TO OUR SUPPORTERS, DONORS, AND FRIENDS...

Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

This year, the challenges of COVID-19 continued to be unusually difficult for the most vulnerable families in Los Angeles. At Aviva, we focused on hope and resilience, the driving forces of the transformational work we do.

Our amazing employees, children and families were able to collaborate, share ideas and blend evidence-based therapies to best serve each family’s needs. Our humility and respect are the keys to the positive outcomes for our clients especially in these difficult times.

With continued commitment to our program areas of Mental Health, Crisis Intervention, Foster and Adoption, and Supportive Housing for Women and Children, we were encouraged to see families overcome struggles and trauma, identifying new pathways leading to hope, resilience and transformation. Every step of the way our extraordinary team of caregivers, case managers and support staff responded to changing dynamics in how we provide support — offering compassionate care whether in person or virtually. Their tireless commitment to our work inspired our leadership team, Board of Directors and clients.

Critically needed generosity from our donors, partners and friends ensured that every family who needed our support was able to receive it. At Wallis House we worked to lift women and children out of homelessness and onto the path to brighter futures. We began healing wounds of trauma, neglect and addiction in children. We were encouraged as foster children developed a sense of belonging and safety that allowed them to look more confidently towards the future knowing they have the skills to be resilient and successful.

Each day brought new opportunities to be present for our community. Every child and every family received the compassionate care that characterizes Aviva’s work. As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful beyond words to those who have supported our mission. We look forward to continuing to transform lives and create brighter futures along with you.

Sincerely yours,

Regina Bette, L.M.F.T.  
he/him/his  
President/CEO

Jonathan Werner, Esq.  
she/her/hers  
AlvaradoSmith

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

PLANNED GIVING

Consider creating an enduring legacy for our community. Planned giving opportunities are an important way to provide ongoing support to Aviva Family and Children’s Services. Let us help you find a charitable plan that lets you support your family, Aviva and the future of our community. To discuss planned giving opportunities, please contact: Adam M. Greenwald, MBA, Vice President of Development, at 323-876-0550 or at agreenwald@aviva.org.

VOLUNTEERING

Aviva offers a variety of volunteer opportunities on both a short-term and long-term basis. Every volunteer brings a unique set of skills and experiences that can make a positive and lasting impact on our clients. Specific volunteer programs include:

- Annual Holiday Drive to help families
- End-of-Summer Giveaway to donate school supplies

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please email volunteer@aviva.org or contact Azucena Navarrete at 323.876.0550 ext. 112.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Special thanks to our most generous and loyal supporters for their cash gifts, gifts in-kind and their time. To learn more about our needs and how you can make a difference at Aviva, please contact our Development Department at development@aviva.org, visit www.aviva.org/donate or at 323-876-0550.

PLATINUM ASSOCIATES

Aviva’s Platinum Associates are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of at-risk youth. Since its inception in 2001, the Platinum Associates have raised more than $1 million in support of Aviva’s work.

Membership in the Platinum Associates offered to those making a $1,000 annual gift. With a commitment to Aviva’s Platinum Associates, members receive meaningful benefits including networking opportunities, exclusive luncheons, lectures, and social events, as well as unique volunteer opportunities with Aviva clients. More at www.aviva.org/platinum.
CREATING A BETTER, STRONGER AND MORE INCLUSIVE CULTURE

Aviva continually commits to our Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) initiative and has included JEDI as one of our four areas of focus on our 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.

We have established an intra-agency committee comprised of a cross section of employees working together to make Aviva a standout agency in inclusion and equity and to create awareness around social justice. The committee meets twice a month. This year the committee held an agency-wide townhall to give employees a forum to initiate conversations about supporting a brave space and inclusive culture. The committee also made a recommendation, approved by the Board, to establish Juneteenth as an agency holiday. We will continue to uphold the highest standards of equity and diversity in our work.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

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Outgoing Chief Executive Regina Bette reflects on her tenure at Aviva

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How Board Member Mark Caffee put his social network to work

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Read the stories of transformation and resilience from across our programs in this special section

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Wallis House continues to transform lives and support vulnerable women and children finding their path home

