ABOUT THE WELLSPRING

As one of the state’s oldest and most effective non-profits, The Wellspring has been making a difference in Northeast Louisiana for almost 90 years. Incorporated in 1931 as a YWCA, the agency’s early decades were spent largely in service to girls who participated in Y programs which fostered leadership development and community involvement for women. These programs ultimately laid the foundation for a number of community groups throughout the area that continue to thrive today. Our historic Jackson Street location once served as a residence for young women coming to Monroe for work or school. The residential program closed in the 1970s and programming begun in the 1980s gave way to new services that addressed growing community needs and planted seeds for the cutting edge programs that our professional staff delivers today.

With service locations across Northeast Louisiana, The Wellspring makes a difference in our community by helping individuals and families from all walks of life to overcome challenges, identify resources and develop workable solutions. Our mission is at work each day through the comprehensive, professional services we offer.

- The Counseling and Family Development Center is one of the area’s premier providers of counseling and mental health services, and serves as the region’s Accredited Sexual Assault Center.
- The Wellspring’s Domestic Violence Program is the lead partner in the Family Justice Center, a community collaborative offering support for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. The programs offer comprehensive residential and non-residential services to adults and children in violent, abusive relationships.
- The Wellspring’s Homeless Services Program manages a comprehensive array of homeless and Veteran’s programs and services throughout Northeast Louisiana serving some of the region’s most vulnerable individuals and families including those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- The Wellspring’s Rural Victims Services and Transitional Housing Program provides transitional housing, as well as comprehensive non-residential services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking throughout our rural service area.
- The Youth Empowerment Program provides mentoring, life skills and positive youth development programming, making a positive difference in the lives of children and their families through relationships with caring adults.

GET INVOLVED: To support the work of The Wellspring, visit wellspringofnela.org and click on “Donate/Volunteer,” or call (318) 651-9314 for more information.

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The Wellspring is a 501(c)(3) charitable not-for-profit corporation (Tax ID #72-0442226). Donations to The Wellspring are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

OUR MISSION

To strengthen and value individuals and families through professional services and community leadership with compassion and integrity.
These words of William James, American philosopher and psychologist, are powerful in both their truth and their simplicity. They speak to the impact that any action, no matter how small or how grand, can have on the lives of individuals, families, communities, countries, and all of humankind. Too often people fail to speak up, to act, or to give, because they feel as though they have nothing to offer, or, that their contribution alone would be insignificant. At The Wellspring, we can tell you that is not the case as we make a difference in the lives of more than 3,000 people each year.

As we celebrate our 89th birthday as an organization, it is important to think of the differences that have been realized in our community over nearly nine decades through the ideas, words and actions of our volunteers, our staff, and our stakeholders. The early efforts of a small group of determined women laid the foundation for not only The Wellspring, but also for a number of Northeast Louisiana's social service organizations. Our early work in first discussing and then addressing family violence gave way to a number of community collaborative initiatives across our service area. Among those is our Family Justice Center which, through the power of its partnerships, has substantially reduced the rate of domestic violence homicides and thus effectively saved countless lives.

As you read this 2019 Annual Report, you will understand the difference that The Wellspring is making throughout Northeast Louisiana. Through projects like our Youth Empowerment Program's Civic Engagement Institute, we are giving youth a voice, developing the leaders of tomorrow, and ultimately shaping our future. Our Victims Services and Homeless Services Programs serve some of our most vulnerable citizens, connecting them to services that can not only change their lives, but save them. Our Counseling & Family Development Center helps individuals thrive and families enrich their relationships as they improve their mental health. You will see our mission at work in the client stories on pages 8-9 and 12-13. The impact of our work is played out in actual case examples of those who are living safe and healthy lives as a result of Wellspring programs.

At The Wellspring, we take the words of William James to heart because our clients tell us what a difference we are making in their lives. Likewise, you are encouraged to never underestimate the power that a kind gesture, a positive word, or advocating against injustice can have on those around you. As a volunteer, a donor, a grantor or a community partner, what you do makes a difference. Thank you for making a difference with The Wellspring.

