

## Finalist Executive Summary: Home of the Innocents

Established in 1880, Home of the Innocents is a private, non-profit agency that became a registered business with the State of Indiana on October 5, 2009. The hallmark of Home of the Innocents-experienced across each of our office locations in Southern Indiana, Louisville, and Elizabethtown-is a stable, caring, loving environment for families and children. Unlike many agencies, the Home has the benefit of 139 years of experience working with families. Families receive competent, professional services from staff who have a depth of experience in their specialized fields. Families and children also receive many ancillary services that many other agencies are unable to provide.

For a decade now, our satellite office in New Albany has provided services to clients in Indiana, including in relationship with Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS). As Southern Indiana experiences an opioid epidemic and a child welfare crisis, our agency is working to expand our services to meet the needs of children and families in this region. We are applying for an Impact 100 Southern Indiana grant because our New Albany office is ready to reach the next level of service. Your partnership and support will help the Home get there sooner, so more Southern Indiana children, women, and families have access to the therapeutic and family- healing resources they so desperately need.

The goal of our Impact 100 project is to build the capacity of our Southern Indiana office so we can serve more at-risk children and families in 2020 and beyond. Our project will help our agency break through the barriers currently impeding our capacity-building efforts. We plan to upgrade our IT infrastructure for efficient service delivery and recordkeeping, replace dilapidated office furniture with family- and sensory-friendly furnishings, and train our therapists in evidence-based practices that create better outcomes for children and families.

Our New Albany office offers Southern Indiana residents intensive programs designed to avoid unnecessary placement of their children into foster care, group homes, psychiatric hospitals, or juvenile justice facilities. We offer clients outpatient, in-home, and school therapy and caregiving classes. Additionally, we offer intensive family preservation services to prevent removal of children from their parents or assist in reunifying families if out of home placements were necessary. We help identify families' needs by clarifying goals and expectations and reducing life stressors. Our programs also teach parents and families new skills, such as emotional management, healthy forms of discipline, and communication skills. A strong and stable home life for children and families greatly increases their likelihood, and the community's likelihood, of positive lifelong outcomes.

To understand the impact you can help us make, we offer a recent success story. Since 2018, through collaborative relationships in Indiana, Home of the Innocents has provided a full-time mental health therapist at S. Ellen Jones Elementary. S. Ellen Jones Elementary is located across the street from the Home's Indiana office at the Cardinal Ritter House.

Last year, a child who had frequent cafeteria outbursts was also showing severe anxiety and restlessness at school. From her sessions with the child, our therapist strongly suspected that the child needed additional services and assessment. But first, the school needed the child's mother to sign off on his behavioral health plan. Our therapist tried many times to reach the mother by phone and at home. The Home's Clinical Specialist and the school social worker were concerned about the child on multiple levels, so they visited his home. Eventually they met with the mother and discussed the school's concerns with her. It became clear that the child was experiencing major abuse, as was his mother, in a case of severe domestic violence. It was clear that immediate action was warranted. DCS got involved. The police were also notified when the boy's younger siblings, ages 4 and 5, were wandering the street. The child was removed from his abusive home for a month. Now he is back with his mom and doing really well. While his mother moved to another school district, our therapist continues to see the child at the Home's New Albany office. Their family also receives additional services of case management, the mother is getting therapy, and the child is currently on a waiting list for a pediatric psychiatrist.

Cases such as this illustrate how critical the Home's services are within Southern Indiana. Our Indiana staff and programs are poised to meet the needs of more children and women in the community.

Home of the Innocents is accredited by the Council on Accreditation and is a United Way participating agency. Home of the Innocents has an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau and meets their Standards for Charitable Accountability. Louisville Business First awarded Home of the Innocents the 2018 Non-Profit Organization of the Year. The Home maintains strict compliance with governing and regulatory agencies. The agency employs 600 caring, dedicated, and highly trained staff, and utilizes over 250 volunteers yearly. An active 32-member volunteer Board of Directors governs the Home. Home of the Innocents adheres to Generally Accepted Accounting Practices, and annually has an external, independent audit.