

Imagine the Possibilities



Annual Report 2014-2015



David L. Heaton
Executive
Director

As a child and young adult, I often imagined wonderful things for my friends and myself. I imagined a life with a successful career and marriage, military experience in the Marines and travel to exotic destinations to surf big waves and ski in untracked powder snow. I imagined great friendships, catching big fish and discovering new things. Many of these goals have come true, in part because I believed that I was the only obstacle to realization of the life I imagined. But for many in our community, imagination has been lost to a lack of promise and a dimming of hope due to life circumstances.

Our work at the Children's Services Council began in the imagination of one man who unfortunately recently passed away, Hugh S. Glickstein. A retired judge who lived in Martin County and served the appellate court in Palm Beach County, he is best remembered for his work to help create a county-based, dedicated source of funding to serve the needs of children. Our community will be ever grateful to Judge Glickstein for his passion and for his work on behalf of the children throughout the state. He serves as a reminder that it is often the imagination and commitment of one person that makes a difference in the lives of children. Adults who care enough to give moments of their time on behalf of the children in their lives are essential to the success of our community, our collective society and, ultimately, our success as human beings.

The Children's Services Council of Martin County has been a vehicle for change and opportunity for our community's children for over 25 years. The collective efforts of these adults and the resources offered by each homeowner in Martin County makes a difference every day for thousands of children. I believe that a compassionate community that is collectively focused on the success of our children is a better, more satisfying place to live. Is our community perfect and have we solved all the potential problems facing our children and young families? No, but we know what we need to work on. We know what investments will make a difference, and we know that we will have the resources to address challenges as they arise. When voters agreed to reauthorize the Council in 2014, we, as a community, decided to continue investing wisely and strategically in prevention and early intervention on behalf of our children. Healthy children who are prepared to enter school and have the skills necessary to be successful in school and in life will be able to imagine their own success. Their contributions, in turn, contribute to the ongoing success of our community for generations to come.

This work is continuous; we live in a world that is changing rapidly. Diligence and research are required to stay ahead of the curve, and independence and flexibility are essential ingredients to problem solving and collective impact on behalf of our children. This is hard work, but I encourage everyone to take the time to imagine the possibilities for ourselves ... and more importantly for every child.



All photography and artwork by Steven Martine

Our Mission

The Children's Services Council of Martin County's mission is to enhance the lives of the children of Martin County and to enable them to attain their full potential.

The Current Members of the Children's Services Council are:

Laurel Hopper, Council Chair

*Designee of the Florida Department of
Children and Families*

Elmira R. Gainey, Council Vice-Chair

Governor's Appointee

William Tulko, Council Treasurer

Governor's Appointee

Jody Bond

Governor's Appointee

David Dees

Governor's Appointee

Laurie Gaylord

Martin County Superintendent of Schools

Sarah Heard

*Martin County Board of County
Commissioners*

Deena Messinger

Governor's Appointee

Hon. Lawrence M. Mirman

Circuit Court Judge in the 19th Judicial Circuit

Christia Li Roberts

Martin County School Board Member

Audited Financial Statement September 30, 2014

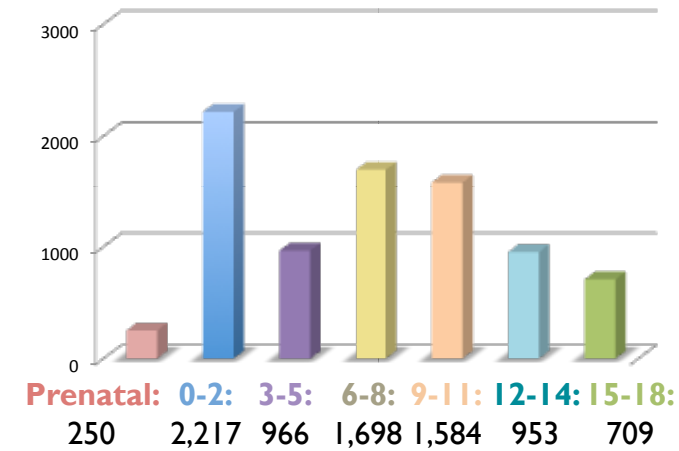
For entire document, log on to www.cscmc.org/annual-budgets/

