

Crittenton Services

Annual Report



2022

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Crittenton instills hope and support through a range of services that empowers individuals, families, and diverse communities to heal, grow, and thrive.



Crittenton Services 2021-2022 Annual Report

Published annually in the interest of the agency by Crittenton Services, Wheeling, WV 26003. Send corrections to: Crittenton Services, Attn: Marketing & Development, 2606 National Rd., Wheeling, WV 26003. Phone: 304-242-7060; Email: info@crittentonwv.org; web site: www.crittentonwv.org
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Annual Report Staff

Editor: Jasmin Ilovar, Director of Marketing & Development (2022 -)
Graphic Design: Aleece Abell, Marketing & Development Coord.
Contributing Authors: Richard Royse, CEO; Kari Blizzard, Director of Wellspring; Melissa Keylor, Director of Educational Services; Carmen Hill, TIES Community Liaison; Lacy Russell, Volunteer
Proofreading: Cate Johnston, HR Assistant
Photography: Debra Warmuth; TSG, Inc.

Crittenton Services is an equal opportunity employer, with 122 employees working in 24 West Virginia counties. Crittenton Services is a non-profit organization as determined by IRS Code 501(c)(3).

Crittenton Services is registered with the WV Secretary of State. West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25304. Registration does not imply endorsement. Crittenton Services is funded in part under agreements with the WV Department of Health and Human Resources.

During this past year we set new records. We have the largest waiting list in the company's history. The acuity of need of those waiting to be served is higher and continues to grow at an alarming rate. Likewise in the closing month of 2021, the State announced changes they are making to fulfill their obligations under their settlement agreement with the Department of Justice. Clearly, we have challenges ahead.

Fortunately, we have taken the time to broaden our abilities. In Wellspring Family Services, we have enhanced our ability to provide community services to help families to keep their child at home. Likewise, we have been successful in finding ways to do more with less without impacting quality.

In addition, now that the State has announced its plans related to their need for residential services, our Board has launched an effort to chart our course for the future.

Our thanks to one and all because without your support and assistance we would not have been able to have helped so many during such a challenging time. We look forward to continuing to work with you as we move forward and continue our commitment to our Mission, the people/families we serve, and our community.

A Message From Our **CEO**



Richard Royse
President & Chief Executive Officer

In Memoriam

Steve Mazure was a tremendous advocate and supporter of Crittenton Services. He served on the Board of Directors for numerous consecutive terms and held the office of board president during his tenure. Steve was generous with his time and always willing to help whenever he was called. He shared our mission with those he would meet and would encourage them to help.

Besides being a devoted board member, Steve was also a friend to our staff. There was never a time when he was on campus that he didn't take a moment to stop and say "hello" to everyone and talk about his family or WVU. He spent time with everyone, especially our clients, when he had the opportunity to meet them.

In Steve Mazure's memory, a tree was planted on Crittenton's Wheeling campus. He will be deeply missed.

Steven Mazure

1941 - 2021





Women's Giving Circle Donates Baby Simulators to Help Future Young Mothers

The Women's Giving Circle continued its empowerment of women through charitable giving with a grant of \$2,000 towards three baby simulators as part of Crittenton's Nurturing Parenting program. The purchase of the RealCare Shaken Baby, the Drug-Affected Baby, and the Infant Simulator has helped Crittenton's pregnant and parenting clients realize the effects of a baby born with a drug addiction, the effects on the brain that can happen when a child is shaken violently, and how to care for a newborn child.

Crittenton's residential program provides year-round direct care to pregnant and parenting adolescent girls utilizing the Nurturing Parenting model. The Nurturing Parenting model is a family-centered trauma initiative designed to build nurturing parenting skills as an alternative to abusive and neglectful parenting and child-rearing practices. Incorporating the baby simulators in parenting lessons increases the pregnant and parenting mother's confidence as caregivers, helps them to gain knowledge and skills necessary to foster a healthy relationship with their child, and reduces the risk of child abuse and neglect.

