

Pace Center for Girls

Hernando

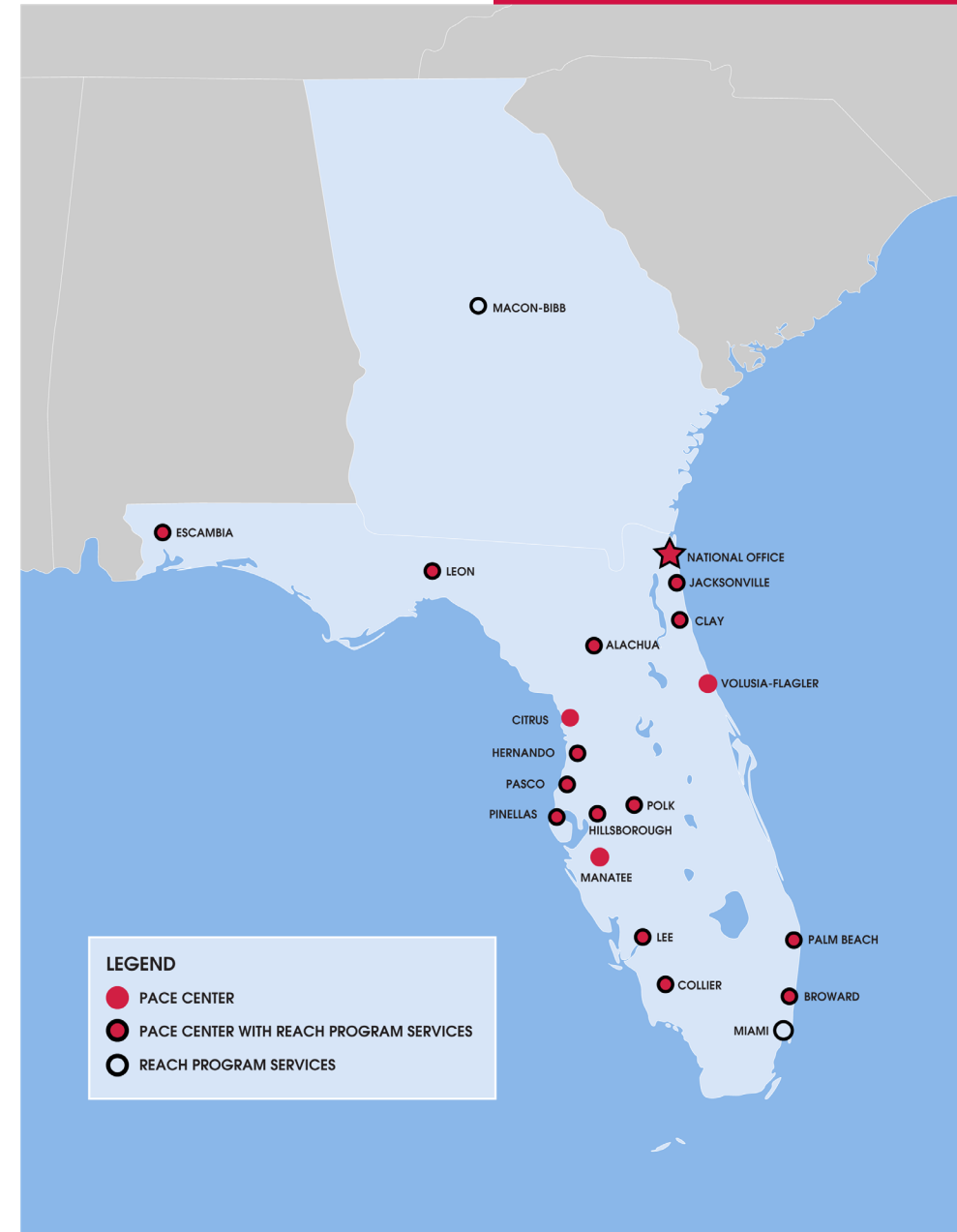


Our Reach

Where We Serve Girls

Pace is one of the only multi-state gender-responsive, trauma-informed, and strength-based models for girls in the country, with a proven evidence base.

Now in 21 communities and growing, our model is holistically positioned to meet the individual needs of girls both physically and developmentally.





WHY PACE?



IN HER WORDS

ALEXIS



When I was in middle school, I struggled with my attendance and speaking to others.

I almost went into truancy. I found out about Pace through one of my friends who went here and I decided it was best for me to go. At first, I struggled a lot, but over time the people there helped me become more social and get me out of my shell. In my time here, I have had better attendance, grades, and talking to people doesn't seem hard anymore. From middle school to my junior year, Pace has helped me tremendously."