	Fiscal Year 2012-2013	Fiscal Year 2013-2014
Revenues:		
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$6,071,189	\$6,168,566
Grants & Rental Income	\$77,214	\$70,411
Interest Income	\$31,135	\$3,375
Total Revenues:	\$6,179,538	\$6,242,352
Expenditures:		
Program Services	\$5,105,494	\$4,766,528
General Government	\$965,177	\$963,915
Capital Outlay	\$4,346	\$12,183
Total Expenditures:	\$6,075,017	\$5,742,626

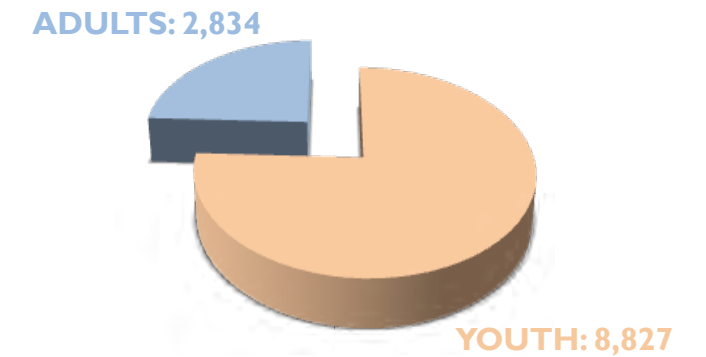


2013-2014 Program Recipients

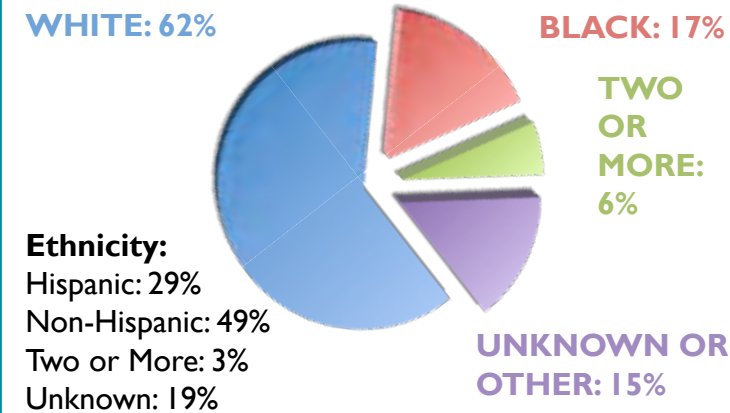
CHILDREN SERVED BY AGE



TOTAL NUMBER SERVED: 11,661

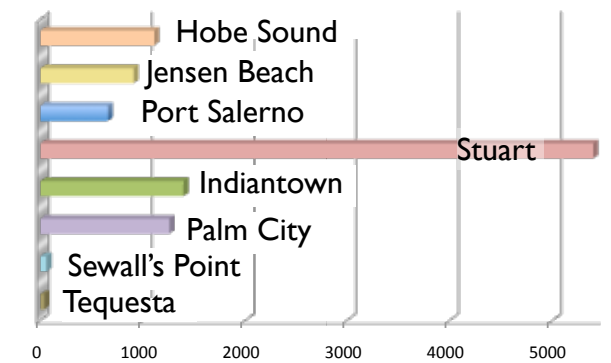


BY RACE



Ethnicity:
Hispanic: 29%
Non-Hispanic: 49%
Two or More: 3%
Unknown: 19%

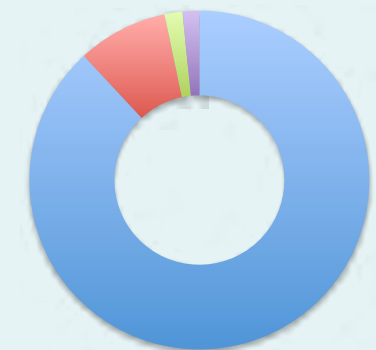
BY NEIGHBORHOOD



Spending breakdown

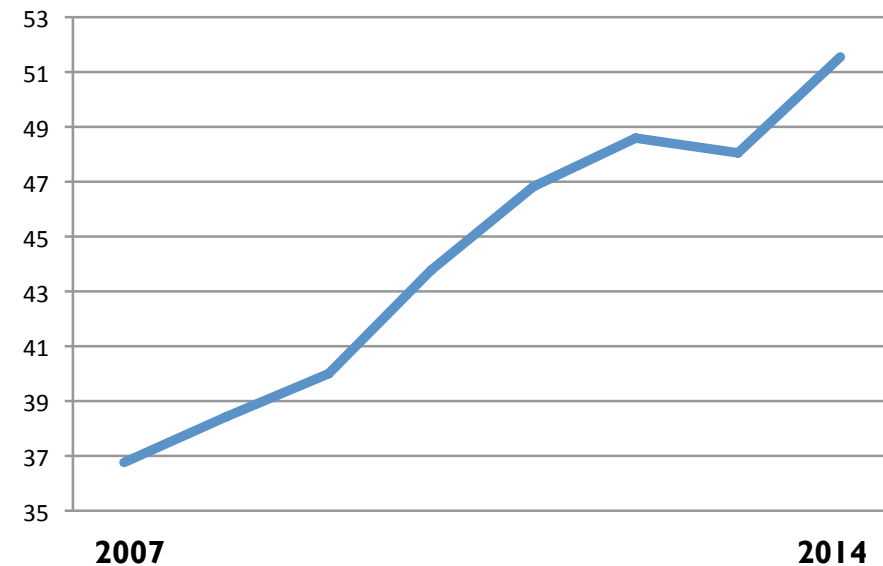
Of the total budgeted funds collected from taxpayers from October 2013 to September 2014, the Children's Services Council of Martin County spent:

- 88.1%** on Program Services
- 8.6%** on Operating Costs (administration, communications)
- 1.7%** on Collection Fees (from Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, etc.)
- 1.6%** on Reserves



A Look at the Changing Needs of Martin County

