Florence Crittenton Services
Educating, Preparing, and Empowering Teen Mothers and Their Children

Building Bright Futures Together for Teen Families

FY 2020 Annual Report
July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020
Overview

Who We Serve: Three Year Average
• 200 pregnant and parenting girls (ages 14-21)
• 175 infants and toddlers (ages 6 weeks to Pre-K)
• 115 extended family members who influence the success of teen moms and their children

Demographics
The teen mothers on the Florence Crittenton Campus are:
• 72% Hispanic
• 17% African American
• 4% Caucasian
• 5% Multi-racial
• 2% Native American
• 95% qualify for free and reduced meals
• 21% are food-insecure
• 24% lack stable housing

Other Facts
A large percentage of teen mothers on the Florence Crittenton Campus come from at-risk backgrounds that present difficult challenges, such as physical and sexual abuse, drugs and alcohol, gang pressure, immigration issues, psychological distress, and poverty.

Florence Crittenton Services’ two-generation approach, combining education with child care, counseling support, life skills, and parenting training, developmental and mental health counseling, and much more, helps these vulnerable teen families create multi-generational cycles of success.

Florence Crittenton Services of Colorado is committed to educating, preparing, and empowering teen mothers and their children to become productive members of the community. Using a comprehensive and evidence-based approach, Florence Crittenton Services offers a spectrum of wraparound services to the entire teen family, including education, health/wellness services, career guidance, and parenting training through Florence Crittenton High School, the Early Childhood Education Center, and the Student and Family Support Program. Florence Crittenton Services has forged a unique public-private partnership with Denver Public Schools (DPS) for 36 years.
Message From the CEO and Chair of the Board of Directors

Dear Advocates of Two-Generation Success,

Our year began like so many others—filled with a wonderful, optimistic view of the coming months. Our senior teen moms were excited and determined to walk across the stage, and celebrate their graduation. Our new and returning moms were thrilled that they could continue their education, and pursue their dreams while knowing their child was learning right alongside with them. Our FloCrit campus, as it has always done at the beginning of every year, was coming to life.

With our flourishing campus came new initiatives that you’ll read about in the coming pages. We introduced a new curriculum through our Early Childhood Education (ECE) Center known as Conscious Discipline. We brought our Miles for Moms event home to the heart of our neighborhood, further opening up our campus to the community. We began a weekly self-care group for our moms. And, we continued to develop our moms’ post-secondary and job-readiness capabilities through our Transitions Advocate.

The second half of the school year—as we all know—brought sudden and drastic changes. The COVID-19 pandemic imposed immense challenges to our teen families and staff. Where our campus was once vibrant and energetic, it became quiet and muted with the impacts of the pandemic. However, instead of stifling our FloCrit energy, we guided it into a new direction: to first and foremost support our teen moms and their children. We knew we needed to ensure that our moms had access to their basic needs, as they could no longer come to campus, access the Baby Bucks Boutique, nor receive the two meals a day we provide. So, with our Board of Directors’ commitment and our staff’s passion, we brought those basic needs to them.

We made home deliveries of basic needs supplies. Our partners at Denver Public Schools helped bring technology such as laptops and internet hot spots to our moms. Our school-based health center stayed open to connect moms and their children with telehealth services. And, our ECE teachers were diligent in crafting customized, remote learning plans for the kids in their classrooms. As always, we worked in partnership to ensure the needs of our moms and their children were met, and that’s what makes this campus so amazing—we lean on each other.

Our partnerships extended beyond our campus. Community foundations reached out to us proactively to inquire about our well-being, lending more flexibility in how we used the funds they invested in us. Sponsors and corporations encouraged us to keep their generous gifts and use it for basic needs. City and state governments provided relief through special grants and opportunities. The individuals and community around us rose to support our organization amidst difficult challenges.

But of all of the successes we have reached, the most meaningful is found in our graduates: 20 moms graduated from Florence Crittenton to receive their diplomas. The fact that they were able to triumph through this difficult time and cross that finish line is a testament to their unlimited potential in the world. They just needed the opportunities from FloCrit, where staff go beyond listening to their dreams—they lift our teen moms and their children up to reach them.

With that, we have one thing left to say: thank you.