"In my opinion, the grant has had a positive impact on the pregnant and parenting clients and has given them the opportunity to experience taking care of a newborn baby, and how difficult it may be to take care of two children. It has also given them a visual and hands-on experience that they may not have had if we did not have the baby simulators," said parenting educator, Michelle Crupe.

The baby simulators are already making a tremendous impact on Crittenton's residential mothers. One of the clients that used the newborn real care baby had two children of which she did not have custody. When she took care of the Real Care baby, it gave her the confidence that she would be able to care for a child daily. The client was able to be discharged and we believe she has visitation with her children and is doing well.

We are sure that the baby simulators provided by the Women's Giving Circle will continue to enrich the Nurturing Parenting Program at Crittenton Services and build healthy parenting skills for our young pregnant and parenting mothers.

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Helps Crittenton Treat Children With Trauma



With a generous grant provided by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Crittenton's clients are now able to enjoy group and individual therapy outside as well as utilize improved equipment in the SMART Room. The \$7,404 grant went towards the purchase of residential outdoor seating and tables, SMART training for three therapists, and a variety of sensory motor tools.

Sensory Motor Arousal Regulation Treatment (SMART) is designed to treat the consequences of adverse childhood experiences/developmental trauma by processing traumatic experiences through the use of movement. Thanks to the continued support of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Crittenton therapists can utilize green space for therapy and engage our residential clients and the local community in the SMART model.

Residential Services

Specialized behavioral health services for
adolescent girls ages 12-21

7

Babies*



25

Adolescents*



100%

Mothers Maintained
Custody of Their Child

Crittenton has helped me in a lot of ways with a lot of different things. I'm healthier mentally and physically... I can communicate emotionally and my relationships with my family are strengthening. All of the accomplishments I've made have been with the support of the staff here and my family. I wanted to change my ways for a while and Crittenton gave me the chance to do so."

- Residential Client, 2021

*Numbers depict clients served for 2021-2022 only

Many Hands Make Easy Work: Charities and Businesses Rally Together for Home Renovation

The high demand for treatment for children with behavioral and substance abuse problems has led West Virginia to send youth who are in state's custody to residential programs in other states. Children are being sent to out-of-state treatment facilities because of a lack of available beds, staffing shortages, and the low rate of reimbursement to providers. Now, thanks to the support of local foundations and volunteers, Crittenton Services can serve some of these young girls with greater needs and keep them in-state with the remodeling of the Wade House on the Wheeling campus.

"The Wade House renovation, with the great assistance of the Schenk Foundation, has been completely transformed. We had several volunteer organizations help us, including the Knights of Columbus, The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, and others, to make this house more suitable for serving our clientele," said Director of Operations Kurt Benedict.

The Wade House underwent approximately \$400,000 of extensive renovations such as hanging drywall, remodeling bathrooms, and refinishing floors. Much of the labor was donated by the Knights of Columbus and the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Lowe's and Republic Services assisted Crittenton with materials and dumpsters, and when it came time to move the furniture, the Wheeling Central Catholic football team lended a helping hand. Now it is a safe and supportive environment for children with a higher level of care. The Wade House will support up to four clients and allow each child to have their own room. Additionally, for the first time in Crittenton's history, there is bedroom that is ADA compliant.

Moving a child out of state only adds to their trauma. As a result of the Wade House renovation, Crittenton Services has taken a step towards assisting the state in serving young girls and pregnant/parenting mothers in need of behavioral health care closer to their home communities.

Thank You to Our Sponsors:



New Beginnings: Crittenton Services to Play Pivotal Role at Hazel House of Hope in Morgantown, WV



Wellspring Family Services, Crittenton Services' community-based mental health program, is excited to join the efforts of the Hazel Ruby McQuain Charitable Trust by having an office within Hazel's House of Hope. Hazel's House of Hope is a social service hub located in the building which used to be the Morgantown Ramada Inn. Wellspring will be joining the likes of the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, Hope Hill Sobering Center, and Lauren's Wish in providing comprehensive and compassionate care the residents of Morgantown, WV.

