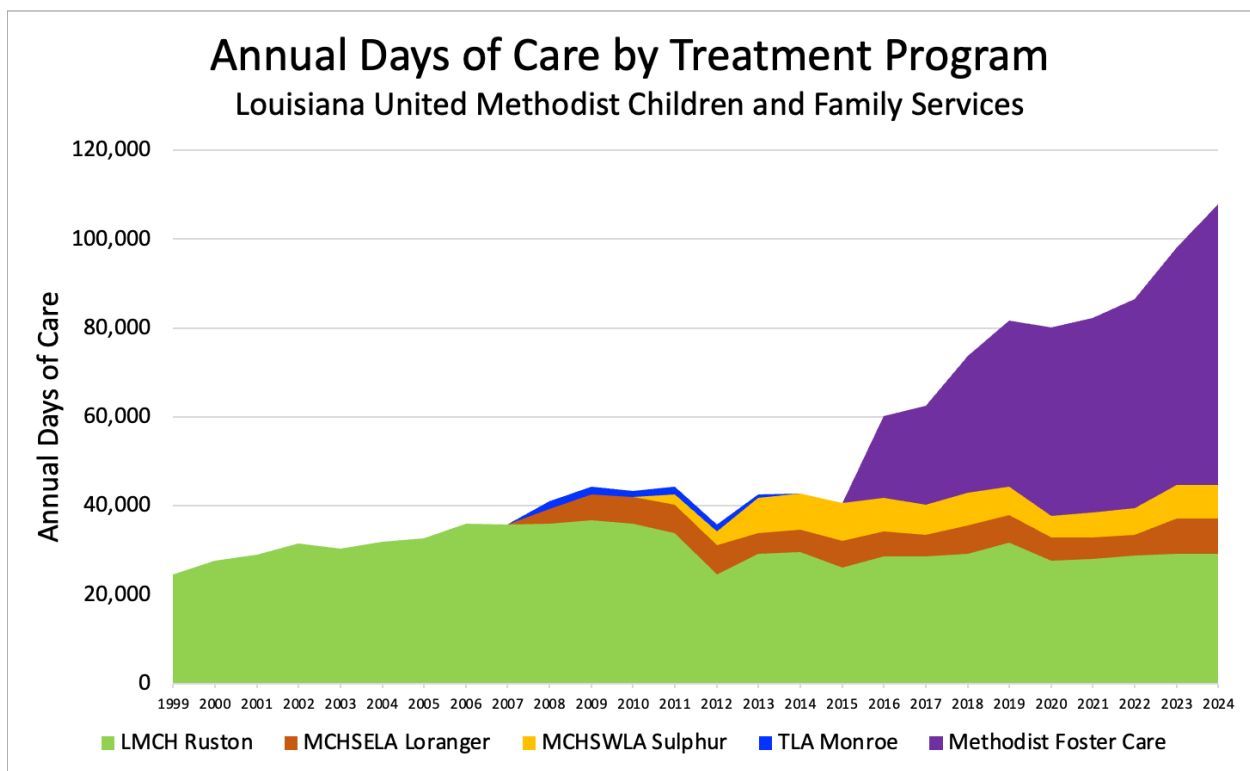


LOUISIANA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Serving Louisiana’s Children and Families Since 1902

All of us at Louisiana Methodist Children and Family Services are inspired to expand our services, improve our programs, and find new ways to care for Louisiana’s children. Our Mission is to guide children and families home to experience God’s love by following the teachings of Christ. This drives us to address the deepest needs of Louisiana’s children and families.

