



UPLIFT **HER**

2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT

ELEVATING THE POWER AND POTENTIAL OF TEEN GIRLS



WHO WE ARE

Crittenton is the longest-standing organization serving teen girls across the Greater Washington region. We evolved into data-driven programs that address the current physical, educational, psychological, and emotional needs of girls. Today, our team of caring and trusted adults deliver school-based programs that meet teen girls where they are to provide them with support and sisterhood.



WHAT WE DO

We partner with 28 middle and high schools across Washington, D.C. and Montgomery County, Maryland. In group sessions of approximately 15 girls, we facilitate a flexible curriculum that equips participants with the tools to navigate challenges, set meaningful goals, build healthy relationships, stay in school, and most importantly, attain the belief that they can succeed and thrive.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

LaTara Harris, CEO & President
Kymber Lovett-Menkiti, Board Chair

WHO WE SERVE

OUR PROGRAMS

SNEAKERS – 9th - 12th Grade
GOAL SETTING GIRLS – 6th - 8th Grade
PEARLS – 9th - 12th Grade

OUR GIRLS

WE ARE CRITTENTON GIRLS

LETTERS TO COUNCILMEMBERS

134th & 135th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

CRITTENTON'S ANNUAL HIGH TEA

CRITTENTON SCHOLARS

2022 LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

FINANCIALS & BOARD MEMBERS

THANK YOU CRITTENTON PARTNERS!



Dear Friends,

It's been an absolute pleasure for us to serve at the helms of Crittenton Services of Greater Washington for these past 7 months. It's an honor to work with this incredible team and serve such remarkable teen girls. In our new roles, we quickly realized the importance and necessity of Crittenton's work and decided it was time to triple our impact.

These big-picture possibilities for Crittenton would only be achievable with the support of our collective community. Therefore, this report serves as a tribute to the remarkable individuals within our team tirelessly contributing to this vital cause, to the unwavering support of our partners – be it individuals, corporations, institutions, or government entities – who are committed to the well-being and growth of teen girls, and finally, to our awe-inspiring Crittenton girls, both past and present. Their ongoing contributions and trust in us continually inform and guide our mission.

Thank you.

LaTara Harris
CEO & President

KyMBER Lovett-Menkiti
Board Chair



Teen Girls Consistently Approach Us And Say, "I Want To Be A Crittenton Girl!"

During the 2022 to 2023 school year, Crittenton had its highest participation numbers ever. You may be wondering what draws a girl to our programs. Every girl wants to be accepted, seen, and supported. A girl steps into one of our groups and in that moment, she can feel the shift of entering a safe space. The judgments, pressures, and challenges she faces at school and home become relatable and less daunting; the feelings of having an adult she can go to and trust slowly become the norm; and her belief that she can achieve anything she puts her mind to becomes her reality. This is what it means to be in one of Crittenton's programs.

A Strategic Planning Process

Crittenton's team formed a strategic planning committee and have conducted several listening sessions with school partners, investors, staff, board of directors, and Crittenton alumnae. Our school partners expressed the positive changes in girls from the presence of our groups. Investors of Crittenton shared that we are the only organization doing what we do, and how we do it, for the girls we serve. One of our school's principals went as far as saying, "Whatever it is you're doing in the classroom, it's magical." Our alumnae recounted their incredible experiences in our program and encouraged our team to think big for Crittenton's future of serving teen girls and what tripling our impact should look like.

Impact Timeline

FY 2024 and 2025 mark pivotal moments for laying our foundations, strengthening our capabilities, and innovating new systems, processes, and community initiatives. These efforts will set the stage for our next leap forward in FY 2026 and 2027: expanding Crittenton's middle school to high school feeder model into additional counties, wards, and cities across the region. With all the extraordinary opportunities on the horizon, Crittenton's team is energized and committed to elevating the standards for positive youth development everywhere we go.

IN HER OWN WORDS

"Thank you for being my safe space.
I appreciate the advice and support."

