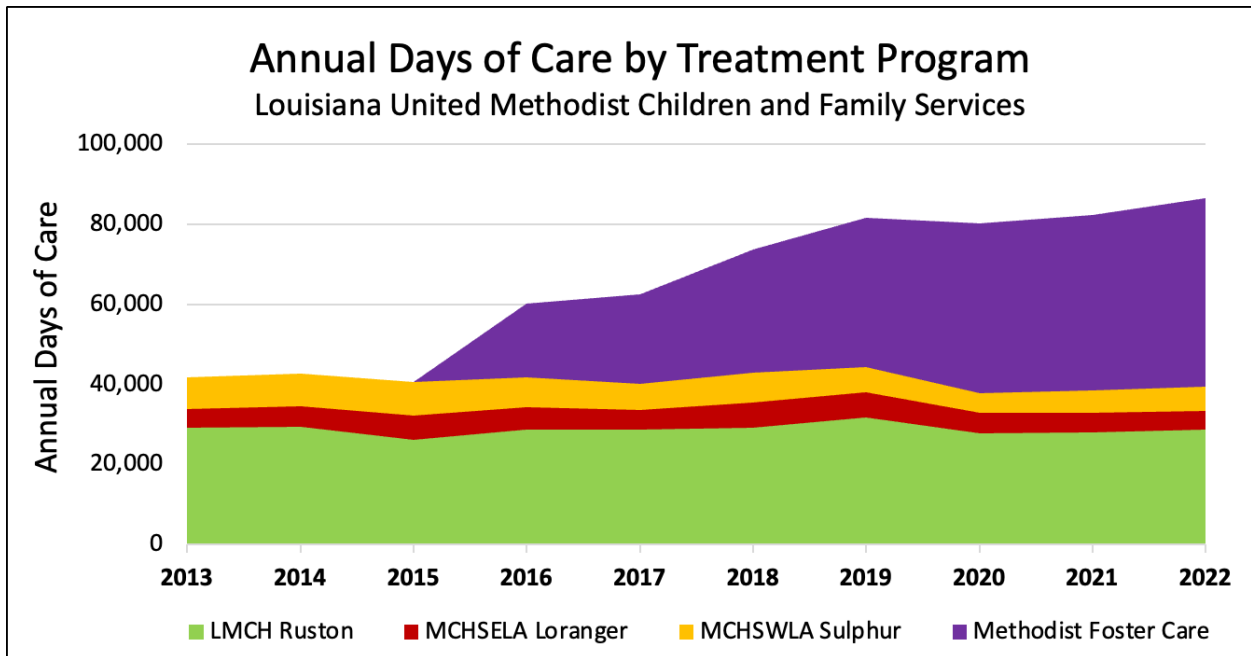


LOUISIANA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

We Serve Louisiana’s Children and Families

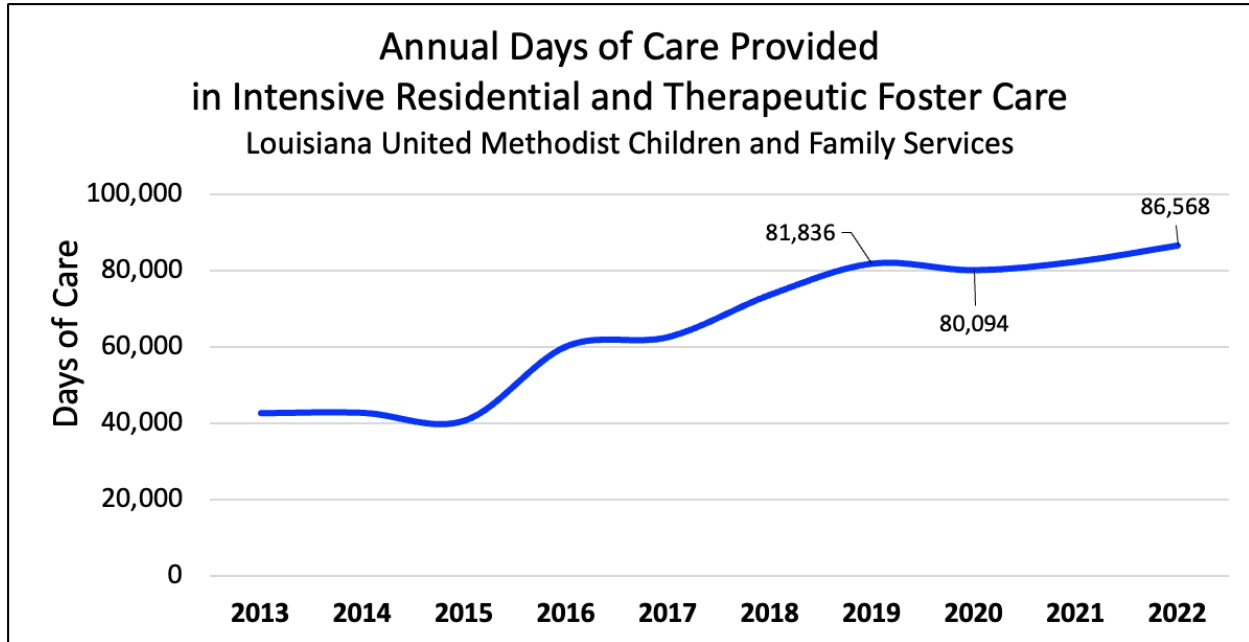
In 2022, LUMCFS provided a greater number of days of intensive residential care and therapeutic foster care to a larger number of children than ever before. This accomplishment is especially noteworthy considering the challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the loss of 24 beds on the Ruston campus due to a building fire in November. Despite these obstacles, our organization remained dedicated to fulfilling our Mission and serving the needs of Louisiana's children, families, and stakeholders. As a result, 2022 proved to be another exceptional year for our treatment services for Louisiana's children and families.



We Delivered More Services in 2022 Than Ever Before

In 2022, our organization’s three campuses in Ruston, Loranger, and Sulphur maintained high standards of care. Also, Methodist Foster Care grew because we found, trained, and helped new therapeutic foster families. This allowed LUMCFS to care for more children than before. In 2022, we provided intense residential and therapeutic foster care for 86,568 days to 630 kids - the most we've ever done. The chart below shows how many days of intensive residential care we have provided each year for the past ten years at our three Methodist Children's Homes and in Methodist Foster Care.