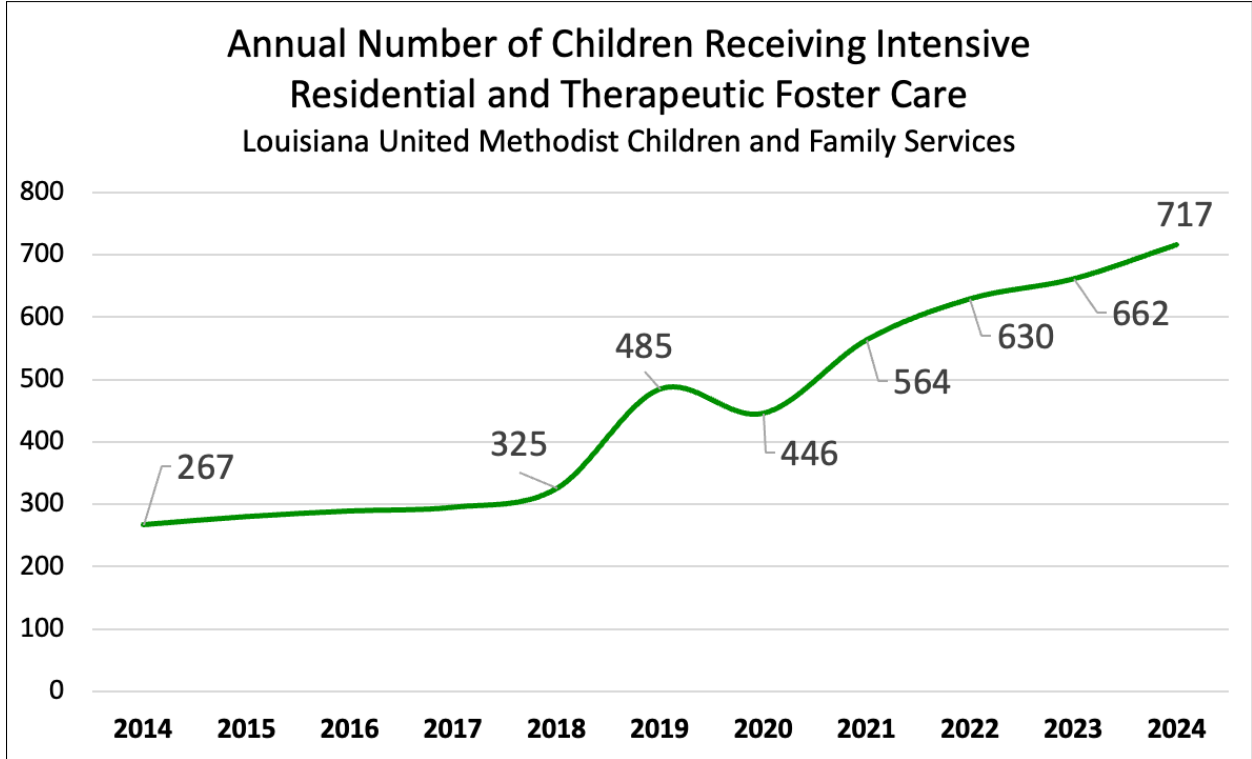
In 2024, LUMCFS continued increasing opportunities to serve children. As a result, we provided more days of intensive residential care and therapeutic foster care to more children than ever before. In 2024, we provided more than 109,782 days of care (an increase of 11,680 over 2023) in our therapeutic foster care and residential treatment services. The chart below shows the steady growth.



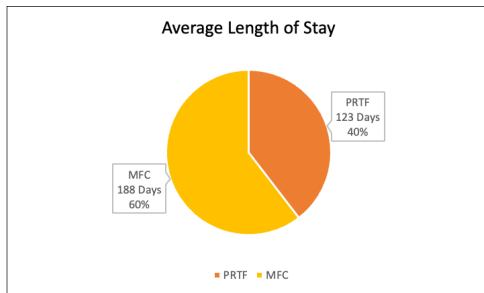
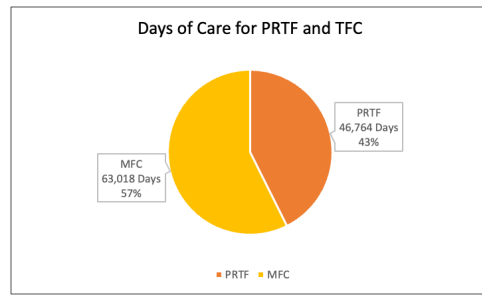
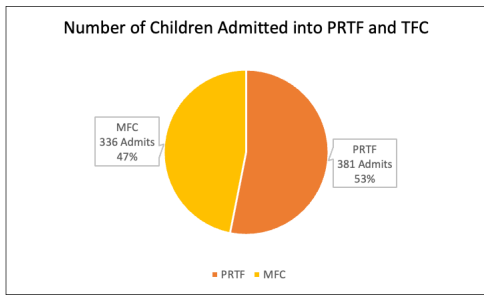
**We Cared for More Children in 2024 Than Ever Before**

Louisiana United Methodist Children and Family Services has a reputation for providing high standards of care. Also, Methodist Foster Care grew through our intentional work to build upon a strong network of families by recruiting, training, and supporting new therapeutic foster families. The efforts to expand services have allowed us to increase the number of children in our care year after year. In 2024, LUMCFS provided 109,782 days of Louisiana’s most comprehensive and intensive residential and therapeutic foster care to 717 children.





The three charts below show the balance of services between intensive residential care on the three campuses and the therapeutic foster care in homes located throughout Louisiana.