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OUR AVIVA CELEBRATION IS ON!
Learn more about the May event from Event Chair and Board Member Leslie Kavanaugh

AVIVA FAMILY AND CHILDREN’S SERVICES MISSION

We believe that every child and every family in our Los Angeles community deserves the chance for a brighter future. We provide compassionate support, therapeutic services, and guidance to at-risk children and families.
REFLECTIONS ON AVIVA FAMILY AND CHILDREN’S SERVICES WITH REGINA BETTE

In July 2022, Regina Bette will retire as Chief Executive Officer of Aviva Family and Children’s Services. For nearly eleven years, she has guided the organization with a spirit of generosity, conviction about the power of hope, and a vision for providing children and families the opportunity to achieve brighter futures. We spoke with her as she reflected on her tenure and thought about the road ahead.

What were your first impressions of Aviva Family and Children’s Services?

Regina Bette: I had known about Aviva because of the adolescent conferences they hosted, and I knew they had a residential program for teenage girls. Teenage girls are challenging, but they are also one of my favorite populations to work with. As I got to know the organization, I was impressed by the fact that the Aviva board was majority women and I was excited to work with like-minded women. It was clear from the beginning that all our board members were incredibly connected to the organizational mission and having so many women leaders was new and exciting to me. It’s not that the men on the board aren’t critically important — because they are — but the women seemed so focused on the services we provided. Over time that meant that when we needed to raise funds to offer the kind of programs we felt most strongly about they were ready, willing and able.

THE AVIVA FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

In the past year, widespread need in Aviva’s client communities grew. The impact of the pandemic was wide and deep at a time that could already be described as dire in many Los Angeles communities. The majority of families whose children receive direct services in each of Aviva’s four signature program areas are food insecure — their needs far surpass their means. The public health crisis is exacerbating already tenuous economic conditions and has resulted in limited access to food and basic necessities for our clients. We mobilized our Aviva community and responded with the following, free of charge to our families and clients:

- **FOOD PANTRY**
  - Our pantry is available to all families we serve and is abundant with needed nourishment including non-perishable foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, baby formula, water, cereal, legumes, rice, and grocery gift cards.

- **RESOURCE CLOSET**
  - Offering clothing and shoes, diapers and baby items, personal care and hygiene products, household and cleaning supplies, backpacks, school supplies, books and educational materials, arts and crafts supplies, toys; household furniture, appliances and kitchen goods.

- **ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS**
  - Our enrichment programs include personal development for adults that encompass workshops and education, vocational development and financial literacy as well as coaching, wellness, and nutrition. We also offer educational support and expressive arts classes for children.
How have programs and services evolved over time and over your tenure?

Regina Betts: During my time working in social services, I’ve seen a shift in how we perceive our work. In the past, we focused on our expertise to direct our clients’ care and we focused on our expertise to direct our clients’ care and objectives. In the time I’ve been at Aviva we have shifted emphasis to our clients’ defined motivations and aspirations. We’ve transitioned our approach with a less authoritarian tone and a more supportive one. “We’re going to walk beside you and help you with what you want to achieve.”

Another significant shift has been an increasing focus on family. Today, we look for ways to avoid taking kids away from their family. We work with the whole family to protect children and to build up family skills. This is particularly true in our work with parents. We want to help them become healthier parents. At Aviva, we had the group home (now Wallis House) for a long time, but it was a program that took kids away from their family and put them into intensive treatment. Then we would struggle to reunite them. Now, we’ve made a very intentional shift to looking at how we can support families to keep them together.

How has Wallis House been transformed into Supportive Housing for Women and Children?

I remember the first time visiting Wallis House and thinking I am going to be spending the rest of my career raising money to improve this place. It’s a 1917 home and it’s huge. It’s going to need constant upgrades. And then Councilmember David Ryu helped us get funding for a major renovation of the building. With his support, we were able to transform the residence—floors, energy-efficient windows, ADA compliance, and more. It became a beautiful place to welcome women and children.

The very first woman that came into the house thought she was coming to a shelter. The thought of a shelter may have led her to expect a make-shift environment. She was clearly pleasantly surprised. After a tour, and she turned to the staff and said, “This isn’t a shelter, this is a home.”