"Thank you for understanding me.
I trust you more than my mother."

WHO WE SERVE

1,124
CRITTENTON GIRLS



28
SCHOOLS

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Argyle Middle School
Banneker Middle School
Blair High School
Briggs Chaney Middle School Clarksburg High School
Forest Oak Middle School
Gaithersburg High School
Gaithersburg Middle School
Kennedy High School
Key Middle School
Loiederman Middle School
Montgomery Village Middle School
Neelsville Middle School
Northwood High School
Seneca Valley High School
Shannon Middle School
Springbrook High School
Watkins Mill High School
White Oak Middle School

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Ballou High School
Bard High School
Dunbar High School
Excel Academy
Hart Middle School
Kelly Miller Middle School
Maya Angelou Charter School
McKinley Middle School
Phelps ACE High School



Montgomery County, Maryland

52
GROUPS

28
PEARLS
Girls

427

SNEAKERS
Girls

379
Goal Setting
Girls

Washington, D.C.

20
GROUPS

7
PEARLS
Girls

284

SNEAKERS
Girls

OUR PROGRAMS

SNEAKERS

Self-efficacy Knowledge
Nurturance Empowerment
Expectations Responsibility
Assertiveness Success

Equips 7th to 12th grade girls with the tools they need to navigate the choices and challenges of adolescence. It teaches girls about healthy relationships with their peers, dating partners, and parents; positive communication; reproductive health and pregnancy prevention; “adulting” skills; and postsecondary education and career options. It also enables them to acquire skills essential for college readiness and personal success.



GOAL SETTING GIRLS

Strengthens the social and emotional skills that middle school girls need to succeed in school and as first-generation college students. It uses goal setting as an entry point to deliver an evidence-based social and emotional development curriculum. It also uses project-based learning to introduce STEM careers, connects participants to academic support, and provides training for parents to strengthen their support for their daughters’ education.



PEARLS

Parenting
Education
And Responsive Life Skills

Enables pregnant and parenting high school students to succeed as students and parents. It offers teen parents a support system as they learn how to balance the competing responsibilities of parenthood and education. Pregnant and parenting teens learn about healthy pregnancy, labor, and delivery; managing stress; infant and child development, positive parenting skills, and child care and safety; healthy relationships, co-parenting, and positive communications; reproductive health; and postsecondary education and careers.