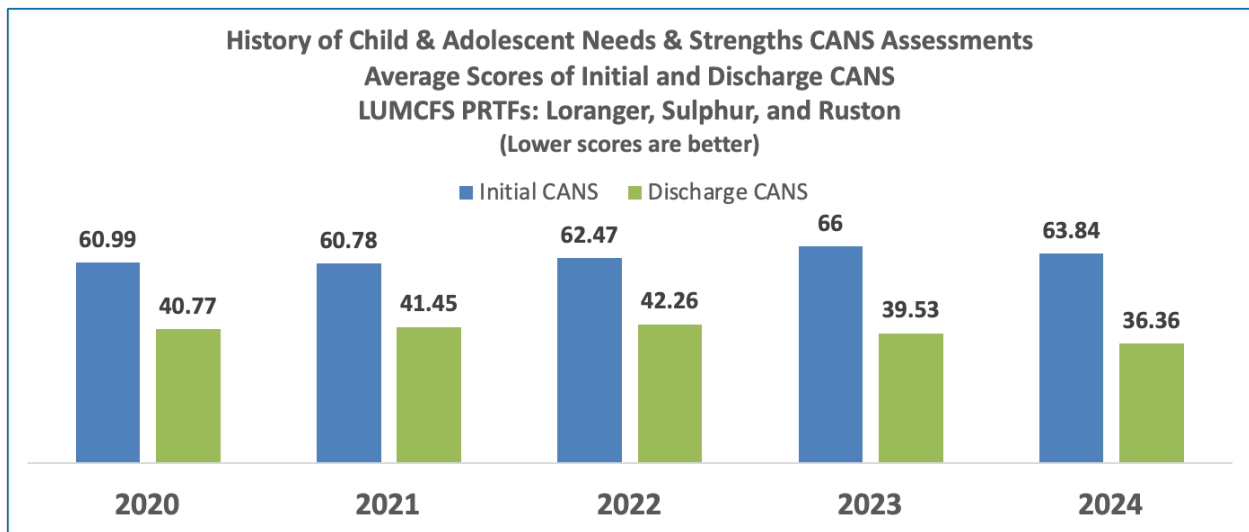
### Serving Children Throughout Louisiana

The Methodist Children’s Homes’ three regional campuses are strategically located in north, southwest, and southeast Louisiana. These facilities place Louisiana’s most intensive residential treatment services within reach of all our state’s children and families. In addition to the residential care that we provide at Louisiana Methodist Children’s Home in Ruston, Methodist Children’s Home of Southeast Louisiana in Loranger, and Methodist Children’s Home of Southwest Louisiana in Sulphur, our staff reach out from these campuses into the surrounding communities with services for Louisiana’s families and children.

### Effective Treatment Produces Good Outcomes

We use objective assessments to measure the effectiveness of treatment. The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment is a standard tool for evaluating the behavioral health of children who have experienced trauma. At the beginning of care, the child receives an initial CANS assessment, which assists in making clinical decisions and developing an individualized treatment plan.

We also analyze aggregated CANS assessment scores to monitor performance and outcomes to identify opportunities to enhance the quality and effectiveness of care. This aggregated CANS data also allows us to compare the effectiveness of our program with others and make necessary modifications.



Lower CANS scores at discharge indicate improvement during treatment. In 2024, the average CANS score for children entering intensive residential care was 63.84. At discharge, the average CANS score had improved to 36.36, indicating 2024 is the year with the greatest treatment gains for children in our PRTF care. This measures a positive improvement of 27.48 points for children in the care of LUMCFS’ Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF), documenting our organization’s progress on its goal to continually improve the services we provide.



**Comprehensive Residential Care for Children**

LUMCFS provides Louisiana’s most intensive, comprehensive, and holistic residential care for children and adolescents. Our three residential facilities, the Louisiana Methodist Children’s Home in Ruston, the Methodist Children’s Home of Southwest Louisiana in Sulphur, and the Methodist Children’s Home of Southeast Louisiana in Loranger, are licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health as Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities.

We receive requests for services from parents, acute care psychiatric hospitals, treatment facilities, Medicaid management companies, and custodial state agencies, including the Department of Children and Family Services, the Office of Juvenile Justice, and the Louisiana Department of Health, and from clergy and healthcare professionals. While we also receive requests from agencies and individuals in other states, we admit only children from Louisiana because the need here is so great.

**Residential Occupancy**

The chart below reports the total days of care provided during each of the previous ten years, and the days for each of the children’s home campuses Louisiana Methodist Children’s Home (LMCH), Methodist Children’s Home of Southeast Louisiana (MCHSELA), and Methodist Children’s Home of Southwest Louisiana (MCHSWLA). In addition, the last column reports the days of care provided by Methodist Foster Care (MFC). Until additional housing is constructed among the three campuses, the 2024 statistics represent what will be a typical year going forward. On the other hand, we anticipate continued growth of Methodist Foster Care through recruitment, training, certification, and support of additional therapeutic foster homes throughout Louisiana.

