




2,030 Children and Families served
across Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina

A close-up photograph of a stone pillar. The pillar is constructed from grey, rectangular stone blocks with visible mortar joints. A white rectangular plaque is mounted on the pillar, featuring the name 'THORNWELL' in raised, serif capital letters. Above the plaque, a small, round, reddish-brown coin is embedded in the stone. The pillar is set against a background of green foliage and a clear blue sky. In the foreground, there are some green, grass-like plants.

THORNWELL

“

If one dollar is offered me for the Home of the Fatherless this month, or one child is tendered me, I will take it as God's call to this work. And if I enter upon it, then my lot is fixed for life...

”

– Dr. William Plumer Jacobs | Thornwell's Founder

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Dear Friends,

2023 was an exciting year of impact for Thornwell. From the expansion of our foster care services to the life-transforming work occurring in the children and families throughout our service continuum, Thornwell continues to be a beacon of hope and help for children and families in need throughout South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia.

Reading the data and stories in the 2023 Annual Impact Report will confirm the positive outcomes that have resulted from the transformational work of our dedicated staff. In this report, we are delighted to share with you our collective accomplishments on behalf of children, youth, and families.

For nearly 150 years, Thornwell has been on the frontlines, ensuring that hurting children and fractured families can find healing. During this ministry's lifetime, there have been many changes in our society that have affected how we can and should best serve. Yet, through all the changes and challenges, this 2023 report is a living testimony that Thornwell remains strong, adaptable, and viable. We continue to sustain a trajectory of growth, expansion, and innovation while remaining true to our faith in God and the vision of Thornwell's founder, The Rev. Dr. William Plumer Jacobs.

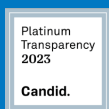
The trustees and staff of Thornwell worked tirelessly in 2023 to make a difference in the lives of all the children and families that God has sent our way. As we conducted our daily work with children and families, we also continued our commitment to assess, evaluate, plan, and pivot to ensure that we are always giving our absolute best to those we serve with a constant eye on maintaining the highest levels of accountability and stewardship.

It is my fervent prayer that this 2023 Impact Report will not only inform you of the magnificent work Thornwell is doing but will also inspire you to even greater investments in the fulfillment of our vital mission. Together we are making a tremendous difference in the lives of children and families throughout South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia.

Thank you for your prayers, partnership, and support,



Reverend Myron W. Wilkins
President/CEO



CHARITY NAVIGATOR
★★★★ Four Star Charity

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1875, Thornwell is a diverse nonprofit ministry across Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina committed to the most innovative and effective solutions to heal, strengthen, and empower children and families. **Our success is measured by children and families made strong. Our impact is a testament to the strength of a community when we come together to build tomorrow's families.**

Our Vision

Thornwell's vision is to see hopeful, healthy, and empowered children and families fulfilling their God-given potential.

Our Mission

As a Christian ministry, our mission is to provide safe and nurturing environments where we educate, equip, and support children and families to thrive.



FAITH-DIRECTED:

Because we trust in God, we seek Divine wisdom and guidance in all we do, anchored in Scripture and the historic tenets of the Christian faith.

(Proverbs 3:5-6; Apostles' Creed)



SERVICE:

As passionate servant leaders, we are committed to serving others with humility and integrity.

(Philippians 2:3-4 NIV)



FAMILY-CENTERED:

We are committed to a family-systems approach, recognizing the interconnectedness of children within their families and their broader social support networks.

(Ecclesiastes 4:12b NIV)



ACCEPTANCE:

We prioritize respect, embracing the uniqueness and inherent dignity of every individual.

(Galatians 3:28 NIV)



EXCELLENCE:

We are committed to the highest quality work, utilizing research-based best practices to maximize our impact.

(Colossians 3:23 NIV)



TEAMWORK:

We are committed to working in unity toward fulfilling our shared vision.

(Ephesians 4:16 NIV)

Our unique Continuum of Care allows us to come alongside children and families as an empowering partner to nurture, encourage, enrich, and advocate for them on their journey.