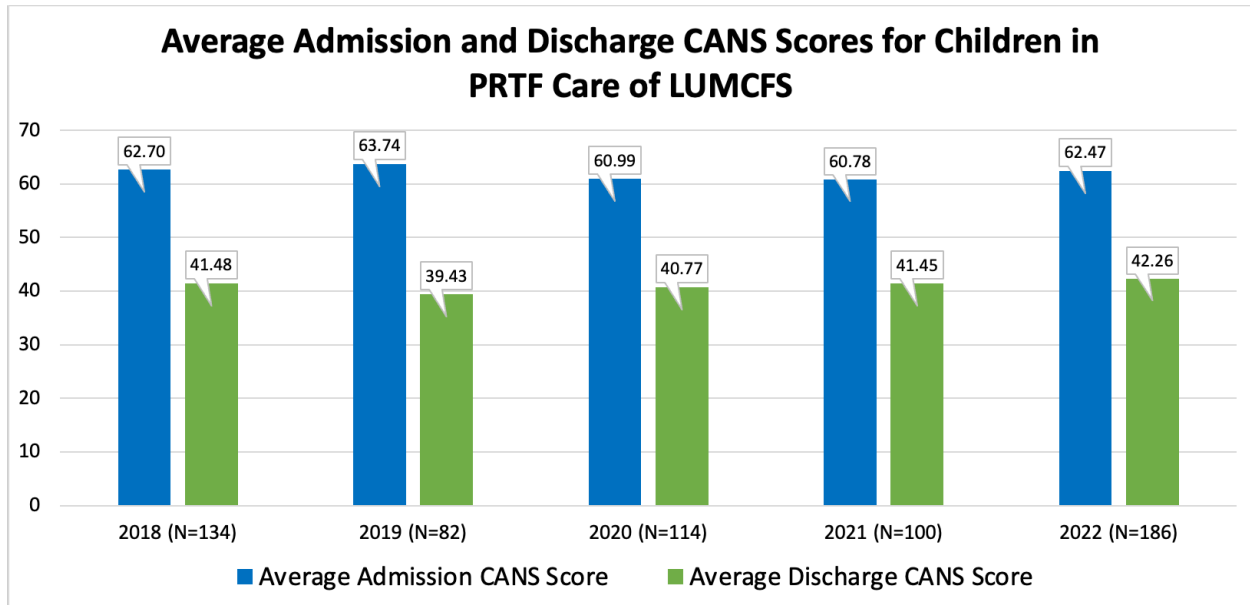
Serving Throughout Louisiana

Located in north, southwest, and southeast Louisiana, our organization’s three campuses put Louisiana’s most intensive residential treatment services within reach of all our state’s children and families. In addition to the residential care we provide at Louisiana Methodist Children’s Home in Ruston, Methodist Children’s Home of Southeast Louisiana, and Methodist Children’s Home of Southwest Louisiana, we also reach out from these facilities into communities across Louisiana with services for families and children.

Treatment Creates Good Outcomes

We use objective assessments to determine the effectiveness of treatment. The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment is a commonly used tool for evaluating the behavioral health of children who have experienced trauma. Each child undergoes a personalized CANS assessment, which assists in making clinical decisions and developing a treatment plan. Additionally, we analyze the combined CANS assessment scores of all the children in our treatment program to track outcomes and enhance the quality of care. This data enables us to compare the effectiveness of our program with others and make necessary modifications.





Lower CANS scores indicate improvement. In 2022, the average CANS score for children who entering intensive residential care was 62.47. At discharge, the average score had decreased to 42.26. This shows a positive improvement of 19.3 points for children in the care of LUMCFS' Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF).

Comprehensive Residential Care for Children

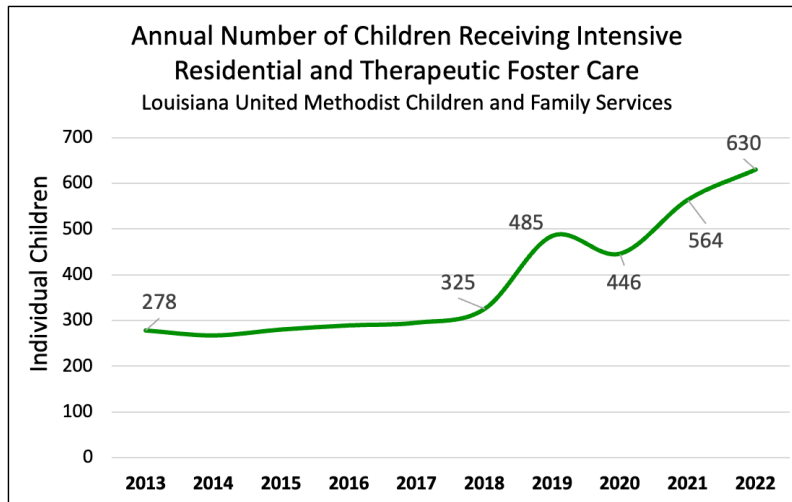
LUMCFS provides Louisiana’s most intensive, comprehensive, holistic residential care for children and adolescents. We have three residential facilities in Ruston, Sulphur, and Mandeville that are licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health as Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities. We receive requests for care from parents, other treatment facilities, Medicaid management companies, custodial state agencies, including the Department of Children and Family Services, the Office of Juvenile Justice, and the Louisiana Department of Health, from clergy and healthcare professionals. Additionally, individuals and agencies from other states also request our services.

