



THE HEART MATTERS FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY

2022 Annual Report



Our Mission

The Heart Matters Foster Family Agency's mission is to provide youth with safe homes, healing and healthy environments and encouraging youth empowerment.

Our Vision

The Heart Matters Foster Family Agency's vision is to impact the life of every youth we serve, leaving a positive and enduring effect on their lives.

The Heart Matters Foster Family Agency, Inc.

Established in 2016, The Heart Matters Foster Family Agency provides excellent treatment-level foster care services to children and families in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The Heart Matters Foster Family Agency looks to provide for the needs in the communities it serves by providing quality trained families who nurture, support and guide children who are placed in foster care due to suffering from various forms of abuse and/or neglect. One of the common phrases heard at The Heart Matters Foster Family Agency is "from placement until reunification". Through the services that we provide children are able to be placed in a loving home that encourages them to grow into positive participants in their communities, empowered with the skills to not just survive but to reach their individual goals.

In 2022, The Heart Matters Foster Family Agency served 221 children and youth in foster placements while achieving sufficient successful permanency outcomes. Additionally, 18 new resource homes were certified throughout both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

With the support of our key champions, The Heart Matters Foster Family Agency has been able to provide support programs and services to our youth and families such as Intake Bags provided to us by Assistance League Temecula, Together We Rise, and Comfort Cases. These intake bags are given to children as soon as they are placed in the home as a welcome gift. We were also able to provide back to school backpacks and shoes through the generous donation from Ontario Mills Mall, Dave and Busters Ontario, Captain I.T. and many individual donors. At the end of the year our community and partners came together to provide Christmas gifts to each child. Some of our community partners that helped to that make this happen include Monterey Pines Apartments, Chase Bank, Active Church, CrossFit Lifted, Family Tree Realty and Investment INC, Growing the Community Foundation and over 100 single individual donors from all over the Inland Empire.

With a staff of 30 full-time and part-time professionals, The Heart Matters Foster Family Agency continues to strive for excellence in new program implementation and support services moving into 2023 and 2024.



The Heart Matters Foster Family Agency Board of Directors

Rodney Mathews: Board President

Asia Williamson, MSW: Vice President

Rorrie Aubry: Treasurer

Denise Reynolds: Secretary

Arby Fields: Voting Board Member

The Heart Matters Foster Family Agency Staff

Carrie Mathews, MPA: Executive Director

Lia Andrews, MSW: Agency Administrator

Lorre Hendricks, MSW, MFT: Social Worker Supervisor

Deborah Scott, BSW: Foster Care Program Supervisor

Jessa Garippo, BSW: Compliance Administrator

Bonny de la Cruz: Compliance Officer

Jeanette Collins: Executive Assistant to Compliance

Tana Bakewell, BA Psyc: Resource Parent Coordinator

Mariah Mota: Administrative Specialist

Madeline Gonzalez: Administrative Assistant

Tiffany Chapman-Alen: Finance and Accounting Manager

Briana Pueblos: Accounting Clerk

Heather Ford: Corporate Relations Coordinator

Talesha Harris: Agency RN

Kyndle Crigler, MSW: Agency Social Worker

Jennifer Reyes MSW: Evolution Coach

Kemberly Moreno: Education Specialist

Monique Bautista, MSW: Agency Social Worker

Catiana Huante MSW: Agency Social Worker

Kaitlyn Chavira MSW: Agency Social Worker

Mario Sanchez, MA: Agency Social Worker

Vanetta Warrior, MSW: Agency Social Worker

Cederick Victor, MSW: Agency Social Worker

Marco Barriga, MSW: Clinical Therapist

Katrina Jimenez MSW: Clinical Therapist

Donna Cano MSW: Clinical Therapist

Christopher Berrun: Behavioral Rehab Specialist

Sokdina Keo MSW, MFT: Clinical Therapist

Nicholas Marrujo: Administrative Assistant

Jamaal Burrell: Intensive Services Rehab Specialist

2022 The Heart Matters Foster Family Agency Strategic Planning Overview

Vision and Desired Results

The two most fundamental elements of sustainability are Vision and a Results Orientation. Clarity is needed on key questions such as, exactly what are we trying to sustain? For what purpose – what do we seek to accomplish for children, families and communities in the long run? This section of the plan addresses these fundamental questions.

Vision

The vision statement provides a clear and compelling goal that serves to unify the actions of our organization and its stakeholders. The vision describes the future that everyone is working toward. The Heart Matters envisions a future where...

Children and families are safe, healthy and whole.

