



2025 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



150 Years of Hope. A Legacy to Believe In.

As the longest-serving, faith-based children's and family ministry of its kind in South Carolina and one of the oldest in the Southeastern U.S., Thornwell has endured for 150 years thanks to your remarkable support. We are committed to this hard and holy work because, over our 150 years, we've witnessed that better is possible, healing is powerful, and children and families deserve a partner in hope. **Thank you for being a part of our legacy in motion.**



Families just surviving are now thriving, thanks to communication and trust-building.



Days in crisis turned into days in class for children who faced educational barriers due to poverty and neglect.



Nights in emergency placements are now nights with loving, familiar faces for teens in Thornwell foster homes.



Empty bowls into full bellies to stable, safe where children heal.



150 years ago, The Rev. Dr. Jacobs, a young minister of First Presbyterian Church in Clinton, South Carolina, grieved for children and families devastated by the Civil War. A simple dream blossomed—a safe-haven where children and families could **grow, heal, and thrive**.

Rooted in faith, Dr. Jacobs knew that with God and loving support, the human spirit remains remarkably resilient despite hardship. On October 1st, 1875, Thornwell opened its doors to 10 orphaned children. Dr. Jacobs’ belief “that God so willed and would, therefore, support the endeavor,” carried him and his beloved orphanage throughout the years until his death in 1917.



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Despair turned into determination for young adults who found community and hope.



Untapped resources turned into stewardship of God’s goodness at LushAcres Farm



Breaking points are now turning points for families who received trauma-informed care.





Rev. Myron W. Wilkins
President and CEO

It is with great joy that we share Thornwell's 2025 Ministry Impact Report!

This year marked the start of our 150th anniversary, honoring a legacy of service to children and families. Throughout this celebration, we reflected on our rich history, impactful present, and hopeful future as a leader in faith-focused, trauma-informed care across South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia.

By God's grace and your generous support, Thornwell ended 2025 in a strong financial position. We met our budget goals and completed key capital improvements, including the renovation of our Clinton campus church—now the Anderson Stall Worship Center—creating a dedicated space for worship, connection, and spiritual growth.



Rev. Erika Rembert Smith
Chair of the Board

We also expanded our programs in meaningful ways, opening additional foster homes and a new residential cottage for boys on our Clinton campus. These efforts, alongside our comprehensive trauma-informed services, enabled us to serve more children and families and prepared us to meet growing needs in the year ahead.

From our beginnings as an orphanage founded by Rev. William Plumer Jacobs and his wife, Mary, to the multifaceted ministry we are today, Thornwell remains a place of hope and healing. As we celebrate this year's impact, we look forward with faith to a future where children and families are supported, strengthened, and empowered to fulfill their God-given potential.

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord..." —
Colossians 3:23–24

Thank you for your prayers, partnership, and support.

Thanks to your remarkable generosity, **100%** of families in our community counseling program say they've learned new skills to handle future challenges and improve relationships.



In 2025, volunteers contributed a total of 1,477 hours of service to Thornwell, including our Spring and Fall Festivals at LushAcres Farm. These efforts represent an estimated \$49,444.21 in contributed community value.*

Through field trips to LushAcres Farm, 4,590 students engaged in hands-on agricultural education — fostering curiosity, strengthening connections to local food systems, and creating meaningful outdoor learning experiences.



**Determined using the nationally recognized Independent Sector valuation of volunteer time.*

Building a Vision for Empowered Children and Families

Thornwell’s vision is to see hopeful, healthy, and empowered children and families fulfilling their God-given potential. From 1875 to today, we continue to innovate and create effective solutions to **provide safe and nurturing environments where we educate, equip, and support children and families to thrive.**

In 2025, through our strategic plan *Tomorrow Starts Today*, we focused on three guiding pillars that propel us towards an impactful future:

CHILDREN WILL THRIVE



Building Stability, Healing, and Lifelong Success

Children will thrive because we will ensure every child in our care has a safe, nurturing, and loving home where healing can begin. We will provide trauma-informed services that build resilience, remove educational barriers, and support each child’s growth. Through a holistic approach, we will develop inspired, successful learners who are confident, capable, and prepared for the future.

