

### Our Circle is Wide and All are Included



Our Circle is Wide

It has been a year of gathering again so, needless to say, it has been a good one!

We held a Fall Festival, including a petting zoo for our group home residents and karaoke dance parties for folks in our Family Care Providers' homes. Our student artists participated in a community art show and our student athletes competed in basketball and field games with some VCU players. We enjoyed adoption parties, educational field trips, community work events and simply being together.

Sharing space with one another again was the greatest gift of all and it was an opportunity to see firsthand our staff's high level of commitment to the people they serve each day.

We were thrilled to prep our new Transitional Foster Care learning center this year which will be a safe place for unaccompanied immigrant children to receive medical, education and counseling support while they wait to be reunited with their family or sponsor. We continue to strategically advocate on behalf of these children and all the people we serve in our programs.

Our circle is wide, and all are included. We continue to spread that truth throughout Virginia and into West Virginia. Each one of us plays an important role in moving toward our vision of helping to make the world a more loving place. We want you to know that you have made a significant difference. We also want you to know that we are deeply grateful.

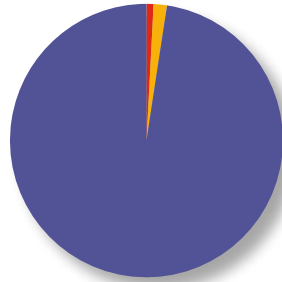
Thank you for gathering with us again this year. It has been a joy.



Financials 2022 — 2023

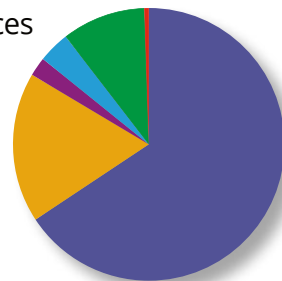
REVENUE

State & local reimbursement for services  
**\$51,835,886**  
 Fundraising contributions  
**\$454,828**  
 Investment and other income  
**\$860,078**  
**TOTAL REVENUE**  
**\$53,150,792**



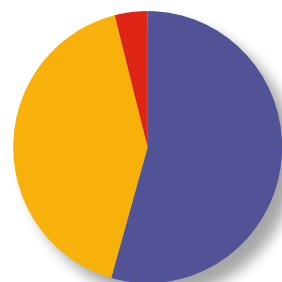
EXPENSES

Developmental Services (VA and WV)  
**\$33,992,661**  
 Minnick Schools  
**\$9,228,129**  
 Treatment Foster Care, Adoption & Community-Based Services  
**\$1,160,929**  
 Immigration & Refugee Services  
**\$1,934,722**  
 Administrative Support  
**\$5,150,695**  
 Development  
**\$275,853**  
**TOTAL EXPENSES**  
**\$51,742,989**



FUNDRAISING

Individuals  
**\$247,292**  
 Corporate/Foundation grants  
**\$189,632**  
 Church  
**\$17,904**  
**TOTAL FUNDRAISING**  
**\$454,828**



Healing Through Therapy

EMDR stands for Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing. It is a therapeutic modality that evolved in the late 1980s. In an EMDR counseling session, the therapist guides a client's eye movements through finger motions as they recall a traumatic event. In being reflective and present at the same time, clients reprocess memories that were stored in the brain in non-adaptive ways. The goal is to create new neuropathways that will replace negative thoughts and beliefs with positive cognitions.

A recent enCircle client requested EMDR therapy to heal from a postpartum-related traumatic experience. EMDR has eight phases that, generally, take months to complete. This patient was committed to spending the time and energy necessary to work through the trauma. It was successful. The client's perspective of the experience did, indeed, shift in a positive way and it is no longer an obstacle in daily functioning.

"I believe this client would say that EMDR has allowed a feeling of empowerment and resiliency," said Lee Lee Sarlo, one of two clinical supervisors of Counseling Services. "I certainly see a more hopeful person." ♦



Program Highlights

Minnick Schools

- 244 students served
- 22 students returned to school of origin
- 4 students graduated

Developmental Services

- 698 services provided
- 601 people supported
- 59 residents in group homes

Counseling

- 241 clients
- 14 military families assisted

Immigration & Refugee Services

- 87 families participated in Safe Release program
- 74 families assisted through CARE for Newcomers program
- 270 youth supported through Home Study Post Release Services

Treatment Foster Care

- 15 children supported in foster care, 7 adoptions
- 12 families received case management through visit coaching
- 48 families participated in Northern Post Adoption Consortium

Starting Over



For those who have applied for asylum in the United States, enCircle’s CARE for Newcomers Program is a haven for healing, hope, and growth. The therapy addresses symptoms of post-traumatic stress, anxiety from language barriers and cultural differences, worry about employment and/or parenting. When someone bears witness to experiences and provides helpful tools and strategies to cope and manage the uncertainty and challenges, it is a powerful act of compassion.



[Left] Lindsay Komline, MSW, CARE Network Program Manger



[Right] Jennifer Vela, LCSW, CARE Clinician

For many, the CARE program is the first safe environment they’ve known, and it is here that they begin to reclaim their sense of self, build resilience, and discover their personal strengths and value.

