

Gratitude Report



A year of family...made possible by you.

SavioHouse.org

Helping Create Safe and Nurturing Homes

Dear Friends,

There is usually a moment or specific incident that triggers Savio to become involved with a family. A teacher may have noticed a child wasn't bathing regularly. Or a teenager's pain caused them to act out aggressively.

These moments are years in the making. Parents have often experienced trauma, are strained by financial hardship, and are facing their own mental health concerns. Those challenges end up impacting their children until one incident highlights the entire family's need for support.

Similarly, our interventions can't fix every issue in one session. It usually takes three to six months of services to support before families can manage the challenges they are facing. When we've done our work well, we have helped families establish healthy routines and relationships.

Along the way, we start seeing happy moments replace the bad. Within this Gratitude Report you will find a short story from three of our service areas. We hope this gives you further insight into how these children and their families can overcome the most difficult circumstances.

Your financial support plays a critical role in this transformation. Donations help launch new programming, fill funding gaps for needed services, and provide treatment to families who can't afford it. The pandemic is challenging families in new and unique ways, making your support more important than ever.



As we continue through 2020, our organization is evolving to expand existing services and preparing to launch new, innovative programs to address the most complex problems families face. We look forward to sharing more throughout the year. ■

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norma-Aguilar Dave'.

Norma-Aguilar Dave
Executive Director, Savio



I'm proud that we prioritize serving kids and families. Less than 10% of our budget is spent on administrative and fundraising costs.” -Norma Aguilar Dave

Child Protection

Savio's Child Protection Team supports families when a child safety concern has been identified, typically after abuse or neglect. Savio therapists build a plan with the family in the comfort of *their* home, allowing therapists get the full picture of the family's relationships, community, and safety concerns. This context helps the therapist understand the family's story and strengths, and develop a treatment plan alongside of them. The result is impactful services that strengthen families and keep them together.

658 Families served in 2019

82% Successfully remained intact or were reunited in safe and stable homes

Happy Days...Made Possible By You

Now in the care of their aunt and uncle, Olivia (5), Jameson (4), and Emily (3) felt safe for the first time ever. These children were victims of sexual abuse at such a young age that their development was severely affected.

Emily, the three-year-old "baby," is now speaking. Previously, her words were so garbled that no one could understand her, and she often would go into screaming fits and isolate herself if she did not get what she wanted. Now, Emily can ask for what she wants, and won't just shut down or scream to get her way. She can answer questions and identify her emotions in family meetings. It caught me off guard the first time she said, "I felt happy today". That speaks volumes about the healing capabilities of the family-based interventions that we use at Savio.

- Kelli, Child Protection Therapist



"Our Therapist helped us organize everything we needed to get done. She really is a big reason we are getting our son back" - Paige 28, mother

Adolescent Services

Savio adolescent programs address a range of behaviors including substance use, aggression, running away, and delinquency. We treat teens and their families together in their homes and communities. Our interventions strengthen families and build hope for everyone. This approach is far more successful than separating children from their families and moving them into institutional facilities.

1473 Families served in 2019

76%

Of youth in our programs were successful in meeting their treatment goals such as eliminating substance use and not having further involvement in the justice system.

Treatment Breakthroughs... Made Possible by You

Sixteen-year-old Alison came to Savio after her third arrest. It wasn't long before we started talking to her that it became clear the behavior was being driven by issues in her home. Her mother, Sharon, was struggling with addiction and inadvertently pushing her daughter away.

There is no greater pleasure as a therapist, than to facilitate a moment that changes everything between people struggling. This moment happened about a month into our therapy sessions. We were talking in the grandmother's living room when I asked Alison to talk about her feelings instead of her talking at her mom with blame and anger. As she began to speak, she fell to the floor, sobbing. She struggled to catch her breath long enough to speak the power words she so desperately needed to say. But she managed, in between the tears, to share how angry and confused she'd been feeling for years.

It was then that Sharon felt she could do the same - she talked about her own pain, her own childhood trauma. She told her daughter how she wanted to be healthy, free of her own pain, and have her daughter back in her life. In that moment - Alison and her Grandmother "got it." For the first time they started approaching Sharon with understanding instead of blame and judgement.