FAMILIES WILL THRIVE



Building Resilient Families for Generational Impact

Families will thrive because we will equip parents and caregivers to navigate future challenges and spark lasting, generational change. Through innovative approaches and meaningful collaboration, lives will be transformed not just for today but for generations to come.

THORNWELL WILL THRIVE



Building Capacity to Sustain the Mission

Thornwell will thrive because we will strengthen our resources, our people, and our infrastructure. Through sustainable funding, engaged partners, spiritually grounded service, and responsive operations, we will build an organization prepared to meet today’s needs and tomorrow’s opportunities.

Hope Begins Here

For 150 years and counting, you've helped us support children, families, and communities with care, compassion, and lasting solutions. Meet some of the children and families whose lives were changed in 2025 thanks to your remarkable generosity.

COMMUNITY

Foster Care & Foster Care Village

Strengthening Families

Thornwell Community Counseling

For the Sampson family, foster care and adoption are gospel work. After serving as Teaching Parents at Thornwell and adopting three children, John and Heidi answered the call to keep siblings together as a part of Thornwell's Foster Care Village.

Because of your generosity, the Sampsons now have space in the Foster Care Village to offer stability, healing, and hope to siblings who might otherwise be separated.

Heidi will never forget welcoming one sibling group. The youngest child had cried uncontrollably in a previous placement and was believed to be unable to walk. When she saw her brothers and sisters again in the Sampsons' home, she stopped crying, stood up, and ran into their arms. Today, as a family of ten, the

Sampsons are living out their passion—protecting sibling bonds and ensuring children grow up together, surrounded by love. Thank you for making this life-changing work possible.

70% of youth self-report increased feelings of safety, belonging, and well-being while placed with siblings in a Foster Care Village home.





CARE

A.R.C. Residential Care Transitional Living

When Mariana 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 Mariana got the help she needed – individualized therapy, academic support, and Teaching Parents who showed her what love looks like.

You planted the seeds that helped Mariana blossom into a bright, confident, and engaging young woman. Recently, she moved in with a Thornwell-licensed foster family where she continues to thrive! Thank you for believing that ALL children deserve the opportunity to know love and safety.

96% of youth demonstrated both clinical and behavioral stability during bi-weekly assessments over a 12-month period, effectively lowering their risk of harming themselves or others and decreasing the likelihood of placement instability.

EDUCATION

Child Development Center

Read Right

Momentum Summer Camp

Mateo started Thornwell’s Read Right program as a soft-spoken and struggling student. The 16-year-old’s primary language is Spanish, and his grades began to fall in his all-English-speaking school. Science class was especially difficult with its overwhelming vocabulary. When Mateo started Read Right, he was reading at a second-grade level. But Mateo showed up early. He worked hard, and he didn’t give up.



