Thanks to you, our Immediate Response therapists are available 24/7 – 365 days per year – to intervene when a crisis occurs in a child’s life.

Our objective is to prevent or decrease the severity of future mental health and behavioral problems by beginning therapy immediately following a traumatic event.

Crisis intervention is the most intensive level of mental health services we offer. If a child is in need of ongoing therapy after Immediate Response, we refer the child to clinic or school-based sessions. This quarter, 100% of our Immediate Response clients are being released to a lower level of continued mental health services (clinic and school-based). This means that children like Jovan* develop resilience as soon as possible after a crisis occurs.

We met 10-year-old Jovan at the scene of an overdose. Jovan called the police after discovering his mother collapsed in the kitchen of their home. He immediately dialed 911 and in turn, the police contacted ChildSavers. Jovan received immediate mental health care and was seen by a therapist as his mother began her recovery.

By the time his mother had met her treatment goals, Jovan was ready to be discharged. His ability to build resilience during this traumatic life event is attributed to his personal strength and the help of a trusted adult - his ChildSavers therapist. The demand for our Immediate Response services continues to grow and your support enables us to carry out this mission-critical work. The sooner therapy begins, the better chance there is of mitigating the long-term effects of trauma.

*Name and information altered to protect the identity of the child and family.

Members of Montgomery, Alabama’s District Attorney’s office and Child Protect team met with ChildSavers to help replicate our crisis intervention model in their own community.

Immediate access to therapy with a therapist is crucial to helping children heal after trauma. We’re delighted to share our model with colleagues across the country.
Eight-year-old Charlotte* was referred to ChildSavers after a classmate touched her inappropriately. After learning she had also been abused outside of school, Charlotte was paired with school-based therapist, Katy Reynolds, LPC.

She struggled to open up during her school therapy sessions. But when Charlotte and Katy started drawing on the whiteboard, things changed. Charlotte first drew herself based on outward appearance; her hair, outfits, etc. With help from her therapist, they identified her internal characteristics and strengths.

Then, she started adding past “parts” of her to the whiteboard including “victim.” When her therapist talked about the differences between “victim” and “survivor,” Charlotte lit up. She erased the whiteboard and drew a picture of herself that was very similar to past illustrations. Only this time, the drawing was labeled as her “hidden self.” Surrounding it were five bubbles. The last read, “I wish I would have fought back.”

After talking with Katy for a few minutes, Charlotte finally understood that she was a survivor.

Every year, you help hundreds of children like Charlotte build resilience to trauma. Your support allows children to tell their own stories with a trusted adult and explore their hurts, strengths, and emotions.

ChildSavers therapists are placed in seven of Richmond’s highest-need public schools. Your generosity provides a space for children to heal where they learn, grow, and play.

*Name and information altered to protect the identity of the child and family.
This year, members of ChildSavers’ team helped pilot a program that will help shape the future of early care in Virginia.

We worked closely with Smart Beginnings Greater Richmond, Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, and the Preschool Development Grant to create a framework for standardized early childhood and school readiness. This pilot program helps unify quality standards for all children across Virginia.

Overall, ChildSavers offers six Child Development programs including: Virginia Quality, Child Care Aware, Virginia Infant and Toddler Specialist Network, CDA, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Voluntary Registration.

Investing in early child care matters. When all children have access to quality early care, we see a 13% return on investment* due to reduced cost of remediation, incarceration, reliance on welfare, health care, and better employment outcomes. Kids can also enter kindergarten on an even playing field – socially, emotionally, and cognitively - and special needs can be identified early on.

In addition to educating and nourishing young minds from birth to 5, you’re equipping providers with an elevated skill set. When early educators improve their curriculum, safety standards, nutrition plans, and training for new hires, they can grow their business. Your support uplifts both children and their providers throughout Virginia.

Learn more at childsavers.org/CDS.

*Statistics provided by The Office of The Governor of Virginia.

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

In addition to running a business consultancy and a blog with 11,000+ followers, Megan Wilson has a passion for children's mental health and development. As our newest ChildSavers Community Partner, Megan is leveraging her platforms to raise awareness about our work.

Learn more: sweettalkstrategy.com
Follow Megan: sweettalkstrategy
FRUIT SALAD IN A CONE

Last year, we served 2,170 children through our Child and Adult Care Food Program. Here is an example of the recipes we share with our child care providers across Virginia.

**Ingredients:**
- 1 cup strawberries
- 1 medium kiwi
- 2 medium orange
- 1 cup pineapple

**Serve with:**
- 1 medium banana
- 1/4 cup coconut milk
- 1 medium orange
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 ice cream cones

**Instructions:**
Cut and mix strawberries, kiwi, slice oranges, and pineapple. In a food processor, blend banana, coconut milk, orange slices, and vanilla extract. Pour the processed juice over the fruit salad and mix. Spoon the fruit salad into ice cream cones. Refrigerate or serve.

A NOTE FROM YOUR CEO

Diving deeply into the lives of those we serve helps us grow closer to them and better understand their dreams and needs.

I recently visited a partner child care center with staff enrolled in our Child Development Associate (CDA) credentialing training and nutrition program. It was incredible to see the lasting, crucial connections these children were making cognitively, and with their peers and providers. I shared a pretend meal with four-year-olds that included "plastic" broccoli, apples, and baked chicken. They told me, “It is good to eat good food. It keeps you strong and feeling good.”

This special deep dive visit helped me to see clearly that our team’s trainings are helping children learn for life. I left the center feeling great, especially after the children invited me to come back and eat a real lunch with them.

Developments and special moments like these are made possible by you. Your generosity is nourishing young minds and equipping providers with the training and resources they need to thrive as early care professionals.

L. Robert Bolling, Chief Executive Officer

UPCOMING EVENTS

**POSTPONED**

Supper at Sunset has been postponed as we divert our energies toward operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please standby for the rescheduled date.

**REGISTRATION PENDING**

Prepare your team of four or sponsor the Kiwanis Golf Tournament, benefitting ChildSavers on September 21. Registration date pending.