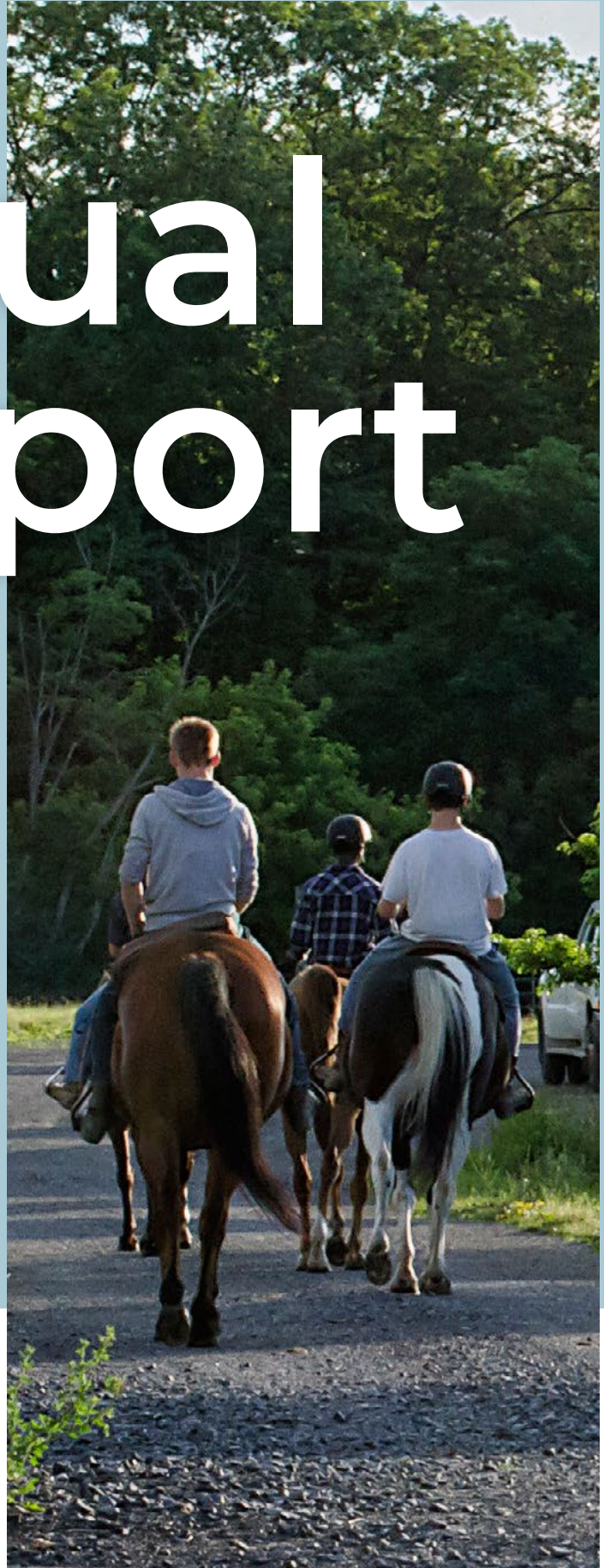


Annual Report

FY 2022-2023

THE
WILLIAM
GEORGE
AGENCY



THE
WILLIAM
GEORGE
AGENCY

Care  First

RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

MISSION

We are committed to providing a safe and caring residential environment supported by proven, therapeutic, clinical and medical care for at-risk youth.



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Photos by WGA staff unless otherwise noted. Photos on pgs 11 -12 contributed by family. Stock images from Pexels.com: Pg. 6 by Kindel Media (top left); Pg. 8 by Pavel Danilyuk (top left). Stock images from Unsplash.com: Pg. 7 by Tim Mossholder (top); Pg. 9 by Ksenia Makagonova (top right).



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Chief Development & Communications Officer

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share this FY 2022-23 report with you, remaining especially grateful to all who assisted us with time and resources in carrying out our mission. My hope is that this report will inspire you and new friends to join our efforts in healing New York's at-risk youth.

Throughout the year, our focus continued the recovery and reorganization of the Agency following the unexpected and severely disruptive pandemic. As with many crises there were opportunities to thoughtfully rebuild and advance. We did so in areas of services, programming, and staffing. I am incredibly proud of what we accomplished together, especially for the work that culminated in receiving re-accreditation for 4 years by the Council on Accreditation.