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Agent/Manager, Farm Bureau Insurance
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Early Childhood Life Skills Coordinator, The Children’s Coalition
AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

2019 was a busy and exciting year at The Wellspring! Much work went into re-branding our youth development and mentoring program to the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP), an initiative of The Wellspring. YEP was formerly Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Louisiana and has further enhanced and expanded services to use distinctly interactive methods rooted in evidence-based practices to provide school-based mentoring, youth leadership programs, and socioemotional skill building activities in the elementary and middle schools.

The Wellspring Counseling & Family Development Center and Domestic Violence Programs are taking a leadership role in our community to address Human Trafficking (HT), particularly among survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The agency brought in national experts in the area of HT from the Center of Court Innovation who conducted two days of training focused on strategic planning, and recognizing and responding to HT survivors. Partners including law enforcement, district judges, advocates and Wellspring staff came together to increase our awareness and understanding of this critical issue.

Domestic Violence Program Manager Pearline Badger was named Advocate of the Year for the State of Louisiana by the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Pearline is celebrating her 15th Anniversary with The Wellspring this year and has helped countless domestic violence survivors break the cycle of abuse through her leadership at our safe shelter, Safe Haven.

The Wellspring Counseling & Family Development Center and Domestic Violence Programs are taking a leadership role in our community to address Human Trafficking (HT), particularly among survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The agency brought in national experts in the area of HT from the Center of Court Innovation who conducted two days of training focused on strategic planning, and recognizing and responding to HT survivors. Partners including law enforcement, district judges, advocates and Wellspring staff came together to increase our awareness and understanding of this critical issue.

Trinity Diamonds Direct presented the 2nd Annual Wellspring Bowl & Bling raising funds and having FUN all while supporting Wellspring Programs! A special thank you to Perfect Game Sponsor Trinity Diamonds Direct; an Anonymous Lucky Strike Sponsor; Spare Sponsors Ashley & Dom Peré, Jim Taylor Chevrolet/Buick, and Trapps; and Split Sponsors Drax Biomass, Entergy, Estates by RC, Infinet Technologies, Origin Bank, Ouachita Valley Federal Credit Union, St. Francis Medical Center, and The Thomas H. & Mayme P. Scott Foundation. Information is coming soon for Bowl & Bling 2020, so stay tuned for sponsorship opportunities and ticket information. You won’t want to miss it!

THE WELSPRING RECOGNIZES 2019
Volunteer of the Year - Marijon Echols

Businesses of the Year - KTVE NBC 10 & KARD FOX 14 and Mac’s Fresh Market

Community Partner of the Year - Holly Chambers Jones

The Wellspring staff and Board of Directors worked together to adopt the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan addressing areas such as funding, services & impact, human resources, facilities, marketing and efficiency. Committees identified 12-month priorities for each strategic goal area that they will focus on in the coming year, and that will carry the agency forward during the next three years.
151 VETERAN FAMILIES SERVED

150 ADULTS RECEIVED SAFE SHELTER

219 RECEIVED LEGAL SERVICES AT FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

2,009 VICTIMS OF CRIME SERVED

783 CLIENTS SERVED AT COUNSELING CENTER

121 CHILDREN RECEIVED SAFE SHELTER

3,827 UNDuplicated CRISIS CALLS

2,428 COUNSELING SESSIONS PROVIDED

261 CHILDREN HOUSED THROUGH HOMELESS PROGRAMMING

536 ADULTS HOUSED THROUGH HOMELESS PROGRAMMING

413 COMMUNITY EDUCATION SESSIONS PROVIDED

42 PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS PROVIDED FOR EMPLOYEES

654 PLAY THERAPY SESSIONS PROVIDED

92 SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS RECEIVED ADVOCACY IN THE HOSPITAL

403 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES HOUSED

429 VISITS CONDUCTED AT FAMILY VISITATION CENTER

509 PARTICIPATED IN YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

8,384 VOLUNTEER HOURS

3,756 CLIENTS SERVED

7,865 PERSONS REACHED THROUGH EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS
The Wellspring Administrative staff has approximately 140 years of combined experience and takes great pride and care in maintaining the agency records, supporting the organizational infrastructure, and marketing The Wellspring programs and services to the community. President & CEO Caroline Cascio and Chief Operating Officer Jane Brandon direct the work of the agency through a staff of over 80 persons.