Percentage of Students in the Martin County School District Eligible for Free or Reduced Cost Lunch



Due to rising poverty levels in Martin County, the number of Title I schools has increased from four in 2009 to nine in 2014.

These schools are:

- Anderson Middle School
- Challenger
- Hobe Sound Elementary
- Indiantown Middle School
- J.D. Parker Elementary
- Pinewood Elementary
- Port Salerno Elementary
- SeaWind Elementary
- Warfield Elementary

source: Martin County School District

Why does this matter?

Studies show reading on grade level by the third grade correlates to graduating on time. That's because up to third grade, students learn to read; after third grade, they read to learn. More complex topics are more difficult to grasp without solid reading skills. As a result, a struggling reader falls behind, loses self-confidence and is less likely to graduate.

Percentage of Martin County Third Graders Reading on Grade Level in 2014



Childhood Obesity Epidemic Growing in Martin County

Percentage of third graders who are overweight/obese in 2013-2014:

- 50.9%** Warfield Elementary
- 42.6%** J.D. Parker Elementary
- 39.5%** Port Salerno Elementary

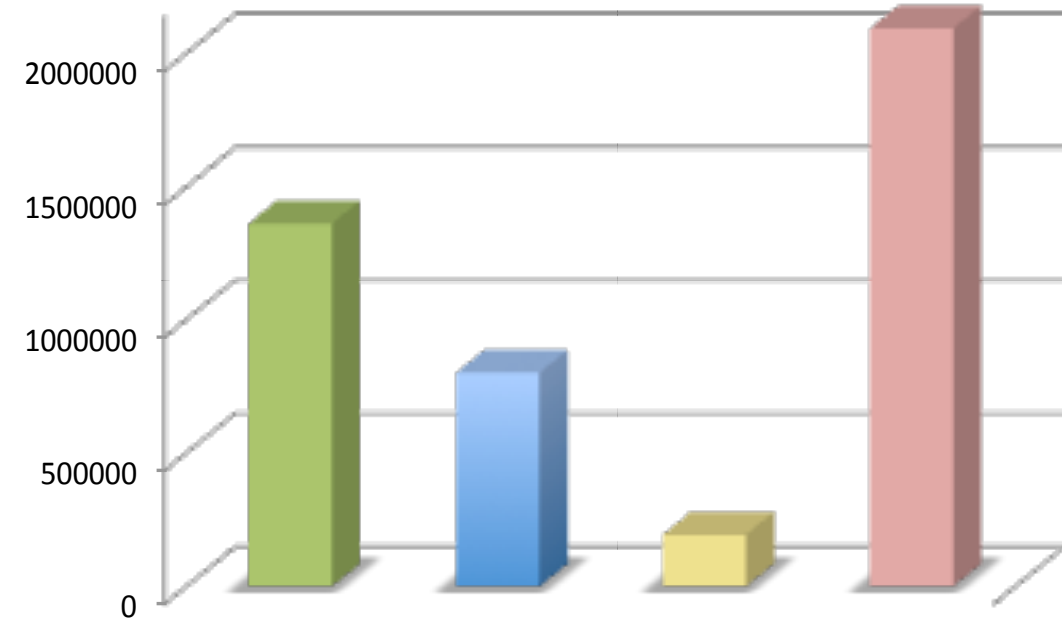
Percentage of sixth graders who are overweight/obese in 2013-2014:

- 64.6%** Indiantown Middle
- 35.7%** Murray Middle
- 33.2%** Anderson Middle



Funding by Priority Area

October 1, 2013 - September 30, 2014



Healthy Children
\$1,363,293
Maternal & Child Health, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention and Physical Health

Safe Communities
\$194,339
Delinquency Prevention and Injury Prevention

Strong Families
\$801,293
Information and Navigation, Family Strengthening (including child abuse and neglect prevention)

Success in School and Life
\$2,093,069
Early Learning & Development, Youth Development/Academic Support

Agencies Funded by the Children's Services Council in 2013-2014

211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast
The ARC of Martin County
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Palm Beach and Martin Counties
Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County
CASTLE
City of Stuart Community Services Dept.
Dunbar Center
Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee Counties
Easter Seals Florida

Florida Dept. of Health - Martin County
HPS, Helping People Succeed
Martin County Parks & Recreation Dept.
Martin County Healthy Start Coalition
Martin Health System
Project LIFT
Shared Services Network of Martin County
Tykes & Teens
The Whole Child Connection
YMCA of the Treasure Coast



Focus: New Funding Priorities

In 2013, the Council approved a new 5-year Strategic Plan that set the foundation for new funding priorities: Healthy Children, Strong Families, Safe Communities and Success in School and Life. Each of the 35 programs funded by the Children's Services Council fits into one of these funding priorities. To read the data-rich planning document and methodology used to create the plan, log on to www.cscmc.org/strategic-plan/



Healthy Children

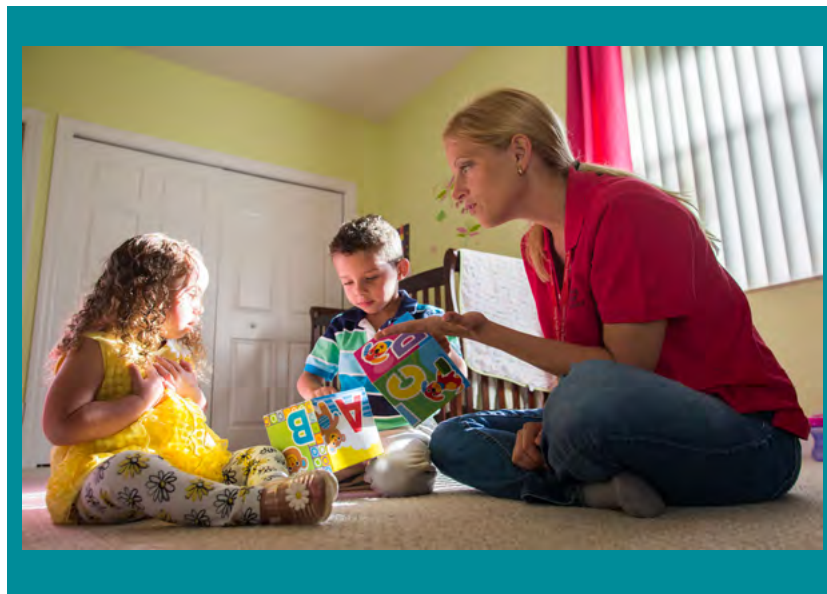
A Closer Look: Department of Health-Martin County's School Health Program

Along with the Florida Department of Health and the Martin County School District, the Children's Services Council helps fund the school health program. These nurses, along with health assistants, provide hearing, vision, scoliosis and Body Mass Index screenings for every student, along with caring for sick children. They are responsible for dispensing medicines responsibly, as well as helping to manage chronic issues such as allergies or diabetes. The data collected by school nurses is used to create a snapshot of child health in our community.