Residential and Foster Care Services

A.R.C. Residential Care – The only attachment-based residential care program in the Southeastern U.S. dedicated to the support of children placed by State agencies (such as the Department of Social Services), as well as children with loving parents and caregivers who are struggling to deal with the long-term impact of their child’s early experiences of trauma, or those experiencing adoption-related issues

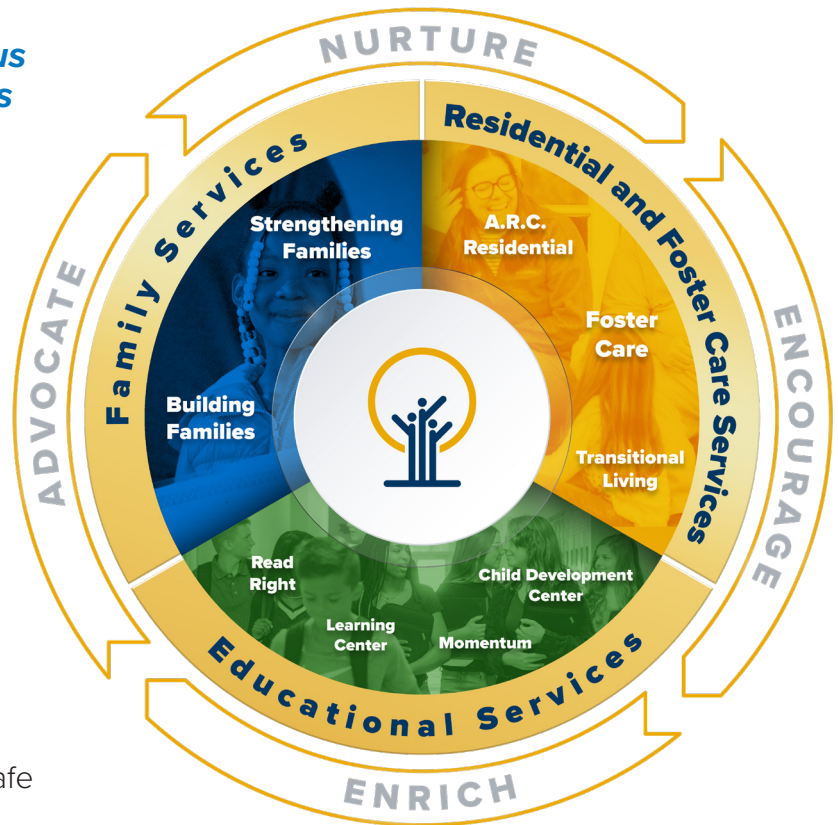
Foster Care – Providing children in need with safe homes to support trauma recovery and healing while their families cope with crises. We also license, recruit, and support foster families in the Upstate, Midlands, and Pee Dee areas of South Carolina.

Transitional Living Services – A program designed to help young adults ages 18-23 learn independent living skills necessary to balance life’s responsibilities through vocational and educational support, financial management skills, community-building support, emotional support, and supervision.

Family Services

Building Families – In-home counseling for children ages 3-17 and their families. Available in select cities across Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, our program allows families to learn together, express themselves, and build a foundation for a strong and stable environment that produces strong and stable children and adults.

Strengthening Families – A 14-week group program for Laurens County, SC families offering education, enrichment, and community to help them strengthen their bond, improve family relationships, and equip parents and caregivers with skills needed to feel more confident parenting their children.



Educational Services

Child Development Center – An educational childcare program for newborns through 4k that emphasizes growth in all developmental areas—social, emotional, physical, cognitive (intellectual), and spiritual—as a holistic, interrelated process.

Learning Center – A center dedicated to providing academic support services for resident children – including remedial services in reading and math - with the help of passionate tutors.