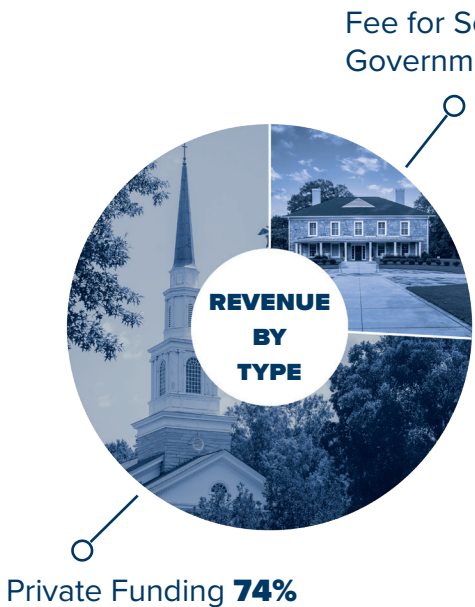
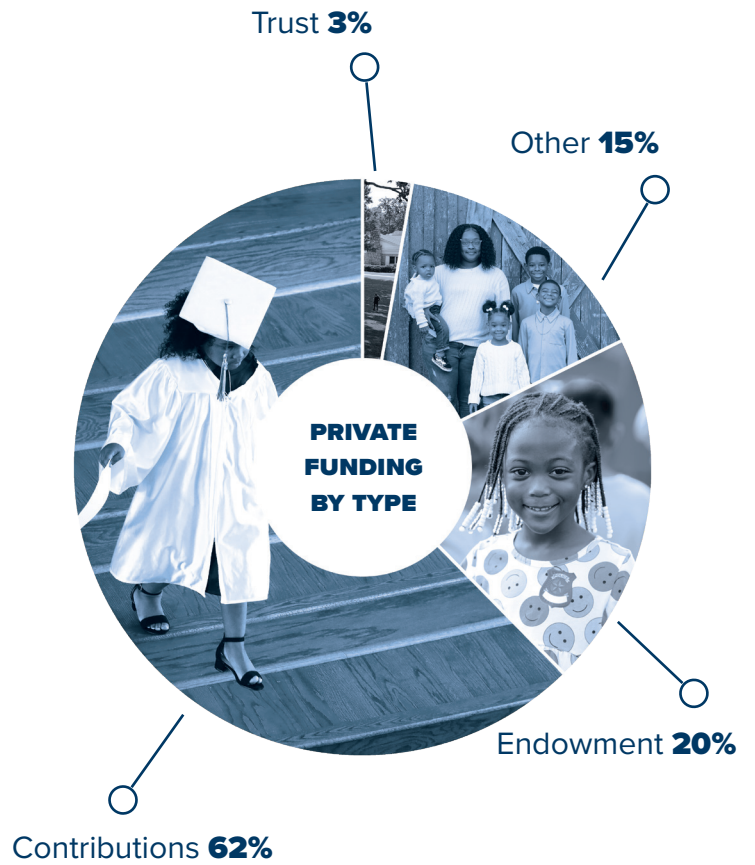
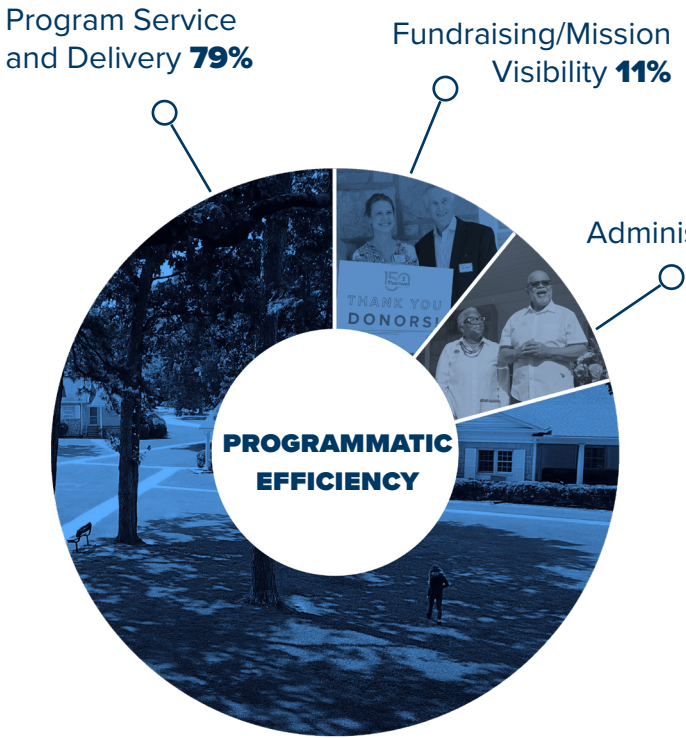
With the help of caring tutors and your generosity, the seeds of hope were planted and nurtured. By the end of the year, Mateo had read *The Odyssey* and *Romeo and Juliet*, made the A/B honor roll, and was reading on grade level.

Mateo’s journey is a testimony to what happens when love prepares the soil and faith plants the seed. Thank you for cultivating Mateo’s continued success!

85% of Read Right students increased their reading comprehension by more than the equivalent of one school year after 12-months in the program.