The Wellspring Board of Directors adopted the 2019 budget in the amount of $5,402,401 to carry out our mission. The largest percentage of our revenue comes from state and federal funding. Our meticulous financial records allow us to monitor the agency’s operational expenses, support requests for reimbursements from funding sources and provide documentation for our annual single audit. Accountability is one of our strengths and for over 28 years The Wellspring has been rewarded with unmodified audits, representing the highest opinions issued by various auditors.

As with most service directed non-profits, personnel expenses account for the largest line item in The Wellspring’s budget, with payroll and related expenses of over $3.4 million. Christy Gwin, Director of Administrative and Financial Services, leads a team of five individuals that work diligently to not only document the financial work of the agency, but also to oversee the human resource needs of the staff. In addition to being our largest budget line item, our staff is our greatest asset. The Wellspring boasts an overall staff satisfaction rate of 90%.

The agency provided over 1,900 services of financial assistance to our clients totaling almost $950,000. These services are critical to the clients we serve which include Veterans, homeless individuals and families as well as victims of domestic violence and persons with disabilities. These services have enabled many clients to live independently for the first time, maintain their households during difficult times or leave an abusive relationship.

The Data/Records Team is responsible for compiling data and statistical records which demonstrate program outcomes, support requests for funding and can be used to determine trends and develop strategic goals. The agency reports to over 30 funding sources on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis.

“I love that I get to work at a place where I can make a difference. But I also get to work with peers who inspire me to do more and be better so that even more people are helped.”

- WELLSPRING EMPLOYEE
The Counseling & Family Development Center (CFDC) is a premier provider of counseling and mental health services with a clinical staff who have extensive experience reconciling a wide range of individual and family concerns. The center offers individual and family therapy, play therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), custody evaluations, parent coordination, and workshops for divorcing families. With trauma as an area of deep specialty, therapists work with survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and child abuse as well as more general traumatic experiences. Additional areas of expertise include depression, anxiety, grief, relationships, parenting and divorce related issues. In 2019, the center began offering tele-mental health services via HIPAA compliant web-based portals. This innovative approach allows us to offer services to clients who are unable to physically reach our office, increasing access to the counseling they may otherwise not be able to receive. The CFDC also provides Mental Health Consultation for Quality Start, a child care rating system in partnership with Tulane University and LA Department of Education.

The CFDC is accredited as a Level III Sexual Assault Center (SAC) providing services to survivors of sexual assault including a 24/7 hotline, safety planning, medical and legal advocacy, crisis intervention, counseling, as well as advocacy and accompaniment during forensic medical exams and law enforcement interviews. Wellspring staff and volunteer advocates are on call 24 hours a day to meet sexual assault victims at area hospitals when they present for forensic medical examinations. Advocates provide support and vital information to survivors about their legal and medical rights, decision-making about reporting the crime, components of the forensic medical exam, and additional resources available to them.

The center is one of five SACs to have received a grant supporting primary prevention of sexual violence. During the 2019-2020 academic year, the program provided evidence based curricula to 267 students, continued our partnership with Neville and Rayville High School football teams, and began working with Carroll High School to provide Coaching Boys into Men a nationally recognized sexual violence prevention program that builds on the unique role that coaches play in the lives of young men.