That’s so important to me and to my team because the environment we bring our clients into says a lot about how we value them. Having a well-kept, beautiful residence communicates that value to everyone. It also honors Aviva’s long tradition of protecting women and children.

“When we work together, we can make a difference in the lives of the people we serve.”

We’re going to walk beside you and help you with what you want to achieve.

WHEN FAMILIES COME TOGETHER TO HELP FAMILIES...

We are able to reach more families and support them with more services and resources. Our Family Resource Center is a community-supported place for families to get the food, basic necessities, and programs they need.

“FOOD PANTRY”

“RESOURCE CLOSET”

“ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS”
The expanding definition of family is an important part of Aviva’s work and is an essential part of your programs. What other services support families?

Regina Bette: We have a few programs that look at the extended family to see if there’s anybody who can provide for the child with a little help getting their home ready or with some parenting skills. This option makes it easier for the child who must be removed from the home to stay connected to all their extended family members, and participate in family reunions, traditions, birthday parties.

The most interesting and rewarding part of our work is getting into the individual strengths and challenges of each family. Families are unique, they come with various strengths and weaknesses, and they need diverse kinds of supports from us. Our staff are caring, informed, insightful and well-trained. And again, we focus on our clients being the experts with their own goals while we are underneath lifting them up, as opposed to having all the answers.

From day one at Aviva, one of the things I noticed is that our employees really, really care about children and families. They put the time and effort into getting to know them and advocating on their behalf. I have never worried that our services aren’t good enough. We’ve always provided excellent services. When you hear our team’s stories about their work, you can see how proud they are of what they’re able to accomplish. What the staff looks for from our administrative team is the space to offer excellent supports to children and families. Regardless of what their role is, service to our families is essential. Our operations staff, for example, understand that when they’re taking care of the facility, they are helping the children and families. Their work may not have a direct line to the child or the family, but they recognize they help provide an environment that allows Aviva services to be done well.

Aviva has an incredibly diverse workforce. We know that we have areas of deficit, particularly in having enough men working for the organization. And we know that is important because we work with about 50 percent boys and 50 percent girls overall. We want to have role models for all our kids. That said, our staff are not only good, they are fun. They all get dressed up in costumes for Halloween and they get into the team spirit as well as the work. That kind of environment makes it easy to come to work every day. We all have a strong bond so that when tough times come, we can all come together and support each other. We value different perspectives. Diversity of talents and interests amongst our staff allows us to cover more ground.

As you reflect on your leadership and your team at Aviva, what will you miss most?

Regina Bette: I’m going to miss the people — my staff, the board of directors, my colleagues — those relationships have become so important! I still think that I take it a little bit for granted that they’re there. Maybe the pandemic has helped a little bit in separating us so that it will be a little easier for me when I go. But really, I’m going to miss all the stories about what my team did on the weekend or how
THE AVIVA SPRING CELEBRATION IS RENEWED IN THE HILLS OF MALIBU.

Event Chairperson and esteemed member of the Aviva board Leslie Kavanaugh lights up when she talks about the Aviva Spring Celebration — The Art of Giving.

Rather than a traditional ballroom event, Aviva is thrilled to invite guests to an exquisite outdoor setting that will be a breath of fresh air, a scenic setting for community and friendship, and a reflection of the many ways Aviva Family and Children’s Services are transforming and renewing the lives of Los Angeles families and children.

Featuring the culinary stylings of the beloved Nancy Silverton and hosted by the incomparable Billy Harris, the event will encompass the many ways our lives intersect with art. Kavanaugh shares, “There will be many experiences — the art of mixology, the art of cuisine, the art of creative expression and many more surprises. Of course, as an important opportunity to raise money for Aviva programs, the Art of Giving is the focal point of the evening.”

Aviva means renew and we’re so excited to renew our vision for the spring event by creating a celebration of art.

― Leslie Kavanaugh

SADDLEROCK RANCH IN MALIBU
MAY 7, 2022 | 4:30 P.M.