Operating beside other social service organizations will enable Wellspring to provide wrap-around, behavioral health services, and improve the outcomes of our clients by tackling the systemic and often interconnected factors that impact mental health, such as poverty and

drug addiction. Partnering with Hazel's House of Hope will allow Wellspring Family Services to expand our line of community services (such as providing group and play therapy), continue serving Monongalia county schools through our Expansion of School Mental Health grant, and hire more therapists to serve more families currently on our extensive waitlist—which recently became the largest waitlist in the history of the agency.

Partnering with Mills Group and the March-Westin Company Inc., Wellspring's office space within Hazel's House of Hope will undergo extensive renovation. With the additional offices, a community and professional development services training room, and a group therapy room, Wellspring therapists

will be able to improve the ways we serve our clients.

The new Wellspring Family Services Morgantown office should be opened to clients as early as May 2023. Until construction is complete, the Morgantown office is continuing to see clients in-home, in-school, and remotely through our secure telehealth portal. If you are in need of mental health counseling, you can seek counseling through Wellspring Family Services at: www.crittentonwv.com/wellspring.

As the Director of Wellspring, it is so rewarding to see what goes into our work with the families and youth, but what always stands out is the work we can do in the homes. WFS clients tell us over and over the challenges we eliminate for them by offering our services in the homes. They say physically, mentally, and financially it makes their life easier. That would not be possible if it were not for the amazing staff we have at Wellspring.

While our work in the home is truly unique and unmatched, the services we provide in the schools and on our tele health platform allow us to individualize treatment and work around our clients schedule so that we are meeting them at the most convenient times and places to fit their lives.

It is an honor leading the Wellspring Family Services program, working alongside the dedicated staff, and sharing moments of life with our clients and communities.



Kari Blizzard | Director of Wellspring Family Services

Wellspring Family Services

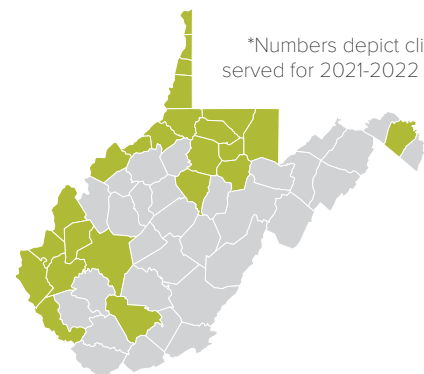
Outpatient Counseling

735
PEOPLE
SERVED*



429
Children*
306
Adults*

764
HOURS IN
CLASSROOM*



*Numbers depict clients served for 2021-2022 only

24 Counties
Served*

Highmark West Virginia and Crittenton Services Present Nurturing Parenting to Families of the Digital Age

From April 5, till December 6, 2022, Crittenton Services partnered with Highmark West Virginia Charitable Fund through a \$50,000 grant to present a lunch and learn webinar series focusing on the Nurtured Parenting approach for parents and caregivers across West Virginia. Every first Tuesday of the month, at noon, Wellspring Family Services' community outreach supervisor, Sarah Canterbury Young, led an online presentation and group discussion covering various aspects of Nurturing Parenting. The webinars were free and open to the public.

Nurturing Parenting is an evidenced-based, family-centered trauma-informed initiative designed to build nurturing parenting skills. The program is designed to meet the family's needs based on their parenting strengths and weaknesses. There are approximately thirty Nurturing Parenting Programs available. Nurturing Parenting Programs are designed for each of the three levels of prevention. Nurturing Parenting is not defined as a "parenting

style." Instead, it is described as a philosophy or a way of life. The program offers an opportunity for both parent and children to adopt a philosophy that supports living together in a supportive and caring home that promotes cooperation, respect, and self-worth.

In Young's opinion, the online group discussion format was a great way to present the Nurturing Parenting model. She believes that the knowledge and skills that were presented allowed and encouraged discussion between the participants and enabled them to view parenting as a whole from another's perspective.

"The personal stories and scenarios shared during the sessions not only encouraged those that were participating to look at behaviors and/or situations from another's

point of view but encouraged the participants to take a deeper look into what the behavior and situation could have been communicating," said Young.