Among our achievements, 67 percent of our residents have been successfully reunited with their families with a permanency of return to parent, and 83 percent have transitioned back into the community with newfound resilience and empowerment. These statistics underscore the tangible difference we are making in the lives of New York's at-risk youth, but we are committed to continuously striving for even greater outcomes.

In the pages that follow, you will read what WGA has been doing to help troubled youth strengthen their resilience, insight and empathy by replacing harmful behaviors and negative thinking patterns with better quality relationships in a supportive environment. You'll read about activities that built healthier family bonds, personal power and healthy habits. You'll learn how they found positive ways to interact with the community.

And you'll read about how one resident turned his life around through self-discovery and gained valuable work-based skills, along with others.

Thank you for supporting us in this important work!



Executive Director
of The William George Agency





A holistic treatment approach is the foundational basis to meeting the unique, and multi-dimensional needs of every child who receives care at The William George Agency.



We seek to equip youth with the tools needed to become self-confident, independent, and hopeful in regard to their future success and personal fulfillment.



Strengthening Healthy Family Bonds



Family Day 2022 was attended by 70% of WGA families. As in years' past, a tent was erected in the field across from the pond to take advantage of the beautiful campus backdrop and sunny day. Family Day is a cherished event that brings family of children on campus to learn more about the program their loved one is participating in. Family can be loosely defined to include parents, grandparents, siblings and close friends. After sitting together for a barbeque lunch, families were invited to attend an open house of the residences and school classrooms, followed by interactive activities developed by our vocational programs. The day ended with carnival-themed activities and games.

Our Therapeutic Afterschool Program (TAP) remained a preferred vendor of Tompkins County for the provision of intensive, community-based outpatient services to youth and their families. In 2022, a strong spike in TAP referrals led to the development of a wait list for the first time in many years. That same year, TAP resumed its annual family picnic and facilitated monthly Parent Support Groups which had been suspended due to the covid-19 pandemic. Thirty-five family members attended the picnic representing nine of eleven participating families. Face-to-face support groups enable parents to discuss their shared

experiences in a supportive, therapeutic group setting. Each month, a new topic, chosen by parents, is presented to better assist them in addressing issues related to parenting their child. A completed annual outcome study revealed TAP has helped to keep 200 Tompkins County families together since it began two decades ago. That's an 85-92% success rate in preventing out-of-home placement of Tompkins County youth.



"Before coming to [TAP], my son was really struggling with aggressive and concerning behaviors in the home, at school, and in the community. Since participating in the program, these concerning behaviors have drastically decreased. I am so thankful that this program exists and especially for the program staff, which have played a huge positive role in his development during a time when he was really struggling."

- Mother of TAP participant



Encouraging Civic Engagement



There are multiple yearly activities youth can choose to participate in while at WGA. Among them are those that help develop a sense of community and empathy and can have lasting impact on neighboring families and nonprofit organizations.

In the fall of 2022, youth raised nearly \$3,150 for 5 local families and 15 children during WGA's annual Walk-A-Thon and Harvest Bake Sale on campus. The '22 season marked the most ever raised since youth began volunteering a decade ago to help support struggling families in The Salvation Army Ithaca Corps' Adopt-a-Family program. Youth assisted with delivering presents and grocery cards to the recipients.



In time for Memorial Day 2023, youth and staff from The William George Agency joined others in the community to place American flags on the graves of veterans at the Glenwood Cemetery in Homer, NY. It was the fifth year youth volunteered with the Homer American Legion (Post 465) to observe the nationwide day of remembrance in this way.

On two dates in June, Booth Cottage residents and staff volunteered to help the Dryden Historical Society set up and take down their annual tent sale, which raises much needed funds for the small organization. "We truly wouldn't have been able to accomplish what needed to be done with setting up all the merchandise, tables, moving bins, furniture, boxes, and so much other stuff! And then turning around to help us break it all down..." said Debbie Fisher, Dryden Town Historical Society president. The crew were "so enthusiastic and willing to work hard... we were all truly very impressed. Nice young men, and the staff members right along with them... We wish all of the young men the best in their future as well."