For details visit: www.aviva.org/artofgiving

they solved a particular problem. There have been extraordinary solutions to family challenges. I love the creativity. I love hearing the stories. I am going to miss being together.

And, I feel incredibly hopeful. The team approaches everything with the attitude, “We can help.” Aviva is optimistic and positive. I think one of the most important things that we do for the families and kids is we help them to be more hopeful that things will get better. Things can change.

“We’ve made a very intentional shift to looking at how we can support families to keep them together.”
MEANINGFUL SOCIAL IMPACT

IN THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE PROVIDED OVER 88,627 HOURS OF SERVICE TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

Our families continued to experience unprecedented challenges in mental health, financial and medical crises, and poverty-related adversities.

With the support of Aviva’s team of case managers, social workers and care providers, we were able to help families in the following ways:

**FOSTER & ADOPTION**
... placed 73% of foster youth in permanent stable homes

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**
... clients saw a 60% decrease in risky behavior as a result of treatment (measured by the PSC-35)

**COMPASSIONATE CARE**
Our clients experienced a significant decrease in needs and an increase in strengths as a result of treatment (evidenced by data from our Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths tool)

**CRISIS INTERVENTION**
82% of wraparound families felt their Aviva team gave them the tools and confidence to manage future problems and the community supports to meet their needs

**WALLIS HOUSE**
... housed 54 women and 74 children

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

 Paramount Studios for participating in our first annual AvivaWalkIt walk-a-thon in June 2021.
 Aviva successfully raised nearly $70,000.
Children & Adolescents (6-15) 50%

Adults (21+)

Early Childhood (0-5) 11%

Transitional Age Youth (16-20) 3%

2,621

Individual children and families served

Family members impacted by our services

67%

of our clients have adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in their history.
HOW MARK CAFEE, CHACHO AND ARMANDO TURNED PASSION INTO POTENTIAL FOR AVIVAWALKS!

This year we were innovative in how we hosted fundraising events and we turned to our supporters to activate their own social networks to help the cause. Board member Mark Caffee, along with his canine companions Chacho and Armando, responded enthusiastically.

To raise money for AvivaWalks, our virtual event in June 2021, Mark reached out to his personal network. He also tapped the canine-loving community by posting on his beloved dog’s Instagram account (@pauleydog), which has thousands of followers. Mark exceeded his fundraising goal of $5,000 and with the help of his high-profile pets, he raised over $8,500. In addition to generous event donors, Mark and his poaches inspired others to engage further through additional giving opportunities.

Mark’s connection to Aviva is deeply personal since he was adopted shortly after his birth. He knows the gift of a cohesive family and secure home. He also knows that there are still too many children across Los Angeles whose family lives are not as stable, safe, and healthy as his was. He is passionate in advocating for those children and their families.
FINDING A SENSE OF PERMANENCE IN A HOME THAT UNLOCKED CREATIVITY.

A foster and adoption story.

SERVICES MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU.

Some of Aviva’s most mission-critical programs are made possible by the generosity of private donors and in-kind gifts from corporations and foundations. With heartfelt gratitude, we recognize this year’s donors and partners.

Leader’s Circle $25K+
- Ahmanson Foundation
- Kaiser Permanente
- Los Angeles Medical Center
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
- United Way Emergency Food & Shelter Program

Benefactors $10K-$24,999
- Adams-Matanych Foundation
- Anonymous
- Mark Cafrce
- Pilars Charitable Foundation
- George Higey Family Foundation
- Genevieve Halans and Fred Busche
- Harold Edithson Foundation
- Lester and Ilaha Kleinberg Fund
- Darrells Meyers
- Susan Rubinberg
- Geor and Mylois Saunders
- Jonathan M. Werner

Patrons $5K-$9,999
- Jan and Bruce Andelson
- Anonymous
- Audrey & Sydney Imas Charitable Foundation
- Regina Belsa
- BLT Enterprises

Disney Employee Matching Gifts
- Emma Caney Gehr Trust
- Greenberg Glusker LLP
- Riesa and Phil Hays
- Leslie and Jack Kavanagh
- Len V. Smith Foundation
- Los Angeles Nail Lawyers’ Charities
- Henry and Winfried Lyons Foundation
- Markell, Inc.
- Angela Miller