In Partnership,
Suzanne Banning, President and CEO

John Markovich, Chair of the Board
Florence Crittenton Services Positively Impacted:

178 Pregnant and Parenting Teen Mothers
163 Infants and Toddlers
21 Graduating Seniors
48 Extended Family Members

Florence Crittenton High School

81% of graduating seniors had post-secondary plans
81% of eligible seniors completed high school—more than doubling the national rate of 38% for girls who became mothers at or before 18

Early Childhood Education Center

76% of children who participated in GOLD assessments showed growth in all development dimensions
 четыре звезды The Early Childhood Education Center received a four-star Colorado Shines rating

Student & Family Support Programs

85% of teen mothers delivered full term, healthy birth-weight infants
36 homebound teen moms received homebound academic and social-emotional support during their maternity leave

Audited Financial Report FY20

Revenue and Contributions $6,278,483

Expenses $5,522,711

Government Grants (7.34%)
Denver Public Schools (33.26%)
Foundations/Institutional (22.40%)
Individuals (12.02%)
Events (1.42%)
Program Revenue (23.17%)
Other (3.99%)

Direct Program Expenses (87.23%)
Administrative and Fundraising (12.75%)
Florence Crittenton High School (FCHS) is always working to find creative and innovative learning solutions to meet the specific needs of our teen moms. During the 2019-2020 school year, the High School piloted a unique “Blended Learning” model in several of its classrooms, with the help of our dedicated teachers. “Blended Learning includes both online components using technology, and in-person engagement with the teacher,” explains Principal Michelle Wright. “Materials and assignments are available on a learning management platform called Schoology, allowing students to access those materials any time, and at their own pace. When working directly with the teacher, most of the young mom’s time is spent receiving guidance and feedback from her teacher, so she understands what she needs to do in order to succeed on her tasks.”

FloCrit moms face many barriers that can make consistent in-person attendance difficult, so FCHS decided to start using the Blended Learning model to make academics more accessible. Teen moms who had been absent from school for a few days were returning to class already behind on the lessons, as the class had proceeded without them. As a result, these moms could not engage in learning, and they were being increasingly penalized for not being able to attend school regularly, thereby getting even further behind in their academics. The Blended Learning model provides access to curriculum, materials, and assignments online so that young moms can access them anywhere, at any time. “FCHS participates in Denver Public Schools’ MyTech program, allowing us to give each young mom a Chromebook,” says Wright. “If a student has been absent for an extended period of time, she can log into the platform when she returns, and continue her learning where she left off, thereby removing the attendance barrier. This was not possible in a traditional classroom model.”

FCHS teachers who piloted the model had to create an entire course, with all assignments and materials, ahead of time, so that they would be ready and accessible to our moms on day one. This took a lot of upfront planning for teachers. They also had to learn how to organize the course on Schoology so that it was clear to students what to do. Teachers did not have to change their curriculum—they only had to make sure all learning tasks were available online.

When schools closed in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most FloCrit teachers already had coursework and tasks available on Schoology. “Thankfully, our FloCrit moms had gotten the experience accessing coursework on Schoology already—so they did not need to learn how to do it after school to remote learning,” says Wright. “The Blended Learning model FCHS already had in place made it easier to avoid the ‘implementation dip’ that we otherwise would have faced had teachers and students not been familiar with an online learning platform.” Many teen moms were able to engage and transition successfully due to that familiarity with the system. In the coming school year, FCHS will expand its use of the Blended Learning model to help our teen moms access academics successfully. “Blended Learning definitely increases flexibility for our students,” says Wright. “With every young mom who comes to FloCrit having a unique set of needs, that flexibility is one of our keys to success.”
FloCrit’s Early Childhood Education (ECE) Center aims to help every child we serve become kindergarten-ready. A key ingredient to that readiness is social-emotional development—a child’s ability to recognize feelings, interact in a positive way with peers, and self-regulate. FloCrit’s ECE Classroom Coach, Debbie Baker, explains that social-emotional readiness is just as important to a child’s success in the classroom as is making sure they have a healthy breakfast. “Without social-emotional skills, many of the children we serve can be overwhelmed by the effects of toxic stress they bring with them into the classroom,” says Baker. “When your brain is in that fight-or-flight mode, it can’t absorb other information.”

To boost social-emotional development in FloCrit’s infants and toddlers, the ECE Center has launched a new curriculum called Conscious Discipline® in all its classrooms. Conscious Discipline® is a comprehensive emotional intelligence and classroom management system that integrates all domains of learning—social, emotional, physical, cultural, and cognitive—into one seamless curriculum. It teaches educators, and through them, children, how to understand and be in control of their emotions. Proven benefits of Conscious Discipline® include decreased classroom interruptions, increased learning, better social skills, and stronger relationships.