FROM OUR COMMUNITY

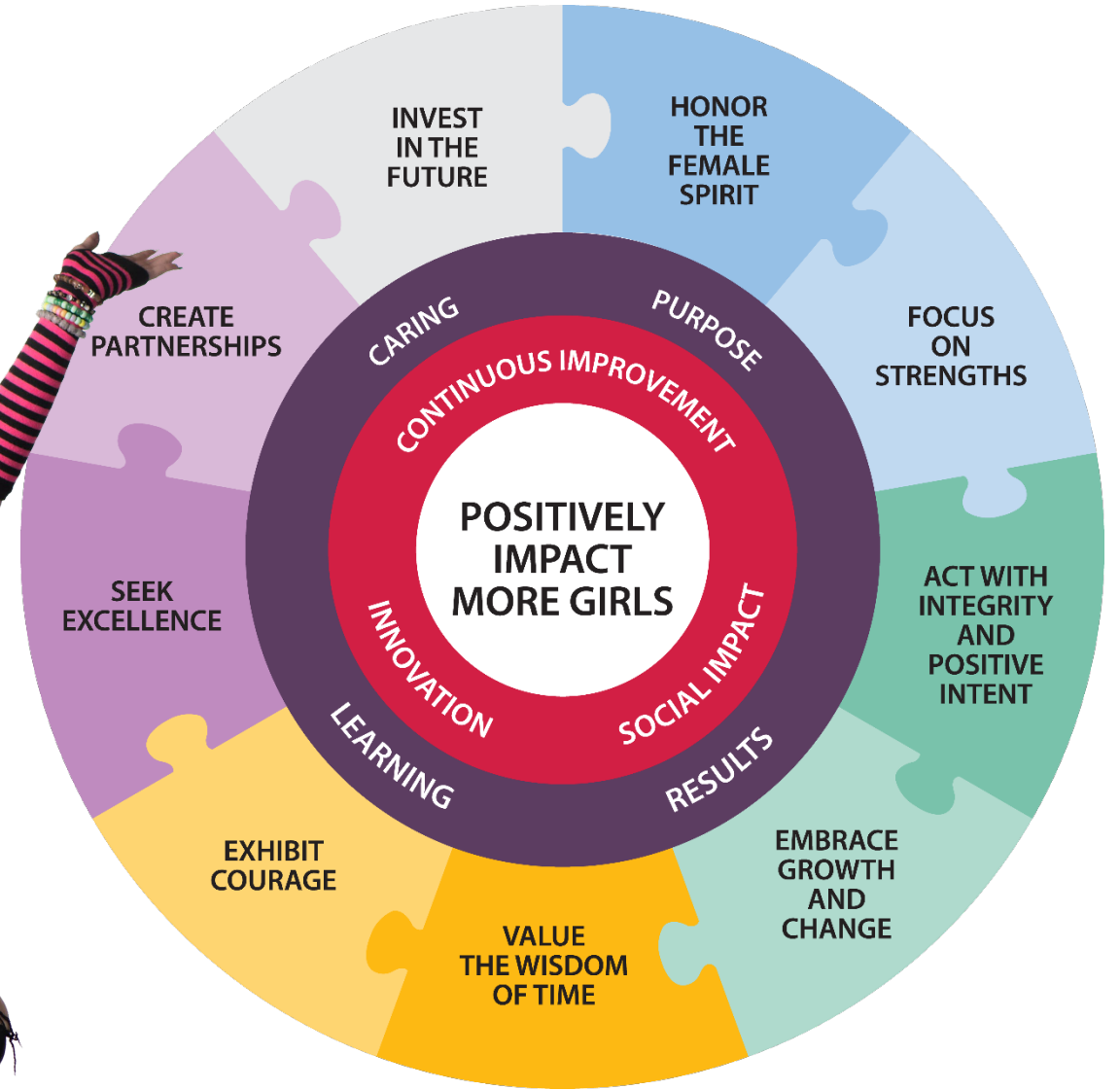
“Pace Center for Girls provides a safe, supportive environment for girls to find their voice, achieve academic success, and build brighter futures. The impact of Pace extends far beyond individual success stories – when our girls graduate from high school, pursue higher education and secure stable employment, they break generational cycles of poverty and violence. They become part of the strong workforce, dedicated parents, and compassionate community leaders who shape a brighter future for all of us. The Hernando County Sheriff’s Office wholeheartedly supports Pace Center for Girls, Hernando, important role in this county.” - Al Nienhuis, Hernando County Sheriff