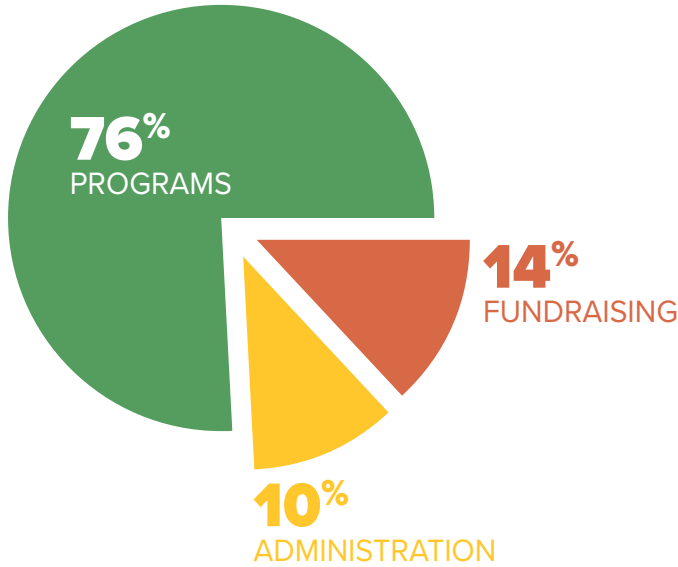
Momentum Summer Camp – A power-packed day camp for kids ages 5-12 that provides an opportunity for children to grow academically during the summer months while also having fun and enjoying all that it means to create sweet summer memories.

Read Right – A unique reading intervention program that creates excellent readers by encouraging them to derive meaning from the text they are reading on their own instead of focusing solely on phonics.

Fiscal Responsibility & Accountability

In 2023, **76 cents of every dollar** went to programs serving children and families.

