

2022- 2023

Annual Report

Give hope
room to
GROW



CASAVALENTINA



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Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am delighted to present our annual report for the past year, highlighting the remarkable impact Casa Valentina has had on the lives of former foster care and homeless youth. I am continually inspired by the heart and determination of the youth we serve, and it is with immense gratitude that I share the progress and successes we have achieved together.

In the pages of this annual report, you will find heartwarming stories of transformation, accounts of personal growth, and the quantifiable impact of our work. With your continued support, we can further our mission to uplift our youth on their journeys to independence. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all staff, partners, and generous champions who make this work possible.

Together, we can continue to be a beacon of guidance and hope in the lives of our young men and women.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Janice M. Graham".

**JANICE M. GRAHAM, M.S. EDL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



About Us

Our Mission

Casa Valentina's mission is to provide at-risk and former foster care youth with safe affordable housing, life skills, and continued support so they achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

BACKGROUND

Casa Valentina creates a nurturing space for young adults in Miami-Dade County who are transitioning out of foster care or are otherwise at-risk of facing homelessness. Our mission is to provide at-risk and former foster care youth with safe affordable housing, life skills, and continued support so that they achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

We offer opportunities to cultivate positive outcomes and support healthy personal growth, promoting well-being, responsible decision-making, and a path toward a fulfilling life.

OUR HISTORY

In 2005, a group of five compassionate women in Miami-Dade recognized the urgent necessity to assist young adults emerging from a system that had left them disconnected from their community and support. These young men and women faced many challenges that could jeopardize their transition to adulthood, navigating the adult world unprepared and alone.

Initially, our focus was on young women, and in 2010, we established a successful private-public partnership with Camillus House to offer housing and support to young men at a separate Downtown location. Over the past 17 years, we have assisted nearly 300 young adult, equipping them with the essential tools and support required for a successful transition to independent living.

Since 2017, Casa Valentina - with the help of community partners - was able to expand the program to include the delivery of these vital life skills to youth in school settings, ages 13-17, as well as young adults aged 18-24 in residential programs lacking a life skills curriculum.

Our vision is to create a comprehensive continuum of care that ensures foster youth receive the vital support they need to unlock their full potential beyond the two years they reside with us. Our Aftercare program does just that.



Our Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Honorable William Altfield

Joyce Meyers

Marcia Reisman

Renata Benedini

The Honorable Nushin Sayfie

Oliver Benitez

Gregg Spieler

Craig Bond

The Honorable Cynthia Stafford

Michael Friedman

Lynn Hausmann

Pierlus Durandis

Cassandra Theramene Arnold

Dr. Kesia Vazquez

The Honorable Vanessa Joseph

Adrian Villaraos

Dr. Diane Krieger

Susan Lampen

Sharon Langer

Maryanne Lukacs

Deborah Magid

STAFF

Janice M. Graham, M.S. EDL

Executive Director

Alexis Adams M.S.W., C.C.W.P.

Program Director

Ingrid M. Gonzalez

Program and Development Manager

Caroline Cunningham

Operations Manager

Janelle Sales

Lead Program & Curriculum Coordinator

Ashley Allen

Program Coordinator

Jacqueline Dorval

Program Coordinator

Jasmine Miles

Program Coordinator

Mickael Charles

Success Coach

Soldy Mujica

Property Coordinator/Program Advocate

Dominique Rosario

Alumni Coordinator

Program Highlights



Volunteers with DLG assisted residents with sewing basics.

One of the cornerstones of our work is providing experiential opportunities for our youth. We firmly believe this is instrumental in opening their minds to the various industries, trades and career paths available to them.

Through mentorships, internships, skill-building workshops, and community engagement, we empower our youth to seek experience and put into practice essential life skills.

Experiential learning not only equips youth with the tools they need to succeed, it fosters self-confidence and a sense of belonging while broadening possibilities.

It is proven that hands-on experiences not only build their capabilities but also instill a deep sense of purpose and ambition in our youth.

87%

of students increased their proficiency in academic and economic self-sufficiency life skills



Residents shadowing different departments within the Riviera Hospitality Group.