Financial Transparency and Responsibility

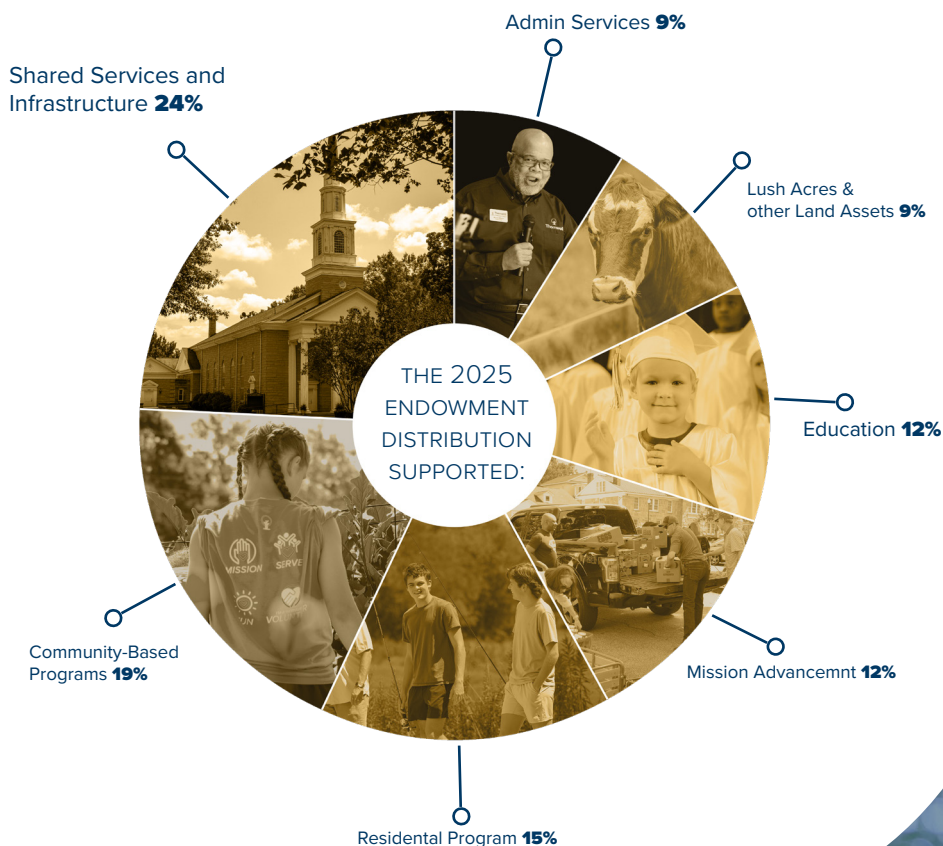
At Thornwell, stewardship is more than a responsibility—it is a reflection of our commitment to those we serve. **79 cents of every dollar** is invested in program delivery, while **21 cents** supports the people, systems, and infrastructure that make that impact possible. This intentional balance allows us to deliver high-quality care today while building the capacity needed for long-term, sustainable impact.



Thornwell's Endowment

Even before the first child was welcomed in 1875, Dr. Jacobs had the foresight to create an endowment—laying a financial foundation that would sustain Thornwell's mission far into the future. The yearly endowment distribution is based on a prudent, disciplined, Board-approved spending policy; these funds provide dependable annual support while preserving the long-term growth of the Endowment itself.

In 2025, Thornwell distributed **\$2,008,839 from the Endowment** to strengthen the impact of programs serving children and families across our ministries.



THE IMPACT OF YOUR ANNUAL GIFT:

119 Children receiving safe, nurturing care

1092 Family members strengthened through counseling and prevention services

506 Students supported in their educational journey

100% Safe facilities maintained and stewarded

130+ Staff members equipped and trained to serve with excellence



Thornwell Executive Leadership

Rev. Myron W. Wilkins
President and CEO

Ms. Lindy Scott
Executive Vice President

Mr. Gregory W. Haselden
Vice President for Finance and Operations

Ms. Elizabeth Milhous
Vice President for Mission Advancement

Mr. Norman Dover
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On behalf of the children and families whose lives were changed through love, innovative support, and Christ-centered care in 2025, thank you for your generosity!

Together, we will see the day when hopeful, healthy, and empowered children and families fulfill their God-Given potential.



Help us serve children and families and stay up to date by following us on social media.

