



**THANK YOU
FOR BEING
A FRIEND!**



**Lee County Youth
Development Center
2022-2023
Annual Report**



FIFTY YEARS OF PHENOMENAL FRIENDS

The Oxford Dictionary defines the word friend as, “one attached to another by affection or esteem.” For these past fifty years, Lee County Youth Development has been favored by friendships that have sustained us from our fledgling beginnings right up to this present day. Our friends have believed in the immeasurable worth of children and the priceless importance of families beginning in the late 1960s when the Lee County Council of Neglected and Dependent Children was formed. It’s hard to believe that this period in America, and especially in Alabama, was fraught with divisiveness, mistrust and unrest. And yet – during this same time - friends from many cultures, races and religions formed this collective which would serve as the precursor to our present day LCYDC.

And one might rightfully wonder, what exactly was the glue which connected and held these individuals together through all the upheavals of starting a new business – of serving at-risk populations – of financial and staffing uncertainties – of differences of opinions and disagreements – through rejections, setbacks and comebacks? The answer can be found in the fortitude and resilience of our founders; their steadfast, unwavering faith in God and this agency; and the incredible friendships they formed through the years with individuals, entities, organizations, agencies and businesses.

And so, we dedicate this milestone annual report to our indomitable agency founders – the late Mrs. Jane. C. Walker and the late Mrs. Cecil D. Moreman – who drew thousands to them and to a cause which was far greater. Our agency’s Golden Anniversary stands as a living testimony to their steadfast stewardship and to the power of friendship.

And yes, America and our world may again be facing uncertainties and unrest. However, LCYDC continues to be sustained by a disparate and diverse collective of organizations and individuals who are attached to us *by affection and esteem* and their unwavering belief in our mission. We are deeply humbled and thankful to all of you for your phenomenal friendship.

HERE’S TO THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS!

Laura J. Cooper,
Executive Director



February 1968

Lee County Council for Neglected and Dependent Children officially organized.

1969



The first home was placed on land by Mr. & Mrs. George King and began operation as King’s acres.

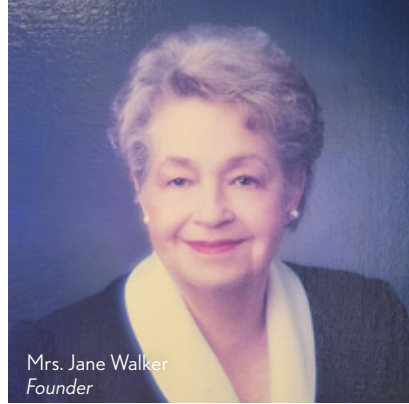
1973

The Lee County Council for Neglected and Dependent Children incorporated and became the Lee County Youth Development Center.

Project Uplift begins on Auburn University’s campus.



Mrs. Cecil Moreman
Founder



Mrs. Jane Walker
Founder

FOR 50 YEARS,

the Lee County Youth Development Center has been uniquely set apart in its design, offering a broad continuum of services and care for youth and families in the Lee County area. From residential services such as the Transitional Living Program and Juvenile Detention to professional development and family-based intervention, each of our more than 15 service areas are singularly focused on offering hope to children and families and strengthening our communities.

As a not-for-profit agency found in 1973 by Mrs. Jane C. Walker and Mrs. Cecil D. Moreman, we celebrate our deep roots in our local community. What began as a caring home for juveniles has flourished into a service network of programs reaching a broad range of youth and families over these last 50 years. Because of your deep generosity, we plan to continue strengthening the Lee County area for 50 more.

Our Mission

**A PLACE OF SERVICE,
OFFERING HOPE
TO CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES AND
STRENGTHENING
COMMUNITIES.**

Our Core Values

- 01** Building and valuing a committed, compassionate and enthusiastic team.
- 02** Honoring tradition while inviting and embracing diversity, change and growth.
- 03** Providing a comprehensive range of service designed to improve the quality of life for children, families and our community.