Expansion Programs

379

number of
unduplicated students
who were served
between July 1, 2022 –
June 30, 2023.

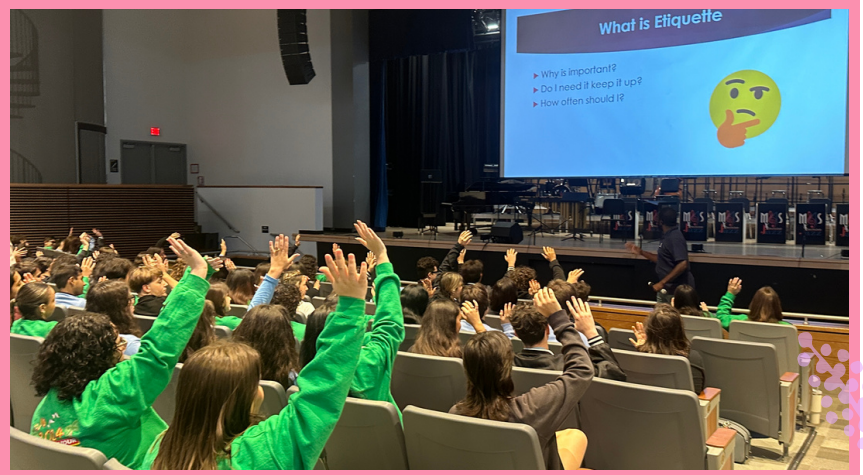
Our work with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) extends Casa Valentina's life skills program to youth ages 13-17 across Miami-Dade County public middle and high schools. It is designed to provide students with life skills in a classroom-style setting.

All sessions focus on the five pillars of a successful transition to self-sufficiency: Education, Employment, Money Management, Self-Care, and Household Maintenance.

We engaged

7 community partners

including Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Citrus Health Network, and the Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science among others.



Story of Impact

*"Because of the life skills, I was able to gain confidence in myself. I applied for school and went on to volunteer at Booker T. helping students apply for college. **I never cared about school but now I'm passionate about helping others and serving as a role model to them. They CAN do this.**"*

Janette began attending our workshops at Booker T. Washington Senior High three years ago. She remains a part of our life skills delivery at Florida International University through the Fostering Panther Pride program.

"The information hits differently when you're in college than when you're in high school so I definitely want to keep coming."

Expansion Program Milestones

**The number
of students we
served between
July 1, 2022 –
June 30, 2023**

971



Our school-based program was a resounding success! Our primary goal for the year was to increase our presence in the schools. We are thrilled to report that we more than doubled the number of students served compared to the first year of the grant - a significant result of our impact.

We succeeded in creating a more substantial presence within our schools, emphasizing the lasting importance of these skills in the holistic education of youth. By equipping them with life skills, we not only empower them to thrive academically but also prepare them for successful futures.

9 Returning Partners

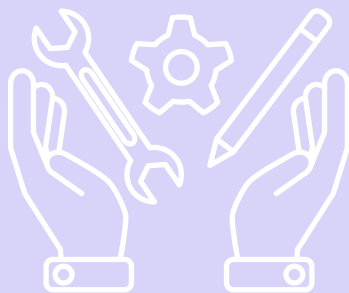


1 New Partner: **Miami Arts Studio**

- Booker T. Washington Sr. High School
- Northwestern Sr. High School
- Miami Edison Sr. High School
- Brownsville Middle School
- Jose de Diego Middle School
- Frost Museum of Science's
Upward Bound Program (UBMS)
- Educate Tomorrow's *Lunch & Learn*
- Florida International University's
Fostering Panther Pride Program
- His House Children's Home
- Miami Arts Studio (MAS)

85%

students showed an
increase in Life Skills



Our Partners

We proudly acknowledge our supporters and partners in this critical work. Our program is generously funded in part by:



*Casa Valentina is funded in part by the Children's Trust. The Children's Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by a voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County.

Many thanks to our wonderful champions:



National Council of Jewish Women



Key Organizations & Volunteers

We are grateful to those who have made the 2022-2023 fiscal year a success!



