

# RIVER VALLEY CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



**ANNUAL REPORT FY 2019-2020**

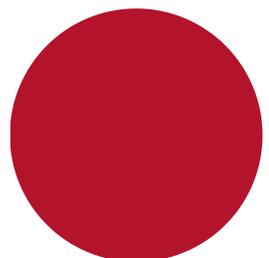
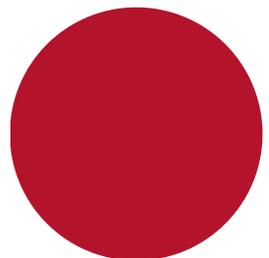
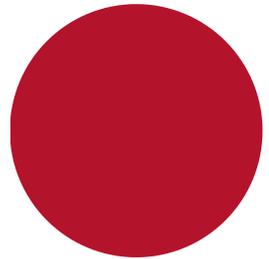
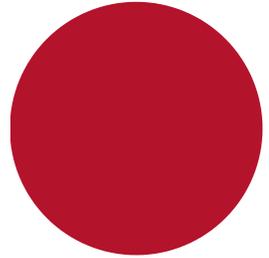
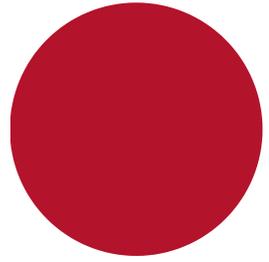


# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As Dr. Norma Gray said so many years ago "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times". That certainly describes the fiscal year 2019/20. Fiscal year 2019/20 started out with some positive news for us. After a variety of issues related to Chase Bank, we made the switch from Chase to City National Bank. We hired our new HR coordinator, Josh McAdoo who brought us fresh perspective and ideas including the need for a payroll company to help streamline our process for everyone. During the year, we changed our vendor for IT services, designed a new website for the agency, developed a new agency mission with a new vision and values and expanded office space for RAU 3 and Connect in Charleston and Choices in Parkersburg. After issues related to benefits in the previous year, we began having town hall meetings to help answer questions for staff and improve communication throughout the agency. These town hall meetings were held quarterly at different RVCDS offices, with all employees having the option to access it through Go to Meeting. We were not able to reopen our Guyandotte after school program because we were not able to secure funding to provide this free program, which made it necessary for us to eliminate the director of school age programs position. We hired a new site supervisor, Kenzie Phelps who handled the responsibilities of our after-school program at Explorer Academy. Our annual agency in-service was held at a new location, Running Right in Charleston. The location and staff, plus the addition of RVCDS Jeopardy provided a good atmosphere and day for everyone. Our Big Fish award went to Toni McKinley, director at Connect. The Board approved the addition of a new position, Development Specialist, Nikki Miller. Her focus is on seeking funds for programs such as RVCARES and SAC that are not funded through grants, as well as helping to market what we are doing to the community. Two exciting marketing opportunities presented themselves to us- a story on CNN about RVCARES as well as a story on Swedish Public Radio about RVCARES. An Open Board meeting was held in Dec. to give staff an opportunity to meet and talk with Board members. The Board will make this opportunity available every year in Dec. As the fiscal year continued, we were busy planning for events such as our annual conference, Celebrating Connections and providing our in person technical assistance for child care centers, our regularly scheduled trainings, monitoring of family child care providers, and visits with families about children ages birth to 3, etc. – then BAM COVID happened and our world changed like it did for the rest of the world. Our staff stepped up to the occasion and found new ways of providing our services. I have never been prouder of the staff at RVCDS! Even through this pandemic, they have adapted and continued to meet the goals of our mission- to provide quality service and support to children, families and the early childhood community.