August 1983



Specialized Care facilities are built including a 4-bed Holdover Facility, Residential Treatment and Adolescent Diagnosis & Evaluation Center.



October 1984

Mr. & Mrs. J.A Stokely gift the future Stokely House to the Board of Directors. The home is relocated to Grand National Parkway.



May 1986

The Stokely House opens as an emergency shelter for children 12 and younger.



TRANSITIONING TO A GREATER GOOD:

SHERRICKA'S STORY

At just 12 years old, Sherricka Johnson began the journey of learning one of life's most important lessons: discipline. After participating in the STARS (Structure, Treatment, Awareness, Redirection and Support) program as a young child, she returned to Lee County Youth Development Center (LCYDC) at the age of 16 after being sentenced to the Juvenile Detention Center. The friends and experiences she encountered there have molded her into the woman she is today.

Sherricka credits the team at LCYDC for teaching her more than just discipline – they showed her love when she needed it most. *"I remember saying that I couldn't do the day's exercises,"* she recalls. *"Ms. Cook and Ms. Jeter jumped right in and did the exercises with us every day. They disciplined us, but also showed us love. I think for me, that's when it started to click, and why I'm now able to connect and give back."*

Sherricka is now a wife, mom, registered nurse and minister. She has a passion for encouraging girls and families in similar situations to believe there is hope for a better future, regardless of their past. *"If it had not been for LCYDC, I'm not sure where I would be,"* she explained. *"My mom, dad, husband and son – they all appreciate LCYDC for developing me into who I am today."*

Because of your friendship over the last 50 years, the success stories don't end with Sherricka. *"Thank you for changing lives,"* Sherricka said. *"The behind-the-scenes that the friends of LCYDC play is instrumental in being able to help families transition to a greater good."*

1994

The Regional Detention Center expanded to a 32-bed facility.

1996

The Family Options and Therapeutic Foster Care programs received licensure from DHR as a Child Placing Agency.

1998

LCYDC receives grant from State Department of Public Health to expand Abstinence Education Program.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

LCYDC maintains its accounts and prepares financial statements on the accrual basis of accounting. Income is recognized in the period measurable rather than when collected, and expenses are recognized in the period incurred, rather than when the obligations are paid.

The audit of LCYDC's financial records for fiscal year 2022 was conducted by Himmelwright, Huguley, Boles, CPA Firm - Opelika, Alabama in complete accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards.

Revenue Sources

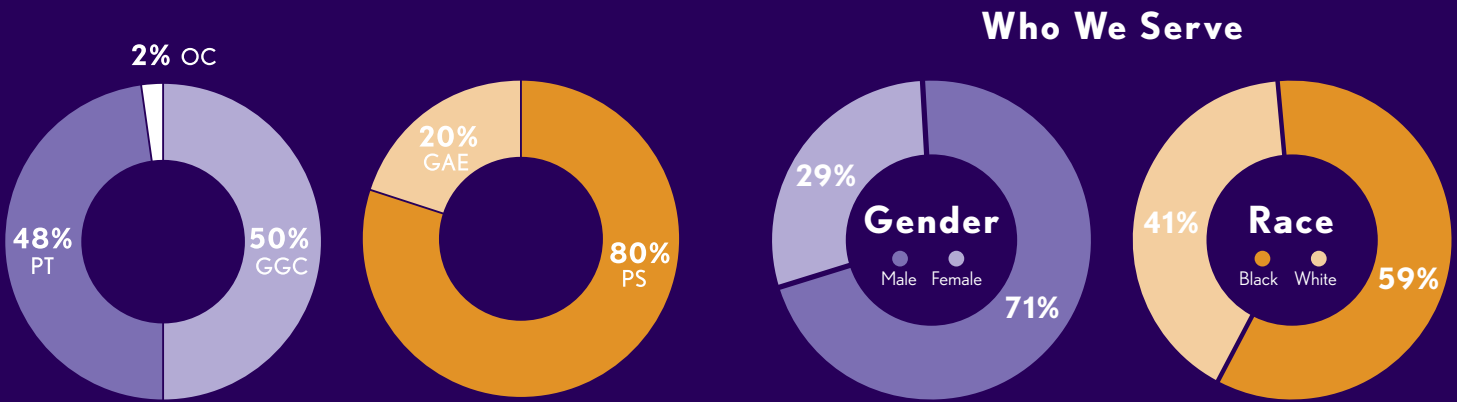
- City of Auburn
- City of Opelika
- Interest Income
- Lee County 1.5 Mil Ad Valorem Tax
- United Way of Lee County
- Memorials
- Service Fees
- State Department of Human Resources
- State Department of Education
- State Department of Medicaid
- State Department of Youth Services