Desired Results

The outcomes to be achieved for children, families and communities as a result of organizational efforts include:



Youth are Housed

Youth benefit from safe, stable and permanent housing.



Youth are Healthy

Foster youth receive the necessary health (medical, vision and dental exams) and behavioral supports to be healthy and happy.



Youth are Empowered

Youth become self-sufficient, productive and proactive members of society.

Strategies for Achieving Results

The services that The Heart Matters currently uses or intends to provide in the future to affect each desired result area are detailed in the following table.

Housing

Current Service Strategies

- **Placement:** Children are placed temporarily in the care of resource families. The loving care of the families they are placed with provide a model for healthy living as well as offer a safe and secure environment. The Heart Matters actively recruits, trains and connects families interested in providing a home to a child in need.
- **Case Management:** Children and families are assigned an advocate that works to meet the individual needs of each child and family they serve. They assist them in negotiating service systems and provide consistency in care.
- **LGBTQIA+ Support:** The Heart Matters actively recruits homes that are LGBTQIA+ friendly. When needed, children are placed in these homes to ensure all kids are provided a safe and nurturing environment.
- **Families that Provide Specialized Services:** The Heart Matters is actively recruiting for families that can provide care for children in need of specialized services. Specialized service programs include Specialized Health Care and Intensive Services Foster Care.



Planning for the Future

- **Emergency Clothing Closet:** is a program envisioned to provide emergency clothing to children placed in foster care with little to no clothing.
- **Transitional Housing for Transitional Aged Youth (TAY):** The Heart Matters FFA sees and fully acknowledges the need for additional support and housing services for TA Youth ages 18-24. As such, The Heart Matters FFA is committed to working towards opening a Transitional Housing program to support our young adults and their journey to self-sufficiency.
- **Expanded Services for Placement Support:** Develop a program that provides a holistic approach to housing to ensure that the family unit is provided with all the supports they need to foster a loving and safe family environment.

H_{ealth}



Current Service Strategies

- **Medical, Vision and Dental Services:** Medical, dental and vision exams are provided to kids on an annual basis. Infants and toddlers' complete medical exams on a more frequent schedule to maintain well child checks and vaccinations.
- **Reproductive Health:** Teen clients are provided with information, education, and resources to make informed decisions about their health and sexuality.
- **Alcohol and Other Drugs Supports:** Direct referrals and support are provided to children who present with alcohol and other drug issues.
- **Developmental Supports:** Clients with special needs are connected to the Inland Regional Center (IRC) for services.
- **Behavioral Health Services:** Psychological assessments are conducted for children being served. Based on findings, referrals are provided to therapy and additional supports are put into place. When children come into the organization and are currently receiving psychiatric care, a plan is established to maintain involvement in care.
- **Mental Health Services:** The Heart Matters offers on-site mental health services. Helping to eliminate the need for outside referrals and diminishing long waits to see a provider. Youth are seen within 10 days of a referral.

Planning for the Future

- **Youth Sports Program:** have been shown to help improve a self-esteem, leadership and teamwork skills, and provide a therapeutic outlet. Development of this program would provide an additional service to not only our youth's physical health but mental health as well.
- **Nutrition Education Program:** Diet and nutrition are vital to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Many children and youth are uneducated about proper dietary needs and the effects of a poor diet. The Heart Matters FFA hopes to create a program that provides education on health foods, dietary needs and delicious recipes that will help to maintain a healthy lifestyle for the whole family.

Empowerment



Current Service Strategies

- **Transitional Supports:** Supports are provided to youth age 18-21 in an effort to transition them into independent living. The youth can participate in this voluntary program, allowing them to stay in the resource family home under an agreement that they will build the skills and resources needed to transition into an independent living situation. In this arrangement, the resource family shifts from providing protection to these children to providing them with the mentorship needed to be successful in life.
- **Social Skills Development:** The agency provides group activities to nurture social skills development. Social events are hosted twice a year.
- **Foster Parent Trainings:** Trainings are provided to foster parents to equip them with the skills necessary to be agents of change needed by children.
- **Independent Living Program:** The Heart Matters has developed an in-house ILP program provides valuable training to help teens and young adults prepare for adulthood. Classes teach:
 - Independent Life Skills
 - Daily Living Skills
 - Education resources / FAFSA
 - Employment Strategies and Tips
 - Housing Resources
 - Money Management
 - Decision Making
 - Building Self-Esteem