The Family Visitation Center (FVC) is also a part of the CFDC and provides supervised visitation (SV) services where non-custodial parents visit their children. Primarily funded through the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, the center largely serves families who have experienced violence. In operation since 2006, the program is highly regarded and is often sought out on the national level for its expertise. In 2019, The Wellspring’s FVC was selected to participate in a focus cohort comprised of only 12 other SV centers across the nation to look at issues related to providing services when victims have lost custody of their children and to create a publication that will guide related SV practices. Director Lisa Longenbaugh was then invited to represent those SV centers at a Roundtable discussion between Courts and SV Providers in Chicago where participants engaged in strategic thinking around this issue and worked to identify what is needed to support these two systems coming together to better respond to the needs of these families. Ms. Longenbaugh also co-presented with national technical assistance partners, Inspire Action for Social Change, at the SV Network’s national conference in New Orleans on the significant role of community collaboration in SV.

“The Monroe Fire Department is the fire, rescue and emergency medical first response agency in the City of Monroe. Our responders are called out to more than 7,000 emergency situations every year. Repeated exposure to intense, dangerous, and traumatic events can take a toll on anyone’s mental and physical wellbeing. Additionally, our responders are not exempt from the same stressful situations of everyday life as the people we serve. At times, emergency responders need help coping with the aftermath of having responded to others’ crises in addition to their own everyday personal issues. The CFDC is an invaluable resource available to our responders to help them debrief after critical stress incidents and other cumulative exposures to the challenges of the emergency response profession.”

- TERRY L. WILLIAMS, FIRE CHIEF, CITY OF MONROE
The Wellspring’s Domestic Violence (DV) Program addresses domestic and family violence in Northeast Louisiana by offering residential and non-residential services to adults and children in abusive relationships. These services are confidential, free, and provided regardless of when the abuse occurred or if it was reported. These critical services can help survivors of domestic violence have a life free from emotional, physical and sexual abuse. In addition, The Wellspring’s DV program serves as the lead agency for the Family Justice Center of Ouachita Parish (FJC). The FJC is a community collaborative effort comprised of community advocates, law enforcement, prosecution and judiciary representatives working together to serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence and stalking.

The DV program implemented a multidisciplinary high risk team in Ouachita Parish that provides intervention and supportive services to victims most at risk of being involved in a fatal domestic or dating violence incident with the goal of decreasing homicides related to these crimes.

DV Awareness Month is observed across the United States during the month of October. The DV program hosts several events including Hope in the Light of Day. This event honors those who have lost their lives to domestic violence, provides education and information to the public, and creates awareness for those living in abusive relationships.

In November, the program hosted the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) Membership meeting where the preliminary results from LCADV’s statewide needs assessment were presented. Six statewide priorities were identified and included increased housing capacity for survivors, more flexible funding for centers, enhanced legal information and resources for survivors, enhanced efforts to address limited English proficiency, longer term case management for emotional support, and increased outreach and awareness efforts.

Each year, we invite clients to Santa’s Workshop where they can shop for gifts for their children at no charge. On Giving Tuesday, Media Ministries, Inc. raised $3,400 for Santa’s Workshop thanks to its 88.7 The Cross & Power927.FM listeners. Due to the generosity of our community, the program served 65 families and provided holiday gifts for 183 children in December.

Barbara’s Story

Barbara, a single mom of three, entered our domestic violence shelter, Safe Haven, after leaving her abuser of five years. She shared with staff that her abuser had gotten her addicted to drugs and that she often found herself using drugs to cope with the abuse. She was determined to regain control of her life.

The time came for her to leave Safe Haven, but she still needed support to break the cycle of violence. She knew her addiction was holding her back. We were able to continue helping by offering her a place in the Keller House, one of our transitional housing programs.

Barbara lost her job a few weeks after entering the program. However, she didn't let this stop her from getting the help she needed to continue her new life. The changes in Barbara were remarkable after she began counseling, and continued to receive support from staff. She set goals and started achieving them.

Barbara was able to attend school through our partnership with the Opportunity Industrialization Center of Ouachita. She got a part-time job while she was in school, so she could start saving for an apartment for her and her family. Barbara and her children eventually moved out, and she continued to pursue her degree.