Programmatic Efficiency



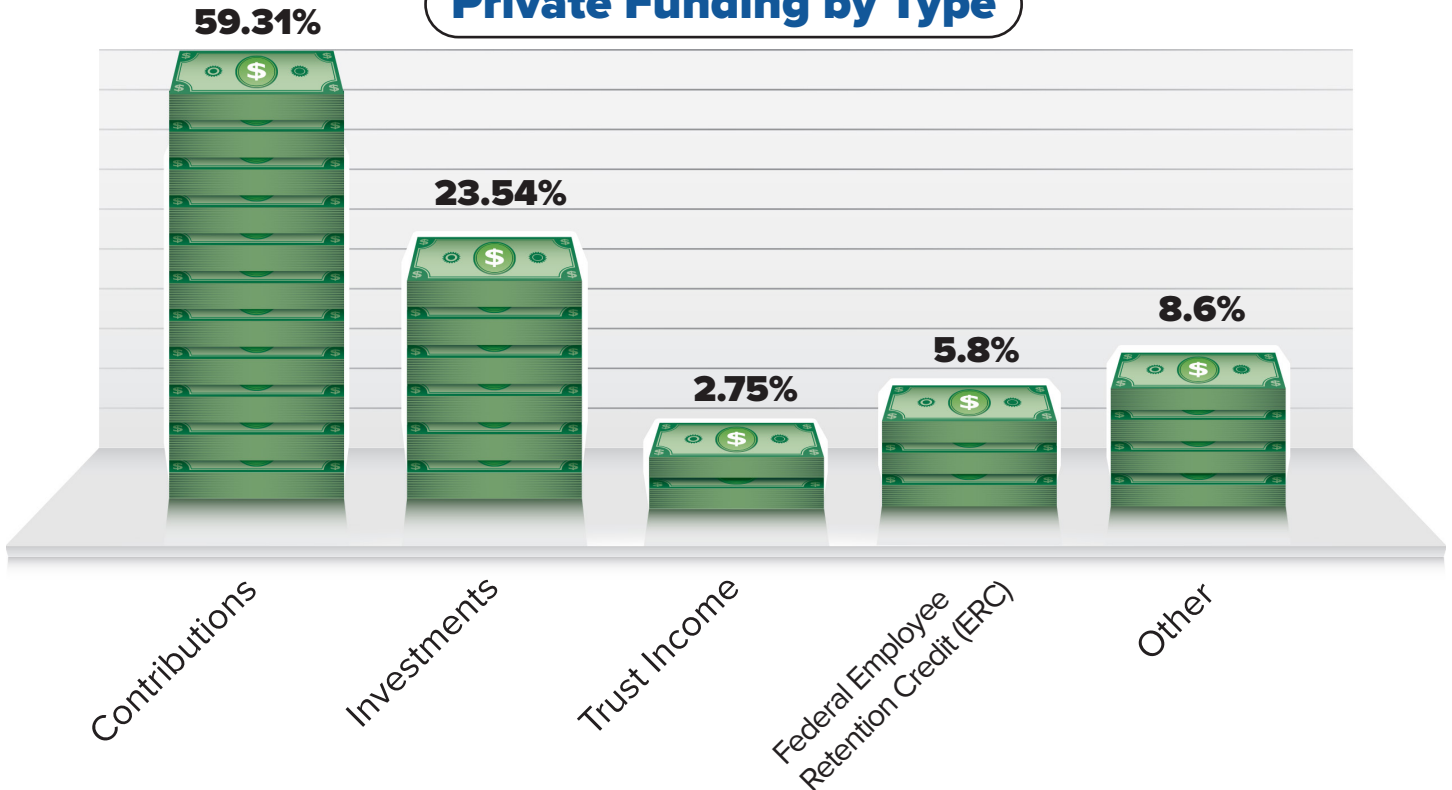
Revenue by Type

PRIVATE FUNDING **77.52%**



FEE FOR SERVICE 22.48%

Private Funding by Type



We're Proud to Be a Charity You Can Trust!

Thornwell believes in maintaining the highest levels of financial transparency and accountability. Your remarkable and selfless gift goes directly to serve thousands of children and families each year.

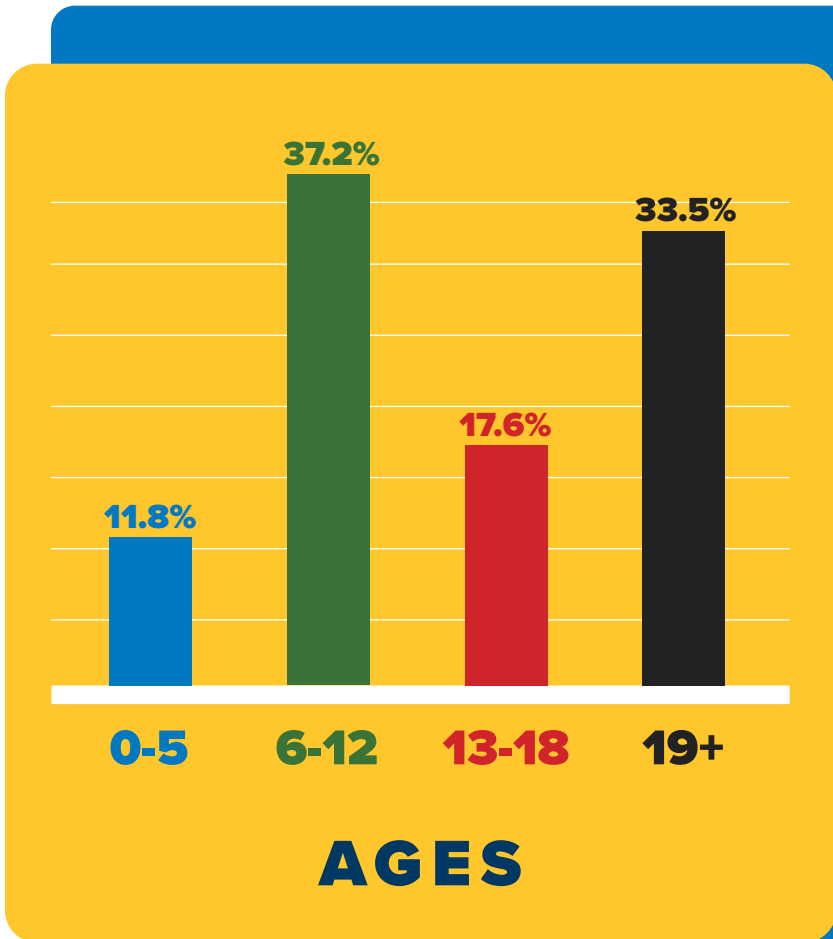
In 2023, Thornwell earned a "Platinum" award for financial transparency by Candid, the highest honor of its kind in the world. Thornwell is a 4-star charity by Charity Navigator, with a rating of 100%.

Thornwell is fully accredited by the National Council on Accreditation (COA).



CHARITY NAVIGATOR

★★★★ Four Star Charity



Demographics



45%
MALE



55%
FEMALE

RACE	<i>Caucasian</i>	51.6%	<i>Hispanic</i>	4.9%
	<i>African American</i>	31.7%	<i>Asian</i>	2%
	<i>Bi-Racial</i>	7.3%	<i>Other</i>	2.4%

Thank YOU for creating pathways to powerful life change in 2023!