- **Capital One** for virtual life skills
- **Riviera Group** for experiential learning & shadowing opportunities
- **St. Philip's** for housewarming donations
- **St. Stephens** for hosting a networking event
- **Greater Miami Chapter of The Links Inc** for donations & life skills workshops
- **Wendy's** for providing back-to-school & food donations
- **Sharing is Caring** for donating back-to-school supplies
- **Temple Judea** for monthly meal donations
- **NCJW** for monthly meal donations
- **Jamie Roy** for employment life skills & donations
- **Brenda Feldman** for academic tutoring
- **City of Miami Opportunity Center** for providing employment opportunities/events

We engaged
146
volunteers
in 2022-2023.

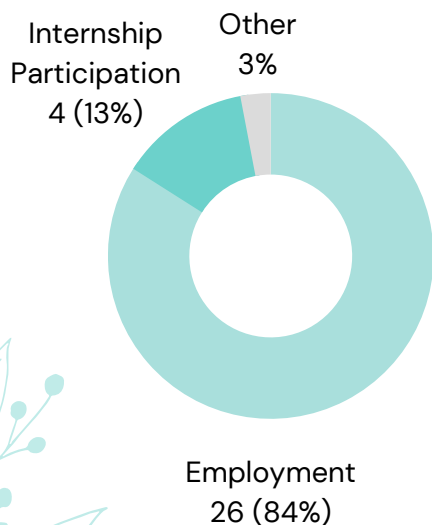
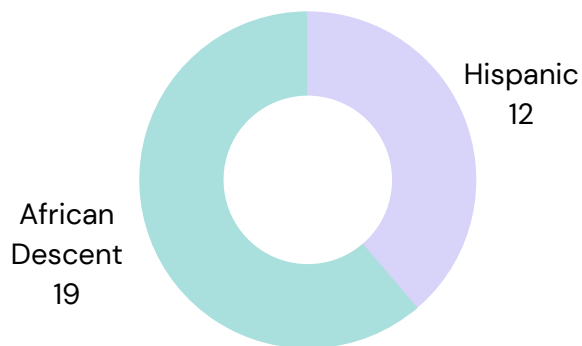
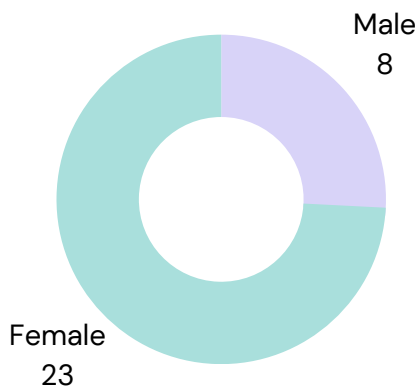
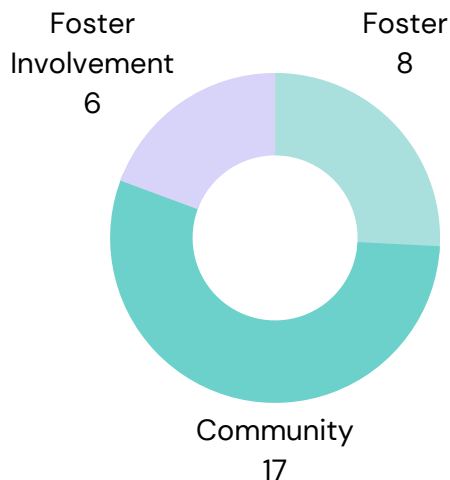


Residential Programming

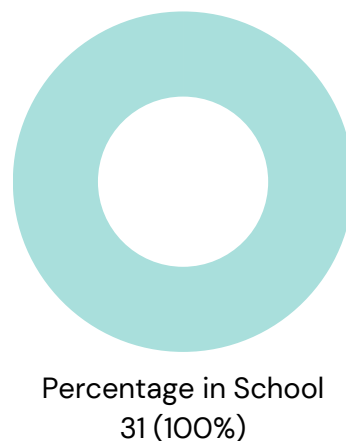
Since Casa Valentina opened its doors, we have housed nearly 300 young men and women.