Residential Occupancy

In 2022, several factors led to a decrease in potential occupancy rates for PRTF services. First, the Louisiana Methodist Children's Home in Ruston continued with single occupancy to control COVID-19. Also, most of the year, admissions into care occurred in groups of boys or girls with 14-day admissions quarantines. Additionally, a November fire in the Lewis Building at the same facility resulted in a loss of 936 days of care. Finally, we placed a brief moratorium on PRTF admissions in southeast Louisiana to facilitate moving from leased space in Mandeville to the new Methodist Children's Home of Southeast Louisiana campus. All these factors contributed to a reduction in potential occupancy rates throughout the year.

STATISTICAL REPORT OF SERVICES PROVIDED DURING 2022

Residential Treatment Facility	Potential Days of Care	Actual Days of Care	Percentage of Capacity
Louisiana Methodist Children's Home	29,724	28,743	96.67%
Methodist Children's Home of Southeast Louisiana	7,854	4,652	59.23%
Methodist Children's Home of Southwest Louisiana	8,790	5,985	68.08%
TOTAL	46,368	39,380	84.93%



Howard School

Background and Enrollment

Howard School is situated on the premises of Louisiana Methodist Children's Home in Ruston. It is an authorized alternative school, approved by the Louisiana Department of Education. In the year 2022, a total of 252 students received educational services at Howard School. Out of these, 248 students lived on the campus, while four students were from Lincoln Parish Schools. On an average day, around 77 students attended the school. On October 1, 2022, the enrollment count was 86.

Instruction

With the help of the LMCH Clinical Department and Mental Health Specialists, young people were able to attend full-day classes at the school. However, there were occasional instances where students had to isolate due to COVID. In these cases, the school provided Chromebooks and virtual instruction to children who were affected. The school followed an eight-period schedule, which included a communication period for teachers to connect with students and staff who were isolating on campus.

In Louisiana, the elementary and middle school grades (5-8) and high school grades (9-12) continued to use standards-based Tier 1 instruction. This approach was mandated by the school-wide plan, which was implemented through grant funds. These grants were necessary for schools throughout Louisiana participating in the Comprehensive Intervention Model (CIR). The school's improvement efforts focused



on curriculum and technology, with a strong emphasis on staff development aligned with the approved Tier 1 Curriculum.

Two students who were in their senior year remained enrolled at the end of the first semester. Most students were in grades eight, nine, and ten during the 2022 calendar year. Like the previous year, there were more high school students than middle school students in the fall of 2022. Middle school students primarily took English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and physical education classes. However, there were also remediation classes for middle school students in language arts and mathematics.

High school students took both core classes and elective classes. In August 2022, a new remediation block called Study Skills was introduced during the 6th period for high school students. This block targeted specific weaknesses identified by the high school teachers and helped students improve their critical skills for success in their courses. The Study Skills course was very successful during the first semester and will continue to be offered throughout the 2022-23 academic year.

Teachers and Instructional Support Staff

In 2022, the school had a team of 14 highly trained and certified professionals, along with 6 support staff, who provided education to students from Louisiana Methodist Children's Home and Lincoln Parish Schools. Three teachers were employees of the Lincoln Parish School Board, two were teacher aides, and one was a behavioral interventionist/coordinator. Additionally, a behavioral interventionist was hired in November 2022. Other support staff included a school secretary, computer lab manager, Clinical Department youth behavior coordinator/interventionist, and timesheet substitute teacher/librarian.

All teachers at Howard School and John Allen Vocational Center are certified by the Louisiana Department of Education and taught according to the Louisiana Curriculum and Standards. They received extensive training to deliver high-quality education similar to that found in excellent classrooms across the state. The dedicated educational staff ensured that students received exceptional services throughout the year.

The Recreation Department provided physical education to all students. Middle school students had a daily physical education class, while most high school students took either Physical Education I or II. Some high school students had enough credits and did not need to take another class for graduation, but still participated in physical activities organized by the Recreation Department. The Recreation Department staff did an excellent job providing a variety of activities and sports training. They worked closely with the school counselor, who is also a certified physical education teacher, to ensure quality physical education for all students.

The part-time librarian at Howard School and the Recreation Department both offered library services to support students in developing literacy skills. The two libraries at Louisiana Methodist Children's Home have a wide selection of books available for checkout.