OUR GIRLS

99%
Graduation Rate

99%
Grade Advancement Rate

83%
College or Vocational School Attendance Rate



50%

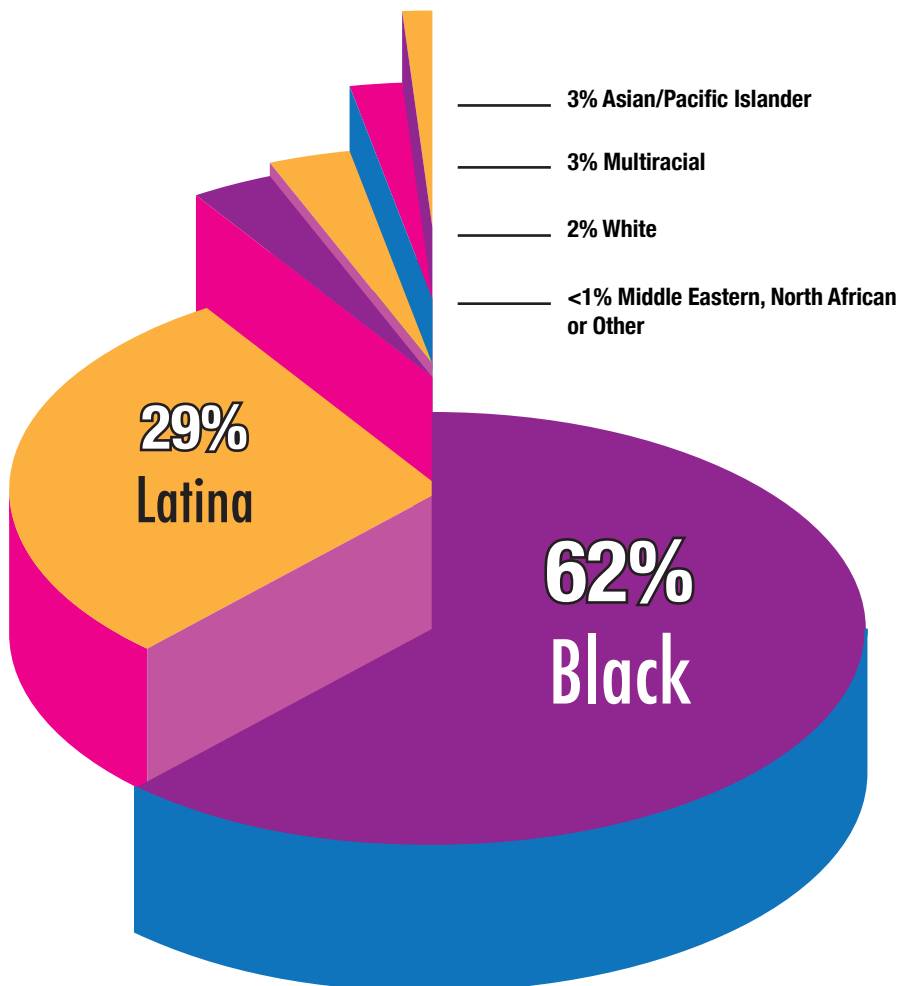
LIVE WITH 2 PARENTS

50%

SPEAK OTHER
LANGUAGES AT
HOME

57%

ARE ON FARMS
*Free and Reduced-Price
Meals*



WE ARE CRITTENTON GIRLS



My name is Michele and

I'M A CRITTENTON GIRL.

I'm also my own **SHERO**
because I love
advocating for and helping others.

**"Goal Setting Girls taught me that
anything is possible."**

Through this program,
I learned how to ask for help,
advocate for myself, and that
I have people who support me and
believe in me.

Being able to see girls in
situations similar to my own and
hearing their experiences was a
comfort and motivation I never
realized I needed.

**"I'm so glad I get to be with a
mentor who understands me.
She is like a second mom
to me."**



We deeply appreciate the support of our government partners and councilmembers. We asked our middle school Crittenton girls to write thank you letters to their councilmembers and tell them why they think the Crittenton programs should continue to be funded. Our Crittenton girls wrote their letters and we delivered them straight to their councilmembers!

Dear Councilmembers,

"I attend Loiederman Middle School and I take part in the sneakers club. My program leader has impacted me so much that when I come to these meetings, I feel so heard and important. I think this program should keep going because some students don't trust or are not comfortable with some staff at their schools. If they had a group like this, I think they would feel more at home."



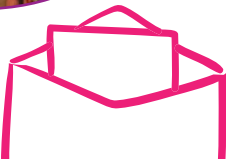
"I am in Goal Setting Girls and I really appreciate everything and all the fun activities in this program. I am the vice president of my GSG 7th grade group and I hope that our program continues to get funds in the future because girls need a safe space to have girl talk. Our program leader is someone I can always count on and she is there when I need a shoulder to cry on. She is an adult that we all trust in the school."



"I am in 7th grade and I am thankful for you as a councilmember because you are people of color who understand that teens like us need programs like Goal Setting Girls. Goal setting girls has helped me be more confident in myself and make healthy friendships."



"I am very thankful for everything that Crittenton has done for us. It has helped me to be in a group that makes me feel at home and safe. I have been in the group for 3 years, and I want to continue in high school for 4 years. I just wanted to say thank you councilmember for putting money towards this program. Since I am a good leader, I also help with the 6th and 7th grade programs and the girls are amazing. I practice with them the skills I learned in the program, like empathy, problem-solving, communication, etc. I love being a big sister to them and helping them be a better person."