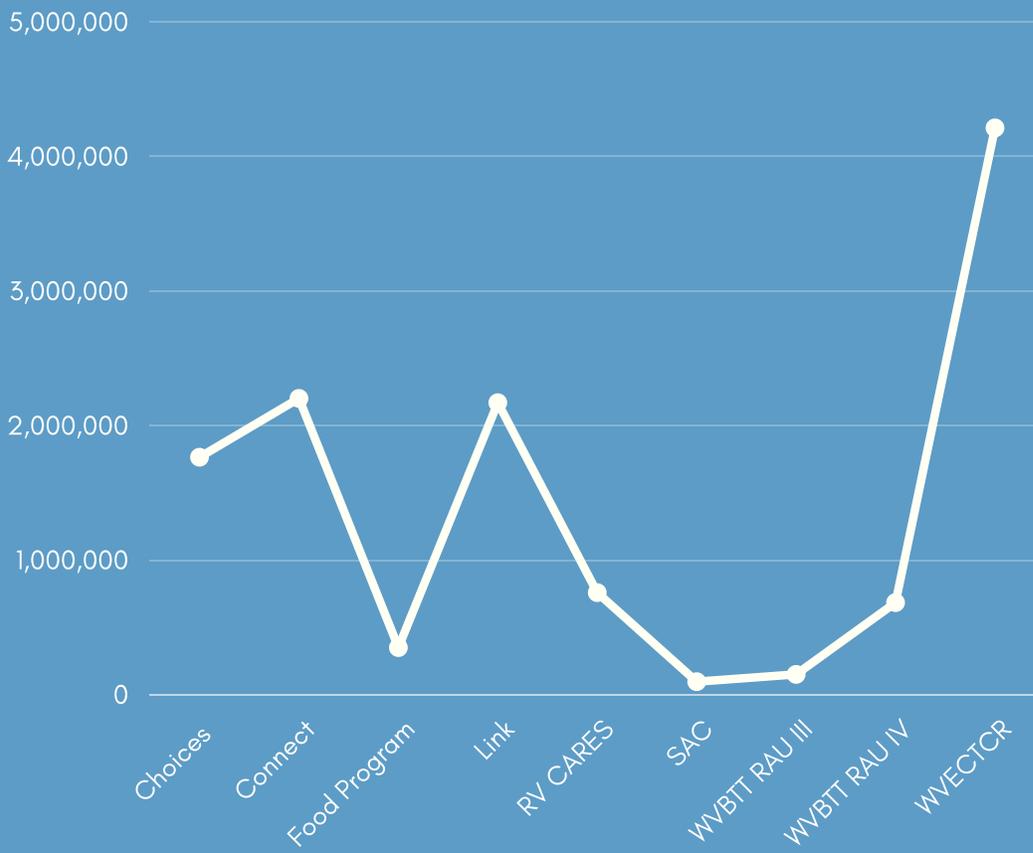
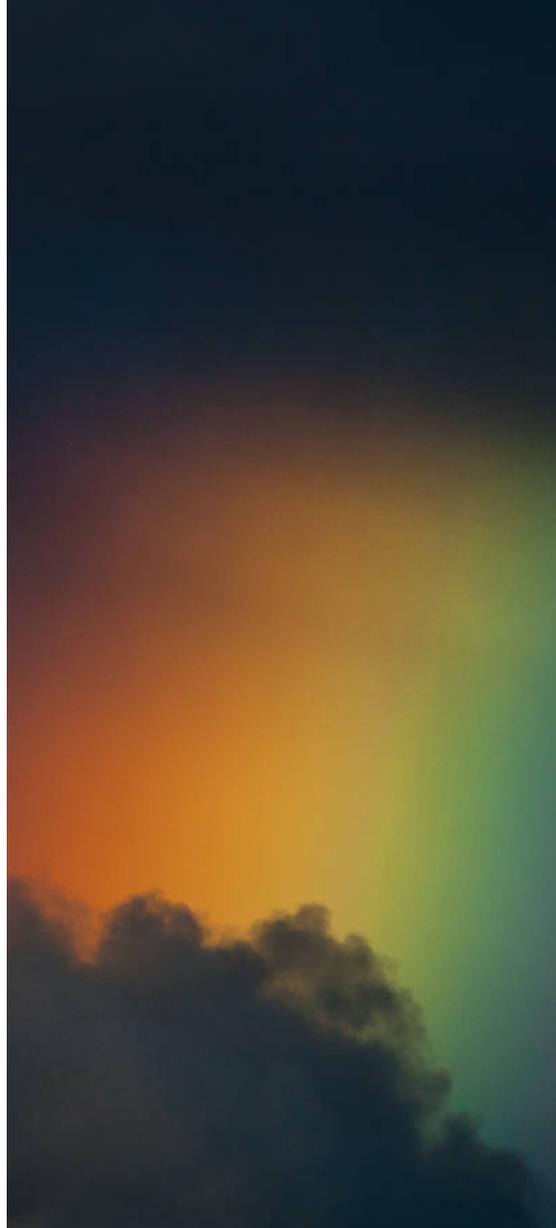
**SUZI BRODOF**