FY 2022 Revenue Sources

Government grants and contracts (ggc)	\$4,127,822	50%
Property taxes (PT)	\$3,924,623	36%
United Way cities of Auburn and Opelika and other contributions	\$144,222	1%
Total		\$8,196,667

FY 2022 Expense Sources

Program services (PS)	\$7,175,560	80%
General & Administration expenses (GAE)	\$1,021,107	20%
Total		\$8,196,667



2002

The STARS facility and new Central Cafeteria opens.

2004

LCYDC receives national accreditation from Council on Accreditation.

2008

The Chanticleer Learning Center is formally dedicated and the COFC program begins.



BASKETBALL AND LIFE SKILLS:

DOMINIQUE'S PROJECT UPLIFT STORY

At just 11 years old, you could not have convinced Dominique that his Project Uplift “Big Brother” was instilling in him skills he would use at some of the most pivotal moments in his life. What seemed to be rowdy games of basketball or a fun day at the waterpark were the building blocks for a mentorship that would stick with Dominique forever.

Growing up in a single-parent household, Dominique’s mom wanted to ensure he and his younger brother had multiple male mentors in their lives. So, she turned to Project Uplift where Dominique was matched with his Big Brother, Matt.

Matt quickly became a positive influence in Dominique’s life, exposing him to new experiences. *“The most impactful things weren’t the fun events but the exposure piece,”* Dominique recalled. *“My first time on a college campus was with Matt. He taught us about entrepreneurship, study habits and other soft skills. Those types of experiences were invaluable.”*

Matt and Dominique stayed in contact until Matt graduated college when Dominique was in Junior High School. Several years later, their communication was sparse, but Matt took the time to watch Dominique play one of his last high school football games. Dominique went on to attend Georgia Tech, where he played football. *“A lot of the things Matt instilled in me like the importance of getting an education, helped me to navigate my decision to go to Georgia Tech,”* Dominique said.

Dominique’s story is a testament to the importance of mentoring programs like Project Uplift. He’s seen first-hand the positive domino effect a mentorship can have in the lives of young kids. Dominique has even started a similar nonprofit, prioritizing the mentoring of young, junior-high aged kids.

“The impact the LCYDC has had is hard to quantify,” Dominique said. *“Thank you for your support to LCYDC over the years so that they could grow and continue to impact the community. I speak very highly of the great people in this community every chance I get. I’ve never found another community as supportive as our Auburn-Opelika community.”*

2011

The Art & Fitness Center is constructed.

2017



The Chanticleer Day School is constructed.

2019

The Respite House is refurbished, and opened to serve children and families.



**Thank You for Being a
Friend to Lee County Youth
Development for 50 Years!**

**LEARN MORE AT
WWW.LCYDC.ORG
334.749.2996**



2020

The Chanticleer Learning Center is Cognia accredited.

The Family Links supervised visitation begins.

2023

50th Anniversary Celebration of LCYDC and Project Uplift.

LEADERSHIP

Laura Cooper
Executive Director

Wendy Birmingham
Deputy Director

Cora McGriff
Employment and Human Resources

Calandra Harris
Fiscal and Financial Resources

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