**134TH & 135TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**



Thanks to our community of dedicated supporters,

\$600,000+

in 2022 and 2023 was invested towards the bright futures of Crittenton girls from this signature event!

Crittenton's Annual Celebration is a magical night every year. We honor incredible community leaders and individually connect them with a Crittenton Girl Ambassador, forming a unique bond that lives on past the event. It's a special night where Crittenton girls go on stage and share their story, introduce their Leadership Honoree, and give them a medal.



Dr. Unique Morris-Hughes
Director, DOES

Evelyn
Crittenton Girl



Patrice King Brickman,
Founder, Inspire Capital, LLC

Shakayla
Crittenton Girl

Crittenton Leadership Award Honoree

This award is given to select members of the community who are leading by example and making a difference.

134th Leadership Honorees

Jan Adams

Founder & CEO, JMA Solutions

Meedie Bardonille

Founder & President, Black Nurse Collaborative, Inc.

Maria Gomez

Founder, Mary's Center

Narda Jones

Chief of Staff, Federal Communications
Commission

Dr. Unique Morris-Hughes

Director, DC Department of Employment Services

135th Leadership Honorees

Patrice King Brickman

Founder and Managing Director, Inspire Capital, LLC

Marla Bilonick

President & CEO, National Association for Latino Community
Asset Builders

Anna Gomez

Commissioner, Federal Communications
Commission

Michelle Jawando

Senior VP, Omidyar Network

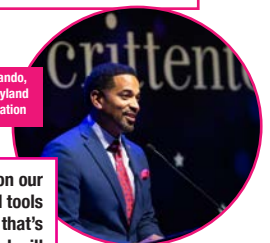
Ms. Deb Lopez

Program Coordinator, Crittenton Services of Greater Washington



Mayor Muriel Bowser,
Washington, D.C.
134th Anniversary Celebration

"I'm so excited to be here with all of you in Washington, D.C. I want to let you know that we have been and will continue to be a fan of Crittenton."



Councilmember Will Jawando,
Montgomery County, Maryland
135th Anniversary Celebration

"I've seen the impact Crittenton has on our young women... Mentors give us powerful tools and help us through difficult times, and that's a cornerstone of Crittenton's philosophy. I will always be a supporter of the mission."

CRITTENTON'S ANNUAL HIGH TEA

TALK WITH A TEEN GIRL



IN HER OWN WORDS

"The biggest challenge is beginning the conversation because a lot of us fear being belittled or invalidated."

-Jasmine G., High Tea Panelist

 **Chancellor Ferebee**
@DCPSChancellor

Today, I reached a milestone—I attended my first high tea 🍵! Many thanks to @CrittentonGW's lovely young ladies for sharing w/ me what it means for @dcpublicschools to uplift you, listen to you, and provide safe spaces for you. Your courage and advocacy are an inspiration 🙌



 **Mignon Clyburn**
@MignonClyburn

How do we break the cycle of #generationaltrauma? Unlearn the bad lessons and habits we were taught.

Learning from @CrittentonGW #Girls. Pay attention, listen and provide safe spaces.

Crittenton's 2023 High Tea was a huge success! We gathered 100 community leaders and 100 Crittenton girls in a unique networking and mentoring experience. This event featured a powerful student panel where four Crittenton girls openly discussed important topics effecting teen girls today.

Their poise when speaking with community leaders was inspiring. They navigated sensitive subjects, like gender biases and generational trauma, with grace. These courageous conversations made a huge impact on the girls and community leaders in the room.

We closed the afternoon by honoring 10 Crittenton Scholars with award certificates for their academic achievements.

CRITTENTON SCHOLARS

Before joining a Crittenton program, a **vast majority** of girls don't understand how many opportunities are **possible** for them and the steps to take in order to get into college.

The Crittenton Scholarship Fund was established in 2020 to support Crittenton girls who are first-generation college students in need of financial aid. The current Crittenton Scholarships are the Kovar/McBride Scholarship and the V&S Foundation Scholarship, with **over 43 girls** receiving aid to pursue their academic dreams since their inception.