The lunch and learn was a great success with over 87 registered participants and a dozen group members per session. Various community members found the webinars beneficial and have requested additional trainings and materials so that they would be able to provide the information to the parents of children that attend their programs.



"I can receive services in my home instead of having to go somewhere. That was especially important in the beginning when some days I couldn't even be bothered to get dressed to go somewhere."

– Wellspring Client, 2022



2021 - 2022 Financial Report

Revenue*

Fees for Services, Government Agencies	\$5,015,034	67.51%
Fees for Services, Public	\$147,602	1.99%
Government Grants	\$2,147,920	28.91%
Contracts with Others	\$195,000	2.62%
Donations/Fundraising	\$206,022	2.77%
Interest/Investments	\$63,175	0.85%
Gain/Loss Investments	(\$349,569)	-4.70%
Gain/Loss Fixed Assets	-	0%
Other	\$3,693	0.05%
Total	\$7,428,877	100%

Expenses*

Residential Level 2 Program	\$2,838,164	40.08%
Wellspring Family Services Program	\$1,849,848	26.13%
Residential Level 1 Program	\$160,706	2.27%
Daycare Program	\$259,953	3.67%
TIES Program	\$200,888	2.84%
System of Care Grant	\$52,952	0.75%
Management and General	\$1,634,494	23.08%
Fundraising	\$83,484	1.18%
Total	\$7,080,489	100%

*Based on June 30, 2022 year-end audited financial statements

2021-2022 Donors

BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

Bank Of America
Belmont Savings Bank
Bordas & Bordas, PLLC
Doctor's Urgent Care
Casa di Vino
Catholic Neighborhood Center
Cedar Point
Century Hospitality
Christ United Methodist Church
City of Wheeling
CMS Bankcard Services
Coleman's Fish Market
Commonwealth Financial Services
Costanzo & Associates
County Line Tree Service
Dicarlo's Pizza
Diocese Of Wheeling Charleston
Eagles Auxiliary 1891
East Wheeling Clayworks
Facebook Payout
First Christian Church
First Presbyterian Church
Fraternal Order of Eagles
Frederick's Day Spa and Salon
Fun Fore All
Glessner & Associates, PLLC
Gompers Pharmacy
Grand Vue Park
Harrison County HOPE Lions Club
The Health Plan of the Upper Ohio Valley
Highmark Blue Cross & Blue Shield
Hillcrest Bible Church
Howard Long Wellness Center
Kalkreuth Roofing & Sheet Metal
Kingery & Company, LLC
Knights of Columbus Council 504
Kroger
Ladies League of Marshall County
Lamar Outdoor Advertising
Libera Inc.
Liberty Distributors, Inc.
Lowes

Mac-Sto Restaurants, LLC
Main Street Bank
Mountain Rail Adventures
Mountaineer Casino, Racetrack & Resort
Network for Good
Oglebay Institute
Oglebay Resort & Conference Center
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP
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Panhandle Cleaning & Restoration
PayPal Giving Fund
Pittsburgh Steelers Community Relations
Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium
Play It Again Sports
Phillips Gardill Kaiser & Altmeyer, PLLC
Preferred Legacy Trust
Pro Football Hall of Fame
Republic Services
Riesbeck's Food Market
River City Restaurant
Ryan Ferns Healthplex Inc
Sarris Candy
Shaeffer & Madama
Snowshoe Mountain Resort
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
St. Clairsville Chamber of Commerce
St. Clairsville Senior Center/Blanket Brigade
St. Michael's Church
ThrIve
Tidewater Grill
Valley Hospice
Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church
Vineyard Church
Vino di Piccin Winery & Tasting House
Walmart
Warwood United Methodist
Washington Country Club
Wesbanco Bank, Inc.
West Liberty University
West Virginia Northern Community College
Wheeling Country Club
Wheeling Country Day School
Wheeling Fire Department
Wheeling Island Racetrack & Gaming Center

Wheeling Nailers
Wheeling Nippon Steel
Wheeling Police Department
Wheeling Symphony
Whitehorse Brewing
Wright Orthodontics
Youth Services Systems, Inc.
Ziegenfelder Company, Inc.