Strong Families

A Closer Look: Helping People Succeed's Developmental Intervention Program

This program promotes positive parent-child interaction and healthy development for children who are under 5 years old and developmentally at risk or delayed. Specialists from HPS visit the family in their home environment and guide parents in play activities that focus on the child's individual needs. As a result, parents feel supported and learn skills to benefit their children throughout the week. The Developmental Intervention Program is also run at the shelter of the Hibiscus Children's Center to provide developmental assessment to those children removed from home due to abuse or neglect.



Safe Communities

A Closer Look: Project LIFT

Project LIFT provides second chances to teenage boys who already were on a troubled path. Currently, 29 teens attend the program for about 10 hours a week. During that time, they learn occupational skills and interact with positive adult role models, while also receiving group mental health therapy. As a result, their frequent drug tests come back negative, and participants are able to get their lives back on track. One participant, Bruce, was getting into trouble in Indiantown when he was recommended to the program. Now, he works with a boat builder in south Stuart for 25 to 30 hours a week, has been sober for a year and just received his driver's license. He's studying for his G.E.D. and is looking forward to a career. "This really opened my eyes a little more," he said. "I just like being a helping hand and staying occupied."



Success in School and Life

A Closer Look: YMCA of the Treasure Coast's YREADS! Program

Offered to students in kindergarten through third grade, the YREADS! program targets struggling readers who are referred by their teachers. By connecting these Martin County students with volunteer tutors in a low 1:2 ratio, these youth improve reading skills and standardized test scores during this after-school initiative. Many of the participants are from low-income homes as well. Thanks to the funding provided by the Council, these children can also participate in the YMCA's traditional after-school activities as well. Arts and crafts, physical fitness and dramatic play in a safe environment are part of the YReads program, offering positive out-of-school time to encourage children to stay on a path to success in school and beyond.



Focus: New Targeted Funding

Maternal Health: Through data analysis related to the strategic planning process, Council staff recognized that the percentage of mothers receiving prenatal care during their first trimester in Martin County was decreasing. As a result, Council and agency staff identified a need for increased outreach and education with an emphasis on cultural sensitivity. The Council and partner agencies are currently considering that unmet need and the funding necessary to increase outreach services. Both infant mortality and the number of infants born with a low birthweight increased from 2009 to 2013. A contributing factor is the health (including the diet and pre-conception weight,) of the mother during pregnancy. The Council helped to fund the Martin County Health Start Coalition for a dietitian. The dietitian is identifying pregnant women who are overweight or obese and work with them to cultivate healthy behaviors. During BRAIN (Building Readiness Among Infants Now) visits, a voluntary home visitation program run collaboratively by Helping People Succeed and Martin Health System, breastfeeding also became an important focus. The rate of women who initiate breastfeeding dropped from 83.4 to 80.3 percent in 2013. Both the Council staff and agencies are working together to find solutions so that our youngest residents have a healthy foundation at the start of their lives.

Oral Health: Finding a need to increase access to oral health care for children, the Council is initiating a plan with the Department of Health - Martin County to continue and expand a one-year pilot program offered in Martin County's Title I elementary schools. Now, the program will serve 2,100 children who will be offered (with parent permission) a dental exam, sealants, fluoride varnish and oral hygiene education – all efforts proven to reduce cavities and increase oral health. The sealants are placed on molars and can last up to 10 years to protect the tooth. Oral hygiene kits are also provided.



Reducing Child Obesity: Addressing childhood obesity takes a multi-tiered approach, starting with the health of the mother. The percentage of mothers who are overweight or obese at their first prenatal appointment is increasing, especially for Hispanic and black mothers. In 2012, nearly 50 percent of all mothers were considered overweight or obese – and there is a direct correlation to that health concern and birth outcomes. In turn, the Council has funded a dietitian through the Martin County Healthy Start Coalition to help mothers stay healthy during their pregnancies and beyond. It's also important to get kids moving and teach them healthy eating habits as they grow. After-school and summer camp programs help track success, while also working to overcome cultural barriers. Plus, school nurses track BMI, or Body Mass Index, in students and send letters home to parents to alert them of any concerns.