Developing Personal Care

The Medical Clinic introduced a new teaching opportunity for residents during routine medical transports aimed to empower youth in taking ownership of their personal care. Youth learned how to register themselves upon arrival to

off-campus appointments. They were educated on what documentation they need to have with them to obtain medical care and how to answer questions regarding consent, patient rights, and organ donation.



Learning About the Workplace

Several youth participating in the work-based learning program on campus received training in occupational safety at a workshop conducted by Midstate Council for Vocational Occupational Safety and Health. The workshop is provided through a program called Teens at Work. Youth learned about work place hazard identification and control, and sexual harassment, violence, and bullying prevention.

Five youth in the vocational program at the Equine Center went to a polo match at Cornell's Oxley Equestrian Center to watch a match between the Cornell Men's Polo team and Work to Ride. Work to Ride is a prevention program based in PA that empowers underprivileged urban youth through constructive activities centered on horsemanship, equine sports, and education. The program also assists youth with college enrollment and working careers in the industry.

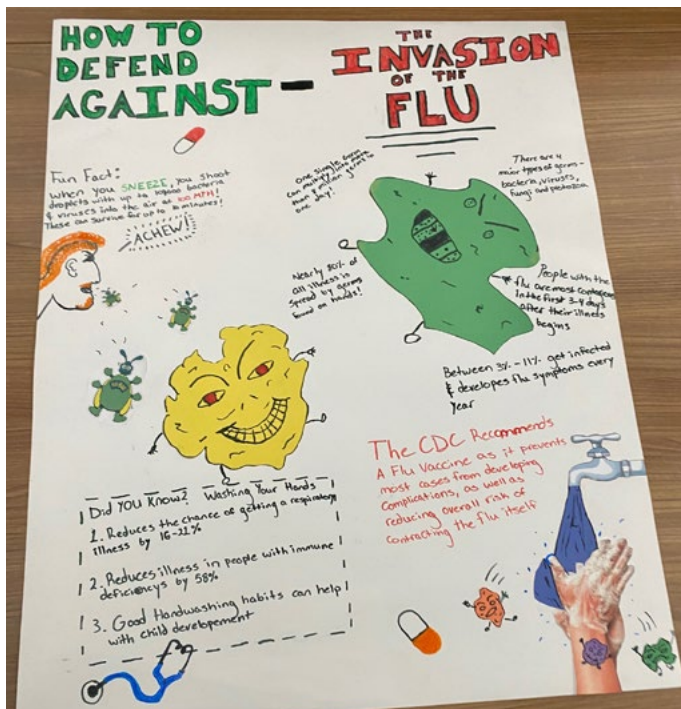




Cultivating Healthy Habits



As the flu season approached in late 2022, the WGA Medical Clinic in collaboration with the George Junior Republic Union Free School District (GJR UFSD), sponsored a contest inviting youth to create a poster on ways to stop the spread of the flu. The activity was a way to encourage youth to be informed and proactive about their health and surrounding environments. The number of residents who received a flu vaccine that season rose from 54% to 71% over the preceding year. Choate cottage won for best poster (below).



Trauma-informed Yoga classes, dubbed 'BroGa', were offered to residents in the Raise the Age program thanks to the coordination efforts of a clinical intern working with residential staff. 'BroGa' taught the young men about managing stress, increasing mindfulness, and improving their mood.

Between April and May of 2023, eight residents participated in a four-week chess club on campus organized by Cornell University students through the Cornell Einhorn Center for Community Engagement. WGA's partnership with the Einhorn Center is done in collaboration with the GJR UFSD. Chess club provides a social, informational, and competitive activity through which residents can learn about the rules and strategy of the game of chess along with a variety of important academic and life skills.

A variety of recreational activities provided amusing physical and mental challenges all year long. From court games to painting, movie nights to puzzle assembly, billiards to board games. Annual campus-wide events like the Chili Cook Off, Olympic Days and Mud Run (below) encouraged team spirit, friendly competition and built confidence through skill development and demonstration. One particularly fun and memorable activity was a spontaneous relic hunt (right) over Spring Break week in which clues were hidden in a poem to guide youth to an object located near WGA's former apple orchard.