Executive Director



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

River Valley has 9 programs that work on the behalf of children and families in the communities of West Virginia. Budgets for each of these programs vary greatly. The lowest budget for the year is \$100,000 for the School Age Connections program. The highest budget is \$4,211,399 for West Virginia Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources. Each program is tremendously important and must figure out how to do the work that is needed while operating inside their own financial constraints. This year has been exceptional because half of our operating year has been spent navigating meeting the needs of those we serve during a pandemic.



**FIGURE 1.**

*Annual Budgets*

# WHO DO WE SERVE?

Children

Families

The Early Childhood Community

# HOW DO WE SERVE?

We train. We educate.

We support. We model.

We connect. We refer.

# WHERE DO WE SERVE?

Barbour Berkeley Boone Braxton Brooke Cabell Calhoun Clay Doddridge Fayette Gilmer Grant Greenbrier Hampshire Hancock Hardy Harrison Jackson Jefferson Kanawha Lewis Lincoln Logan Marion Marshall Mason McDowell Mercer Mineral Mingo Monongalia Monroe Morgan Nicholas Ohio Pendleton Pleasants Pocahontas Preston Putnam Raleigh Randolph Ritchie Roane Summers Taylor Tucker Tyler Upshur Wayne Webster Wetzel Wirt Wood Wyoming

