

CREATING CONNECTIONS
THAT INSPIRE YOUTH AND FAMILIES

November 10, 2017

Dear Friends,

58 Years – Over 75,000 lives helped!

THANK YOU so much for your on-going support! We have now helped over 75,000 boys, girls and family members and exceed CHARITY WATCH standards for direct program support. We serve.....

- Children and youth from troubled homes with histories of school drop-out, homelessness, teen pregnancy, mental health and juvenile diversion
- Families in crisis referred by county child welfare departments and courts
- Youth and parents, in general, who are struggling to manage stressful lives

Stories are powerful. They teach us, inspire us, challenge us and change us in ways that very few things can. Here are a couple stories of our impact.....

“I was so scared. Now I’m safe!” – Maria, age 11

Things were a mess. Maria was afraid to come home from school. Mom’s boyfriend might be there and he was “scary”. Maria’s mom was emotionally fragile and easily overwhelmed. She lacked confidence and wasn’t protecting Maria. Maria was frightened and tearfully told her school counselor who contacted child welfare for support.

WE WERE CALLED by Arapahoe County to provide in-home services to ensure Maria’s safety. We helped mom learn parenting skills and gain confidence. She got rid of the boyfriend. We provided animal-assisted therapy to help Maria work through her trauma and fears. **NOW**, Maria enjoys a caring and capable mom and feels safe at home. Maria is in a local youth group and mom is helping out! *HOORAY for Maria and mom!*

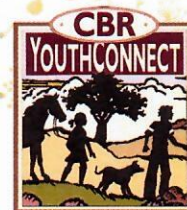


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Member of: Colorado Association of Family and Children’s Agencies

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“My parents don’t fight anymore and I know who I want to be!” – Jake, age 15

For over 5 months, Jake was living in homelessness, sleeping wherever he could find a bed, with friends, in shelters, on the streets and under bridges. He had stopped going to school and felt hopeless.

WE WERE CALLED by Jefferson County to help Jake and reunite the family. “My parents yelled and fought all the time. I just wanted to get out of the house and be on my own” he told us. His parents accepted our help and counseling. They decided to save their marriage and focused on helping Jake. We provided Jake with a Specialized Mentor. They talked about life at home, about finishing school and how to make new friends. When Jake felt discouraged, his Mentor gave support and helped him sort out his values and beliefs. **NOW**, Jake and his family are together again. He is no longer homeless or a drop-out risk. Jake is re-settled in school, back to grade level and is inspired to live his personal values and ethics to be the best he can be. *HOORAY for Jake and his parents!*

As a financial donor, YOU are the story—behind these stories!

You are truly helping change the lives and futures of these children, youth and families. Without your financial support, our programs and these stories could not exist.

This next year we are expanding our “values and ethics initiative” to help lower society’s cost for school dropouts; extending our animal-assisted services to struggling elementary schools; and focusing more resources on helping adoptive families and youth waiting for adoption. **Your financial support will help us accomplish these goals.**

Here are some other ways you can help and also hear more stories.

- Visit our website and then share it with others
- Become a Facebook friend
- Sponsor a child, family, program or event
- Get involved in our upcoming events – *A Magic Show (February 2018)* and *The “Bust’n Clays for Kids” Sporting Clay Tournament (June 2018)*

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT! We truly appreciate you. Please know that we adhere to the highest charity standards for using donations wisely and directly to serve children, youth and families.

I wish you peace this holiday season!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Charles M. Thompson'.

Charles M. (Chuck) Thompson, L.C.S.W.
President