JANUARY

Thornwell campus staff kicked off Friday coffee hour to get energized and fellowship together.



FEBRUARY

A church youth group threw Thornwell residents a pizza party!

MARCH

We connected with kids during “Foster Care Story Time” at the Pickens County Library.



AUGUST

We dedicated the Library at Thornwell Charter School in memory of Ms. Nancy Garner.

Thornwell Building Families partnered with Laurens County School District 55 to place two school-based therapists serving students.

JULY

Our “Grab ‘n Go” summer meals program served a record-breaking 38,325 meals this summer to those experiencing food insecurity in our community – and more than 200,000 meals since 2020!

SEPTEMBER

Thornwell was awarded as one of the 2023 Best Places to Work in South Carolina!

We celebrated the grand reopening of The Home of Peace – Thornwell’s first building on campus, home to Dr. and Mrs. Jacobs, and now our official museum and welcome center!





APRIL

We showed our community how to be advocates for children in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

We celebrated strawberry season at the LushAcres Farm Spring Festival.



MAY

We kicked off Foster Care Awareness Month by celebrating foster parents, including those in our newly opened Foster Care Village home – the second in the village!

Kiddos in our 3k and 4k programs celebrated their (super adorable) graduation day.



JUNE

Our LushAcres Farm partnered with Presbyterian College, United Way of Laurens County, and the City of Clinton to launch Gleaning Day, a neighbors-helping-neighbors initiative combatting food insecurity in Laurens County.

We welcomed church volunteer groups from all over for two summer service weekends.

OCTOBER

Thornwell staff celebrated Founders Day – 148 years in service to children and families – by gathering for fun, fellowship, and worship!

We kicked off the 3rd annual Fall Festival and Corn Maze. LushAcres Farm welcomed more than 3,200 people during its annual festivals!



DECEMBER

Families celebrated their graduation from the Strengthening Families program.

NOVEMBER

Hundreds of churches participated in Thornwell Emphasis Month, a tradition more than 100 years old that raises awareness and funds for Thornwell programs.



Residential and Foster Care Services

ATTACHMENT-BASED RESIDENTIAL CARE

When Colleen entered Thornwell's ARC Program, she had already experienced more disappointments in her short life than most of us will experience in a lifetime. She coped with her trauma by using drugs and getting into fights at school, which led to multiple suspensions. **Your loving support ensured Colleen got the help she needed – innovative therapy, academic support, and Teaching Parents who showed her what love looks like. You planted the seeds that helped Colleen blossom into a bright, confident, and engaging young woman.** Recently, she was able to move in with a Thornwell-licensed foster family where she continues to thrive!



ATTACHMENT-BASED RESIDENTIAL CARE

- **37 youth** who've experienced trauma were provided with safe and loving homes to grow and heal.
- **50** Residential and Transitional Living participants, and **40** of their family members are closer to healing thanks to **989 counseling sessions** and assessments ranging from individual and family therapy to equine and art therapy!

TRANSITIONAL LIVING

- **15 young adults** benefitted from campus housing, vocational and educational support, and supervision.
- **11 independent living skills classes** supported the healthy and positive transition to adulthood.
- These young adults are now better navigating life's challenges thanks to their access to and participation in independent living courses!

FOSTER CARE

- **83 children** found support in loving foster homes, including 17 teens.
- **113 foster parents** were uplifted through dedicated, individualized support.
- **14% increase in licensed foster homes** open to accepting teen placements – the demographic with the highest need.
- **100% of newly licensed families** say they have the support from their Thornwell Family Specialist necessary to begin fostering.
- The **second Foster Care Village home** opened on Thornwell's campus focused on welcoming teens and keeping sibling groups together.

Because **you provide pathways for children to feel safe and loved**, we can meet the holistic needs of children, teens, and young adults who have experienced trauma and offer them a full spectrum of care services dedicated to their long-term healing.

Foster Care

As a middle school principal, Karmen was heartbroken every time she was notified that one of her students was entering foster care. She felt called to become a licensed foster parent with Thornwell. As she was prepping for the end of the school semester and upcoming holidays, she got a call that changed her life. She gave an enthusiastic “yes” to twelve-year-old, Bianca, joining her home. The two shared a love for reading and bonded over their favorite books. With so much on her plate so close to Christmas, Karmen was grateful for Thornwell’s amazing donors and her Thornwell Family Specialist who helped ensure Bianca had personalized gifts wrapped under the tree on short notice. Because you believe all youth in foster care should feel special and loved, Bianca was thrilled on Christmas morning to open new clothes, shoes, pajamas, books, and stuffed animals purchased just for her!