*Hear ye, hear ye, here is clue one
The search for the relic has begun
Staff and youth collaborate to find the treasure
Water or cider, whatever your pleasure
The lady from Brooklyn will have a watchful eye
And be proud of all of your collective tries
To find the relic, use team power
Always obey the rule of ten miles per hour
Ah yes, the second clue, of course
Apples a plenty, memories of a horse
Adjust your compass, you may see deer
If you do, you're very near
When the weather turns warm, you may see a tent
For now, though, a tool to circumvent
The relic will surely be close in sight
And provide the finder with sheer delight.*





How Self-Discovery Turned Brandin's Life Around



When you're young, you don't always think about the consequences of your actions. You might also mistakenly believe you're invincible.

If you're in the habit of thinking only about the benefits of doing what you want while discounting the hazards of engaging in risky behavior, you could find yourself in some serious trouble.

Life doesn't come with an unlimited supply of chances.

This was the lesson Brandin learned after he violated his probation.

"I didn't listen," he says. "I thought they would just extend my probation period. I didn't think I'd actually lose my freedom."

Because Brandin was under 18 when he became court-involved, his case (and subsequent probation violation) was handled under New York's Raise the Age legislation.

"The judge and lawyer were amazing," recalls Brandin's mom Alicia. "I was so scared. They suggested we look at

the Raise the Age program at The William George Agency. The alternative was New York City, and I didn't want him to go where I thought he would have a greater risk of getting involved in more negative stuff and exposure to gangs. It was the hardest choice as a parent to let him go. Nobody wants to see your kid get handcuffed."

For youth involved in the juvenile justice system where remaining in the community is no longer an option, the William George Agency (WGA) offers out-of-home treatment services in a stable and safe living environment.

"People mistakenly think our highly structured environment means we are a high security environment," says Gabriel Tornusciolo, Psy.D. "Our staff are fearless by way of compassion. Our therapeutic culture supports self-discovery, personal accountability and healing. Any interaction can become a teachable moment."

Every day, trained staff and experienced clinicians support youth in establishing pro-social behavior and healthier adaptive coping mechanisms. Youth focus on achieving personal wellness goals and living in a manner that

supports their reintegration into the community. The primary goal of the RTA program is to prevent recidivism.

“WGA staff are so professional. They understand,” says Brandin’s mom. “So many are level-headed and calm, and the facility is so positive.”

When Brandin came to WGA in April 2023 he was quite surprised to see a pond on campus and eager to get accepted into the Auto Tech Shop vocational program.

“I didn’t know what to expect. I love fishing, and it’s been my dream to restore cars and make them nicer than they are,” he says. He was going to give the place a chance.



Not wanting to dwell in the past, Brandin isn’t proud of the behavior that led him to WGA, but 7 months later he’s grateful for what he’s learned in the short time he’s been there.

Like the importance of a structured day.

Regular weekly counseling sessions combined with consistent educational, recreational and vocational activities helped him mature in more ways than one.

“WGA has taught me how to quiet my mind, especially at night,” he says. “They helped me improve my mental health and sense of purpose.”

■ ■ ■
“It was the hardest choice as a parent to let him go. Nobody wants to see your kid get handcuffed.

Brandin’s mom

By ‘they’ Brandin’s referring to his youth-centered, interdisciplinary treatment team. Every youth gets one when they arrive on campus.

“For the longest time from the youngest age, Brandin would take off. Then he started hanging out with the wrong crowd,” recalls his mom. “He just wouldn’t listen. After being at WGA for a little while, Brandin came home one day and told me ‘I’m riding horses now.’ The horse was his anxiety reliever. I saw a sensitive side to my son I’d not seen. Before going to WGA, my son had dropped out of school. At WGA, he finished high school. His attitude changed and he applied himself. He wants to go to college now so he can own his own auto mechanic shop. He’s more playful.”

“We prepare our students for real-world applications,” explains Jeremy Smith, Auto Mechanic Supervisor at WGA. “We worked with Brandin to get him more into that day-to-day technician routine. He’s worked on wheel bearings, to brakes, to rotors, to AC compressors. Done oil changes and general maintenance work. All that he would be expected to do if he was working at an auto shop in the community. He knows the steps he has to go through. He punches a time clock like you would on a job. He’s even become a mentor for other kids in our shop.”