2022 Crittenton Scholarship Winners

Washington, D.C.

Tahmaje Crawford: Bethune Cookman University

Montgomery County, Maryland

- Leinayah Jex: Lincoln University
- Marina Mantey: Montgomery College
- Alejandra Aragon: McDaniel College
- Cherly Montano: Montgomery College
- Yanica Mejias: Trinity Washington University
- Ana Lazo: Montgomery College
- Jehimy Benitez: Montgomery College

2023 Crittenton Scholarship Winners

Washington, D.C.

- Leah Mallard: Undecided, Biology
- Jabriah Daniel: Norfolk State University, Nursing
- Amirah Henson-Green: Trinity Washington University, Criminal Justice, Forensic Psychology
- Jada Parks: Clark Atlanta University, Psychology or Business
- Desteni Waters: Atlanta University or Delaware State University, Business

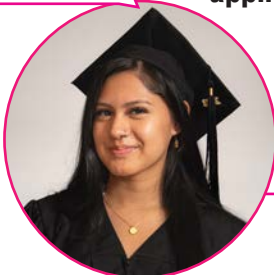
Montgomery County, Maryland

- Keiry Lizama: Montgomery College, Nursing
- Angelica Jimenez: Towson University, Business Administration or Political Science
- Katherine Mendoza: Montgomery College, Radiology
- Camila Fictoria: Montgomery College, Psychology
- Jamine Garcia: Montgomery College, Business & Management
- Ana Lazo: Montgomery College
- Jehimy Benitez: Montgomery College

“As a first-generation Latina and the first in my family to pursue college, Crittenton supplied me with an amazing resource to go to whenever I had questions in the application process. Having no family contribution for my FAFSA, this scholarship would be a tremendous help.”

-Angelica, 2023 Crittenton Scholar

IN HER OWN WORDS



In April of 2023, a new scholarship opportunity for **aspiring nurses** was awarded to Crittenton Services by **The Black Nurse Collaborative** and is officially accepting applicants in 2024 !!

“I knew I wanted to be a nurse ever since I was a little kid and my mom bought me a nursing kit. As I got older, I realized I could do a lot to help people as a nurse. After high school, I want to go to VCU and get my bachelors in nursing and become a pediatric oncology nurse.”

-Abriana, Crittenton Girl, Future Nurse

IN HER OWN WORDS



CRITTENTON'S 2022 LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

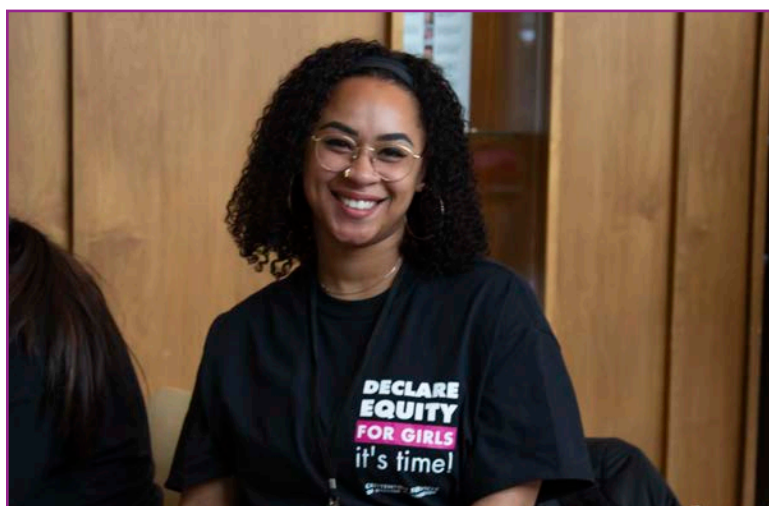


At Crittenton, we believe all girls are leaders. Crittenton's Leadership Summit helps our girls strengthen their leadership, advocacy, and communication skills. The 2022 Summit centered on the theme "My Voice Matters." Due to the ongoing systemic challenges girls and women face, the lack of feeling safe in their schools and communities, and the gender biases impacting the treatment of girls today, it's important for teen girls to know how to use their voices to advocate for themselves personally, emotionally, academically, and in policy.