Year	Total Annual Days of Care	LMCH	MCHSELA	MCHSWLA	MFC
2015	40,639	26,131	5,993	8,515	0
2016	60,126	28,647	5,652	7,401	18,426
2017	62,561	28,603	4,876	6,644	22,438
2018	73,667	29,184	6,298	7,424	30,761
2019	81,836	31,878	6,185	6,258	37,515
2020	80,094	27,705	5,226	4,716	42,447
2021	82,328	28,041	4,849	5,645	43,793
2022	86,568	28,733	4,665	5,980	47,190
2023	98,102	29,232	7,953	7,561	53,356
2024	109,782	29,599	9,894	7,271	63,018

**The Lorraine Howard Educational Center (“Howard School”)**

**Background and enrollment**

Howard School is located on the Ruston campus of the Louisiana Methodist Children’s Home. Approved by Louisiana’s Department of Education as an alternative school, Howard School provided educational services to 253 youth during the 2024 calendar year. The average daily student count for educational



services on any given day in 2024 was 81; however, our October 1, 2024, enrollment count submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education was 79..

### **Instruction**

With the support of the Clinical Department and mental health specialists, youth attended classes at the school for a full day of instruction. An eight-period school day continued from the previous year.

Once again, Louisiana standards-based Tier 1 instruction was used in the elementary and middle school grades of 5-8 and the high school grades of 9-12. The school's School-Wide Plan drove this incorporated in the grant funding applications required of CIR schools across the State of Louisiana. School improvement areas focused on curriculum and technology that directly linked to teacher staff development with the approved and adopted Tier 1 Curriculum. Howard School achieved the status of a C school by the Louisiana Department of Education and was recognized as an Exemplar school among alternative schools in 2024.

Most students who were taught clustered in the school's eighth, ninth, and tenth grades during the 2024 calendar year. Again, as in the past year, the number of youth in the fall of 2024 was significantly more populated in high school grades than the middle grades.

Middle school subjects of English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and physical education were the primary classes of instruction throughout the year. The remediation Study Skills block was continued in middle school during 6<sup>th</sup> period. These students were grouped by grade level and rotated among their core teachers. Middle school language arts and mathematics remediation classes continued to be provided for all middle school youth during the day's schedule.

High school classes included core classes as well as electives. The remediation block, Study Skills, was continued for high school students during their 6<sup>th</sup> period targeting weaknesses determined by their high school team of teachers. High school students were grouped based on achievement levels and rotated among their core teachers supporting them with the critical skills necessary for mastery and course completion. This course for high school students continued to prove tremendously successful during the rest of the 2024 academic school year.

Family and Consumer Science, which focuses on culinary arts, food science, nutrition, health management, and wellness among other topics of daily living was continued. Art class for middle school students also continued with topics including creating poster board portfolios, drawing journals, and name art as well as exploring elements of art and studying artists.

### **Teachers and Instructional Support Staff**

The school, inclusive of the vocational center, was comprised of fourteen well-trained and certified professionals along with six support staff who worked to provide educational services to youth. Of these employees, three teachers were Lincoln Parish School Board employees along with two staff who served as teacher aides, and one, a behavioral interventionist/coordinator. Other support staff employed by LUMCFS included a school secretary, a computer lab manager, a Clinical Department youth behavior coordinator/interventionist, and a timesheet substitute teacher/librarian.

All Howard School and John Allen Vocational Center teachers were certified through the Louisiana Department of Education and provided appropriate instruction for youth assigned to their grade level and/or courses. The teachers worked to address the Louisiana Curriculum and the Louisiana Standards developed for that grade and/or subject by the Louisiana Department of Education. All core teachers completed extensive training and thereby provided instruction that mirrored teaching and learning in quality classrooms across the state. Once again in 2024, we were fortunate to have had the educational staff that ensured youth received appropriate, high quality services throughout the year.

Physical education was provided to all students through the Recreation Department. All middle school students received a daily period of physical education while most high school students either took Physical Education I or II. Several high school students had their one-and-a-half Carnegie Credits of physical education and may not have needed another class for graduation purposes; however, all youth participated in some level of physical activity as arranged by the Recreation Department. Once again, the highly qualified team of Recreation Department staffers did a tremendous job providing varied physical activities and life sports trainings with the students. This department worked closely with the assistant principal/school counselor at Howard School who is also a certified physical education teacher. Their collaboration allowed for quality physical education for all youth in our care.