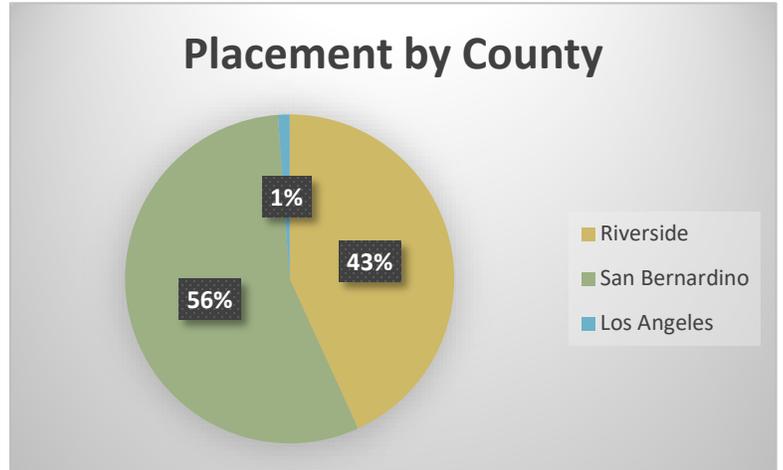
Planning for the Future

- **Individualized Therapy:** The Heart Matters would like to develop an option to give children and youth access to alternative therapy options other than traditional group and individual sessions.
- **Foster Youth Trainings:** Community partners provide education and information about issues such as reproductive health, drugs and alcohol, and healthy lifestyles to encourage good choices on the part of children in the system.
- **Technology Enrichment Classes:** Technology is evolving every day, and companies in every career field are constantly searching for employees that have technology skills. Providing youth with technology skills like coding, basics of engineering, utilizing computer software, and robotics, will help to increase their marketability, expose them to new career paths, and help them develop problem solving skills. The Heart Matters FFA hopes to develop a Technology Enrichment class that provides skills needed for the future.

2022 The Heart Matters Foster Family Agency Statistics

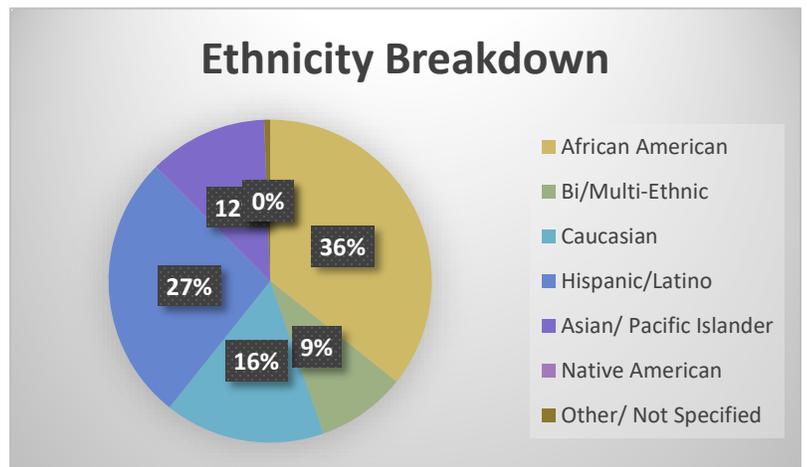
2022 Placements - 84

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Riverside | 38 |
| San Bernardino | 49 |
| Los Angeles | 2 |



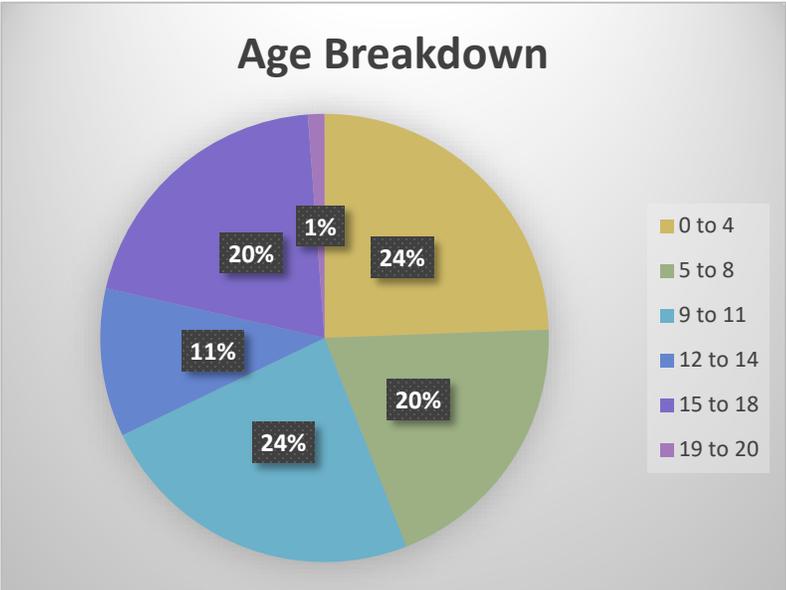
2022 Ethnicity Breakdown

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| African American | 60 |
| Bi/Multi-Ethnic | 15 |
| Caucasian (White) | 27 |
| Hispanic/Latino | 45 |
| Asian/Pac. Islander | 2 |
| Native American | 0 |
| Other/ Not Specified | 1 |