"Crittenton intentionally creates an environment for girls to thrive at all stages in their development. It is a safe space for our girls to be their authentic selves without judgement. At Crittenton, there is a program for every girl no matter her upbringing, religious background, and choices. Crittenton is the mirror every girl needs and deserves to see herself through. The "whole" girl matters here."

Cassandra Volcy
DC Program Manager



"At Crittenton, we're giving girls the tools to shape their own futures. By equipping them with these crucial life skills, we are fostering a generation of confident and independent young women."

Candice Pal
College & Career Readiness Counselor

Board of Directors

Kymer Lovett-Menkiti, Board Chair
Keller Williams Capital Properties

Aaron Myers, Board Secretary
DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities

Shayna Taitt-Thompson, Board Treasurer
Guidehouse

Antonio Tijerino
Hispanic Heritage Foundation

Bryan Tramont
Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP

Caroline Van Wie
AT&T

Celeste A. James
CA James Consulting

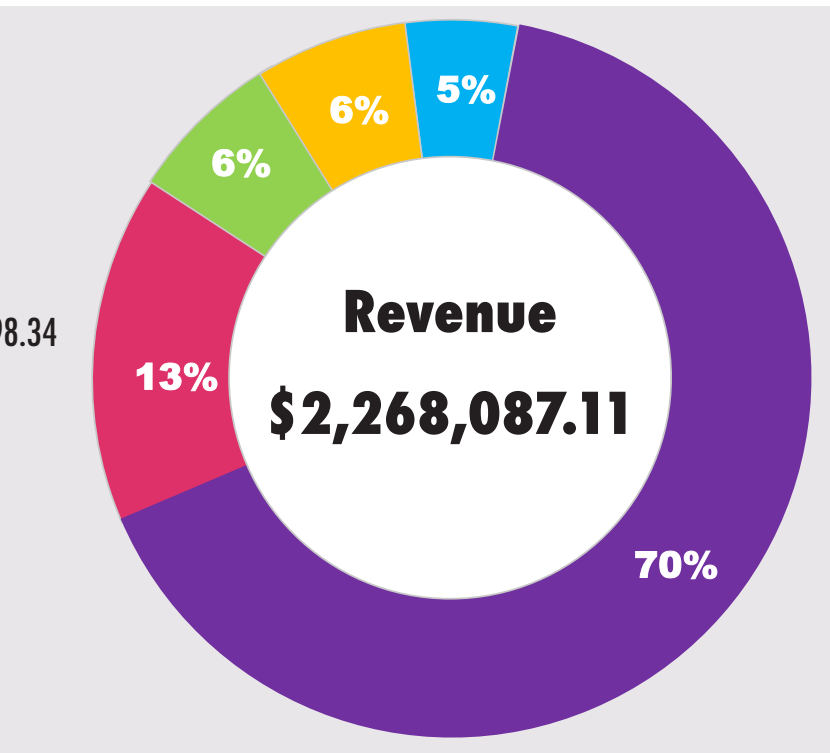
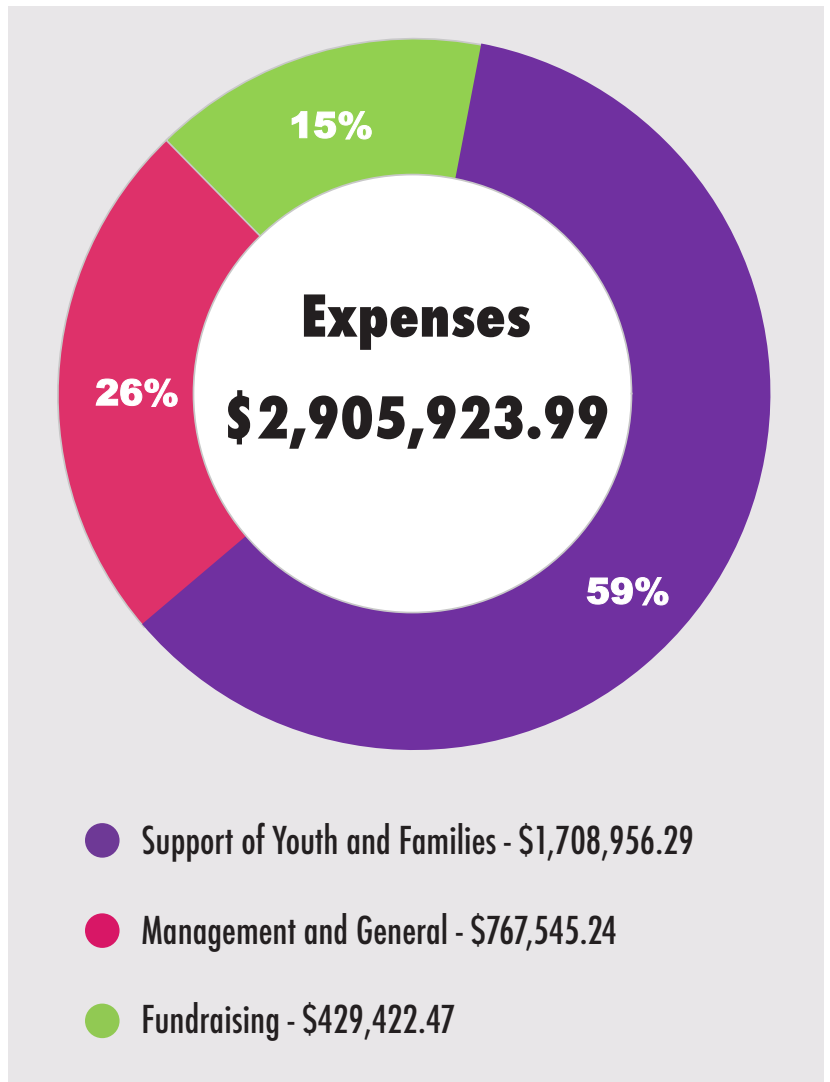
Jeanine Poltronieri
Federal Communications Commission