The school counselor had various responsibilities, including reviewing student transcripts, meeting with new students, creating schedules, discussing graduation plans, monitoring progress, and acting as the School Test Coordinator for Louisiana assessments. They also tracked individual student assessments and scheduled testing using the online Louisiana testing platform.

Student Achievement

In 2022, the high school maintained its usual requirement of End-of-Course (EOC) testing for applicable courses. During that year, 55% of high school students successfully earned all their Carnegie Credits, and there was a passing rate of 68% on courses that required an End-of-Course test. The school observed the following passing rates for specific courses:

- Algebra I had a passing rate of 50%
- Biology had a passing rate of 71%
- ELA I had a passing rate of 77%
- ELA II had a passing rate of 57%
- Geometry had a passing rate of 100%
- U.S. History had a passing rate of 50%.

At the middle school level, the passing rate based on students' performance on Louisiana assessments was 49%. However, the Louisiana Department of Education waived the impact of these assessments on student promotion. The specific passing rates for each middle school assessment were as follows:

- ELA had a passing rate of 59%
- Math had a passing rate of 35%
- Social Studies had a passing rate of 40%
- Science had a passing rate of 63%.

Instruction via On-line Learning

In our high school computer lab, we introduced a web-based credit recovery program. This program allowed students to earn Carnegie Credit hours towards their high school diploma. In 2022, we saw significant progress in terms of students earning credits through our *Edgenuity* program. **This progress surpassed any previous records in the history of our school.** Throughout the year, a total of 34 Carnegie Credits were awarded to students who took online classes. This is a substantial increase compared to previous years. In 2021, despite the challenges posed by COVID, discharges, and student effort, we were able to earn 10 credits, which was an impressive accomplishment. We believe that much of the success in 2022 can be attributed to our dedicated computer lab manager. This individual tirelessly motivated and encouraged students to complete their online courses.

Summary

In 2022, the Lorraine Howard Educational Center and the John Allen Vocational Center provided excellent educational opportunities for the youth at the Louisiana Methodist Children's Home. The Education Department's dedicated staff worked hard to ensure that every child reached their academic goals while also receiving the necessary care, safety, and support. Thanks to their efforts, the department's mission was successfully accomplished.



The OWL Equine Center

The OWL Equine Center offers therapeutic and recreational horse-related experiences for residents of the Louisiana Methodist Children's Home, members of the community, and children in special education programs. During 2022, the OWL Equine Center provided 1,491 riding lessons to individuals from these groups. Through these lessons, youth are taught important skills such as horse handling, care, and riding, with each week's lesson centered around a life skills theme like responsibility, goal-setting, following instructions, and respect. These classes provide an excellent opportunity for our youth to practice communication, compassion, and patience.

The OWL Center

The OWL Center scheduled various activities for both individuals and community groups. These activities included using the Challenge Course, fishing in the ponds, camping, playing in the fields, and enjoying the maze.

The staff and youth from Louisiana Methodist Children's Home were able to utilize the Challenge Course and take part in high and low ropes challenges. These challenges allowed the youth to step outside of their comfort zones and develop important skills such as problem-solving and communication. Additionally, engaging in these activities together helped strengthen the relationships between the children and staff.

The OWL Center hosted several volunteer groups who helped us clear trails, construct fencing, work in the orchard, paint and clean buildings, and build a pavilion near the barn.

The staff at the OWL Center ensured safety and created an enjoyable environment for everyone throughout the year. Specifically, the Family Lodge offered a pleasant and low-stress setting for children in LMCH care and their families to have weekend visits and make lasting memories.