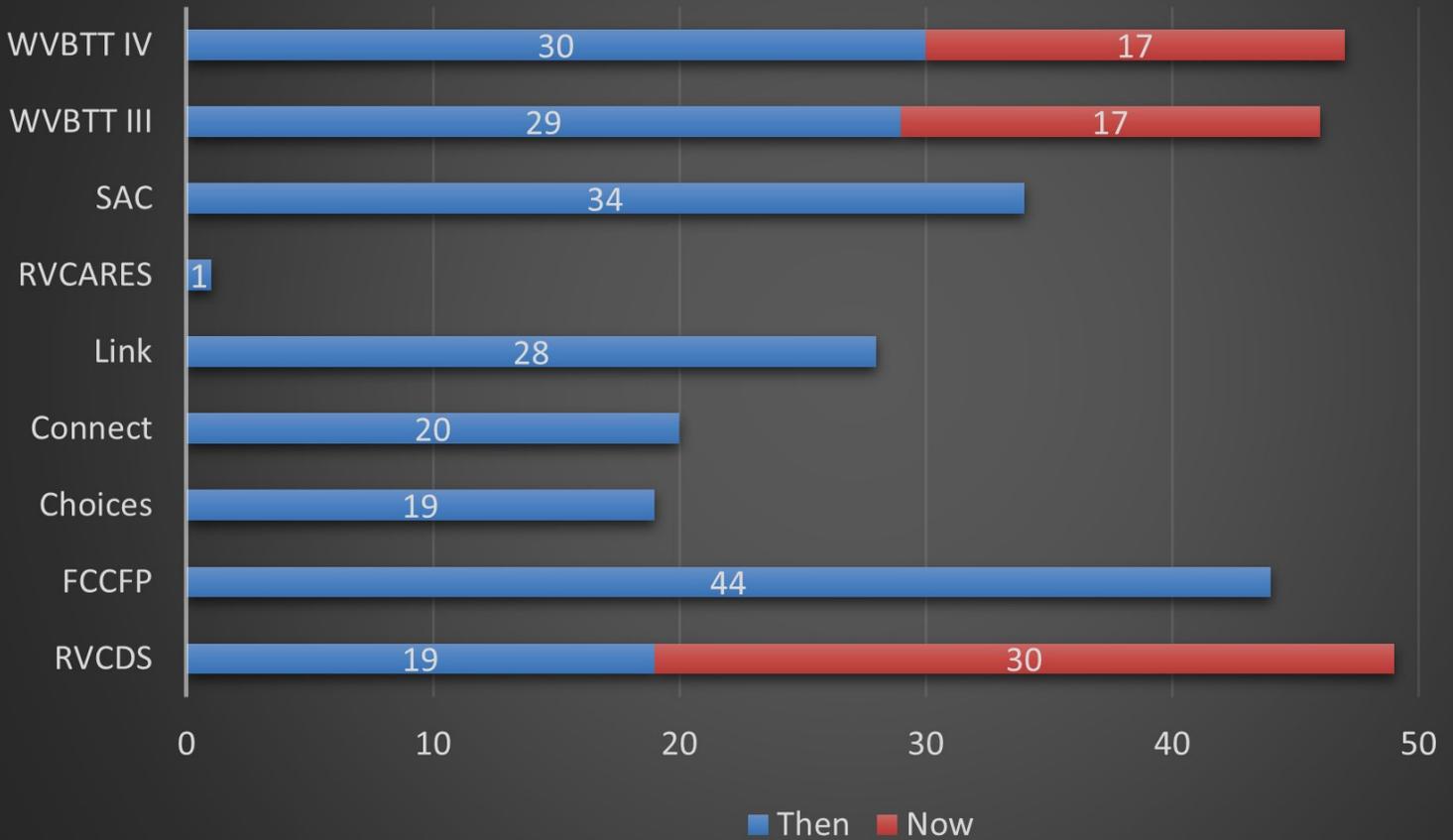
West Virginia



# A LABOR OF LOVE

*For 49 years, we've worked, changed and adapted to continuously meet the needs of the children, families and early childhood communities of WV.*

## Years of Service Per Program



The blue line represents the number of years a program operated/has operated under its original name. The red line represents the years a program has operated under its changed name.

This year, despite overwhelming circumstances...

# 26,590

people have been cared for.

## **Closing Remarks From the Board of Directors' President**

Saludos (Greetings)

May you have health, love, money, and the time to enjoy them.

The above was my mothers favorite toast! In the 1950's she worked her way through college to earn a bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies – yes, I know, she was a unique and forward-thinking woman! She always gave the toast in perfect Spanish. It was her wish to travel and experience the world. However, she fell in love, married my father and raised four beautiful daughters. In tough times, she would always remind me, “Kerri, you come from a long line of strong women”. These days it seems I am relying on that strength more and more.

Our nation is very unsettled. We are experiencing a pandemic, civil unrest, political strife, natural disasters, financial hardships – these are hard times! With my grandmother's portrait watching over me, I find myself thinking of family more and more as I work from home. I think of my children. My daughter as she works as a VISTA at our county youth camp and tries to help the facility weather the pandemic. My stepdaughter as she teaches high school literature online to first generation immigrants in Oklahoma. My son who works at Kroger's and McDonalds and sees firsthand young families struggling to buy food and those plagued with addiction. We have had some serious and sad discussions during family dinners. But when I reflect, I am also uplifted. These young adults are our future. They are compassionate, sensitive, and hard working. They are trying to do the best they can – just like your family and the families you serve.

As Dalai Lama said, “It is worth remembering that the time of greatest gain in terms of wisdom and inner strength is often that of greatest difficulty.”

Every family, every generation, every nation will experiences times of troubles. We are in the midst of such a storm. Through your hard work you are helping families to weather this terrible storm. My wish for you personally is that you find strength within yourself and within your family. My wish is the same as my mothers, that we all have “health, love, money and the time to enjoy them”.

All my best, Kerri

*We Rise*

BY LIFTING OTHERS