Swimming Lessons: Created in 2012, the SPLASH program (SPLASH stands for "Swimming Provides Learners with Aquatics Safety & Health") provides entry-level water safety lessons for children whose families otherwise couldn't afford it. Since its inception, this program has provided lessons for 928 children plus safety instruction for parents, too. The goal, besides physical fitness and having fun, is to reduce the child death rate in Martin County by limiting risk of accidents. Lessons take place at Martin County's Sailfish Splash Waterpark and the YMCA pools in Stuart and Indiantown.

Reading: In 2013, only 58 percent of Martin County third graders were reading on grade level, according to the FCAT 2.0 tests. That's more than one in three who aren't. Studies show a correlation between reading on grade level by the third grade and graduating on time. That's because children learn to read up to the third grade ... and then they read to learn. Without strong reading skills, more complex concepts are more difficult to understand. Students who struggle with reading struggle in other classes. This can decrease self-esteem, increase risky behaviors and create problems that can last a lifetime.

In 2015, agencies and funders joined forces to get our community reading with the Rock & Roll Reading Challenge. In collaboration with the Martin County Library Foundation and the Martin County School District, every elementary school student will receive a bookmark with incentives, including free rock wall fun or rollerskating at the YMCA Sportsworld for reading for at least 30 days during the summer. Plus, the Council worked with the Junior League of Martin County to create Little Libraries of brightly colored crates of free books for distribution to families through the community. To learn more, log on to www.csmc.org/rock-and-roll/



Legislative Efforts on Behalf of Children

In collaboration with the seven other independent Children's Services Councils in Florida and the Florida Children's Council, Martin County staff work to educate our legislative delegation on the needs of local children and families. During each legislative session, the Council staff (including, from left, Sarah Gosney, Director of Policy and Operations; Laurel Hopper, Council Chair and David Heaton, Executive Director) meet with legislators (including state Rep. Gayle Harrell, third from left) in Tallahassee and on the Treasure Coast. State policies that are discussed include:

- **Adequately funding and improving early childhood/after school programs:** The Children's Services Councils believe in the importance of school readiness. To achieve this, the Council supports early learning programs and standards in statutes that ensure benchmarks for high quality programs and accountability of public funds.
- **Access to Health Care:** Council staff educates state officials on the importance of providing and preserving health insurance coverage for all federally eligible children, as well as ensuring access to maternal child health services.
- **Children with Special Needs:** The Council supports efforts to promote increased funding for the Early Steps intervention system and the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System. Universal developmental screenings, assessments and access to appropriate interventions are important.
- **Support for Children and Families:** For the benefit of Florida children, the Council believes in the importance of increased funding for evidence-based programs to prevent child abuse and neglect, as well as adequately funding Community Based Care programs.

To learn more about the issues addressed by the Florida Children's Council, log on to flchildrenscouncil.org.

Want to learn more about the programs funded through the Children's Services Council of Martin County? Click on the QR code on the right or log on to www.csmc.org/funded-programs/ for program descriptions, contact information and grant allocations. The Children's Services Council of Martin County prides itself on transparency and responsible use of tax dollars. If you have any questions, please call us at (772) 288-5758.

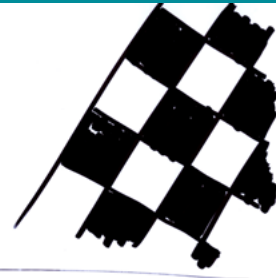


Thank You!

The staff and Council would like to express our appreciation to the Martin County community for not only voting to reauthorize the Children's Services Council of Martin County with nearly 77 percent of the vote but also for coming together to spread the word of the importance of this dedicated funding source. Our outreach efforts were unprecedented, and we are proud to continue our work on behalf of our neighbors and friends.



MARTIN COUNTY MARATHON



CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL

MARTIN COUNTY

"INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE"



*Supporting children
as they imagine the
possibilities since 1988*

101 S.E. Central Parkway
Stuart, FL 34994

(772) 288-5758

www.cscmc.org • www.facebook.com/cscmc

Council meetings are held at 10 a.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. We welcome public participation!