Teachers have launched Conscious Discipline® in our ECE classrooms using four activities from the curriculum: creative greetings, Baby Doll Circle Time, breathing techniques, and “I Love You” rituals. Each of these help children develop the core competencies of Conscious Discipline®—safety, connection, and problem-solving.

Creative greetings are simple gestures that incorporate touch, eye contact, and decision-making. Each child chooses the greeting they prefer for the day, such as a high five, a butterfly, an elephant, or a snake. “If baby comes in and says ‘I’m a butterfly,’ a butterfly greeting is, you link your thumbs and fly away,” describes Baker. FloCrit mom Elizabeth’s daughter is in the preschool classroom. “I love walking my daughter into her classroom because they start with a little handshake routine, and it makes her smile,” she says. Baby Doll Circle Time helps children develop social skills such as bonding, affection, and empathy by working with individual baby dolls. Breathing techniques help children learn self-regulation, and how to manage emotional upsets. Each breathing technique has a specific name and body movement associated with it; for example, in the “Pretzel” breath, the child intertwines their arms and holds them close to the chest while taking a deep breath, which promotes a feeling of comfort and safety. “I Love You” Rituals teach children cooperation, promote learning and literacy, increase their attention spans, and build bonds with the teacher. They include eye contact, playfulness, and touch. Rituals can include adaptations of common songs, interactive finger plays, and greetings and goodbyes.

With the ECE Center’s temporary COVID-19 closure toward the end of the year, the ECE team used the opportunity to continue their training in Conscious Discipline® from home, so they could continue with this curriculum once the center was able to open again. Teachers also taught our teen moms the techniques via webcams and conferences. “With the effects of COVID, social-emotional development will be even more crucial to our children’s overall health and wellbeing,” says Baker. “Conscious Discipline® is more important than ever here at FloCritt, and we look forward to expanding its use with our children, and our moms.”
As winter melted into spring during the 2019-2020 school year, our community faced a once-in-a-lifetime crisis—the COVID-19 pandemic. In accordance with statewide stay-at-home orders, FloCrit temporarily closed its doors on March 13, 2020. Our young moms were asked to continue their high school classes remotely, and during that time, we were not able to provide them with the child care they need to be successful.

FloCrit families suffered massive consequences from the shutdown. Many of our families lost essential income, most of our young moms were confined to overcrowded living spaces, and lack of internet access made academic work impossible for some students. FloCrit moms were also isolated from their social networks. Additionally, the systemic racism embedded in our community caused a disproportionate number of our FloCrit families, 95% of whom identify as people of color, to contract COVID, burdening them with medical bills, and sometimes, long-term effects of the virus or deaths of loved ones. The pandemic impacted our teen families in every way imaginable—academically, economically, physically, and socially, with massive mental health repercussions that are likely to be felt for years to come. The services our Student and Family Support Program (SFSP) provides to our teen moms became more crucial than ever.

As the shutdown became imminent, our SFSP team jumped into action to keep our moms and children safe, secure, and connected. First, to alleviate some of the stress of lost income, the team immediately assembled and delivered packages with basic needs supplies for each young mom every three weeks. This included diapers, wipes, formula, clothing, grocery cards, books, toys, and other supplies that were customized for each teen family’s needs. Many of these packages were hand-delivered to our moms’ homes, always maintaining social distance, by our heroic SFSP team members. Well over 600 basic needs packages were provided to our FloCrit moms during this period. The SFSP team also stepped up its support for housing assistance, providing both short-term and long-term solutions for our moms and children, with the help of key community partners.

The next priority included internet connection for our moms so they could continue schoolwork and meet regularly with their SFSP Family Advocate. SFSP team members supported our High School partners in delivering Chromebooks and hot spots to homes. Many of our teen moms needed intensive guidance to learn to use virtual platforms such as Zoom or Google Meets, which became essential to our adapted service model.

Keeping moms engaged with FloCrit and moving forward became the SFSP’s ongoing mission throughout the pandemic. Our SFSP team provided regular, virtual, one-on-one support to moms so that they could continue their post-secondary and workforce planning, access community resources, learn new parenting skills, and cope with social-emotional challenges. Our SFSP Director, Desta Taye-Channell, explained it best. “FloCrit is truly a safety net for our moms. During this challenging time, we needed to adapt our services, and support to ensure that safety net stayed in place, and got even stronger. I am so proud of our SFSP team, and all they have done to support our moms and children. And I know we’ll be back on campus next year, stronger and better than ever from what we learn from this experience.”
Florence Crittenton Services took an active role in the 2020 legislative session, representing the interests of teen mothers and their families. With leadership from Board member and Lobbyist, Heidi Morgan, and in partnership with the Colorado Children’s Campaign, the Women’s Foundation of Colorado, and the Colorado Teen Parent Collaborative, FloCrit acted as an expert resource to representatives, and had a strong advocacy impact.