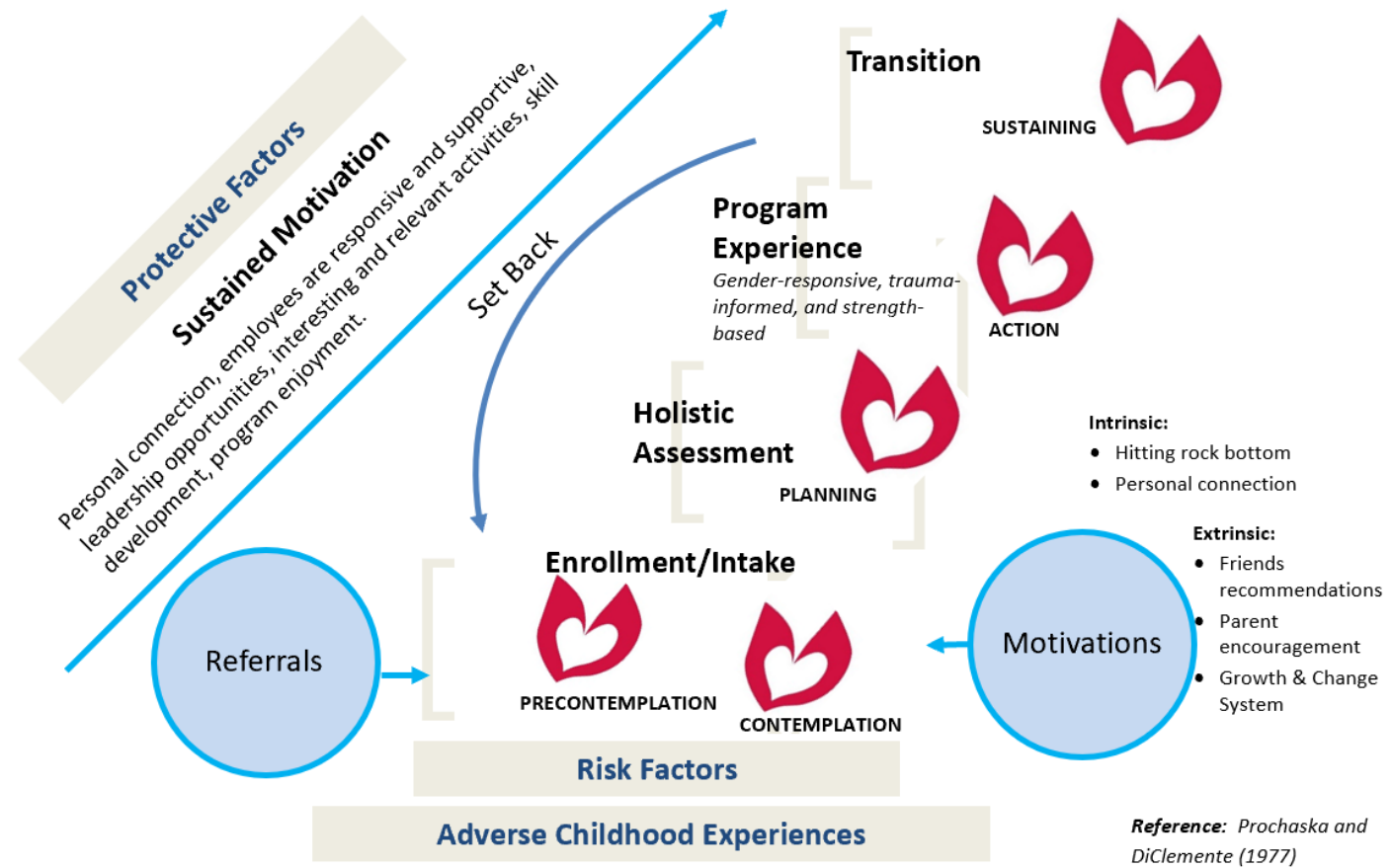


pacecenter.org

VISION

A world where all girls and young women are safe, have economic security and an opportunity to use their voice in shaping their future.