The Family Counseling Center

Programs	Families	Individuals	Sessions
Counseling at FCC and Grace UMC (excluding cancellations and No-Shows)	26	133	1424
Group Sessions			
Mediation Services			4
Psychological Testing Services			6
FCC Community Events at the OWL			
Community Education/Trainings		664	7
Distribution of marketing and educational materials		1174	
Total Served		1,971	1,420



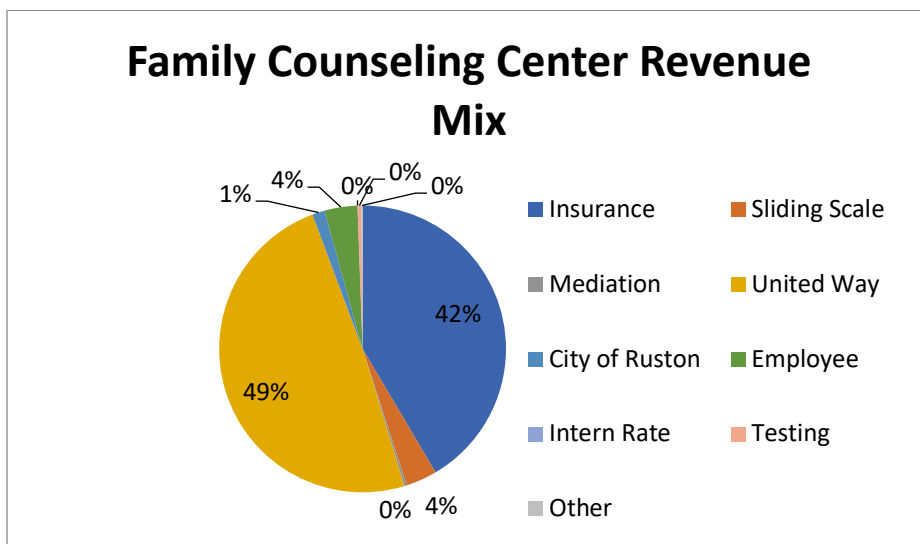
STATISTICAL REPORT OF SERVICES PROVIDED DURING 2022

The table above provides information about the services offered by the Family Counseling Center, located in Ruston, Louisiana. The center provides outpatient counseling through in-office sessions, tele-mental health Services, social media platforms, and community education. They serve individuals and families in 16 parishes/counties, providing mental health counseling and educational services to many people.

In 2022, the Family Counseling Center aimed to expand their reach by increasing their presence on social media. They created an Instagram account and posted a minimum of 2 times per week on both platforms. They also reintroduced “The Counseling Guy” for encouragement and education.

During the year, the Family Counseling Center reached 23,389 Facebook profiles/pages, 3036 Instagram profiles/pages, and an additional 13,972 profiles through paid advertising. FCC gained 170 new followers and published 96 posts and 167 Facebook stories. They also published 91 posts and 208 Instagram stories.

The Family Counseling Center is funded through fee for service revenue, grants, and charitable donations. The chart below provides more details about the available service revenues.



In 2022, The Family Counseling Center maintained partnerships with the Lincoln Parish School Board, Louisiana Center for the Blind, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, and other outpatient therapy agencies.

The Family Counseling Center is well-known for its educational presentations and training events. Throughout 2022, FCC organized 7 psychoeducational events for the community, reaching a total of 664 individuals. Additionally, FCC conducted ethics training sessions for LUMCFS staff and community mental health professionals, serving a total of 44 professionals.

The Life Skills Training Centers

Our Life Skills Training Centers offer independent living services to eligible youth in DCFS or OJJ custody or those from federally recognized tribes. These services are available in the Monroe, Lake Charles, Lafayette, and Covington regions of Louisiana. We maintain high accountability and program efficiency standards in compliance with federal funding regulations from the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.

Our staff uses a structured curriculum to assist youth with goal planning, connecting with community resources, problem-solving, self-advocacy, health care understanding, protection against identity theft, credit reports, forming attachments, identity formation, crisis strategies, and cultural awareness. In addition, we work closely with DCFS workers, OJJ staff, and foster parents to promote positive role modeling skills, appropriate consequences, and teachable moments to help youth effectively learn and practice Life Skills.

Our Independent Living staff provides in-person support to eligible youth within 45 miles of our location. For those who cannot attend classes, we also offer outreach services and support. For example, at our Life Skills Training Centers, we organize engaging activities and summer classes for youth aged 14-17. We also provide in-home support services for youth aged 16-17 and conduct NYTD surveys to offer supportive services and connect youth to community resources. We also provide case management services to young adults aged 18-26. These services include financial planning, securing housing, employment preparation and retention, and other supportive services.