Partners $1K-$4,999
- Computer Physicians, Inc.
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- D. Michael Rust Endowment of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation
- Donovan-Jungich Family Charitable Fund
- Edward W. Saltzberg Revocable Trust
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- Dottis Long
- Los Angeles Breakfast Club Foundation
- Tamara and Richard Lohnes
- Andrea and Steve Lulic
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- Barbara and Joel Marcus
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- Cilla Munro
- Anvird Murthy
- Mutual of America Life Insurance Company
- National Council for Behavioral Health
- Murala Ramo Family Fund
- Juliet Omran
- Paycom
- Dana Riston-Lyons and Robert Lyons
- Veronica Santa Maria
- Suhre & Aschen Trust 1A
- Saylath
- Sara Shapouri
- Robert Singer
- Candace Foy Smith
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- Laurie Strassman
- Linda May and Jack Suer
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- Robin Swartz
- The Charitable Foundation
- Linda Tyler
- Rose Villasenor and Adilla Aguilar
- Jalinda Black Warner
- Whole Foods Market Community Giving
- Wishbone Rotary Club of Los Angeles
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ACREDITATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

Foster & Adoption

Katie, a foster child full of creativity and artistic skills, was referred to Aviva with the hopes of matching her to a forever family. Her path to stability was not easy as she had been in multiple placements and struggled to connect with, and trust adults. Often unable to share her feelings, Katie was angry and like so many children in her situation, she felt abandoned and let down. However, at just the right moment, 12-year-old Katie was connected to resource parents Lisa and Kyle.

Over time, Lisa, Kyle and our Aviva team began to make real progress, guiding, supporting, and caring for Katie. A turning point came when Katie was able to identify art, and specifically anime, as a real passion. Unlocking her creative potential gave her a new coping skill and renewed hope. Soon she was able to express her feeling and advocate for herself. With creative expression as a tool for conveying her feelings and ideas, and the support of her Aviva team, she began focusing on adoption. She was matched with a forever family and graduated from our intensive services foster care program. Although she no longer lived with Kyle and Lisa, the supportive relationships she formed with them shifted Katie’s outlook and they are still a part of her life. Thriving in her adoptive home, Katie continues to visit her resource parents and to nurture her creativity.

2021 IMPACT DATA

73% of foster youth placed in permanent stable homes

6 children adopted into permanent families

1,391 children and families served

The critical relationships with trusted adults that she formed along the way are still a part of her life.
Alexander is an athletic, engaged, 12-year-old boy who enjoys sports. While playing football with his friends he slipped and fell, severely breaking his arm and requiring surgery. Alexander had to spend a month in the hospital. This traumatic accident caused Alexander to have recurring, distressing memories that affected his behavior, his mental health, and his well-being.

When he returned home from the hospital, Alexander’s memories of the accident began to trigger panic attacks and emotional outbursts. He started to avoid activities he once enjoyed. His relationships with family and friends and his schoolwork began to suffer.

Alexander’s mother contacted Aviva for support. He began his cognitive behavioral therapy with a focus on trauma. He built a relationship with his therapist and was engaged in his treatment, eager to incorporate a variety of interventions introduced to him to treat the symptoms and behaviors he was experiencing. Most importantly, Alexander did not heal alone. He had the support of his mother who consistently attended family sessions on a weekly basis to help support his efforts.

Therapy provided Alexander with a multitude of healthy coping skills including being able to share and process his trauma story through the creation of a comic book. Later he shared his book with his mother during a family session which helped desensitize his experience of the traumatic event.

Both Alexander and his mother reflected on all that Alexander had achieved. He was able to return to school without experiencing panic attacks or avoiding the area on campus where the traumatic event occurred. Alexander’s mother feels his progress exceeded her expectations and most importantly, she was grateful he was able to get back to being a healthy, happy kid.