Over time, the progress Brandin made in reaching his personal goals created an opportunity for him to get an internship off campus at Whyte's Auto Service (below).

"They've asked me to stay on," he says with a smile. He's considering it. The problem to solve is how to juggle the distance between a job and college after WGA.

"I'm going to college for diesel and regular auto mechanics because I always wanted to own a diesel but never knew how to work on them. So I feel like all of this will tie together and hopefully help me out with this passion I have."

Integral to WGA programming is guided self-discovery. It helps young men like Brandin examine their experiences, thoughts and actions in a non-judgmental manner. It aids their personal growth and self-awareness.



**Since this interview, Brandin moved into aftercare services from WGA and has been accepted to college for Automotive studies.*

Successes

Three Raise the Age program residents successfully obtained their high school diplomas. A testament to their perseverance and the support they received throughout their journey with WGA. Two residents participated in a welding course offered by Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). The vocational training opportunity provided practical skills and expanded their horizons for future career paths. One graduate enrolled in a community college to study business. The step toward higher education demonstrates the young man's ambition and improved confidence in his own abilities as well as the effectiveness of the WGA program to help him attain his goals for a bright future.

RTA Program Goals

- Prevent recidivism by facilitating a therapeutic process by which participants assume responsibility for their disruptive and unsafe behavior.
- To facilitate the process of recovery, including developing behaviors, attitudes, and thinking which support the formation of healthy, well-balanced relationships.
- To facilitate healing from life traumas and understand how these experiences affect daily functioning.
- To prevent reoccurrence of illegal, aggressive or abusive behaviors.
- To help participants acquire new skills and replacement behaviors in order to get their needs met in non-destructive and healthier ways.
- To help residents understand any underlying mental health issues and learn healthy ways to successfully manage any symptoms.
- To develop a discharge and after care plan which clearly identifies each participant's continuing care needs, and puts in place a plan to support family reunification whenever possible and appropriate.
- Through the educational experience, we anticipate that each youth will work towards recovering credits that they have missed from numerous absences throughout their life. Each youth will also acquire the necessary vocational and career planning skills necessary to be successful in the work environment through the aftercare phase and discharge phase of the program.



A **special thanks** to the individuals, businesses and institutions that supported the work of WGA through direct contributions, grants or in-kind donations.



Expanding Possibilities, Positive Memories

In August 2022, Louis Loiselle was forwarded a post on Facebook by a friend. The post was an invitation by WGA’s Auto Mechanic Supervisor, Jeremy Smith, to send in items that could help make the interior of the campus auto shop more visually interesting.

“I was new in my job here and had just finished re-organizing the shop,” recalls Jeremy, “The walls were kind of bare so I asked my friends on Facebook if they had any signs or car memorabilia to donate to spruce up the place. Next thing I knew, I got a message from Louis asking if we wanted a Formula 500 race car.”

The timing couldn’t have been better for Louis, who was downsizing and considering a move down south. He’d raised his family decades earlier and enjoyed seeing his sons competitively race in their growing years.

“When my boys were young, they were involved in Microd racing,” says Louis. Microd, short for Micro Hot Rod racing, is a form of youth automobile racing unique to Central New York state through which drivers compete on a 1/10 mile dirt or paved oval track at speeds of between 20 to 50 mph.

Donors

- American Foundation
- Amazon Smile Q4
- Richard and Maryanne Banks
- Patricia Bogie
- Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC
Attorneys at Law
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- Russell Booth
- Calm Mind Psychiatric NP Services
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- The Colarusso Giving Fund
- David & Shannon Dankert
- Thomas & Nancy Eron
- ESPN Ithaca-WPIE | Vizella Media
- Thomas & Madeleine Finn
- The Fund for The William George
Agency for Children’s Services
- Anita Fowler
- Freeville Publishing Company, Inc.
- Dr. Mark Glosenger & Lorraine
Moran
- Ruth Pass Hancock
- The Hastings Nathans Gift Fund
- Evelyn Herman

“I’d cared for the [Formula 500] car for several years with the intent of racing it, which we did for 5 or 6 years. Over time the boys developed interests in other things, like ATVs and motorcycles. By the time I looked to get back into racing, my wife and I were planning to move to Florida. I thought if I was really serious about it, I’d have to cut down on other hobbies.”