During 2022, the Life Skills Training Centers continued providing instruction through an online program. Louisiana's online curriculum for Independent Living training assigns youth a seat in the online system. The system offers a limited number of seats that are shared statewide. Children without a seat are placed on a waiting list. Because it generally takes 8-12 months for youth to complete the program, this reduces the number we can assist during the year.

Also, because youth in foster care may move among different homes, each new placement pauses their progress in the online program. When this happens, youth are taken out of the system, and their seat is freed for another youth to begin. This continuous process makes it difficult for youth to complete training. DCFS and the IL Coalition of Independent Living Providers work to promote the program and resolve the barriers that interfere with youth completing it on time.

Regional Services

In the **Monroe** Region, 127 youth were served through 18 summer/holiday classes, youth engagement activities, and 162 in-home support sessions. Of those served, 58 were ages 14-15 and 62 were ages 16-17. Most youth served were DCFS youth, with only 1 OJJ youth included. There were 52 male and 75 female youth served, and no youth completed the program. Additionally, case management services were provided to 7 young adults ages 18-26, with 2 male and 5 female participants.

In the **Covington** Region, 70 youth were served through 16 summer/holiday classes, youth engagement activities, and 208 in-home support sessions. Of those served, 8 were ages 14-15 and 47 were ages 16-17. All youth served were DCFS youth, with 38 male and 32 female participants. Eleven youth completed the



program and showed improvement with a pre-assessment score of 66% and a post-assessment of 85%. Case management services were provided to 15 young adults ages 18-23, with 7 male and 8 female participants.

In the **Lafayette** Region, 111 youth were served through 11 summer/holiday classes, youth engagement activities, and 91 in-home support sessions. Of those served, 40 were ages 14-15 and 71 were ages 16-17. All youth served were DCFS youth, with 51 male and 60 female participants. Only four youth completed the program and showed improvement with a pre-assessment score of 63% and a post-assessment of 84%.

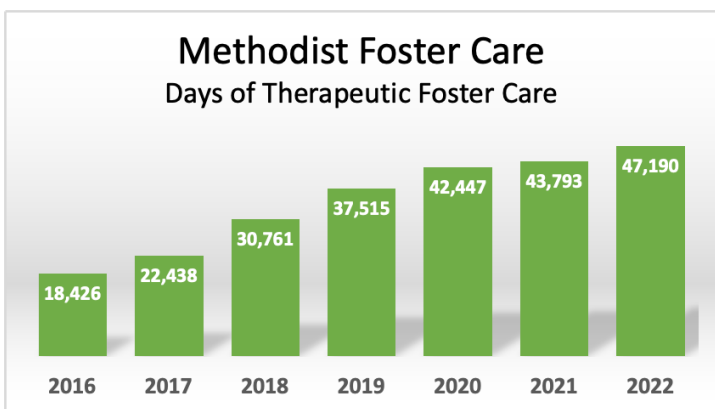
The **Lake Charles** Life Skills Training Center organized 12 classes and activities for youths during summer and holidays, along with 108 sessions of in-home support. A total of 72 children in foster care were served, out of which 20 were aged 14-15 and 52 were aged 16-17. Among the served youths, 30 were male and 42 were female.

Totals for all 4 Regions

The combined number of summer/holiday classes and youth engagement activities provided in all four regions was 57. A total of 380 young individuals participated in these programs. Additionally, there were 569 in-home support sessions offered. Among the youths served, 126 were aged 14-15, 232 were aged 16-17, and 22 were aged 18-23. Out of the total youths served, 379 were involved with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), while only 1 was associated with the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ). The number of male youths served was 171, while the number of female youths served was 209. 15 youths successfully aged-out of the program, with an average pre-assessment score of 64% and an average post-assessment score of 84%.