PORTRAIT
OF A GIRL
AT PROMISE



FY 2026 KPIs Summary

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

75

**Girls Served
at Pace**

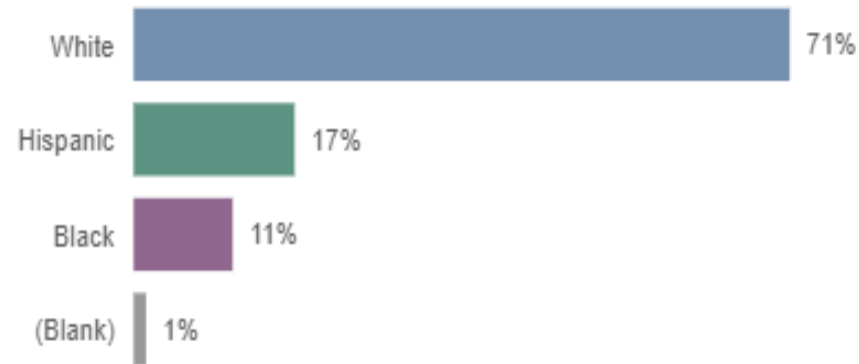
99 %

**of Girls Had Risk Factors
in 3 or More Risk Domains
at Enrollment**

20 %

**of Girls Had 4 or
More ACEs at
Enrollment**

Percent of Girls by Race/Ethnicity



Percent of Girls by Grade Level



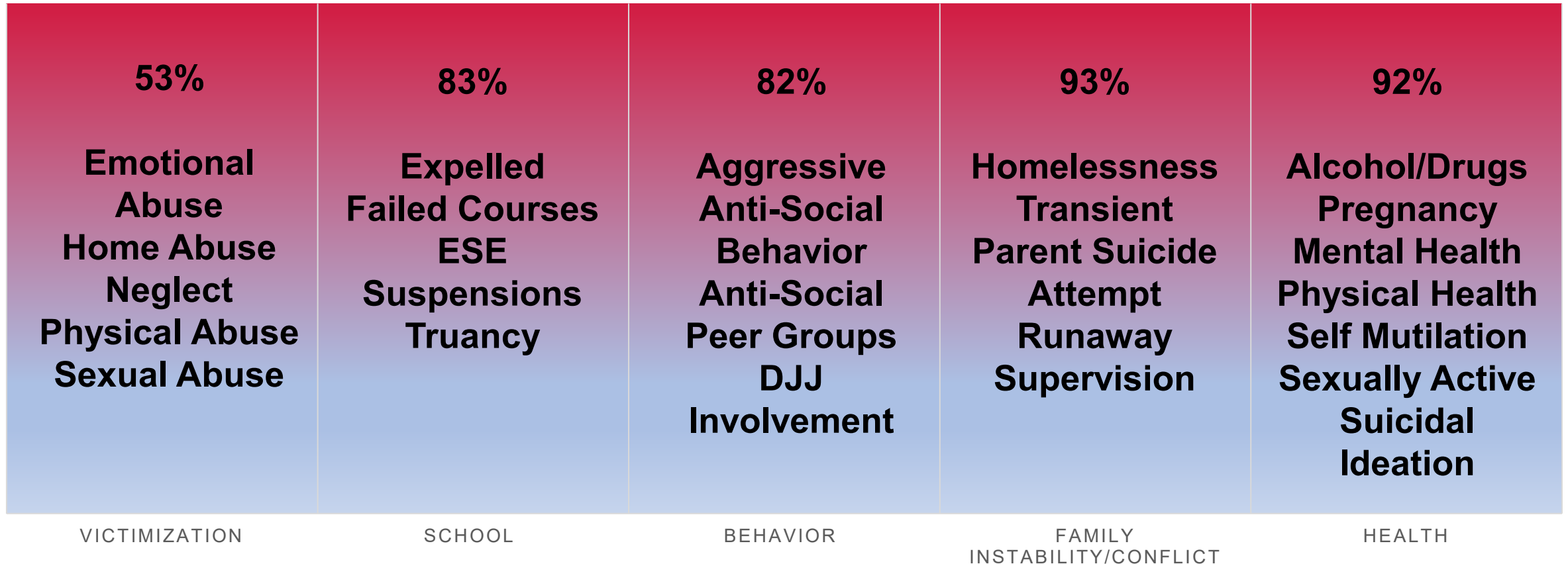
14.1

**Average Age at
Enrollment**

PORTRAIT OF A GIRL AT PROMISE



RISK FACTORS



FY 2026 Girls Served Risk Factors at Enrollment

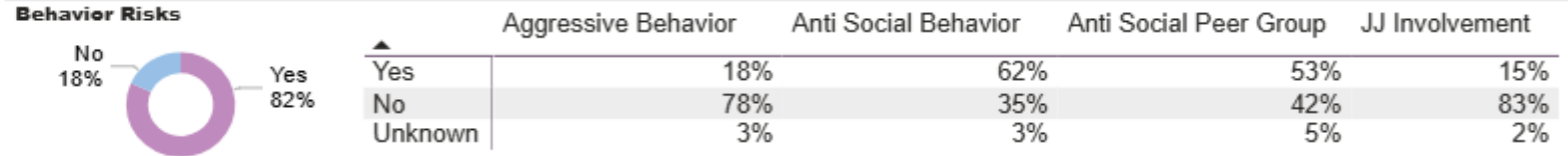
Percent of Girls Served with Risk Factors in 3+ Domains