Library services were provided by the school's part-time librarian as well as through the Recreation Department. Youth were encouraged to read and fully develop their literacy skills. A large collection of books was made available to youth to check out both at the school library as well as in the Recreation Department's library.

The assistant principal/school counselor worked to review student transcripts, met with new students at the point of admission to school, developed student schedules, discussed student graduation plans, monitored student progress, and served as the School Test Coordinator, handling all Louisiana assessments. Critical aspects of the school counselor's job were to keep up with individual student assessments and schedule testing for all youth using the online Louisiana testing platform.

### **Student Achievement**

End-of-course testing for applicable high school courses was required as usual in 2024. The students achieved a passing rate of 67% on the courses requiring an End-of-Course Test (EOC). The school specifically experienced the following passing rates: Algebra I, 56%; Biology, 56%; ELA I, 56%; ELA II, 63%; Geometry, 90%; and U.S. History, 83%.

In our middle school, the passing rate based on the students' performance on their Louisiana assessments was 52%; however, the Louisiana Department of Education waived the impact of the assessments on student promotion. Specific passing rates by middle school assessment were as follows: ELA, 61%; Math, 61%; and Science, 34%. The state of Louisiana is developing a new social studies assessment. Therefore, student test scores were not released in 2024.

### **Instruction via Online Learning**

The web-based credit recovery program in the high school computer lab allowed students to take courses for Carnegie Credit hours toward a high school diploma. In 2024, the school awarded 44 Carnegie Credits

to youth taking *Edgenuity* online classes. We feel that we must give much credit in 2024 to our hard-working computer lab manager for motivating and prodding students to complete their online courses

### Summary

The Lorraine Howard Educational Center, as well as the John Allen Vocational Center, offered quality educational experiences for all youth at the Louisiana Methodist Children's Home in 2024. Through the hard work of a dedicated and highly qualified instructional staff, the Education Department of LUMCFS accomplished its stated mission by which all educators and support staff continued to embrace helping every child to achieve his or her fullest academic potential while providing the essential supports of safety, care, and guidance.

### 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 2024, the OWL Equine Center provided 1,403 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 Equine Center's PATH-certified instructors provided therapeutic horsemanship classes and therapeutic riding lessons for individuals with developmental disabilities. The OWL Equine Center partners with Building Futures, a local physical and occupational therapy center for children, that brings their patients out each week for therapeutic riding. In addition, the OWL Equine Center partners with several local schools to care for children with special needs, providing opportunities to participate during the school day.

The OWL Equine Center serves as an adjunct to Louisiana Methodist Children's Home's intensive residential services. Residents are taught to handle, care for, and safely ride. Each week's lesson centers around a life skills theme, such as responsibility, setting goals, following directions, and respect. These classes are a wonderful opportunity for our youth to practice communication, compassion, and patience.

An increasing number of community groups participated in Equine-Assisted Learning sessions, focusing on group goals like team building, communication, and problem-solving. OWL staff continue to bring horses to Med Camps of Louisiana for special events as they are held. We enjoy attending their Fall Festival each year, and our horses are one of the highlights.

In addition to equine services at the OWL Center, a grant allowed us to take the OWL Equine to the classroom in Jackson Parish. We provided Social Emotional Learning classes for students in the third to fifth grade. Students chosen to participate in outdoor education activities could visit the OWL, and OWL staff could take the outdoors to the classroom on additional visits. This has been a great opportunity to use our resources and animals to make social skills lessons come to life! Teachers and school staff have given positive feedback on our lessons and their effect on pre-test and post-test scores of the kids'



knowledge of building positive relationships, making good decisions, healthy self-esteem, and problem-solving.

## The Outdoor Wilderness Learning “OWL” Center

The OWL Center is an 800-acre campus located in the rolling hills of northeast Louisiana designed for recreational, educational, and experiential treatment services. It creates opportunities for personal growth and development by offering challenging, beneficial, and financially accessible programming in a peaceful environment conducive to learning and healing. In addition, the OWL Center provides services to the children and families in the care of Louisiana Methodist Children’s Home.

For families, the heart of the OWL center is the Family Lodge. Here, Methodist Children’s Home residents’ families may stay free to visit their child and participate in treatment. During 2024, 483 family members of children receiving care at Louisiana Methodist Children’s Home stayed in the OWL Center’s Family Lodge. These visits are arranged by LMCH clinical staff to maintain strong family connections for children whose families live at a distance. Family participation in a child’s treatment is a leading factor in successful residential care. The Family Lodge allows family members to have extended visits with our LMCH residents beyond the in-office therapy session.