Family Services

Because you believe in strong, thriving families, we can offer highly personalized family services and programs that equip and empower parents to build stable families and experience continual growth through love and support.



Building Families

When Felicia and her husband, Devonte, first found Building Families, they felt they'd failed as parents. They tried everything they knew to support their adopted son, Jason, without progress. After years of trauma and growing up in foster care, Jason was defiant and aggressive and even talked to peers about not wanting to be alive. **Your support of Thornwell's Building Families program ensured this family could work with their Family Specialist to build trust, develop new skills, and prioritize connection over correction.**

There was no magic solution, and Jason still struggled at times to regulate his emotions. Yet, when they graduated from the program, Felicia said she felt hopeful for the first time in a long time. They continue to stay in touch with Kevin through after-care services. Recently, Jason told Kevin about an incident with a classmate where he used some of the skills learned through Building Families. Jason said, "I had the thought in my head to yell at her, but I chose to be kind instead."



- **1208 children and family members** were helped across Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina through the Building Families program.
- **25.9% increase** in people served, resulting in more families equipped with parenting and nurturing strategies.
- **226 family members** supported in yearlong aftercare services dedicated to maintaining skills and supporting healthy relationships.
- **A partnership offering School-Based Counseling Services** kicked off between Building Families and Laurens County School District 56 (Laurens, SC).



Strengthening Families

Through your support of Thornwell's Strengthening Families Program, you create an important community for parents in need of connection and care. During a class session, one mother, Keisha, opened up about her challenges in parenting her two sons. With support from their Strengthening Families leaders, the group collectively brainstormed alternative approaches, and the following week, Keisha returned, sharing the success of implementing the recommended techniques. She felt renewed in her parenting journey, inspiring her to work on forming deeper bonds with her boys. At their program graduation, the sons gave their mom a big group hug. It spoke volumes!

Because you believe all families should thrive, the Strengthening Families program can transform lives one heart at a time!

- **62 family members** were served in two 14-week cycles of classes. They strengthened communication, improved their relationships, and built community with others.
- **58 family members** were served in booster sessions designed to keep skills current and bolster healthy relationships.
- **85.5% graduation rate** for the 2023 program year. These cycle participants are equipped with new skills to support healthy communication and bonding.

Educational Services

*Because you provide the keys to unlocking healthy futures for **children**, we can provide essential education support through our various academic services to help close distinct learning gaps and personalize the learning experience.*

Read Right

12-year-old Jack is a 7th grader on the autism spectrum and can struggle with word pronunciation and vocabulary challenges. His mother, Pamela, is his advocate and sought to find the best program to help boost Jack's reading skills. Thanks to your remarkable support of Thornwell's Read Right program, Jack was met with a tailored program to best support his needs.

Despite living in the South Carolina Lowcountry, he was tutored virtually each week during four one-on-one sessions. After 60 hours of tutoring, his reading assessment showed significant improvement - a grade equivalency of 8.1 and a national percentile rank of 45. Thanks to you, Jack is now reading above his grade level and getting even better through his individualized support!

Read Right

- **83 students** received personalized instruction helping them transform from poor to excellent readers.

FULL ACADEMIC YEAR | 2022-2023

In 12 months, the Standardized Test for the Assessment of Reading (STAR) for participating students showed:

- An **average grade equivalent gain of 1.3 school years**
- An average **national percentile rank growth of 6.7 points**



Child Development Center

4K student Moana can't wait to go to kindergarten next year! You'd never know she was the same shy, quiet child who came to Thornwell's Child Development Center struggling with her speech and basic communication skills. Fortunately, her mom, Janna, had complete faith in the program's ability to help her child become school-ready. She'd already witnessed the great educational strides made by her son, Will, who graduated 4K last year.

Thanks to your profound support, Moana is met with a supportive environment and teachers who guide her through custom learning plans, growing her confidence, knowledge, and speech. Her parents are thrilled to watch Moana shine and can't wait to see how far she'll go!