On February 11, members of the House Education Committee visited the FloCrit campus. This was one of the many highlights of the 2020 legislative session. Legislators visited with teen mothers, heard their stories, and saw their children learning alongside them. Their time on campus allowed them to see firsthand the importance of funding Early Childhood and K-12 learning.

FloCrit teen moms and alum participated in advocacy efforts across the legislative session on the annual Day at the Capitol field trip. The morning started on the House floor where students were recognized as guests of Rep. Alex Valdez, who represents the FloCrit campus in Colorado House District 5. After a full history lesson and tour to the top of the golden dome, our teen moms got to participate in a personal Q&A session with elected officials from across the state, including Rep Alex Valdez, Rep Monica Duran, Rep Susan Lontine, Rep Jonathan Singer, Rep Barbara McLachlan, Rep Richard Champion, Sen. Nancy Todd, Sen. Faith Winter, Sen. Don Coram, and Sen. Larry Crowder. They heard passionate expressions from legislators commending our moms for their resiliency and determination to create a better future for their child. They left with a renewed inspiration to support legislation that will help teen families thrive.

During this session, FloCrit continued to advocate to strengthen early childhood education in our community. FloCrit actively supported early childhood education (ECE) initiatives, providing testimony on behalf of HB1053 (ECE Workforce), HB1043 (ECE Tax Credit Fix), and HB1006 (ECE Mental Health). Before the bill process was finalized, the legislative session was put on an emergency hold due to COVID-19.

As we shifted to virtual advocacy, lobbyist Morgan again proved the importance of having a voice at the State Capitol. During that time, she continued to track legislation and kept in close contact with key elected officials. Her efforts provided important insights for FloCrit leadership to consider during these uncertain times. “The school and ECE closures due to COVID-19 and the subsequent re-opening rules highlighted an even greater need to pass legislation boosting Colorado’s ECE workforce, supporting our students’ mental health, and allowing greater flexibility in school programs,” Morgan said. Her work has ensured FloCrit families’ interests are represented during these important conversations and has helped restore funding for prevention, intervention, and education programs in our state. Even under unprecedented state budget restrictions, FloCrit’s lobbying and advocacy efforts helped HB20-1053 pass with bipartisan support to expand opportunities for licensing in the early childhood workforce on Thursday, June 11 before the end of the unique session. In the upcoming season, FloCrit will continue to participate actively in the legislation process, whether remotely or in-person, as circumstances warrant.
Foundations and Corporations

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Florence Crittenton Services Annual Report—July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020
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Helen and Joe Drexler
Gretchen Florescue
Eileen and Richard Greenberg
Michael and Yun Hui Kehoe

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Alethia Morgan and Mark Fall
Heidi and Eric Morgan

Art Therapy teacher and Family Advocate Manager Donica Snyder works on an art-o-biography book with teen mom Marlene

Parenting teacher Christine Watkins cheers on the Class of 2020 graduates at the drive through graduation ceremony
Pathbuilders

Harriet Moyer Aptekar and
Dr. Donald W. Aptekar
David and Cynthia Peterson
Katy Powers
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Astrid Spies and Sean Fontaine
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$2,499-$1,000
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Kathryn and Tim Ryan
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Jane and Marvin Speer
Yael Trainer
Jana and Kent Waryan
Jenafer and James Zwyer

Principal Michelle Wright hands Class of 2020 graduate Yamelith her diploma during the drive through graduation ceremony

ECE Center teacher Jordan Mondragon reads to a child in her classroom
On April 16, Florence Crittenton Services partners, supporters, sponsors, staff, and teen moms were going to gather at The Children’s Museum of Denver for our reimagined fundraising event, Pathways to Empowerment. We were going to come together to celebrate stories of the unbridled strength and limitless potential of FloCrit teen moms and their children. And while we were not able to gather in April due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we still honored our teen mothers and their children. Florence Crittenton Services was excited to honor Patti Klinge, a pillar of social justice and empowerment in our community, with the Dr. Kate Waller Barret Advocate Award, and law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, who keeps strong communities at the core of its practice, with the Charles Crittenton Community Partner Award. We thank Patti and Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, and look forward to honoring them at a future event.