Eighty-three (83) different organizations paid to use the OWL Center during 2024, including business groups, churches, schools and universities, and other nonprofit organizations. These groups enjoyed the Challenge Course, pond fishing, camping, playing in the fields, and the maze. This represents a 19% increase over 2023’s sixty-seven organizations.

The staff and youth from Louisiana Methodist Children’s Home utilized the challenge course’s high and low elements, allowing individuals to step outside of their comfort zones and develop personal 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.

Throughout the year, the OWL Center’s professional staff maintained an unusually beautiful environment for thousands of guests.

## The Family Counseling Center

The Family Counseling Center (FCC) in Ruston, Louisiana, is the Methodist Children’s Home’s community counseling program. Created nearly 40 years ago to support residents’ families, FCC was quickly invited to provide care to the larger northcentral Louisiana community, which lacked sufficient community mental health services. Even as community mental health services have greatly expanded with new providers, FCC has improved individuals’ and families’ quality of life and well-being by addressing mental health and behavioral health issues.



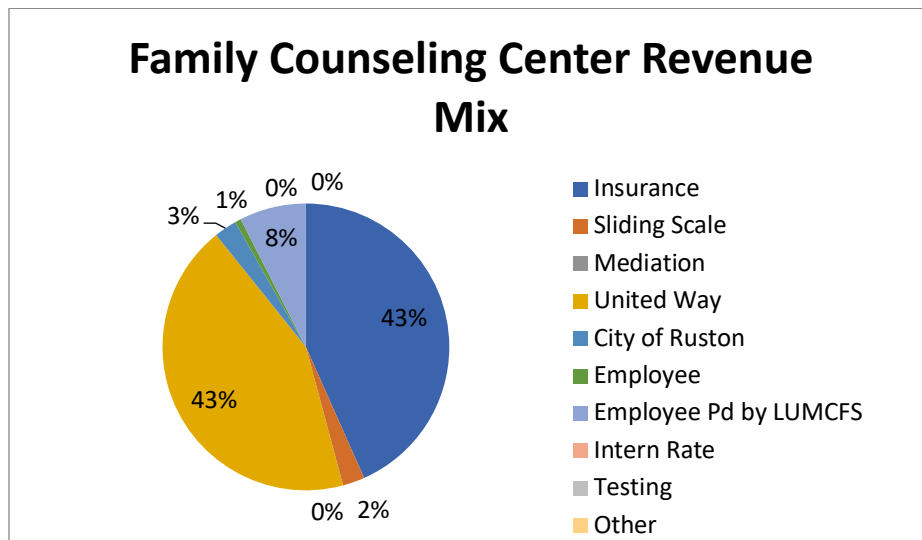


## STATISTICAL REPORT OF SERVICES PROVIDED DURING 2024

Programs	Individuals	Sessions
Counseling Sessions	125	1292
FCC Community Events	4,035	13
Community Education/Trainings	35	1
Additional NBCC trainings facilitated by FCC		2
Distribution of marketing and educational materials	1654	

The table above details the services provided during 2024. The Family Counseling Center served individuals and families in a 16-parish area through in-office sessions, telehealth, social media platforms, and community education.

Funding: The Family Counseling Center is supported by fee-for-service revenue, grants, and charitable support received from donors whose contributions allow FCC to continue operations. The available service revenues are detailed in the chart below.



Total number of sessions: FCC provided 1,292 counseling sessions during 2024. An additional 216 sessions were cancelled sessions, and an additional 53 No-Shows by the client.

Partnerships: In 2024, FCC continued partnerships with the Lincoln Parish School Board, Louisiana Center for the Blind, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, City of Ruston, community agencies, and other outpatient therapy agencies. FCC also made an effort to reach out to medical providers within a 60-mile radius, local churches, and other local businesses.

Educational Community Presentations and Events: FCC participated in community outreach events, including Radio and Newspaper advertisements, Christmas at the Farm, and Lincoln Lights Up the Pines. FCC hosted an ethics training for LUMCFS staff and community mental health professionals for 35 individuals and facilitated an additional 3 NBCC training sessions

### The Life Skills Training Centers

LUMCFS maintains four Life Skills Training Centers (LSTC) for Louisiana's children in foster care. These 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*.

In 2024, we continued with an online independent living skills curriculum. Additional IL Services provided include youth engagement activities, summer human trafficking prevention classes for youth ages 14-17, in-home support services for youth ages 16-17, and case management services for young adults ages 18-23. The LSTC supports the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD).

