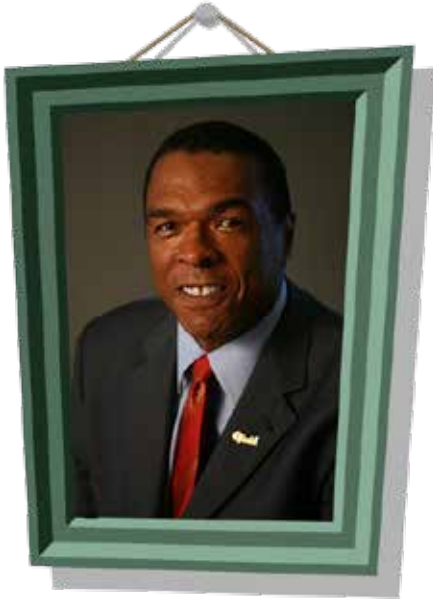


**DANIEL**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

— 2016 —





**JAMES. D. CLARK**  
President/CEO

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

### Framing the Future for Kids in Crisis

As Florida's oldest child-serving agency, Daniel has a distinguished history of helping kids in crisis that dates back to 1884. Yet, as proud as we are of our past, we're fully focused on working tirelessly in the present to shape a better future for the 2000 children and families we serve daily.

Many of our young clients have had pasts riddled with abuse or neglect. Unfortunately, there's no changing that fact. However, we can teach them coping skills and provide other tools to frame a future that's filled with hope.

This report offers a glimpse of some of the remarkable kids that come to us and how our talented team helps

them. You'll also find facts and figures that show the positive impact of our programs. I want to draw attention to something else – the volunteers and donors that make our work possible.

Unfortunately, there's simply not enough room to show pictures of all of them, and many of our financial donors give their generous gifts quietly. But with government funds continuously shrinking and demand increasing, we simply couldn't effectively help kids like April\*, Alex, Caryn\* and Emory without your support.

Thank you for being part of improving the odds for Daniel.

\*Names changed for privacy

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# 2015-2016

# HOW DONORS LIKE YOU HELPED APRIL RISE FROM THE DARKNESS

## The Healing of Residential Treatment

April\* had been abused since age five by her stepfather. When she was allowed to go to school, he made her wear long sleeve shirts and jackets to hide her bruises and cuts.

Finally, at age 15, a family argument escalated to a form of abuse that could not be concealed. Her stepdad threw her out of the house with their agitated pit bull, which savagely attacked her. After being hospitalized for her injuries, April was released to the Department of Children and Families.

Because April's abuse left her with severe trust and anger issues, she engaged in cutting, attempted suicide, and ran away from her foster placements. Fortunately, she was referred to Daniel's residential

care treatment program where she spent six months receiving

“In her own words, compared to what she's already been through, “nothing else really seems like it's too big.”

intensive counseling and psychiatric care that enabled her to heal and learn coping strategies.

Then, Daniel placed April in a home with Barbara Nelson, a therapeutic foster parent who had been specially trained to provide a safe and nurturing family-centered environment. The two developed a strong bond while April continued outpatient counseling with Daniel. She began catching up in school, completing the equivalent of ninth and tenth grades within one year. In fact, she was doing so well, in 2016 she moved from Mrs. Nelson's home to live with her sister.

Thanks to her hard work, the help of Daniel, and the support of donors like you, April feels ready to face life's challenges. She said after what she's been through, “nothing else really seems like it's too big.”

\*Name changed for privacy



## RESIDENTIAL CARE

The Daniel Statewide In-Patient Psychiatric program (SIPP) provides children exhibiting severe symptoms of mental and emotional distress with comprehensive care in its residential treatment facility for an average of six months.

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**95%**  
of youth served were  
successfully discharged



## FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

The Daniel Specialized Therapeutic Foster Care Program places children with severe emotional or behavioral issues – many stemming from abuse or neglect – with specially trained therapeutic foster families that provide nurturing, family-centered environments. Daniel also finds adoptive families for foster care children who can never return home safely.

## HOW YOU ASSISTED ALEX IN FINDING A LOVING HOME

### THE BLESSING OF FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

Alex was born with drug exposure. His mother had already had a child removed from the home and his father was in jail. So, at five-days-old, Alex was placed with newly certified foster parents, Vicki and Richard Waytowich under the guidance of Daniel.

Vicki has worked with kids in crisis her entire professional life, including at Daniel from 1994 through 2011. But, it was her desire to see how the system worked from the inside that led her to become a foster mom.

“He’s not going to stay with me,” Vicki thought at the time. “But I’m going to give him the best possible start for his forever family.”

And that she did. She took Alex to medical evaluations, doctor’s appointments, and registered him for daycare. She gave Alex a sense of permanency, while she and the Daniel team planned for reunification with his parents or found a suitable adoptive family.

But at one year old, Alex was calling Vicki “mom,” and she felt it deeply. Meanwhile, Alex’s biological mother did not comply with court stipulations and her parental rights were terminated. His father said he would surrender his rights if the Waytowiches chose to adopt Alex.