Methodist Foster Care

Louisiana United Methodist Children and Family Services launched Methodist Foster Care in December 2015 to offer Therapeutic Foster Care services to children in the custody of Louisiana's Department of Children and Family Services. By 2019, Methodist Foster Care expanded to include the Kinship Navigator program for certifying family caregivers, and the Louisiana Foster Care Support Organization for support services to foster and kinship caregivers statewide. With Child Placing Agency



licenses in five regions - Alexandria, Covington, Lafayette, Monroe, and Shreveport - Methodist Foster Care now provides three key services throughout Louisiana: Therapeutic Foster Care, Kinship Navigator services, and the Louisiana Foster Care Support Organization.



Therapeutic Foster Care

In 2022, Methodist Foster Care prioritized the recruitment, training, and certification of Therapeutic Foster Homes in Louisiana. As a result, they were able to establish 126 Therapeutic Foster Homes, which provided care for a total of 300 children. On a daily basis, an average of 130 children were under their care. Notably, five children were adopted by their foster parents from Methodist Foster Care, while one child was adopted by a family not affiliated with the organization. Furthermore, through court proceedings, two children were granted guardianship to foster parents associated with MFC.

Kinship Navigator

Kinship Care refers to the full-time care of a child by a relative when the child cannot live with their parents due to a court ordered removal. This type of care is especially beneficial for children as they receive love and attention from extended family members they know, and it helps to maintain important family connections. Kinship caregivers can step in to provide safe care when parents are unable to do so, avoiding the need for formal child welfare intervention. When children must enter foster care, it is usually best for them to stay with a relative caregiver.

Methodist Foster Care's Kinship Navigator program works in partnership with DCFS to support the certification of Kinship homes for children. In 2022, the program facilitated the certification of 190 homes. In addition to assisting families through the certification so they may obtain support from DCFS, our Kinship Navigator staff provides support to relative caregivers throughout the certification process and makes support calls at 30, 60, and 90-day intervals. During these calls, kinship caregivers often request assistance from our Kinship Specialists with issues such as delayed or missing board payments owed to Kinship families from DCFS, finding community resources for basic needs, and connecting with Early Intervention and school system resources. We also help kinship families submit reimbursement forms for school supplies and uniforms to DCFS case workers. Our Kinship Specialists establish relationships with DCFS Foster Care Workers to better support Kinship families. In times of crisis, our staff provides crisis intervention using TBRI® principles over the phone and in person to stabilize placements until families and children can access counseling services.

Foster Care Support Organization

Methodist Foster Care's Foster Care Support Organization provides critical support to foster caregivers throughout Louisiana.

Statewide activities of the Foster Care Support Organization during 2022 included:

- In each of the nine regions, our Foster Care Ambassadors organized and conducted monthly in-person support groups for foster caregivers and continued hosting monthly virtual support groups.
- We implemented a text messaging system through the Remind App, allowing foster caregivers to receive brief text reminders if they opt in.
- Foster caregivers receive monthly email updates on events and activities in their area to stay informed.
- Every quarter, we hold tri-regional virtual meetings with support and resource providers to expand the support network for foster caregivers.

STATISTICAL REPORT OF SERVICES PROVIDED DURING 2022

- We created a private Facebook group to help support providers communicate and respond to needs.
- We continued sending newsletters to foster caregivers through the Foster Care Support Organization.
- We held monthly meetings with DCFS staff in each region to educate them on how our Foster Care Ambassadors can assist them.
- On May 5, 2022, we hosted the second annual virtual Foster the Connection conference in collaboration with Louisiana Baptist Children's Home, the Families First Foundation, and the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. The conference aimed to raise awareness about the available supports for foster parents, DCFS workers, and other community partners.
- We added five new organizations to the list of Louisiana foster care supports and resources.
- We piloted our Foster Parent Mentor Program in all three regions and received a small number of referrals from DCFS. We are preparing the program for statewide rollout in 2023.
- We continue to provide one-on-one assistance to foster parents with TBRI support, helping them connect with community partners and providing them with answers from DCFS.
- We have actively served and supported various Advisory Boards and committees, including the Children's Cabinet, Court Improvement Plan (CARE), and a local University.