While completing surveys with youth, staff provide contact information to offer supportive services and recommend connections to community resources. We have been able to utilize both in-person and virtual learning activities with all our services. Due to the change to an online curriculum in which youth occupy a seat in the online system (limited number of seats available shared statewide) for the duration that they are working in this program, youths are placed on a waiting list. This reduces the number of young people we can work with during an annual period. Youth require about a year to complete the program. However, children in foster care are usually transient, and their frequent moves around the state pause their progress in the online program.

They are paused in the system, and the seat is freed for another youth to begin. This is a continuous process and makes it challenging for youth to complete the LYFT Life Skills Reimagined online learning program. A collaboration between DCFS and the IL Coalition of Independent Living Providers continues this reporting period to promote the program and find solutions to the barriers that interfere with youth completions in a timely manner. Another change in 2024 in the supervisory staff of the Transitioning Youth Unit at the state office of DCFS occurred during this reporting period. While the new DCFS staff are learning the IL Program, the barriers have continued to affect the rate of completion for the life skills in-home support services.

#### Monroe Region

The Monroe Region served 206 children, held 11 summer/ holiday classes and youth engagement activities, and provided 295 in-home support sessions. The total number of youth ages 14-15 served was 114. The total number of youth ages 16-17 served was 82. The total male youths served was 73, and the female youths were 133. The number of youths completing the LYFT Life Skills Reimagined online learning program was 4, with a pre-assessment score of 44% and a post-assessment score of 68%. Case management services were provided to 10 adults aged 18-23, four male and 6 female.



### Covington Region

The Covington Region held 8 summer/ holiday classes and youth engagement activities and 165 in-home support sessions. The total number of youths served was 173 DCFS youth. The total number of youths aged 14-15 served was 91. The total number of youths aged 16-17 served was 73. Total male youth served was 69, and female youth was 104. The number of youths completing the LYFT Life Skills Reimagined online learning program was 7 with a pre-assessment score of 64% and a post-assessment score of 89%. Case management services were provided to 9 young adults ages 18-23, 2 males and 7 females.

### Lafayette Region

The Lafayette Region served 237 children, held 7 summer/ holiday classes and youth engagement activities and 189 in-home support sessions. The total number of youth ages 14-15 served was 116. The total number of youth ages 16-17 served was 121, 85 males and 152 females.

### Lake Charles Region

The Lake Charles Region served 73 youth, held eight summer/ holiday classes and youth engagement activities, and provided 102 in-home support sessions. The total number of youths aged 14-15 served was 45. The total number of youths aged 16-17 served was 29. Twenty-two were male, and 54 were female. We provided case management services to 2 young females ages 18-23.

### Four Regions Totals

The Life Skills Training Center served 689 youth in 33 classes and 751 in-home support sessions among the four regions. Three hundred sixty-six (366) of the participants were 14-15, 305 were 16-17, and 21 were between ages 18 and 23. Two hundred forty-nine (249) were males, and 443 were females. Due to the transient nature of foster care, eleven youth completed the LYFT Life Skills Reimagined online learning program, and on this, the average pre-assessment score was 56%, and the average post-assessment was 80%.

## Methodist Foster Care

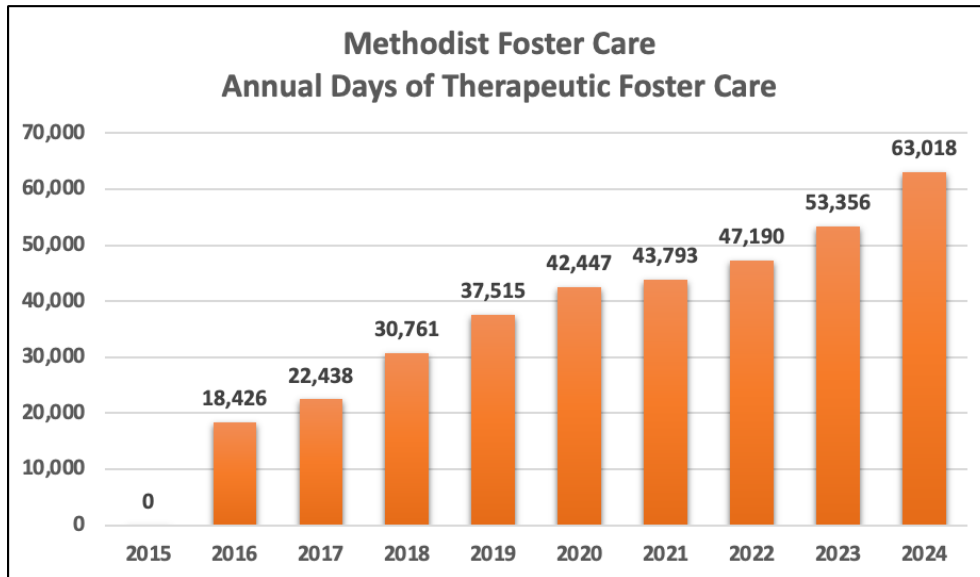
Louisiana United Methodist Children and Family Services launched Methodist Foster Care in December 2015 to offer Therapeutic Foster Care services to children in the custody of Louisiana's Department of Children and Family Services. By 2019, Methodist Foster Care expanded to include the Kinship Navigator 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 four key services throughout Louisiana: Therapeutic Foster Care, Kinship Navigator services, a Foster Care Mentor Program, and Foster Care Supports.