Child Development Center

- **300 children** aged 6 weeks to 4k received high-quality educational care helping them become kindergarten ready.
- **146% growth rate** in the number of Newborn to 4k students served in Child Development Center.



Learning Center

- **37 residential students** were equipped with essential education support through individualized after-school tutoring.

Momentum Summer Camp

- **30 campers** experienced academic gains that prepared them for the new school year in just two months of educational summer fun!



Fighting Food Insecurity



Our “Grab ‘n Go” summer meals program **served a record-breaking 38,325** meals this summer!

*Because **you join us in our commitment to supporting healthy communities**, we can provide nutritious food to children and families experiencing food insecurity in our communities. Your tremendous support helped us enhance existing programs and launch brand-new initiatives to help our neighbors.*

Hunger affects families in terrible ways. It can lead to poor development of children, chronic illness, difficulty working and going to school, and it is very traumatic. We believe that no parent or caregiver should have to choose between paying the power bill or putting healthy food on the table.

Because of your remarkable generosity, hundreds of families were fed!

Single mom, Allison, has twin twelve-year-olds, Cooper and Ava. She was out of work this past summer and desperate for help. One day, while driving past Thornwell’s campus, she saw the roadside banner for Thornwell’s Summer “Grab-N-Go Meals” program – an initiative started in 2020 through a partnership with the USDA to ensure children aren’t going hungry when school’s out.

To date, you’ve supported us in serving more than 200,000 meals and counting!



“I knew it was an answer from God.

The sweet ladies [at the Dining Hall] didn’t judge me. They just handed me bags of food for my kids,” said Allison.

“I breathed deeply that day for the first time in weeks.”

Allison was also given a flyer for “Gleaning Day,” a neighbors-helping-neighbors initiative dedicated to supporting families facing summer food insecurity by providing fresh farm produce, canned foods, and healthy meal options. Spearheaded by Thornwell’s extension ministry, **LushAcres Farm**, and in partnership with the **City of Clinton, Presbyterian College, and the United Way of Laurens County**, Allison and others like her were able to pick up one of 150+ boxes of fresh LushAcres crops and canned goods at locations throughout Clinton.

Because compassionate people like YOU choose to be the hands and feet of Jesus, Thornwell, and LushAcres Farm have had a long history of sustaining communities.

And it doesn’t stop there...your support of LushAcres Farm led to the harvest of more than **1,100** pounds of fresh produce donated to local food banks. **It included 450 dozen eggs and 100 pounds of grass-fed meats!**





From driving tractors and packing community meal boxes to cutting hair in youth cottages and writing notes of encouragement to Thornwell staff, **481 individuals selflessly gave 2,930 hours of their time** to help bring hope and joy to children and families served by Thornwell in 2023.

We cannot fully express how grateful we are to experience the way you pour out your love on our children, our families, our campus, and our community. Because of you, lives were changed this year.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

Incredible Impact Like THIS

Happens Because Donors and Partners Like YOU Believe Children and Families

Should Thrive!



2,030 lives were positively changed across Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina.



1208 children and family members now live better together through support from the Building Families Program in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.



481 volunteers devoted **2,930** hours to bringing hope and joy to those we serve.

Our “Grab ‘n Go” summer meals program served a record-breaking

38,325

meals this summer.



451

children were equipped with essential education and development support through the Child Development Center, Read Right, Momentum Summer Camp, and Learning Center tutoring.



50

ARC Residential and Transitional Living participants were served through **989** therapy sessions – including individual, group, art, and horse-assisted therapy.



83

youth in foster care experienced love in Thornwell foster homes, including **17** teens.



3289

visitors attended LushAcres Farm festivals in the spring and fall.



COUNTLESS

prayers covered our children and families as they experienced the goodness of God!

THANK YOU!

**TO ADVOCATE
OR PARTNER**

Vice President
for Mission
Advancement

864.923.1878

TO GIVE

Director of
Philanthropy

864.923.5524

TO VOLUNTEER

Community
Engagement
Coordinator

864.938.2704

**Interested
in getting
involved?**

Your support helps our most vulnerable children and families now more than ever. When you give, you lay the foundation for hopeful, healthy and empowered children and families to fulfill their God-given potential. **THANK YOU!**