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Cafaro Foundation
Casey & Chapman, PLLC
Christian Fellowship Foundation
Community Foundation For The Ohio Valley
Fidelity Charitable
Hazel Ruby McQuain Charitable Trust
Highmark West Virginia Charitable Fund for Health
Levenson Family Charitable Fdt., Robert L. & Helen E.
Raymond James Charitable Endowment Fund
Serra Foundation
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth
Sisters of St. Joseph Health and Wellness Found.
United Way of the Upper Ohio Valley
Women's Giving Circle

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Ms. Valerie Andrews
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 Mr. and Mrs. Gary Knowlinger
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Ms. Jenny Sue Seibert
 Wheeling Board of Realtors
 Wheeling Landscape Commission
 Cedar Place Homeowners

IN HONOR OF
The Dirk Family
 Troy Group Inc.

Want to help? Donate Today!

Thanks to the support of community members like you, Crittenton Services has been able to provide mental and behavioral health services to young girls, children, and families across West Virginia for over 127 years! Your contributions help to create trauma-informed classrooms for young children in preschool and before and aftercare, provide counseling to families, and support young girls and pregnant/parenting mothers heal from their traumatic experiences. Whether you've been supporting Crittenton for years or have only just heard of the work we do, we encourage you to make a gift to Crittenton Services' Annual Fund so that we can continue to provide the mental and behavioral health services that allow our neighbors to heal, grow, and thrive!

Your donations to Crittenton Services' Annual Fund will ensure that our programs, facilities, and employees are supported while we provide life-changing services to over 1,000 West Virginians a year. Or, if you wish to amplify your donation towards a particular program that pulls at your heart or has impacted your life, you can designate your annual fund gift towards one of our amazing programs: Willow Tree Learning Academy, TIES (Trauma Informed Elementary Schools), Wellspring Family Services, or Residential Services.

Want to make more of an impact? Donate monthly!

For the price of your weekly coffee (or daily...no judgement here), your monthly support will help sustain Crittenton Services' programs throughout the year. All you need to do check "Make this a monthly donation" on our donation page.

Offline Giving

Not tech savvy or prefer to pay with cash or check? You can also donate by phone at 304-242-7060 or by mail to:

Crittenton Services
Attn: Development
2606 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003

We ask that you please make checks payable to "Crittenton Services" and write "Annual Fund" in the memo line.

**Give today and help support
 the mental health of
 West Virginians!**

www.crittentonwv.org/donate

Scan to donate!





Willow Tree Learning Academy

A Crittenton Community Program

Crittenton Program Sheds Its Old Leaves for a New Rebrand: The Willow Tree Learning Academy

By Melissa Keylor M.S.W.
Director of Educational Services

2021- 2022 was a year of changes for Crittenton's educational programs. Historically, our before and after care programs, along with our universal pre-k programs, was known as Cradles to Crayons. As we began to re-evaluate our services, we recognized that each of the different educational programs we operated had a common theme: to enhance the holistic success of a child. Thus, we combined our before and after care, universal pre-k's and our TIES (trauma-informed elementary schools) under one umbrella that became known as Willow Tree Learning Academy.

Although each of the individual programs have their own particular goals, by incorporating the services, we are better able to help the children bolster their social-emotional learning and aim to prepare them for life by helping them build self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, relationship skills and responsible decision making skills. There are also many opportunities within our community to provide additional learning experiences for the children that we serve. Which is why, as we progress through the 2022-2023 academic year and beyond, we are working towards greater community collaboration that will enrich the programming we provide.

Our TIES program continues to be a collaborative effort with Ohio and Hancock County Schools. Unfortunately, the research study being conducted by WVU was adversely impacted by

COVID-19, resulting in a lack of required data. Without the necessary data to move forward, funding for TIES, a program that can be so impactful on the futures of our children, remains uncertain.