*While we are eager to care for more children, the natural growth of the Therapeutic Foster Care program has made for a solid organization with experienced staff who actively support a statewide network of Therapeutic Foster Homes for children in the custody of the Department of Children and Family Services.*

### Therapeutic Foster Care



In 2024, Methodist Foster Care prioritized the recruitment, training, and certification of Therapeutic Foster Homes in Louisiana. As a result, they were able to establish 18 Therapeutic Foster Homes, which provided care for a total of 336 children. Daily, an average of 160 children were in Methodist Foster Care's care in 2024. Methodist Foster Care ended 2024 with 165 children in active therapeutic foster care placements. 4 children were adopted by their foster parents from Methodist Foster Care in 2024, and 4 children were adopted by families not affiliated with the organization.



### Kinship Navigator

When a child is removed from their immediate family for reasons of abuse and neglect, DCFS must first try to place the child with extended family before seeking a regular foster home. The relative placement is called Kinship Care, which 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.

Kinship 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. For children who are not taken into state custody, relative caregivers can step in to provide safe care when parents cannot, 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. Kinship care minimizes trauma, maintains sibling ties, preserves the child's family culture, increases permanency, improves behavioral and mental health outcomes, and provides a better foundation for older youth.

Methodist Foster Care's Kinship Navigator program helps kinship caregivers and DCFS by assisting Kinship homes in their certification process. The chart below reports the number of families referred by DCFS, the number of completed ad partially completed Home Studies, the number of referrals that did not participate, the percentage of referred families who received support, and the percentage of fully Home Studies that were completed.



## STATISTICAL REPORT OF SERVICES PROVIDED DURING 2024

Year	Families Referred	Full Home Studies	Partial Home Studies	NA	% Supported	% Completed
2018/2019	100	55	31	14	86%	55%
2019/2020	190	121	33	30	81%	64%
2020/2021	193	126	42	30	87%	65%
2021/2022	227	136	42	49	78%	60%
2022/2023	204	128	32	39	78%	63%
2023/2024	141	78	6	29	60%	55%
<b>Average</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>61%</b>

The NA column describes referrals from DCFS that do not take advantage of the Kinship program. The reasons include that a family does not choose certification, the child moves from the home into another setting, the family refuses the Home Study, or a child enters Extended Foster Care.

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 support Kinship families better. 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 is an entirely charitable work that provides critical support to Louisiana’s regular foster caregivers throughout Louisiana. The Foster Care Ambassador made 555 support contacts with foster caregivers, kinship caregivers, adoptive parents of children no longer in foster care, prospective foster caregivers, and stakeholders. The FCSO’s Foster Care Ambassador hosts a monthly Mentor Meeting which include the Secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, who participates faithfully, accepts feedback gracefully, and responds in helpful ways to foster caregivers.

In 2024, Methodist Foster Care’s Mentor Program grew from 7 Mentors in 3 regions in 2023 to 27 Mentors in every region of the state. Mentors are experienced foster parents who have received additional training to become qualified to support newer foster families.

In addition to active, personal support services, the Foster Care Support Organization maintains an active online support service through its website at <https://www.LouisianaFosterCare.com> and through social media accounts and group texts.



## Methodist Aftercare Services: Year Two

Launched by the Methodist Children's Home in January 2023, Methodist Aftercare Services is a system dedicated to supporting families following the discharge of children from Louisiana Methodist Children's Home, a psychiatric residential treatment facility located in Ruston, Louisiana.

In 2024, 103 families entered Methodist Aftercare Services, and 84 were discharged from the program. Methodist Aftercare staff members maintained contact with these families through 756 phone calls and 353 personal visits.

Of the 84 discharges from the program, 58 successfully completed one year post-discharge from Louisiana Methodist Children's Home. Five reached the age of majority, 4 entered DCFS custody, 4 entered OJJ custody, and 13 were readmitted to Louisiana Methodist Children's Home. Methodist Aftercare's assistance also increased referrals to CSOC wraparound agencies to 80%. Methodist Aftercare Services also worked with 25 youth in DCFS custody on placement and aftercare services.