Guests at the Pathways to Empowerment event would have gotten to hear from Lesley Del Rio, Class of 2013, and her son Leo, who attended the Florence Crittenton ECE Center. Lesley shared these words with the Florence Crittenton community after our event was canceled.

“I was really looking forward to sharing my story with you on April 16. My son Leo and I attended Florence Crittenton from 2011 to 2013. We are now a little older, a little bigger, and a little wiser thanks to the great supports we both received from FloCrit. Leo is 9 years old and in the third grade. I am now Program Manager for the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Denver, a virtual student at Southern New Hampshire University, and a Parent Advisor to the Aspen Institute’s Student Parent Success Initiative. Although I wear many hats and juggle many responsibilities, I felt as though I managed them pretty well. Like everyone else in this world, this pandemic has flipped our life upside down. I feel as though my responsibilities have been magnified, and there is little to no room to process thoughts and feelings. Although I feel as though I am one of the lucky ones to still be employed, have a safe home, and able to provide food, I still struggle with all of the uncertainty. And while Leo, he is a resilient child, he still struggles with frustration from missing friends, canceled plans, and old routines. With all of the emotions that come and go all day, we still feel connected to our community. As we all navigate through COVID-19, I am happy that organizations like FloCrit and its supporters are working diligently to support our community.”

Lesley and Leo

Sponsors

**Advocate:** $10,000
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PCL Construction

**Supporter:** $5,000
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Delta Dental
Empower Retirement
Dr. Diane and Andy Kane

**Friend:** $2,500
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**Media Sponsors**
Project Photo Studio
The 15th Annual Miles for Moms Run/Walk presented by DaVita came home to the Florence Crittenton Campus and the Valverde neighborhood on Saturday, October 12. Over 300 participants ran and walked through the neighborhood. The event raised over $60,000 to support FloCrit’s young moms. The run/walk course wound through the Valverde neighborhood, and ended at Burns Family Artisan Ales for a community block party with food, drinks, music, and activities.

The event kicked off with remarks from John Markovich, Florence Crittenton Board Chair; Erin Close, Director of Corporate Council at DaVita, and Florence Crittenton Board member; Rep. Alex Valdez; Suzanne Banning, President and CEO; and Zanee, current FloCrit mom. Zanee, who designed the art work on the front of this year’s Miles for Moms t-shirt, said, “I wanted my shirt to represent all moms, and that no matter what age you become a mom, you always do what you have to do, whether it’s taking the bus, living house to house, or even working the long shifts just to make sure your child is safe and has everything they need.”

**Sponsors**

**Presenting: $10,000**
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**Friend: $750**
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Florence Crittenton Services Junior Board

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**Media Sponsor**
95.7 The Party

Florence Crittenton Services Annual Report—July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020
Every holiday season, Florence Crittenton Services gives extra support to our teen mothers and their children for Thanksgiving and the winter holidays. This year, we provided each teen mom with a $100 gift card for a Thanksgiving meal for herself and her family, and a $150 gift card for extra food support during the winter break from school. During these school breaks, our teen mothers and their children do not receive the breakfast, lunch, and snack provided at school, and food insecurity is a reality. We also gave holiday gift cards to each teen mom, and gifts of diapers, toys, and clothing for each child. These gifts were made possible by generous contributions of money and in-kind donations from numerous companies and individuals. We wrapped and distributed the gifts with the help of several volunteers, who made the task fun and joyful. Thank you to everyone who helped make the holiday season special for our teen mothers, their children, and their families.
In-Kind Donors

In addition to our large fundraising events, in-kind donations throughout the year also help us stock our Baby Bucks store with clothes, toys, diapers, wipes, school supplies, and other parenting and personal essentials. Thank you to all our in-kind donors who helped to impact the lives of teen mothers and their children.

Volunteers

The work we do at Florence Crittenton Services would not be possible without our amazing volunteers. Each week, volunteers lend a hand in the ECE Center classrooms, and help to organize donations. Groups of volunteers from companies, organizations, and colleges help us sort donations, assist in Baby Bucks on shopping days, and help to run monthly after-school programs. Volunteers from all around the city help our fundraising events like the Pathways to Empowerment gala and Miles for Moms run smoothly.
Florence Crittenton Services is proud to recognize the board members and staff who have demonstrated an unyielding commitment to empowering struggling teen families to create multi-generational success, and become productive members of the community during the 2019-2020 school year.

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