● No ● Yes

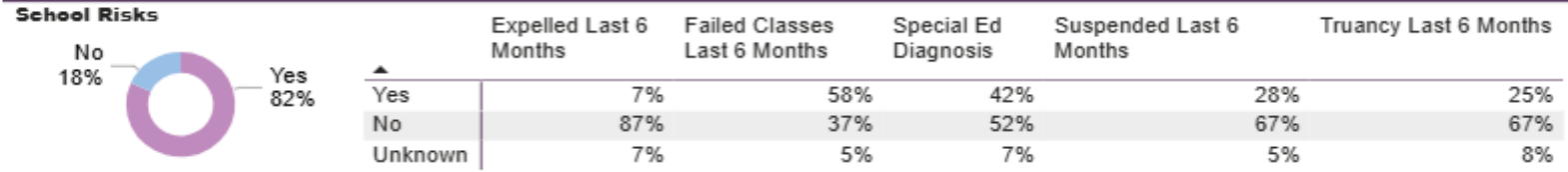
Hermando

98%

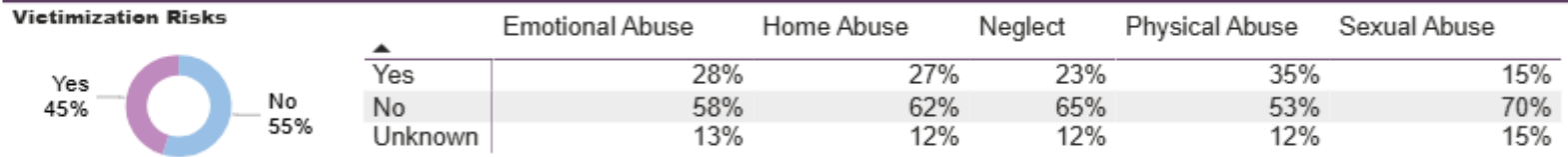
Behavior Risks



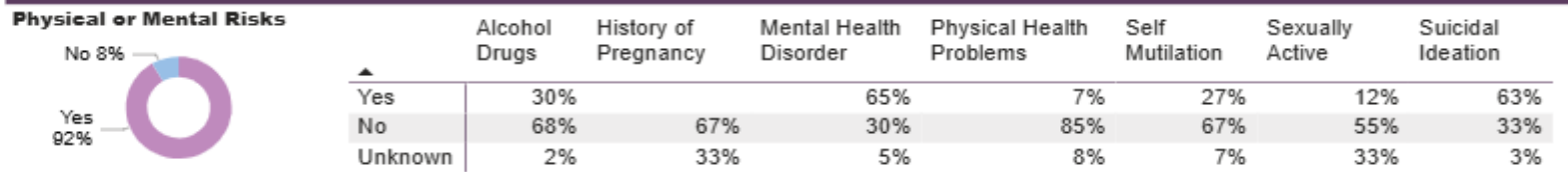
School Risks



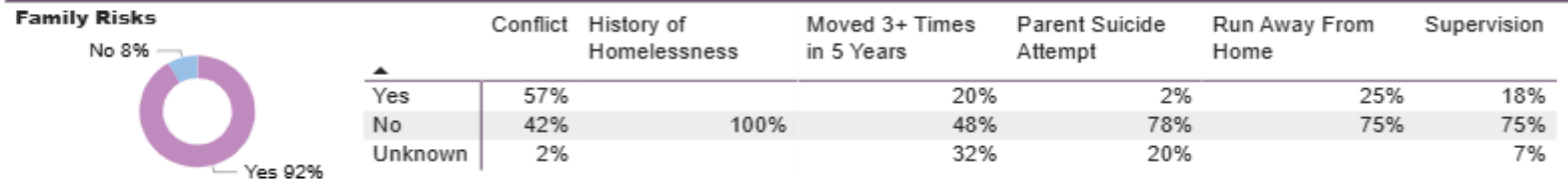
Victimization Risks



Physical or Mental Health Risks



Family Instability Risks



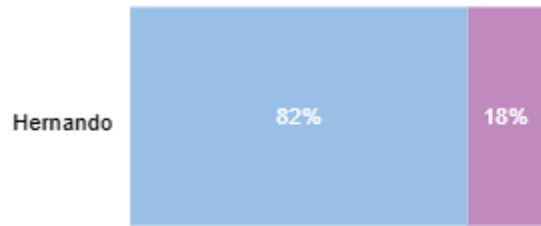


FY 2026 Girls Served ACEs at Enrollment

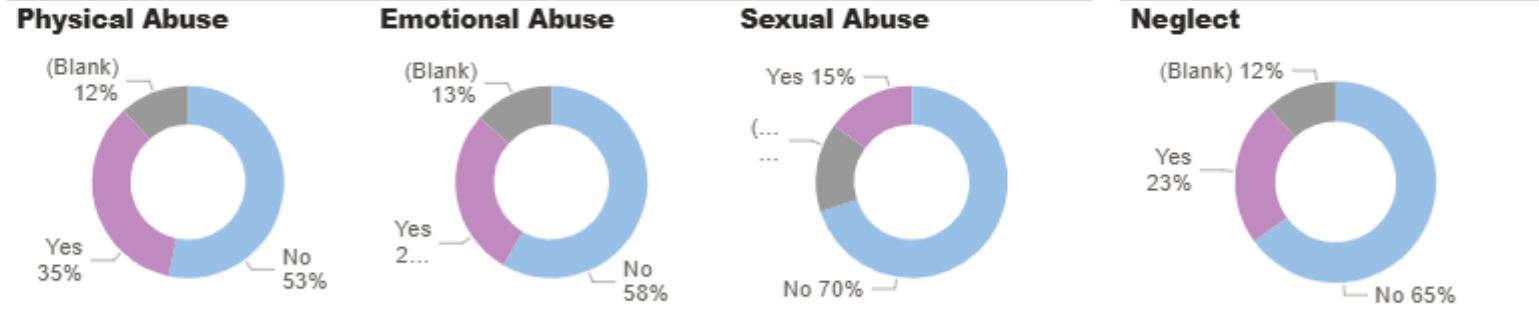
July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Percent of Girls Served with 4+ Adverse Childhood Experiences