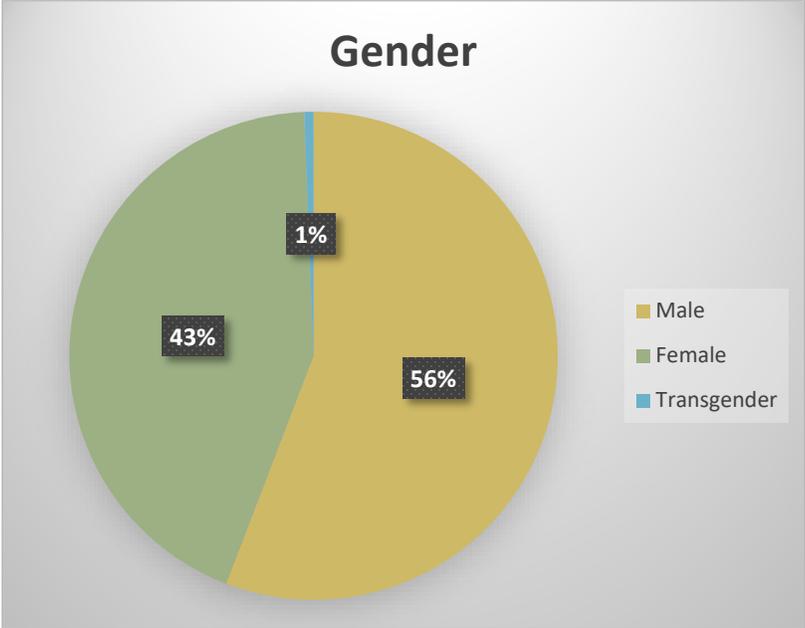
2022 Age Breakdown

| | |
|----------|----|
| 0 to 4 | 41 |
| 5 to 8 | 33 |
| 9 to 11 | 40 |
| 12 to 14 | 18 |
| 15 to 18 | 34 |
| 19 to 20 | 2 |



2022 Gender Breakdown

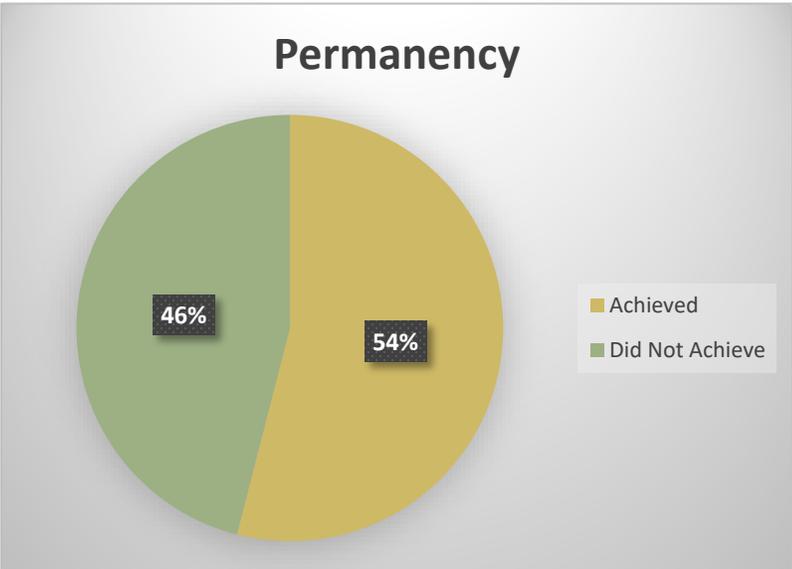
| | |
|---------------|----|
| Male | 91 |
| Female | 71 |
| Transgender | 1 |
| Not Specified | 5 |