On a positive note, we were happy to have the WVU researchers interview the school teachers and TIES liaisons to get firsthand knowledge of the impact that the program is having. The researchers found that TIES is succeeding in many ways, such as facilitating positive classroom environments as a whole, providing optimized solutions for the students with special needs in class, teaching the students and the teachers how to handle and interact with the students with emotional/behavioral issues and special needs. While the researchers noted the strained funding and resources, they saw that there is a clear need for the liaisons in the classroom with a great desire to include more classrooms in the program.

As we continue to assess our educational programs under Willow Tree Learning Academy, it is evident that implementing social emotional learning into the classrooms is worth every challenge that comes with it.



143 Children Attended
Before & After Care*



5 Schools Partnered With*

*Numbers depict clients served for 2021-2022 only

In My Time Working With the TIES Program

By Carmen Hill
TIES Community Liason



In my time working in the TIES program, I have fully enjoyed everything this job has brought me and taught me.

Working in a job like this one provides the unique experience of being both an educator and advocate for a child's needs, as well as, forming strong and loyal relationships with students, teachers, and families along the way. I am currently working in my third year of the program, which has allowed me to truly see my work with students in full effect. I have had students since they were 3 years old in pre-k and have been able to watch them grow and develop their social and emotional skills throughout the years; it is truly a heartwarming feeling.

One student I am immensely proud of is a student I worked with in my second year of TIES. The student is diagnosed with autism and they began late into the school year, creating a challenging experience attempting to integrate them into the classroom routines and structures. At the beginning of the year, they were displaying symptoms such as isolated interaction with others, no social cues, repetition, restricted interests, uncomfortable with touch, delayed/poor communication, and were on a modified schedule, only coming half of the day. The teachers and I collaborated very well in working with them, ensuring other students were aware of how to interact and be accepting of the various behaviors, researching and

sharing ideas and strategies in helping the student adapt and feel comfortable with the classroom, and doing one-on-one interventions with them to regulate and understand boundaries and rules. The first few months were rough, as they would rarely interact in play with others or with instructive learning, and usually stood in the back of the classroom with their backpack on crying and isolating themselves.

However, with consistent engagement and intervention, support and encouragement, and a trusting relationship, they were making amazing progress. In the middle of the year, we were able to get them to sit with the other students during learning time on the carpet with a special seat of their choosing, they were able to complete some work tasks, such as writing their name and drawing pictures when prompted. They started learning and calling classmates by their names, they began repeating and mimicking our rules and becoming used to them day by day, and we were able to switch their schedule from modified to full time in the classroom.. It was amazing! We made sure we praised them for their positive behaviors and interactions and when they followed the routines and directions.

Remarkably, the end of the year is when true changes were made. The student was able to sit on the carpet without their chair, next to their friends, they were giving hugs and playing with others, they were doing class work and participating in all of the instructional learning routines, singing, and dancing, they engaged in yoga class when the teacher came weekly, and they were cleaning up after themselves, letting others help them. Their progress and success have been such a turnaround and I couldn't be more proud of them.

This is exactly what the TIES program is about. Collaborating with teachers and school personnel, and families, to ensure a child is receiving the best care and support they can while at school so that they can grow, progress, and learn in a happy and caring environment. I am so happy to be a TIES liaison and to have these amazing opportunities to create change!

“

“TIES Liaisons are committed to building trauma-sensitive environments, with the goal of instilling a sense of safety and competent emotional regulation for all students, teachers, administrators, support staff, and families. The TIES Mission has never been more important.”

- Ms. Denise Miller

Principal of Weirton Elementary School, 2021

”

TIES

Trauma Informed Elementary Schools

8
Schools*



463

Students Served in
TIES Classrooms*

2
Counties*



2,254 Total Hours of
Support & Services*

*Numbers depict clients
served for 2021-2022 only



The TIES program partners with schools in northern panhandle counties during the academic year to bring trauma-informed training and early intervention to PreK - Grade 1 classrooms. TIES trained liaisons help teachers to identify children who are exhibiting signs of trauma, assist in creating trauma-informed classroom environments, and facilitate referrals to treatment by working with teachers and families. The goal is to create trauma-informed schools and to help children exposed to trauma develop skills that will help them to succeed.