Residents served between 7/1/22-6/30/23: 31

Demographic Breakdown



Number of Graduates – 8 (26%)

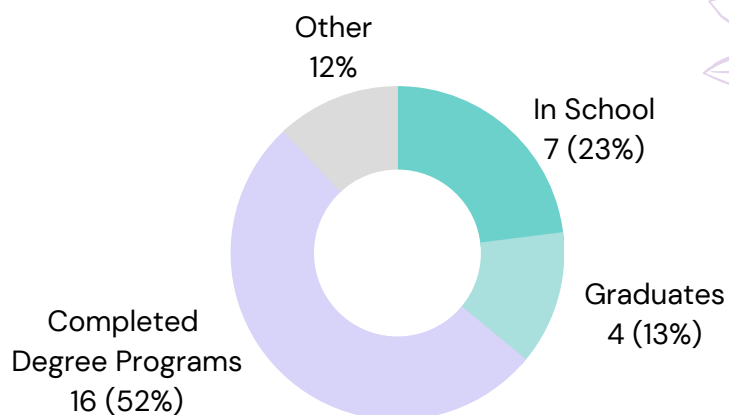
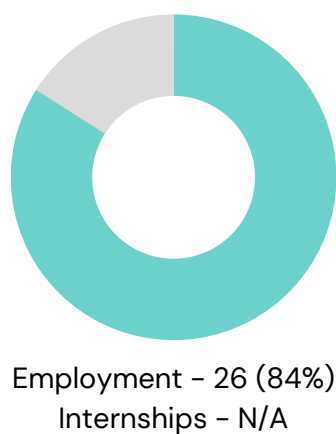
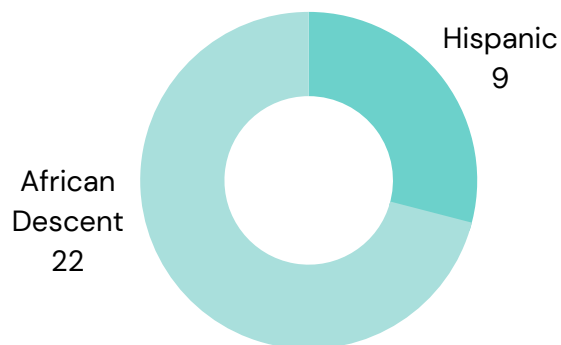
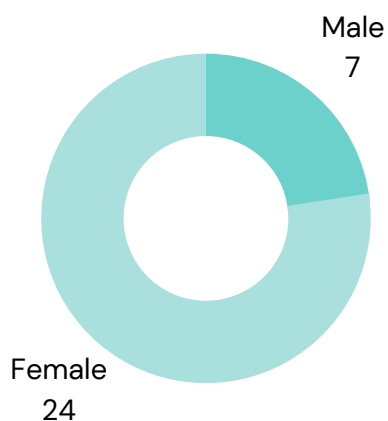
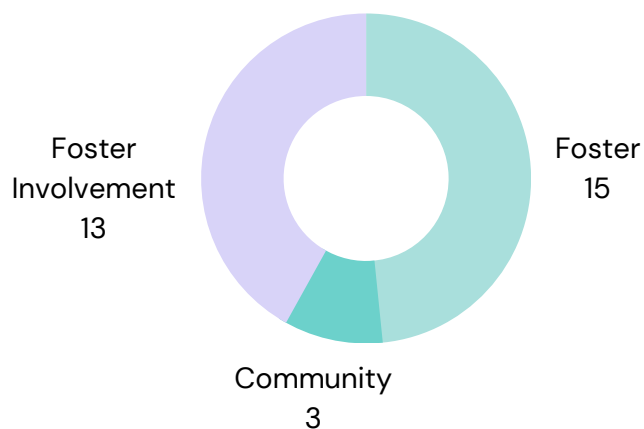


Alumni Programming

We're proud that of the nearly 300 youth we have served, 140 of them remain connected to their CV family.

Alumni routinely served between 7/1/22-6/30/23: 31

Demographic Breakdown



Youth Voices

“What inspires you?”



WESLEY

“What empowers me is when people have doubted, hated on, and hurt me. It just motivates me to keep going and keep growing to achieve my goals.”

