



*“I like everything about how your organization is run, from the organized, helpful staff, to excellent caregivers. The team seems very committed to our children. I wish all the agencies were like yours. I was so happy to work with you all and hope to work with you again.”*

– CPS Caseworker of former child placed with one of our foster families



**The Settlement Home  
for Children**



As we complete our 101st year as an organization, it is a time to reflect and feel grateful for all of the support we receive from The Settlement Club, our community partners, donors, volunteers and staff members that work passionately to make The Settlement Home a special place. The vision, direction and dedication of The Settlement Club, enables us to provide the

highest quality of care possible to the children, young adults and families we serve at The Settlement Home. We know that healing begins with an individual, and by planting seeds of hope and love, our impact will multiply to future generations.

Each day we work to heal the emotional scars of individuals who have experienced severe emotional trauma, abuse and neglect. Emotional scars take much longer to heal and are much more complicated to treat than physical scars. We provide everything from basic needs to intensive psychotherapy. We intervene, provide time to develop trust and witness tremendous healing. We teach the kids we serve how to have healthy relationships and how to use healthy coping strategies so that when they become parents one day, the vicious cycle of child abuse can end.

In 2017, we received the Philanthropic Business of the Year Award at the Austin Woman Magazine

Woman's Way Awards. In order to support the growth of our programs, we hired more staff members and created new positions this year. We are once again overwhelmed by support from our community partners. Whether volunteering individually or with a group, these partners provided mentoring, stability and opportunity to Settlement Home residents. Our Annual Garage & Estate Sale had another record-breaking year, providing even more funds to support the programs and services that we offer to the children and young adults in our care. The Legislature passed many new bills aimed at improving foster care for our youth, and we are working to ensure compliance with those new regulations while maintaining the expert level of care that we were providing to residents.

The needs of children in foster care are complex and we strive to provide our staff with the tools and resources they need to build connection and healthy attachments to our residents. Our ultimate vision is to end the cycle of child abuse. This motivates us to provide exceptional, individualized treatment for every person in our care. We will continue to evolve as we face changes in the landscape of child welfare, and we are committed to providing opportunities for the children and young adults in our care to reach their full potential. It truly takes a village and I'm grateful to be part of this one.

Darcie DeShazo  
Executive Director

*"My therapist, staff and adoptive parents have helped so much over the time I've lived here. These people have taught me what it means to be a respectful, caring and successful young woman."*

– Former resident of Scarbrough Cottage and Colony Creek Group Home



Angel B on her graduation day.

## Join the conversation!

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## A Century of Caring

At The Settlement Home, we believe that when we support the well-being of children as a community, they can reach their full potential to create a better future for Austin.

Child well-being is built. It is strengthened over time with materials like a safe, structured, caring environment and the life skills to live a healthy, productive life. This ongoing developmental process can be disrupted when a child experiences the toxic levels of stress that are associated with abuse and neglect. We provide 24-hour care to help children in foster care access the materials and supports needed to restore their well-being, such as timely health and mental health care, good nutrition, education services, social relationships and a safe living environment. Much like many experts are needed to build a sturdy house, our residents benefit from our expertise. This provides them with tools and resources to meet their individual, mental and emotional needs required to weather life's storms.

Each of our programs build a foundation for children so they can take that permanent next step, gain confidence, develop strong relationships with peers and adults and ultimately gain the skills that will allow them to thrive throughout life.

The Settlement Club had its first meeting in 1916, with 12 members present. What began as a day nursery for the children of working parents has evolved to meet the needs of children in foster care.

Today, The Settlement Club is a group of over 450 women volunteers who are committed to supporting The Settlement Home. The Settlement Club Board of Directors is made up of Settlement Club members.

## A Continuum of Care

At The Settlement Home, we provide a continuum of care, support and resources. As residents complete their goals for treatment, they have the opportunity to move to one of the other programs within our community. This tangible next step motivates residents to complete their treatment goals and allows them to move in either direction on the continuum based on their needs. This environment creates stability so that residents do not have to move to another agency if their treatment goals change. With each step along the continuum, the safety and therapeutic needs of residents are considered, allowing them to expand their access to tools and resources.



Garage & Estate Sale Co-Chairs Lissa Whitehurst and Mary Pfluger with Settlement Club President Betty Jo Harris after announcing the gross revenue of the record-breaking 2017 Garage & Estate Sale. Not pictured: Garage & Estate Sale Co-Chair Betsy Giles