This story ended with a young girl, who learned to talk about her feelings sometimes, and a mom who learned to forgive herself, most times....and a relationship that was rebuilt with some grace and acceptance.

- Pema, Functional Family Therapy (FFT) Therapist



There is no greater pleasure as a therapist, than to facilitate a moment that changes everything between people struggling.” -Pema, Savio

Foster and Group Homes

Savio operates foster and group homes to provide children with safe and stable homes when they have been separated from their families. Savio provides the family with the therapy, life skills, and support to allow children to heal.

204 Families served in 2019

13% Of youth in our care network have been out of the home for over a year, compared to 45% statewide.

Family movie night...Made Possible by You

Josie surprised her sisters, bouncing giddy with excitement as she came out of the kitchen with a plate full of apple slices each with a perfect dollop of peanut butter and ice clanking on the side of four glasses of cold lemonade. She tripped, nearly spilling everything off the tray as she proudly came into the living room to present the "movie snack" to them. Her eyes were wide as she caught herself and the tray, before it went tumbling and they all giggled.

Most kids would never consider this a "movie" snack. But for Josie and her three sisters, this snack was a treat. At 16, and the oldest of all the siblings, Josie is able to understand and appreciate a healthy snack - having rarely had food that didn't come in a bag, box or from a drive-through window. These four sisters, ranging in age from 9 to 16 have not only seen, but been subject to levels of abuse that most people would hide their eyes from watching.

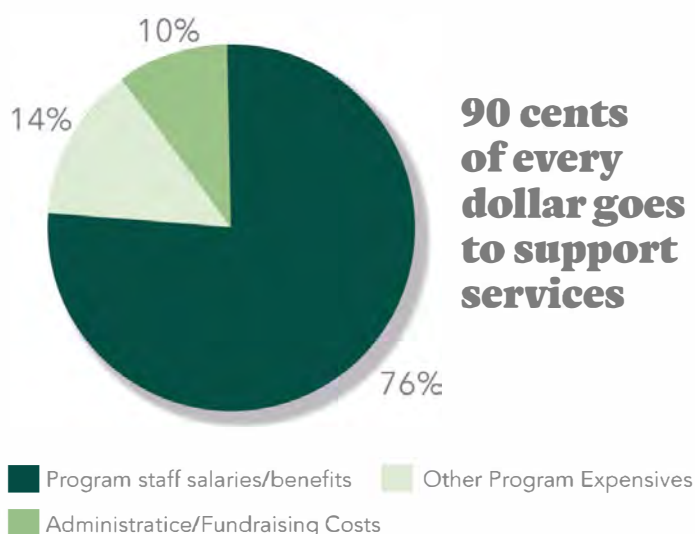
In early 2019 the sisters moved in with a Savio foster family who has cared for children in similar situations. In their new home, the girls are starting to trust and experience true stability. No matter what a child goes through, having consistency, support and love in a safe environment can help them find the capability to work through their past hurts and work toward a bright future.

Special thanks to Rebecca Carpenter, Child Placement Agency Coordinator, and her team, for their incredible work with these girls, and their loving foster parents for opening their homes and hearts to four girls who needed a forever family.





How your Donation is Used:



FAQ

Is Savio financially stable?

Yes, Savio operates on a balanced budget and maintains six months of operating reserves. Savio grew to serve additional families in 2019 and expects to continue to grow.

How will you use my donation?

Donations play a crucial role in launching new programming, filling funding gaps for needed services and providing treatment to families who can't afford treatment and are not eligible for public funding.

Are the families you serve low-income?

Yes, 42% of the families we served in 2019 have an average household income of less than \$16,000. 90% earn less than the median income for a Denver household.

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100% of board members support Savio financially.



Our Gratitude

We are grateful for the support of our donors - it's with your help that we ensure children have the ordinary family moments they need to be happy and healthy. The stories in this annual report reflect just a few of the countless moments that you've helped create.

Your continued support is more important than ever. **Here's how you can help:**



Donate at: Saviohouse.org



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Become a foster parent at: Saviohouse.org/foster



Tell a friend!

- Sharing our social media
- Host a house or office party

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This list of generous donors truly makes the work of Savio possible. We are beyond thankful for their continued support of our work and mission.

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