Barbara reached out recently to let us know that she had graduated with a degree in Business Technology Management and Administration. She is no longer using drugs and is doing well. She and her children are happy with their new lives free from abuse.
The Wellspring’s homeless services program, Outreach, Prevention & Rapid Re-housing (OPRR), manages a comprehensive array of homeless and Veterans’ programs and services throughout Northeast Louisiana. OPRR serves some of the region’s most vulnerable individuals and families including those that are homeless, chronically homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The goals for the Veterans’ program are to prevent Veterans and Veteran families from becoming homeless; to help Veterans and Veteran families who become homeless move into permanent housing as quickly as possible; and to increase housing stability for Veterans and their families. The goals for our general homeless program include preventing families from becoming homeless; helping families who become homeless to move into permanent housing as quickly as possible; and increasing self-sufficiency, self-determination and housing stability for individuals and families.

During 2019, OPRR helped 797 individuals and families including 261 children from becoming homeless by obtaining safe affordable housing. In 2019, OPRR expanded outreach services for the general homeless to 11 rural parishes in Northeast Louisiana, serving 44 individuals and families.

The homeless services program has partnered with our local Continuum of Care, the HOME Coalition, to increase our coordinated entry process. This is made possible through a new grant awarded through the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that allows for outreach and services to the general homeless population in the rural areas.

In 2019, three staff members had the opportunity to attend the Rapid Re-housing Institute in Dallas, Texas. This was a two-day conference sponsored by HUD and Supportive Services for Veteran Families to inform grantees about changes in goals, upcoming funding, and best practices for homeless services.

The rate of homeless families in Northeast Louisiana is higher than both state and national averages, and families make up the largest percentage of our area’s homeless population. These statistics are unlike most communities where single adults make up the majority of the homeless population. 58.9% of homeless people in Northeast Louisiana are actually young parents with children. The following story is about a single father, Stan, and his two sons ages 5 and 7.

Stan and his sons came to The Wellspring’s homeless services office in October 2019 after losing their home and everything in it to a house fire. The father was working and making ends meet, but he needed to start over with new deposits, household items, clothes and more.

It was a huge struggle, but he attended life skills class, met regularly with his case manager and was active in helping find new housing. We found housing and the family was able to move in in time for Christmas. About a week before the holiday, a community member called to say he wanted to provide Christmas dinner for a family in need. We immediately thought of Stan and his children.

Two days after telling the generous donor Stan’s story, he showed up to our office with clothes for the boys. Stan and his family were so excited and thankful for the help they received. When we were leaving the home after delivering the holiday meal and clothes, Stan’s youngest son said, “Thank you so much that we have a home and food to eat!”
The Wellspring’s Permanent & Transitional Housing Program (PTH) provides transitional housing, as well as comprehensive nonresidential services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking throughout our rural service area. In addition, community awareness and education regarding domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking are provided throughout these rural parishes. This includes leading the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to these crimes in seven rural parishes.

The PTH program maintained the SAFER (Stopping Abusive Family Environments Rural) Task Force, a CCR, by hosting quarterly task force meetings in six rural parishes. The program expanded the SAFER Task Force to include the parishes served in the Red River area by implementing quarterly task force meetings in LaSalle Parish, and now serves a total of seven parishes. During domestic violence awareness month in October, the program facilitated a joint CCR meeting with Amanda Brunson, Director of Women’s Policy for Governor John Bel Edwards as the guest speaker.

The PTH program received renewal funding from The Office on Violence Against Women for 3 years in the amount of $684,956 to continue the multidisciplinary high risk team work in Franklin and Morehouse parishes and to expand the work to include Richland Parish. This team provides intervention and supportive services to victims most at risk of being involved in a fatal domestic or dating violence incident with the goal of decreasing homicides related to these crimes. The multidisciplinary high risk team partnered with Thea Ducrow to provide training on Cultivating Cultural Competency to staff and partners.

The Wellspring was one of three rural programs in the nation invited to pilot a cohort on strengthening rural advocacy with Praxis International. Staff from the PTH program conducted numerous trainings in rural schools to educate faculty and students on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Staff and partners from Morehouse Parish attended the Battered Women’s Justice Project Conference “Enhancing Existing Partnerships to Hold Dangerous Abusers Accountable” in San Diego July 30, 2019 – August 1, 2019. Rural staff attend the OVW Southern Regional Transitional Housing Conference in Jacksonville, FL in October 2019.