2021 IMPACT DATA

- 60% of clients saw a decrease in risky behaviors (PSC-35)
- 694 individual clients served
- More than 50% of clients achieved their treatment goals successfully
- 83% of staff are trained in an evidence-based practice to better service our clients’ needs

IN LOVING MEMORY

Walter Earl Morales | July 9, 1991 - September 5, 2021

With deep sadness, the Aviva team announced the tragic death of our colleague, Walter Earl Morales, on September 5, 2021. Walter joined Aviva in October 2019 as a resident advisor in our Walls House program. Known for his generous and considerate manner with all, he was a calm and compassionate supporter of the women and youth residents at Walls House and a dear friend to his fellow team members. During the pandemic, Walter was a steadfast presence with clients and colleagues alike.

Walter is survived by his wife Janeria; his son, Ace born in July 2021; his son, JR (Walter Jr); his nephew Sean for whom he was legal guardian; his mother Anna (of Belize); as well as a circle of extended family and friends.

He was beloved by his fellow employees and his loss is deeply felt by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.
Alexander did not walk alone. He had the support of his mother who consistently attended sessions on a weekly basis to help support his efforts.

With time and with love, the effects of trauma give way to resilience.

A mental health story.

Heather, with a young daughter and expecting a second child, faced a series of unexpected events that left her without stable housing or financial resources. Unable to find steady employment, Heather depended on her boyfriend for support. When he was incarcerated, she was unable to find employment or a place to live that she could afford for herself and her unborn child. The pandemic only exacerbated Heather’s situation; resources were scarce.

The road eventually led Heather and her daughter to the Wallis House, a safe and secure home where women and their children can experience stability, comfort, support and care. Most importantly it secured a space for Heather to begin the work of creating a brighter future. Since arriving at the Wallis House, Heather’s life has changed in many positive ways.

“I have peace of mind. And a roof over our heads. We have three delicious meals a day. We feel supported here.”

From parenting education to job skills training, to healthy meals and a safe place to sleep, Wallis House is giving women the support they need with compassion and dignity.

Now Heather can reflect on her future. “I’m going to stay in school. And I want to find work so I can provide for my daughter and my unborn baby.”

Heather gave birth to her second daughter and they continue to do well. Focusing on her education, Heather hopes to find a job and permanent housing in the next couple of months.

“I have peace of mind. And a roof over our heads. We have three delicious meals a day. We feel supported here.”
At 18 years old, the troubles of a difficult family life can manifest in challenging ways. Instability, neglect and addiction in a child’s home can set them on a course of emotional upheaval, sadness, depression, and even their own addictive behaviors. Around the age of 8 years old, Jasmine’s mother began using drugs and the family’s first Department of Child and Family Services case was opened. By the time she was 12, Jasmine reported feeling anxious and struggling with her relationships with her mother and older brother. A lack of motivation was just one facet of the inner turmoil she experienced. Like many children in her circumstances, she withdrew and stopped attending school regularly.

Jasmine was depressed and experiencing suicidal thoughts, irregular sleep, nightmares, and excessive anger. Her depression made her sad and reluctant to attend school or bathe regularly. Obsessive and compulsive symptoms were persistent; she rummaged about things left undone and had a general overwhelming sense of anxiety and worry. Without a strong family connection or reliable adults in her life, she self-medicated—using marijuana to soothe her tumultuous emotions.

Aided by Aviva’s team, focused and intensive treatment was provided to give Jasmine new tools to help manage her anger and depressive tendencies. They worked together to identify triggers that would enable Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and psychoeducation to give her new coping skills. Aviva’s Parent Partner worked closely with Jasmine’s mother to implement consistent parenting interventions and support for her daughter. Past unresolved trauma began to be processed and healing began to redefine her path forward. With the love and attentiveness of her care team, Jasmine began to learn strategies for managing anxiety and how to cope with the waves of emotions she felt. From calming techniques to prosocial communication, she gradually regained the help she needed. Over time, the support and skill of her team helped Jasmine make significant progress. And this year she graduated from high school and is ready to begin the next chapter of her life.

Past unresolved trauma began to be processed and healing began to redefine the path forward.

2021 IMPACT DATA

82% of our Crisis Intervention wraparound families felt their Aviva team gave them the tools and confidence to manage future problems and community support to meet their needs

349 children and their families received services

49% of clients graduated and accomplished their treatment goals