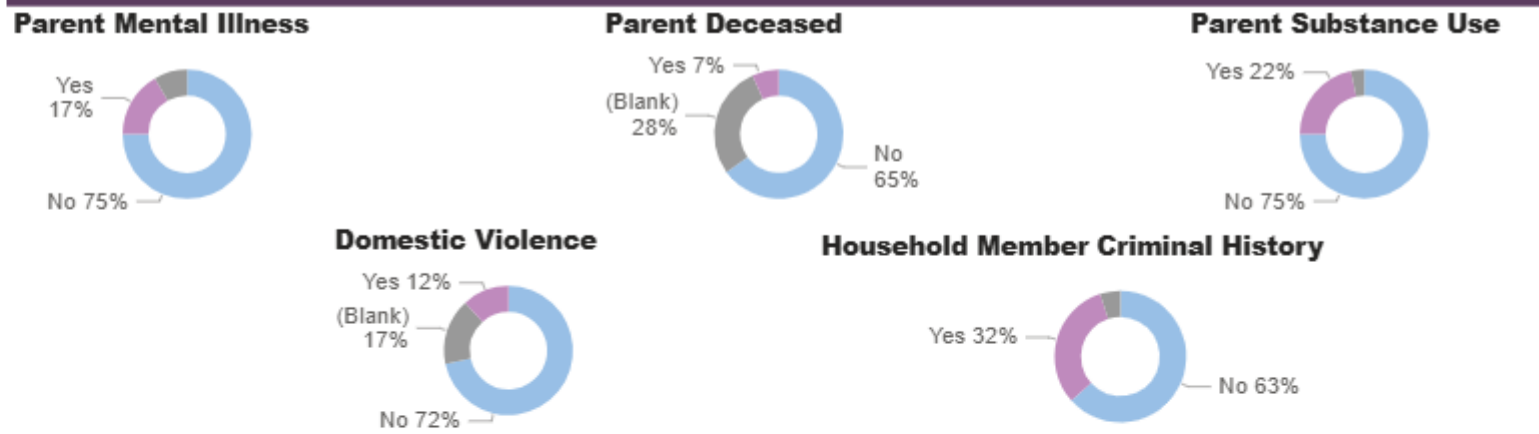
● No ● Yes



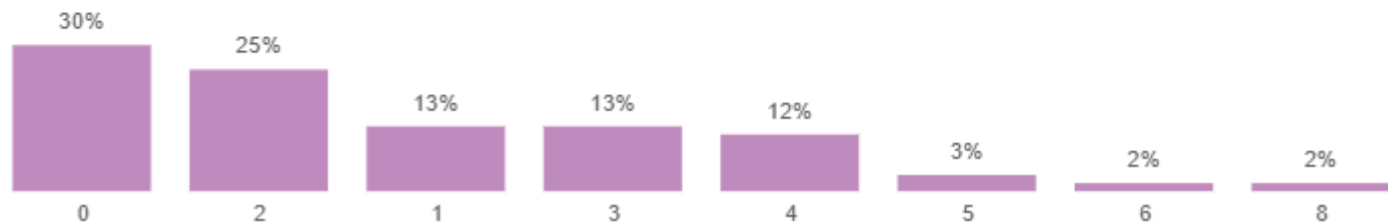
Abuse



Household Stressors



Percentage of Girls Served by Number of ACEs

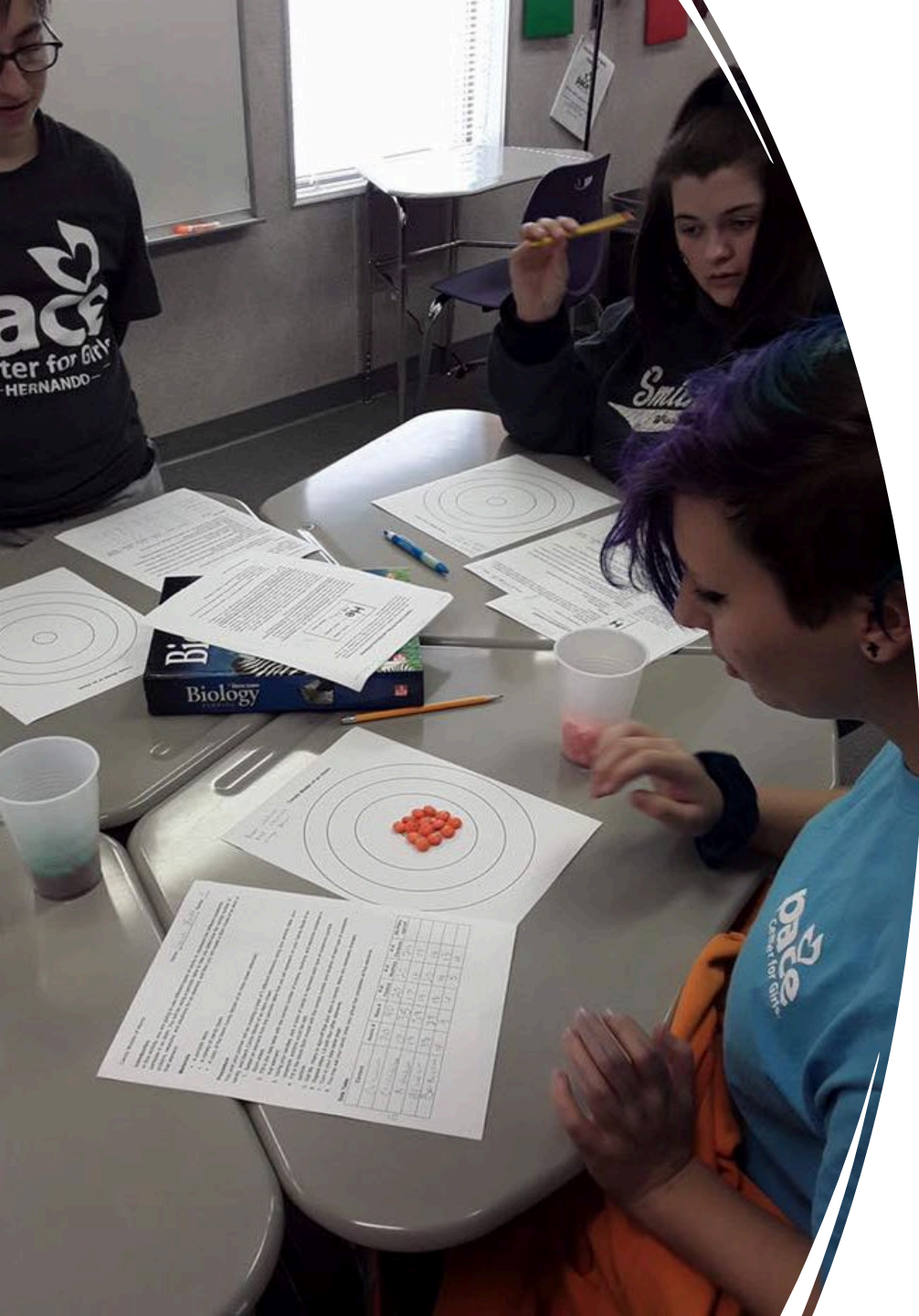


Adverse Childhood Experiences	Percentage of Girls Served at Pace Hernando	Hernando County <small>(estimated based on Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey)</small>	Florida <small>(flhealthcharts.gov)</small>
4 or more ACEs	18%	~17-19%	18%
Physical Abuse	37%	~8-10%	8.9%
Emotional Abuse	30%	~12-15%	13.3%
Sexual Abuse	15%	~4-6%	4.9%
Neglect	23%	~5-7% (physical) ~23-27% (emotional)	6.2% (physical); 25.1% (emotional)
Domestic Violence	15%	Not available	Not available
Parent Deceased	27%	Not available	Not available
Household Criminal History	32%	~21-24%	21.7%
Parent Substance Abuse	23%	~21-24%	22.9%
Parent Mental Illness	17%	~25-29%	27.7%

DAY PROGRAM COMPONENTS



- Education, Counseling, Training, and Advocacy
- Non-residential, free, and voluntary
- 6th -12th grade Hernando County Public School aligned curriculum
- Early intervention and juvenile justice prevention
- Progress Monitoring Planning
- Social Service Planning



Day Program: ACADEMICS

- Individual Academic Goals
- Individual Academic Weekly Counseling
- Small classes (1:14 maximum)
- Daily Enrichment Opportunities