The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Event in Winnsboro was held and rural donors contributed approximately $8,700 to provide assistance to homeless individuals and families who are fleeing domestic violence. Additionally, rural donors provided an estimated $11,000 worth of Christmas gifts for 42 children and their families served by the PTH program.

The PTH program also serves the chronically homeless and those homeless with a disability by providing permanent supportive housing and case management services to the area’s most vulnerable homeless populations. In 2019, the Rural Transitional Housing Units transitioned to a Rapid Re-Housing Model which better aligns with national best practices and decreases the amount of time individuals and families experience homelessness. The program served 403 individuals and provided 4,901 services in 2019.
In 2019, Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) completed its first year since disaffiliation from Big Brothers Big Sisters of America providing an opportunity to expand the scope of our services beyond mentoring. YEP uses distinctly interactive methods rooted in evidence-based practices to provide school-based mentoring, youth leadership programs, and socioemotional (SEL) skill building activities. YEP served 509 children in Ouachita, Lincoln and Union parishes in Northeast Louisiana.

The 15th annual Chase Leadership Academy (CLA) was held with students representing Richwood, Wossman, Neville, West Monroe and Ouachita Parish High Schools. Students met with their Chase mentors biweekly throughout the school year to equip them with information and skills designed to enhance students’ ability to succeed in school, careers and life. Upon graduation from CLA, 55 students received a laptop.

In partnership with 21st Century Community Learning Center After-school Programs in Monroe City School and Union Parish School Systems, staff provided SEL classes to elementary and middle schools throughout the school year. Through the SEL process students learned tools to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

The Civic Engagement Institute (CEI) was held in Ouachita and Lincoln parishes providing 60 youth with an opportunity to learn best practices of civic engagement. Diverse teams researched topics of local and national concern during this highly interactive 1 ½ day workshop. CEI provided an opportunity for students to develop their voice, leverage their creativity in developing a proposal presentation in support of an issue, and then pitch their idea to a panel of community stakeholders. CEI is made possible by grants from Entergy, Living Well Foundation and Pledge10 – Jonesboro State Bank. “The Wellspring’s Youth Empowerment Program has afforded us the opportunity to establish the Lincoln Parish Civic Engagement Institute. This phenomenal experience engages sophomores in working collaboratively within diverse groups to impact true change,” said Cathi Cox-Boniol, STEM Education Consultant.

Neville High School Interact Club hosted the 21st Annual Christmas Carnival for YEP children. Children were provided food, games and gifts galore! "It warms our hearts to see them all so happy when they leave with bags of toys, ornaments and goodies," said Interact Co-President Caroline Graham. YEP children and families in Lincoln Parish participated in Ruston’s Community Christmas and enjoyed fun activities, food and shopping for gifts.

Community partners Jonesboro State Bank and First National Bank played an integral role in the success of YEP. Jonesboro State Bank provided YEP with a grant to further expand services in Lincoln Parish and First National Bank committed to donating $100 to YEP for every LA Tech touchdown made during one of their home games.

FOLLOW YEP ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM @YEPOFNELA!
MIKE’S STORY

Mike worked with a senior therapist at the CFDC over the course of two years. Mike has spent most of his life employed at the same place. For the past few years, he has seen his place of employment decline in how they care for their employees and their clients. The stress at work began to take over his personal life and consume him. He began to feel depressed and anxious all of the time. He withdrew from his family and friends and most of his activities.

Because Mike is one of the senior staff members, he felt a responsibility to help the other employees navigate through the negativity at the workplace to his own detriment. He began counseling after his fiancée pointed out to him that he was becoming someone she didn’t know and it scared her. He took some time off work to focus on regaining parts of himself that had been lost to depression.

