING!

In December, CRT and our event sponsor WH Trading hosted more than 300 clients, Camp SOAR campers, and their families for an evening of fun at the highly anticipated annual Children's Holiday Party. The children enjoyed great food, music & dancing, games, gifts, and more at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Seeing our clients and their families relaxed and having a blast brings so much joy to our staff and volunteers. A special shout out to everyone who purchased gifts as part of our Giving Tuesday holiday gift drive. We had more than 200 gifts for children of all ages to take home.



\$1,000-\$2,499

Alben F. Bates and Clara G. Bates Foundation
Michael and Ellen Alter
Michael and Sarah Alzamora
Geoff and Amy Anthony
Ronald Barker
Margaret Barry
Beau and Janis Bates
Jim and Laura Bream
Anand and Melissa Chandarana
AJ and Jessica Conway
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Brian and Corinne Thompson
Sarah Walczewski and Mike Girts
Shelley Wax
Mary Wetherill
Greg and Marilyn Wotring



CRT gratefully acknowledges the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for significant support for our programs, including Project LAUNCH, Early Childhood Mental Health, Training, and the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

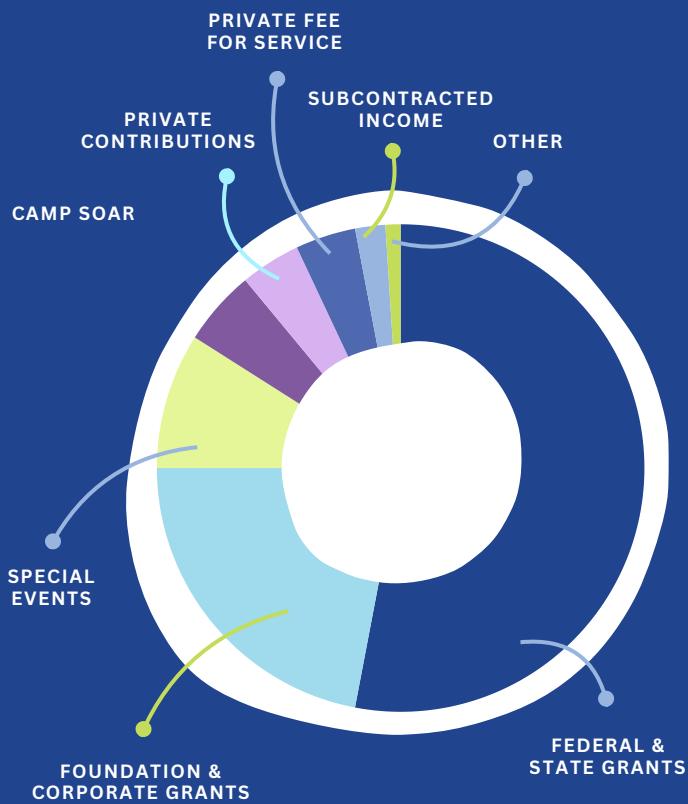
FINANCIALS

CRT strives to maintain a balanced budget, responsible financial practices, and diverse funding streams.

REVENUES

\$3,530,834

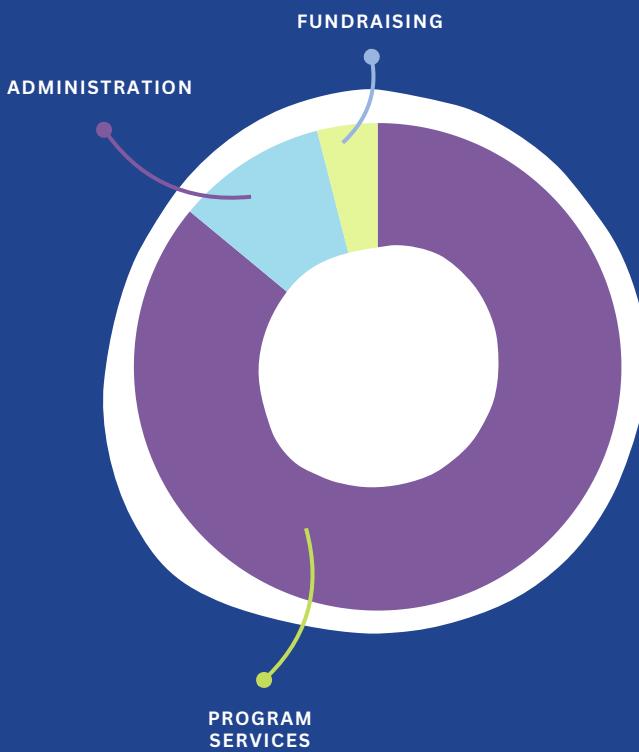
FEDERAL & STATE GRANTS \$1,880,779 (53%)
 FOUNDATION & CORPORATE GRANTS \$771,747 (22%)
 SPECIAL EVENTS \$309,174 (9%)
 FEDERAL & STATE CONTRACTS \$188,404 (5%)
 CAMP SOAR \$155,283 (4%)
 PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS \$149,663 (4%)
 PRIVATE FEE FOR SERVICE \$58,419 (2%)
 SUBCONTRACTED INCOME \$13,865 (<1%)
 OTHER \$3,500 (<1%)



EXPENSES

\$3,521,499

PROGRAM SERVICES \$3,015,346 (86%)
 ADMINISTRATION \$369,850 (10%)
 FUNDRAISING \$136,303 (4%)



2024 BOARD & STAFF (AND 2025 CURRENT STAFF)

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Beth Delaney – Chair
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Diana Cimino-Cordon
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Victoria Albarracin, LCPC
Child & Family Therapist
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Bilingual Child & Family Therapist
Sayde Barragan, MA
Bilingual Child & Family Therapist
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School Site Coordinator, Child & Family Therapist
Jessica Chung, ATR, MA
Child & Family Therapist
Noah Doppelt, LSW
Child & Family Therapist
Owen Enoch, PsyD
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Anne Gamache, LCPC, CADC
Child & Family Therapist
Madeline Hermes, LCSW
Child & Family Therapist
Abbré McClain, PsyD, LCPC
Clinical Supervisor, Child & Family Therapist
John Montgomery, MA
Child & Family Therapist
Cheria Randle, MA
Child & Family Therapist
Gabriela Rodriguez, MA
Bilingual Child & Family Therapist
Venezah St. Louis, LCSW
Child & Family Therapist
Jasmine Williams, LCPC
Child & Family Therapist

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Corinne Fleming, PsyD
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Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Lauren McNeela, PhD
Staff Clinician

Amedee St. Pierre, PsyD
Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Quynh Giao "Tina" Nguyen, MD
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Desmond Bailey, Jr.
Institutional Grants Manager

Darcy DeWolfe
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Miriam Lichstein
Development Associate

Lindsay Nitardy
Accounting Administrator

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Victoria Albarracin, LCPC
Mental Health Trainer, Child & Family Therapist

Wendy Kovacs, PhD, LMFT
Mental Health Trainer & Consultant

RESEARCH TEAM

Anne Wells, PhD
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Asst. Research Director

Lorenz Cabe
Research & Program Evaluation Specialist, Internship Manager

Gabriell Carpenter
Research & Program Evaluation Specialist

Rosa Garcia
Research & Program Evaluation Specialist

Jaylin Hodge
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Chrisy Schmidt, PsyD
Camp SOAR Consulting Psychologist

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Co-Project Director

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THANK YOU

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www.childrensresearchtriangle.org