*“I’m learning to love myself. I never had that. I thought I deserved to be in abusive relationships and violent environments.”*

Translated from an immigrant who felt unworthy but now has started her own small business

*“I feel I can breathe now. It’s been trauma after trauma since I was a child. I had lost hope that my life in the U.S. would be any different, but now I can see the beginning of a peaceful life.”*

Translated from a client who was homeless and now has her own apartment ♦



Staff building furniture for new Learning Center

**ENCIRCLE’S FOSTER CARE PROGRAMS AND SERVICE AREAS**

**Treatment Foster Care** • Provides services for youth in Virginia’s Foster Care system who have been removed from their home because of abuse and/or neglect. *(Richmond, Tidewater)*

**Transitional Foster Care** • Provides services for immigrant children seeking relatives in the U.S. Placement is temporary, from two weeks to two months, with the goal of uniting them with their family or sponsor. *(Richmond)*

**Long Term Foster Care** • Provides services for immigrant children who are unable to be placed with relatives or sponsors. These children typically remain in care until they are 18 years old. *(Tidewater)*

A Bright Future

Jose came to the United States when he was 15 years old. His original plan was to live with his older brother, but when that didn’t work, he was placed in the foster care system. Through enCircle, he found a home with the perfect family to see him through his teenage years, the McCoys. Jose is now 19 and has a bright future. But it has not come easily.



so he could get the support needed. Jose is now the first-generation high school graduate in his family.

In Jose’s culture, it is not abnormal for children to regularly drink alcohol, so when he arrived in the states he continued to drink. His foster parents, enCircle case manager and social worker helped him enroll in an AA program. He was faithful to the process and now celebrates his sobriety.

With an approved work permit, a social security number and a green card in progress, he is eager to learn a trade and work full-time.

“Jose is shy, but he has experienced a lot of trauma,” said Neah King, his enCircle case manager. “He is resilient, positive, and smart. My hope for him is that he discovers what he genuinely wants to do because, whatever it is, I know he can do it.” ♦

Jose also struggled in school, mainly because of the language barrier. While he could speak English fairly well, he could not read it. His bilingual foster parents were tremendous advocates in getting him on an educational plan

To find out more about Treatment Foster Care, email [FosterParent@enCircleAll.org](mailto:FosterParent@enCircleAll.org)



**From foster family to forever family!** These siblings initially joined Theresa and Andy Little when they were three, seven, and nine years old. “They are amazing kids, absolutely divine,” Theresa said. “I never imagined it would be so natural. They just fit.” ♦

Gathering Never Felt So Good



Brandon Mitchell loves a party. He enthusiastically clapped along as enCircle Family Care Providers, clients and Developmental Services staff danced, sang and enjoyed being together.

Brandon was diagnosed with autism as a young child and has been part of the enCircle family for nearly three decades. He is a 2011 Roanoke Minnick School graduate, and his mom is now a licensed Family Care Provider through enCircle.

"The activities enCircle sponsors give Brandon a sense of community," said Brandon's mom, Beth. "They allow us to meet people in a similar situation. It is great fellowship."

This year's statewide gatherings prompted smiles, hugs, and a renewed sense of community. ♦



Day Gatherings

Shawn Phillips is fond of everyone he meets. His first question is always, "What's your name?" He likely already knows it, though. He is a regular at Roanoke Day Support.

Shawn lives with his mom, Sandra, and she chose enCircle's Day Support program because she likes the philosophy and the communication.

"You can tell when people genuinely care," Sandra said. "I've always felt a sense of calm here and Shawn thrives on that. Support like this is so critical. For those of us who lean on it, it is a game-changer." ♦

Finding a Way

"How do you teach students to read Shakespeare when they can't read Dr. Seuss?" That is the question that plagued Amanda Funkhouser, Wytheville Minnick high school English teacher.

Ninth grader Robert Woodie was reading at a kindergarten level. He knew some letters, but he couldn't associate sounds with them. Amanda and Assistant Teacher Allison Kirby knew they had a good teaching foundation with Rob because he had refined auditory skills, strong retention, and an especially rich vocabulary. He also has a way with a pencil.

In minutes, Rob can draw a detailed illustration of just about anything and he is particularly fond of drawing monsters. His teachers leveraged this drawing prowess and asked him to transform each letter of the alphabet, both capital and lowercase, into the form of a monster. Then, they asked him to name the monster using the sound of the letter. He chose "Mule" as the name for his uppercase "M" monster and he chose "monkey" as the name for his lowercase "m" monster.



"When they are engaged, that's when the topic you are teaching becomes a part of their world," Amanda explained. "Rob is a talented artist. We just had to find a way to use his giftedness."

MINNICK LOCATIONS • Roanoke • Bristol • Wise • Harrisonburg • Wytheville

EnCircle Staff advocate at West Virginia and Virginia State Capitols



Rob's letter-monsters connected sounds with letters, creating the basis for forming words and the foundation for reading. This year alone, Rob has progressed three grade levels in reading.

"We knew he was capable of reading," Amanda said. "It just took us a little while to figure out how to teach him."

Rob recently passed the business writing portion of his SOL, putting him on track to earn a standard diploma.

"Maybe it wasn't me having trouble reading," Rob said quietly. "Maybe it was how I was being taught to read before now."

It sounds like Shakespeare may be next. ♦





Lutheran Family Services of Virginia, doing business as enCircle, is a proud mission partner of the Virginia Synod of the ELCA.

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We have learned to gather in many ways over the past few years. However, it has been especially nice to increasingly be in each other's physical presence this year.

If you have not done so, we hope you will take just a moment to visit our website at [enCircleAll.org](https://enCircleAll.org) and follow us on your favorite social media platforms. You will find pictures, stories and videos that beautifully illustrate the special work of enCircle. We will always keep you in the loop, so these social platforms remain viable options when physical presence is not possible.

Wherever you are, we are glad to share that space. You are a part of our enCircle family.

*For quick access to our online donation page, scan this code.*



For more information on ways to give, please call (540) 562-8477, email [philanthropy@enCircleAll.org](mailto:philanthropy@enCircleAll.org), or you may continue your support by visiting [enCircleAll.org/donate](https://enCircleAll.org/donate)

Lutheran Family Services of Virginia, doing business as enCircle, is a proud mission partner of the Virginia Synod of the ELCA. EnCircle is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.