## It Takes a Village

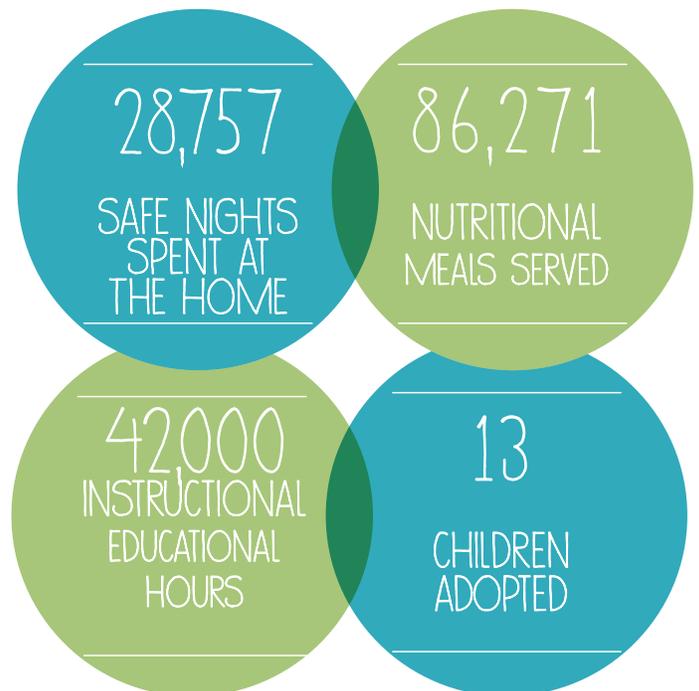
Settlement Club members raised \$1,216,352 in gross revenue from the Annual Garage & Estate Sale. The Garage & Estate Sale is The Settlement Home's largest fundraising event.

190 volunteers actively volunteered, facilitating positive, healthy and safe relationships.

We collaborated with 32 outside groups to provide services and support to residents.

45 adults worked as individual mentors and cottage volunteers to provide a stable adult role model.

49 members of the Community Youth Council were honored as a new generation of volunteers.



## We celebrate 2017!

174 individuals benefited from our residential, transitional living and foster programs.

More than \$76,000 worth of household goods was given to families in need through Giving for Living, a program that takes place during our Annual Garage & Estate Sale.

4 residents graduated from high school, an accomplishment some of them never believed they would have.

5 residents celebrated their Quinceañera.

\$15,563 helped 15 Settlement Home alumni with their post-secondary school expenses during the school year.

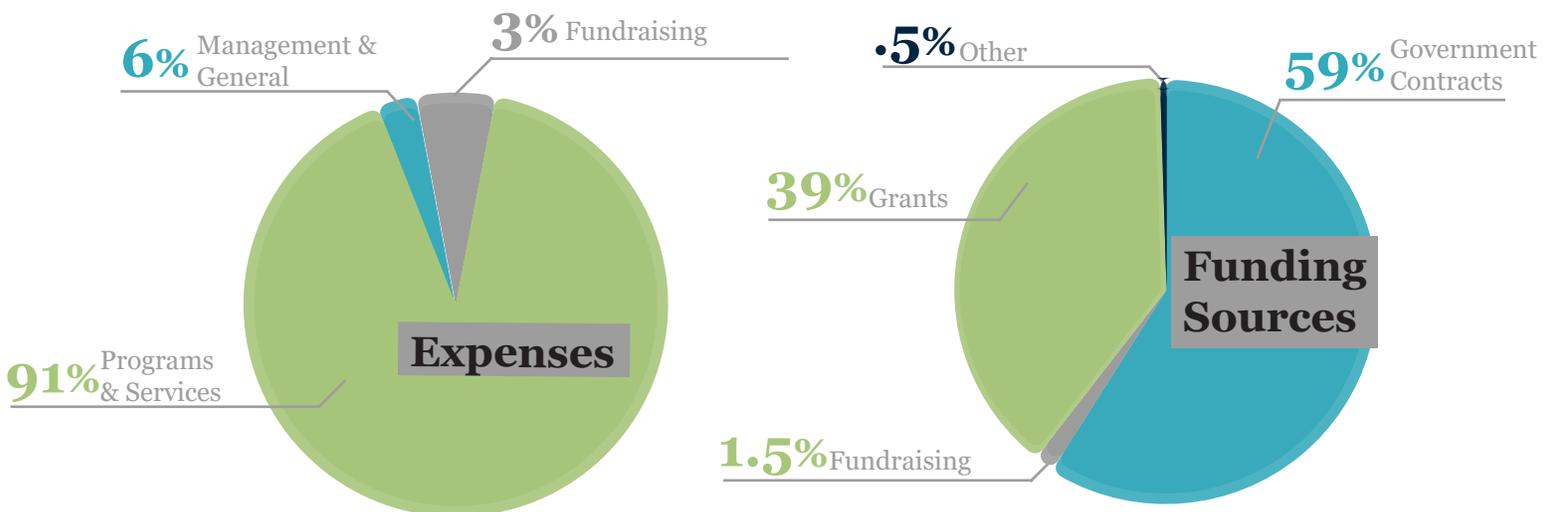
Residents participated in 207 extracurricular activities to provide enrichment and “normalizing” experiences. These activities ranged from health and wellness to animal care to job preparedness to crafting, holiday activities, swimming and many activities in between.

We provided resources and support to 68 former residents and young adults transitioning out of foster care an average of 5 times per resident.

We served 52 residents approximately 8 times each with transitional living preparation services.

91% of the children and young adults in our Foster & Adoption Program made their final move in foster care with us. This “positive permanency” means that the children went to their forever homes, which includes family reunification or adoption.

## Financial Overview



*“With my mentor, I get to experience many activities I wouldn’t normally get to do. I also have learned to communicate better with others.”*

*–Resident of Meadows Cottage*

*Left photo: A resident records the song she wrote during a summer songwriting camp.  
Right photo: A resident lifts weights during a CrossFit class.*