TIES utilizes the CLASS® Classroom Assessment Scoring System to collect data from the schools and assess the effectiveness of the program.

TIES is funded in full thanks to the support of the WV Bureau of Behavioral Health and the Sisters of St. Joseph Health and Wellness Foundation.

Paint the Town Pink 2022

Wild & Wonderful Women

By Jasmin Ilovic

On the warm summer day of June 18th, at Wheeling Heritage Port, Crittenton paid homage to women, both past and present, who have changed the lives of countless children, women, and families across the state. Over 200 community members attended "Paint the Town Pink: Wild and Wonderful Women", Crittenton's bi-annual gala, and perused the displays of influential women while they enjoyed spectacular views of the waterfront, hors d'oeuvres from Wheeling's women-owned restaurants, West Virginia craft beer and wine, live music, and a silent auction and raffle.

"It made perfect sense that this year's theme shined the spotlight on the women that make this state special. We are sure that these women not only inspired our guests but also inspired our clients to know that they too can achieve great things despite their traumatic histories of abuse and neglect," said Public Communications and Event Coordinator Jasmin Ilovic.

Community support was evident as illustrated by the number of donors, business partners, community leaders, schools, and volunteers that helped to make Paint the Town Pink a success. As a result, Crittenton was able to raise \$18,953 that directly went towards residential and behavioral health services for children and families throughout West Virginia.



Flock it Forward: Birds of a Feather Help Together

How Yard Flamingos Can Assist Those in Need

Crittenton Services held its second annual "Flock It Forward" fundraiser from August 2nd till October 15th. For those beautiful two months, Ohio County was awash in pink flamingos as neighbors and friends pranked each other for the sake of supporting Crittenton. Every morning, the flamingos migrated to a different yard and spread joy wherever they landed. Thanks to the gracious support of the community, Crittenton Services received \$1,435 in donations.



The Reason for the Season: Crittenton Angel Tree Program Has Another Successful Year

What a wonderful sight to see when Crittenton's residents and their babies opened their presents on Christmas morning. Throughout November and December, the community came together and raised \$13,355 to purchase Christmas presents for the young girls, mothers, and babies. Afterwards, the residents and staff finished the evening with "A Christmas Story" Chinese food dinner. Thank you to all the donors that made Christmas special for our clients. Additionally, we wish to send a special thank you to all the volunteers who helped wrap presents the week before the big day.

Pageantry to Philanthropy: Former Miss West Virginia for America Strong Queen Discusses Her Volunteering Journey

By Lacy Russell

My name is Lacy Russell. I am a 29 year old Medical ICU nurse at Ruby Memorial Hospital. Born and raised in Stark County, Ohio, I relocated to Wheeling, West Virginia in 2015. In my free time I enjoy drawing, singing, Crossfit, and spending time with my long haired orange tabby cat, Mufasa (AKA Buddy.) Pageantry also has a special place in my heart and I held the numerous titles including National Miss Captivating, Three Rivers Festival Queen, Ms WV Riverfest, and most recently, Miss WV for America Strong where I placed 1st Runner Up nationally. I have decided to hang up the crown and sash to help other women in the industry learn to be the best versions of themselves as a pageant coach with Empowered Pageant Coaching.

A friend of mine was coaching a class at OV CrossFit one morning back in 2017. She asked me if I would be interested in helping her as a volunteer with the Strength and Grace program she wanted to start for Crittenton Services. Without hesitation, I was on board. I didn't know much about the organization but the more I learned, the more I felt that Crittenton Services and the Strength and Grace program aligned with my values. Her program embodied the importance of positive coping skills like staying active and eating healthy which is something that I find monumental in my life. The first year, we brought the girls to the CrossFit gym and worked out with them. The following years, it turned into

taking the girls to other types of activities like a trampoline park, horseback riding, yoga, spin class, Barre class, and many more. I was able to be a positive role model to the young women who were in the program which was an absolute honor. Since being a Strength and Grace Volunteer, I have also helped with the Soup and Salad Luncheon multiple years, Flamingo Flocking, and the Angel Tree by wrapping gifts.