2022 Successful Placements Achieved

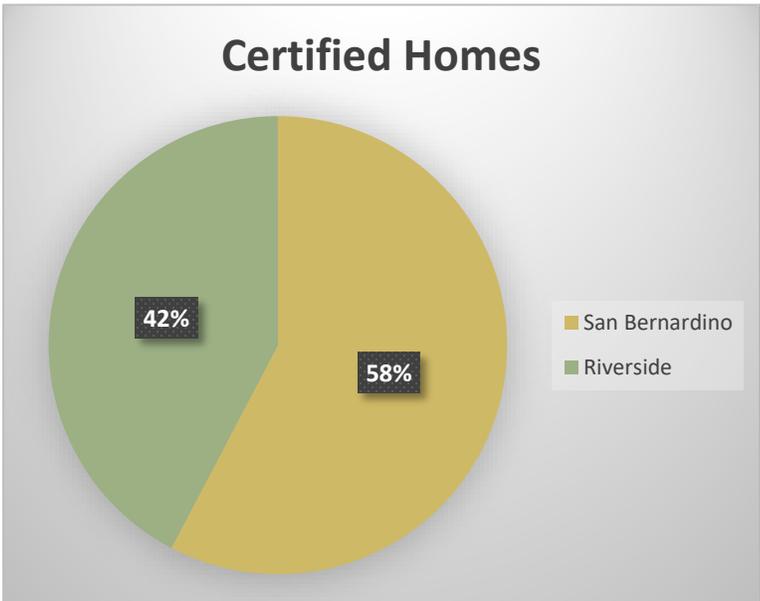
Permanency – (52 Discharges)

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Achieved Permanency | 31 |
| Did Not Achieve Permanency | 21 |



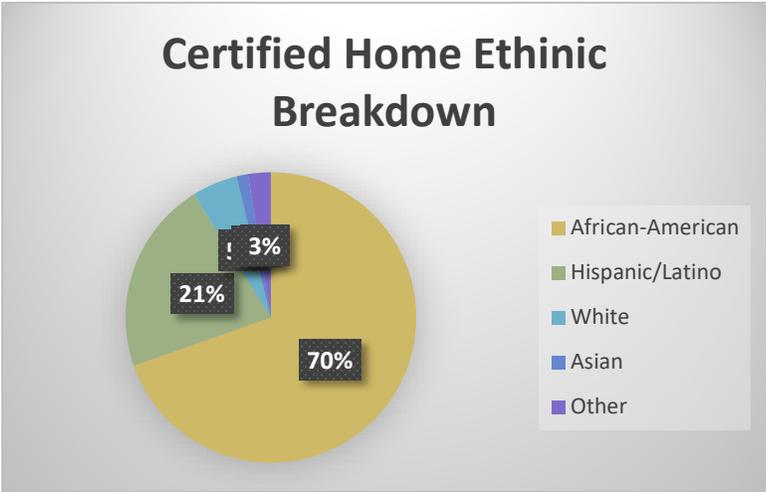
2022 Certified Homes

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Riverside | 22 |
| San Bernardino | 30 |



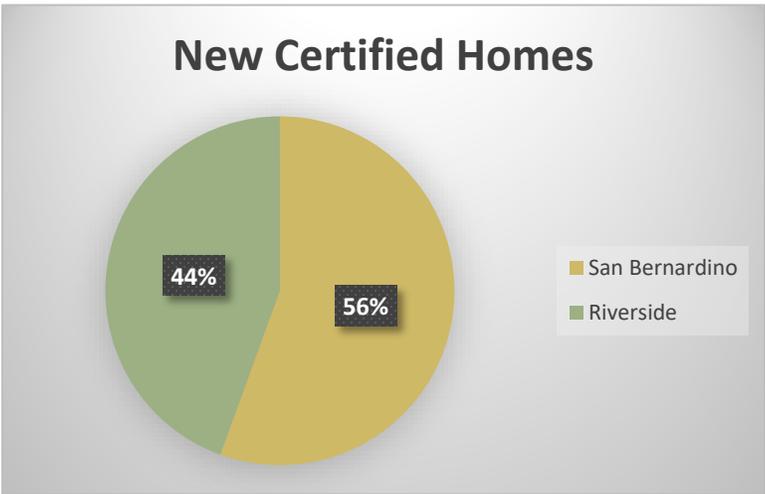
2022 Certified Homes Ethnicity Breakdown

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| African American | 61 |
| Caucasian (White) | 17 |
| Hispanic/Latino | 31 |
| Asian | 1 |
| Other | 1 |



2022 Newly Certified Homes

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Riverside | 8 |
| San Bernardino | 10 |



Main Office

21935 Van Buren St. Suite A-1
Grand Terrace, CA 92313
909-906-1023

Training Office

12180 Ridgecrest Rd Suite 102/104
Victorville, CA 92395

Website

<https://www.heartmattersffa.org/>