So he made the decision to donate his car to WGA’s Auto Tech program, which was eager for the opportunity to work on a special restoration project.

“Since we’ve had it, the car has garnered a lot of excitement in the shop. It’s been a great teaching tool for diagnostics, mechanics, and auto-body work. For patience, planning and creativity too. A lot goes into restoring a car;” says Jeremy.

Once road-worthy again, the car will serve as a show piece representing WGA and what youth in the WGA Auto Tech program are capable of. The hope is that it will be ready in time to join in the 2024 high school graduation parade on campus.

From Louis’ perspective, the car represents so much of what is great about racing, and what can lead to greater opportunity and success in life.

“Racing is about building memories. It’s a very controlled, disciplined, structured environment. Race teams are made up of highly educated engineers and business men. There are always rules and parameters. Every phase of it is very disciplined. Whether you’re looking for sponsors or what to build, it teaches about discipline and how to work in the parameters you’re given.”

Louis, who retired from the Cortland Fire Department after 30 years in March of 2023, has a good understanding of WGA’s mission and vision.

“WGA offers hope to at-risk kids,” he says. “It gives them a chance to get back in the right direction. I’ve seen overdoses. I’ve seen the worst of the worst as a firefighter. I think there’s always hope. You hate to give up on anybody.”

Louis hopes his donation helps spark a curiosity in other areas of the auto industry beyond mechanics.

When he attended TST Boces auto program, Louis recalls “all we learned about was mechanics. I didn’t want to be a mechanic, though I did work awhile as one. There are so many other facets to the auto industry beyond repair. Repair can be a gateway to developing a lot of other skills that can be used in other areas.”

Howard & Debra Hess

Helen & Jeffrey Hulings

Lamendola Family Foundation

Louis Loiselle

Angus McDonald Jr.

Robert & Maureen McDonald

Christine Monroe

Moses Group, Inc.

The Ruth and Robert L. Newman Foundation

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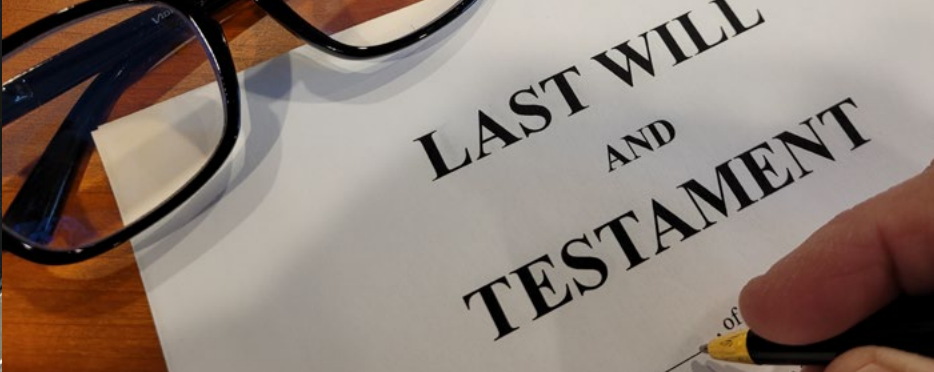
WXHC-FM Eves Broadcasting Inc.

Gifts in Honor Of

Olivia Barton

Mikalla Tweedie

Ashley and Connor Wilkins



Thanks to a grant from The Legacy Foundation of Tompkins County, WGA purchased a Glowforge 3D Laser Printer for one of its work-based learning programs. The equipment was purchased in anticipation of one-day being able to launch an apparel and merchandise Social Enterprise. Over the course of the year, youth learned how to operate the equipment and tested useful applications including engraving wooden Prom keepsakes, imprinting The Legacy Foundation's logo on leather key chains (above), and engraving ADA-compliant door signage with room numbers for school classrooms.