Kathleen Abernathy
Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP

Tori O'Neal
O'Neal Social Impact



- Local Government Grants and Contracts - \$1,579,598.34
- Foundation Grants - \$289,640.00
- Corporate Contributions - \$140,044.35
- Individual Contributions - \$144,982.78
- Other - \$133,821.64



OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you for investing in the bright futures of Crittenton girls!

INDIVIDUALS

Aaron Myers
Adriana Sahliyah Brown
Adrienne Kosak
Alina Liao
Alison Minea
Allison Remsen
Amanda Potter
Andreia Bodale
Angela Bullock
Angela Jones
Angie & Robert Kronenberg
Anisa Green
Ann Berkowitz
Annie Mozer
Arnold & Porter
Ashley Durmer
Bonnie Hammerschlag
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Bryan Tramont
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Carolyn & Douglas Brandon
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LaTara Harris
Lauren Fields-Bower
Linda Gooden & Laird Lott
Liz Sachs (In memory of Len Kolsky)
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Lynne Milne
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Maria Gomez
Maria Otero
Marian Martin
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Marilyn Quinn
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Susan O'Connell
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Tara Egan
Tonda Bean
Tony Johnson
Tonya Baker
Tori O'Neal
Tuesday Babtise
Vernestine Laughinghouse
Wendy Kent

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Charity Shick (McKenzie)
CPMG Foundation/Menkiti
Kresge Foundation
V&S Foundation

GOVERNMENT

Montgomery County DHHS
DC DOH

INSTITUTIONS

Montgomery College



TEEN GIRLS | SMART CHOICES | BRIGHT FUTURES

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