- Teachers required to have professional certification, or working towards certification with a Statement of Eligibility
- Curriculum and standards that match district and state requirements
- Support provided by District Instructional Coaches

Day Program: COUNSELING

- Individual counseling sessions and goals
- Group sessions, family counseling, peer mediations
- Daily access to counseling staff
- 24-hour emergency number for girls, former girls, and families
- Monthly parent meetings
- Master's Level and Licensed Counselors



GROWTH AND CHANGE IN ACTION

- Opportunity
 - Goal Setting
 - Positive Adult Relationships
- Responsibility
 - Prosocial Peer Relationships
 - Self-Efficacy
- Dignity
 - Volunteer Service Engagement
- Serenity
 - Positive Affirmations
 - Coping Strategies
- Grace
 - Vocational Skills





Pace ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT METRICS

Girls in the program at least 90 days and have transitioned showing improvement in at least 2/6 measures

- ❖ Grade Point Average improvement
- ❖ Credits earned
- ❖ Improvement in Core classes to 70% or above
- ❖ Promoted to the next grade
- ❖ IXL Scores improvement of at least one scaled scored scale
- ❖ Graduation or GED

Pace Day at the Capitol



- Girls Leadership Council were able to advocate for themselves and their peers by meeting with the Senator and Local Representatives in Tallahassee!