WGA was awarded a National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant for School Food Authorities to help it serve healthier meals for youth that meet updated meal patterns, improve efficiency of production and service, and expand participation in the school meal programs. Because of the grant, WGA purchased and installed a Cook and Hold Oven (bottom left) to maintain food quality and hold product at preset serving temperatures for hours without overcooking or drying out and to contribute to the overall quality of meals by helping to eliminate the use of highly processed foods.

In 1900, when The William George Agency was still in its infancy, a trust was established in Savannah Georgia by Elizabeth L.W. Clinch. Ms. Clinch had been a supporter of WGA, helping to fund the construction of Christ Chapel on campus in 1898. She died shortly thereafter but through her trust over the years, her support of the Agency lived on. A final payout distribution for \$64,970 was made in 2022 when the trust was terminated. The funds were deposited into The Fund for the William George Agency for Children's Services to honor Ms. Clinch's original intent to ensure resources would be available to support future generations.



Financial Summary



Operating Report

Year ended June 30, 2023

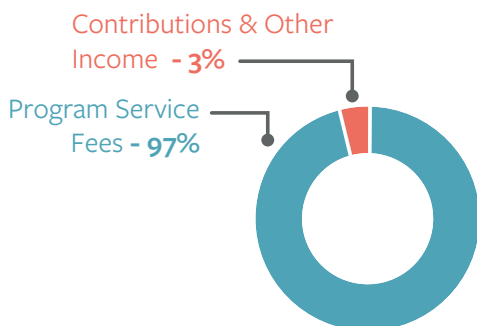
Operating Revenues

Program Service Fees	31,625,140
Contributions & Other Income	1,007,728
Total Operating Revenues	32,632,869

Operating Expenses

Program Services	29,318,562
Management	3,292,687
Total Operating Expenses	32,611,249

Revenues

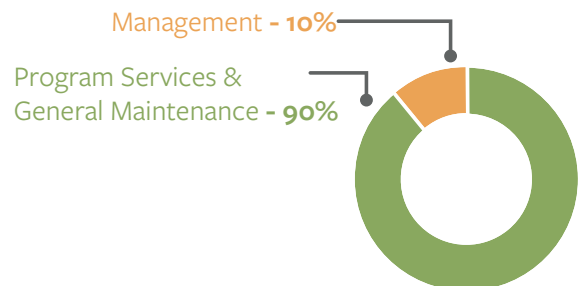


Consolidated Balance Sheet

Year ended June 30, 2023

Cash & Cash Equivalents	1,267,019
Accounts Receivable	6,715,867
Property	11,698,376
Other	16,052,370
Total Assets	35,733,634
Liabilities	6,175,871
Net Assets	29,557,763
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	35,733,634

Expenses



THE
WILLIAM
GEORGE
AGENCY

Care  First

RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

VISION

Recognized as among the best in offering innovative, highly regarded programs to serve high-need, specialized populations who have historically been underserved.

VALUES

To care first about young people while helping them develop the attitudes, social skills, and self-direction enabling them to become contributing members of the community. To engage, respect, empower, and partner with families to support their efforts in successful reunification and family preservation.



The William George Agency for Children’s Services (WGA) is a private, co-educational, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization situated on 650 acres in New York’s Finger Lakes Region that provides out-of-home behavioral, mental health, and addiction treatment services to adolescents and young adults aged 12 – 18+. WGA is licensed by New York State’s Office of Children and Family Services and Office of Addiction Services and Supports. In addition to its residential services, WGA offers preventative, community-based services to eligible youth and their families via a therapeutic after-school program. Through trauma-informed counseling and care, WGA encourages the attitudes, social skills, and self-direction essential for youth to reach their potential, engage constructively with the community and cope more effectively with life’s challenges. Services include:

- Youth-centered, individualized treatment plan
- Family reunification when in a child’s best interest
- Psychiatric services and psychological support
- Behavioral health services
- Animal-assisted activities
- Vocational opportunities and work-based learning
- Community integration therapies
- Licensed outpatient substance use treatment clinic
- Individual, group and family counseling
- Full scale medical and nursing support
- Recreational activities (e.g., team sports, art therapies, horseback riding)
- Adventure based counseling
- Educational services through the George Junior Republic Union Free School District

The William George Agency for Children’s Services Inc.

380 Freeville Road, Freeville, NY 13068

607.844.6460

wgaforchildren.org