The Waytowiches adopted Alex on August 8, 2016 with 80 supporters present in the courtroom – a smiling Daniel staff included. It’s donors like you that provide Daniel with the support to create loving foster and adoptive families like this one.



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**556** foster children were served by the Daniel team

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**99%** of children served in the STEPS foster care prevention program were able to be reunited with their families

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**69** children were adopted with the help of Daniel

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**11,110** people received answers to their questions through the Florida Adoption Information Hotline, operated by Daniel

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# WITH YOUR HELP, CARYN ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE

## The power of preparing kids for adulthood

Caryn\* was five years old when her grandfather began molesting her and her sister. Yet, there was no one to talk to. Her dad was in jail and her mother dated various men, until she married one who would become Caryn's main tormentor. Her stepfather molested Caryn and her sister, threatening that if they ever told, he'd hurt the entire family.

Finally, at age 14, Caryn escaped by moving in with her real father. Unfortunately, he too was an abuser – though his brand of abuse was usually more psychological. Caryn's world finally crashed down around her when she learned that her father and mother were also uncle and niece.

Caryn attempted suicide and was hospitalized repeatedly for severe depression and suicidal tendencies. At one point, she was released into Daniel's residential treatment program. It was there she first learned about coping skills and her inner strength.

Upon completion of her treatment, Caryn opted to move back home. But, by age 18, she was living in the only place her father would allow - an outdoor shed on his property.

Within days, Project Prepare care coordinator, Malaika Johnson got Caryn into an efficiency apartment in Independent Living Village, where she received counseling, life skills instruction, and much-needed emotional support.

Caryn has now graduated from high school, is working full-time and living independently with a friend she met at church.

\*Name changed for privacy

In 2016, Daniel launched an Independent Living Hotline that enables youth that have aged out of foster care to receive assistance and secure educational opportunities.

## INDEPENDENT LIVING

The staff of Daniel's Project Prepare Program helps homeless youth by helping them secure low-cost housing or providing them with temporary residence in our 12-unit efficiency apartment complex. They also provide program participants with counseling, teach them independent living skills, and guide them in obtaining educational and job opportunities.

**96%** of Project Prepare youth were enrolled or attending an educational program while working with Daniel

**13** youth graduated from high school and two earned their GED

**18** youth advanced to college or a vocational program

# FINANCIALS

## EXPENSES:

Program	13,114,428
Administration and Fundraising	2,567,851
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>15,682,279</b>



# HOW YOUR SUPPORT MET EMORY'S UNIQUE NEEDS

## The Key to Academic Achievement

Although Emory has an IQ of 137, he can't sit down at a desk and write out the answers he knows. He couldn't handle traditional classrooms at public elementary schools, yet wasn't accepted at a special school for severely disabled students.

Emory has severe Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Oppositional Defiance Disorder (ODD), which makes sitting in a desk for long periods of time and learning in traditional ways virtually impossible. He also has Dysgraphia, a learning disability that hinders a child's ability to acquire and use written language.

His mother, Liz Allen, was lost on how to help until she placed him in Daniel Academy in 2014.

“ I love it here, I can get my work done, even though I do it in a different way. I finally feel understood.” - Emory ”

She said the small class size – offering a 12:1 student-teacher ratio – was just one of many things that made a positive impact. She noticed how Daniel Academy instructors adapted teaching styles to the needs of each student and implemented a style of discipline that made it easy for children to decompress before things escalated.

“They have absolutely taken his drive and put it to good use,” Mrs. Allen said. “They know what makes him tick and are helping him learn individually. They are not sticking him in a box like everyone else did.”

And, it showed. Emory began getting straight As, instead of Cs, Ds and Fs. He also began looking forward to going to school instead of fighting it.

“I love it here,” said Emory. “I can get my work done, even though I do it in a different way. I finally feel understood.”

## DANIEL ACADEMY

The Daniel Academy is a K-6 private elementary school launched in 2013 specially designed for children with learning disabilities and/or emotional issues. The Daniel Academy offers a safe, nurturing environment with personnel who are specially trained to understand the unique problems these children face, which range from autism to ADHD to emotional issues.

**91%** of students demonstrated grade level mastery to be promoted to next grade

**6<sup>th</sup>** grade was added due to parental demand





Citi Resource Management gathers supplies for Project Prepare teens



Brooke donates clothing to Daniel Kids



Krystal Kleen makes campus sparkle



Hometown USA donates school supplies to Daniel Academy



Medtronic takes Daniel kids kayaking



All Star Quilter's Guild provides comfort through remarkable raffle item



Holland & Knight's 9/11 day of service is a hit with Daniel Kids



McKesson makes Christmas brighter with bikes



Superior Construction lends support with baskets



Womenade celebrates Daniel Kids readers

# DANIEL IS THANKFUL FOR OUR BACKYARD BBQ AND GOLF CLASSIC SPONSORS



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