The time came for him to go back to work and he felt confident he could use the new coping skills he learned to be able to survive the work day and still enjoy his life. He stopped therapy for a while but then came back about six months later in the same, if not worse shape, as before. He was discouraged and felt like he had failed. He wanted to quit his job, but he had invested so many years there that it did not make sense financially for him to do that when he could retire with full benefits in only a few years.

He decided to take more time off work and this time he focused on putting new goals in place. He began school to get a degree in criminal justice and felt excited that the degree would open up new doors for him. He worked on his thinking and began to realize he could still be a positive thinker and person even amongst all the negativity at work. He worked on balancing his work life and home life, boundaries and began to volunteer at various places which took the focus off of him and provided good purpose for his days. He went back to work and did very well for quite a while.

Not long ago, he found his way back to The Wellspring dealing with the same issues with the environment and staff at work, but he was doing okay. He said he realized the value in having someone to talk to and being reminded of his goals and purpose in life.

He is about six months away from earning his degree and is excited about the opportunity to transfer to a different agency with his same pay and benefits. He told his therapist that he can see the light at the end of the dark tunnel he has traveled through for years. Mike is getting married this year and feels very hopeful about his future.

SHERRY’S STORY

Sherry wanted to end her relationship with her abusive husband, so she contacted law enforcement for assistance. She had nowhere to go, so the authorities brought her to one of The Wellspring’s rural offices for help.

Staff completed an intake, lethality assessment and safety planning. Sherry told staff that she had temporarily surrendered her children to the care of her mother because of the degree of mental and emotional abuse she was experiencing in her marriage. She was interested in transitional housing so that she could have a safe place to call home and achieve her goal of bringing her children home to live with her.

Because Sherry could not afford to hire an attorney to file for divorce, she accessed legal counsel through The Wellspring’s Legal Services Program. In addition to transitional housing and legal services, Sherry also received case management and attended monthly support groups. Sherry recently reported that her children have been returned to her care. She states that without the help of The Wellspring, she would have never been able to end the abusive relationship or care for her children in her own home.
AMYA’S STORY

Amya was born prematurely and spent the first three months of her life in NICU. She was raised by her grandmother from the time she was six months old. Although Amya has been disconnected from her parents and other family members, the support of her grandmother and her Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) mentors have provided her with the love and support she needs to thrive and succeed.

Amya’s grandmother said, “One day she brought home the flyer about the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program, now YEP, and I knew it was just what she needed!” Amya was initially matched with Francie in November, 2017 as a school-based mentor. Their match was later transferred to the school-based plus program, which allowed them to participate in activities together in the community in addition to the time they spent together at school. Amya’s grandmother said, “Francie was a fabulous match for Amya! She loved her and they got along so well.” In July, 2019, Amya and Francie’s match was closed, when Francie graduated from LA Tech.

In September, 2019, Amya was matched with Lindsey, who is both consistent and dependable. She listens to Amya and shows her she enjoys being with her. Amya’s grandmother said, “Amya’s YEP Mentors have made a big difference in her life, helping her with some of the challenges and difficulties she experiences. She has become more outgoing and confident in school. Amya has a huge trust issue and I believe YEP is helping her turn that around for the best. YEP is a great program and I would recommend it for any child. I know it has made a difference in my granddaughter’s life and she will continue the program as long as possible!”
The Wellspring’s demographic breakout for 2019.

The Wellspring covers a broad area made up of a number of North and Central Louisiana parishes. In 2019, 72% of persons served were from Ouachita Parish and 28% came from the rural parishes. Of the total number of rural clients served, more persons came from Morehouse and Franklin parishes than any other parish.

CFDC: Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union and West Carroll.

DV: Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, LaSalle, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas and West Carroll.

OPRR: Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union and West Carroll.

PTH: Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, LaSalle, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas and West Carroll.

YEP: Lincoln, Ouachita and Union.

Quality Start (Education): Avoyelles, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, DeSoto, Grant, Jackson, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Red River, Sabine, Vernon, Webster and Winn.


## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
The Wellspring Alliance for Families, Inc.

**CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

Note: Cameron, Hines & Company has audited this financial statement. A full copy of this report is available for inspection at the agency office.

### REVENUE:

- Contributions $255,123
- In-Kind Contributions $32,108
- Counseling Fees $163,373
- Grants $4,184,628
- Interest and Dividend Income $108
- Other Income $46,913
- Gain on Beneficial Interest in The Wellspring Foundation $32,525
  - Total Unrestricted Revenues $4,714,778
- Net Assets Released from Time Restrictions $214,240
  - TOTAL REVENUE $4,929,018

### EXPENDITURES:

- Program Services
  - Domestic Violence $827,825
  - Counseling & Family Development Center $919,212
  - Family Justice Center $345,620
  - Outreach, Prevention & Rapid Re-housing $1,086,650
  - Permanent & Transitional Housing $996,482
  - Youth Empowerment Program, formerly Big Brothers Big Sisters $164,638
  - Total Program Expenses $4,340,427
- Management and General $710,031
  - TOTAL EXPENSES $5,050,458

### INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS

($121,440)

### NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR (RESTATED)

$3,344,196

### NET ASSETS AT END OF THE YEAR

$3,222,756

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**2019 REVENUE**

- Grants: Federal 50%
- Grants: State & Local 37%
- United Way 4%
- Contributions 4%
- Special Events 1%
- Foundation Fees 2%

**2019 EXPENSES BY PROGRAM**

- OPRR 22%
- PTH 19%
- CFDC 15%
- FJC 14%
- DV/Shelter 8%
- YEP 3%
COLLABORATIONS

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”
- Henry Ford

“Since the rebranding of our shelter, The Wellspring has provided an array of services to our clients. We are very thankful and grateful for their partnership in assisting us with providing assistance for our clients which will allow the clients to become productive members of society. We look forward to working with them long term as we continue our mission of “Doing The Most Good” by serving those less fortunate.”

- CAPTAIN JEROME CASEY, CORPS OFFICER, THE SALVATION ARMY OF NELA

“Children experience our world in a much different way than adults do. The lack of autonomy and control can make even a positive experience seem scary. But children also have a resilience that allows them to grow and adapt, even under the most stressful of situations. I have found The Wellspring to be very helpful in tapping into this resilience. They use strategies that are proven to work. I have seen their play therapy and family therapy services allow children to process and work through negative experiences so that growth and development can continue. Children learn that while there is hurt in this world, there is healing as well. Thanks to services provided by The Wellspring, children in our area and their families have access to the resources to heal in a safe and nurturing environment. In turn, these children are more likely to go on to lead successful, productive lives, despite past experiences.”

- MARGOT BELL EASON, MD, FAAP, PEDIATRICIAN, AFFINITY HEALTH GROUP

“Our university has networked and partnered with The Wellspring for over 20 years. These collaborative efforts have been numerous and varied in purpose and mission. For example, as a member of the SAFE Task Force, faculty at ULM have had the opportunity to aid in the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout our community. Likewise, The Wellspring has aided ULM in our awareness and prevention campaigns related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and Title IX policies by leading awareness events on campus and by providing representatives on a variety of campus boards and committees. In addition, the Sexual Assault Team (SART) has also been a very active body that has provided amazing advocacy and support for survivors of sexual assault as well as a variety of community awareness initiatives. The Wellspring, as an organization, is an invaluable asset to our community.”

- ROBERT D. HANSER, PH.D., CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM COORDINATOR, UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE

“We are so proud and thankful for the long-standing partnership with The Wellspring to empower hundreds of students for success in the next phase of their education or career through the Chase Leadership Academy. In 2019, we celebrated fifteen years of the program and we are excited to continue to equip students with resume writing skills, interview skills and leadership skills while working with a Chase mentor. Making an impact on our community is important to us- Chase Leadership Academy is one of our favorite ways to do just that.”

- MORGAN BUXTON, VP-PROJECT MANAGER, CHASE HOME LENDING-LOAN ADMINISTRATION
“Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”

- WILLIAM JAMES