MERLYN

“Something I would like people to know about me is that I love to dance, draw, and ice skate.

What makes me smile is watching my 2-year-old nephew grow. I love watching the way he learns and the way he processes things.”



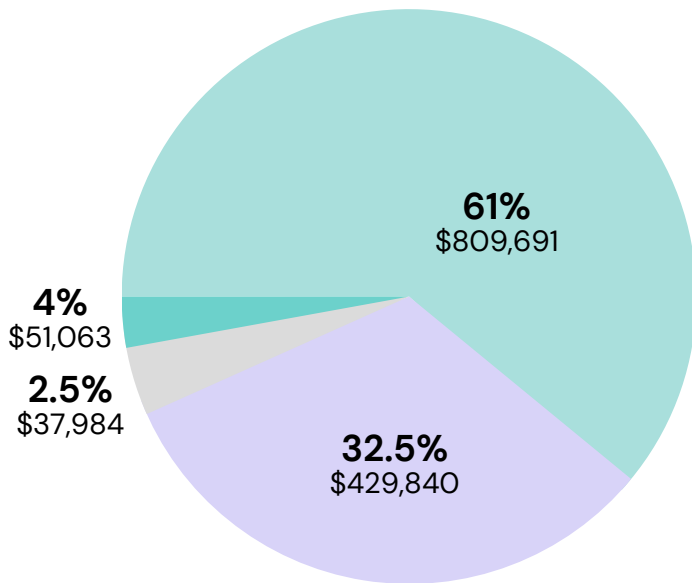
TARINA

“What empowers me is being a black woman, loving the color I am, and knowing my history. It used to be a struggle for me to accept who I am on the outside but now I do accept and celebrate myself as a beautiful woman.”



Financials

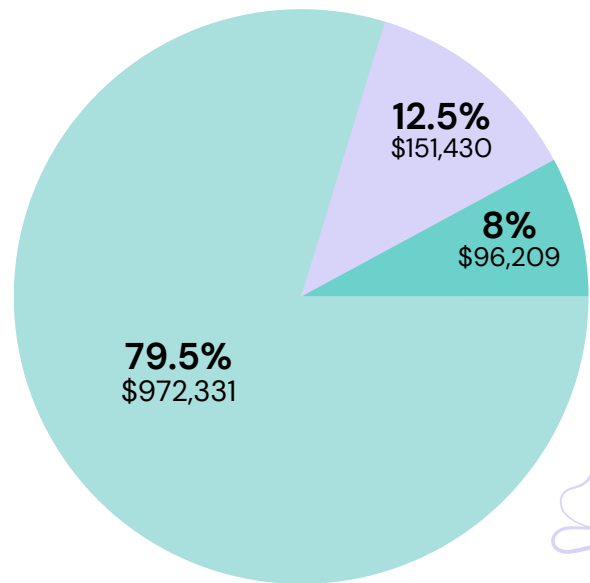
REVENUE FYE 22-23






	County & State Grants	\$809,691
	Contributions	\$429,840
	Program Fees	\$51,063
	Other Income	\$37,984

Total Revenue..... \$1,328,578

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FYE 22-23



	Program	\$972,331
	Admin & Management	\$151,430
	Fundraising	\$96,209

Total Expenses..... \$1,219,970

Financials

YEAR OVER YEAR COMPARISON

● FYE 19-20	\$987,449
● FYE 20-21	\$1,510,237
● FYE 21-22	\$1,304,605



A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we delve into this year's annual report, it serves as an opportune moment to reflect not only on the organization's recent accomplishments and growth but also to cast a retrospective gaze upon preceding years.

As we examine the broader picture, we are able to gauge the sustained evolution of the organization, offering valuable insights into our development, the challenges we have overcome together, and the strategic strides taken toward our mission.

Casa Valentina's revenue has been stable and has demonstrated a consistent upward trend over time, reflecting a resilient and growing financial trajectory. Our current financials underscore our fundraising strategies and the ongoing support we receive from our community and champions like you.

THANK YOU!



CASAVALENTINA

Give hope room to GROW

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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