I have learned a lot over the years when volunteering with numerous organizations. I have learned that I love giving back to the community and it helps my mental health. Crittenton Services in particular though, holds a very special place in my heart. I love watching people grow through mentorship. It's why I started coaching in the pageant industry. The girls at Crittenton Services need someone they can look up to and someone to be their cheerleader which is something that I love doing. It's also something that maybe they didn't have before coming to Crittenton. I didn't realize I had that passion until I started working with the girls.

If you are thinking about volunteering with us, please reach out! It has been one of the most rewarding experiences for me. If you are a woman who is a catalyst for positivity, you could be a wonderful mentor.

Crittenton Services provides incredible access to resources that these young women don't always have access to at home. From mental health resources, childcare, parenting classes, and access to education, Crittenton values a holistic approach to ensure these young women have a bright future. **I am proud to be a volunteer with Crittenton Services.**



Volunteering Makes a Difference

The Crittenton Cares Volunteer Program consists of men and women who give their most valuable donation, their time and talents, to our various programs and events. Our volunteers help with tutoring and mentoring our young ladies and mothers, babysitting our infants, answer phones, helping organize and decorate our events, and assist with fundraising. Our volunteer positions are:

- Tutor
- Administrative Aide
- Activities Liaison
- Child Care Provider
- Peer Council Liaison
- Parenting Educator Assistant
- Special Events Volunteer
- Friend of Crittenton

Want to volunteer?
Scan below to fill out the form!



If you have any questions, please email Aleece Abell at aabell@crittentonwv.org or call 304-242-7060 x 134.

Administration | Residential | Willow Tree
Learning Academy
2606 National Rd.
Wheeling, WV 26003
304.242.7060

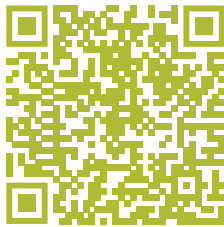


Wellspring Family Services
Huntington | Morgantown |
New Martinsville | Weirton | Wheeling
800.280.2229

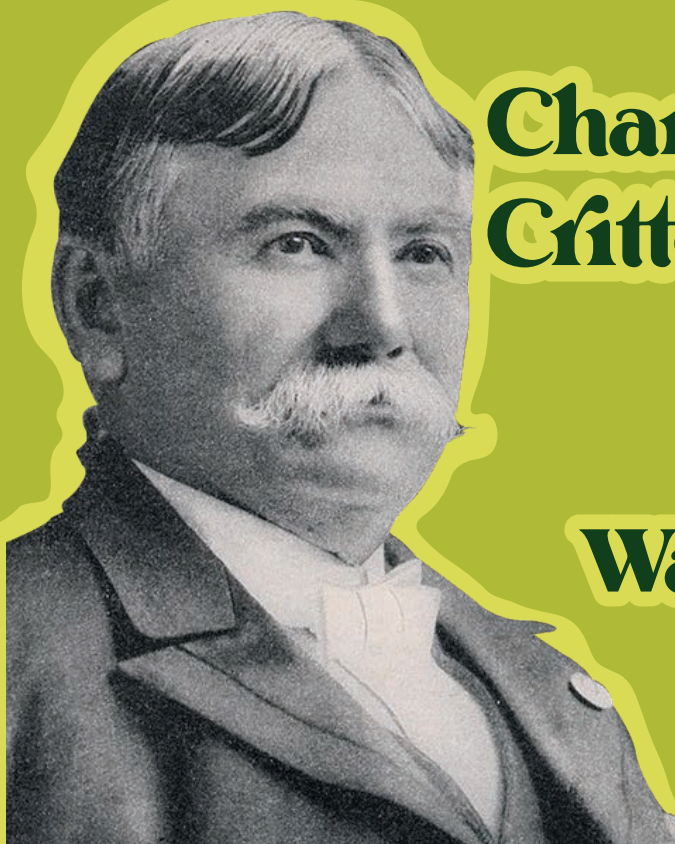
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Where it all started.



**Charles N.
Crittenton**



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Waller Barrett**