- Pace Girls across the state were able to meet each other, interact, and share their success and personal journeys while in the Pace Program.

GIRLS IN ACTION



Community Engagement/Volunteerism

- Volunteering at JD Floyd Elementary
 - Girls received their student volunteer badge through SafeSchools
- DJJ Brain Bowl participants
- Pace Day at the Capitol
- Title 1 Parent Night
- Earth Day Celebration
- Food Drive for the Community
- Pet Drive for the Local Animal Shelter

Pace Center for Girls, Hernando

Kimberly Buford, Executive Director



Day Program

Pace's Day Program provides year-round academics, counseling, life skills, and career preparation for middle and high school girls, with individualized plans tailored to each girl's strengths, experiences, and needs.

62 Girls Served FY2025

ACADEMICS



AS A RESULT OF PACE

9 in 10 GIRLS
improved academically
measured by Florida
STAR testing

*Before Pace, 5 in 10 girls were failing school
six months prior to attending Pace.*

PERSONAL GROWTH



AS A RESULT OF PACE

7 in 10 GIRLS
strengthened or maintained
high self-efficacy, the belief
that you can succeed

*Before Pace, 9 in 10 girls demonstrated
behaviors related to juvenile delinquency.*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



AS A RESULT OF PACE

6 in 10 GIRLS
are engaged in their
community, measured by an
increase in healthy behaviors

*Before Pace, 6 in 10 girls were disengaged
in school and community life.*

REACH PROGRAM



- Two licensed/license eligible mental health professionals at ***Challenger K-8 and Pace Hernando*** serving identified high need girls
- Free (Pace-funded) therapeutic goal planning, weekly individual therapy, group therapy, and family counseling
- Continuity of services throughout the school year and summer

40 Girls served in 2025-2026 School Year

FY 2026 Girls Served Risk Factors at Enrollment

Percent of Girls Served with Risk Factors in 3+ Domains

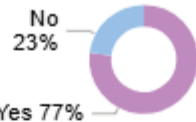
● Yes

Hemando

100%

Behavior Risks

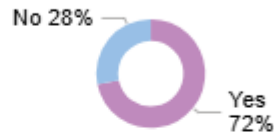
Behavior Risks



	Aggressive Behavior	Anti Social Behavior	Anti Social Peer Group	JJ Involvement
Yes	28%	64%	46%	10%
No	72%	36%	54%	90%

School Risks

School Risks



	Expelled Last 6 Months	Failed Classes Last 6 Months	Special Ed Diagnosis	Suspended Last 6 Months	Truancy Last 6 Months
Yes		38%	41%	18%	18%
No	100%	62%	59%	82%	82%

Victimization Risks

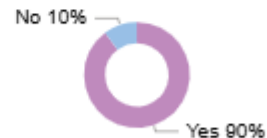
Victimization Risks



	Emotional Abuse	Home Abuse	Neglect	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse
Yes	36%	38%	15%	36%	21%
No	64%	62%	85%	64%	79%

Physical or Mental Health Risks

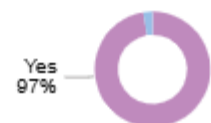
Physical or Mental Risks



	Alcohol Drugs	History of Pregnancy	Mental Health Disorder	Physical Health Problems	Self Mutilation	Sexually Active	Suicidal Ideation
Yes	10%		56%	26%	49%	10%	56%
No	90%	100%	44%	74%	51%	90%	41%
Unknown							3%

Family Instability Risks

Family Risks



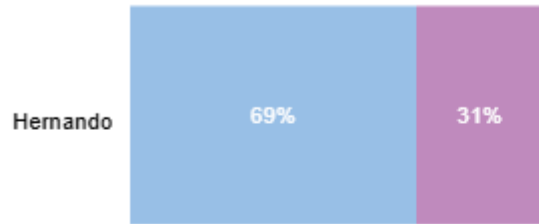
	Conflict	History of Homelessness	Moved 3+ Times in 5 Years	Parent Suicide Attempt	Run Away From Home	Supervision
Yes	69%	5%	28%	23%	13%	54%
No	31%	95%	72%	74%	87%	46%
Unknown				3%		

FY 2026 Girls Served ACEs at Enrollment

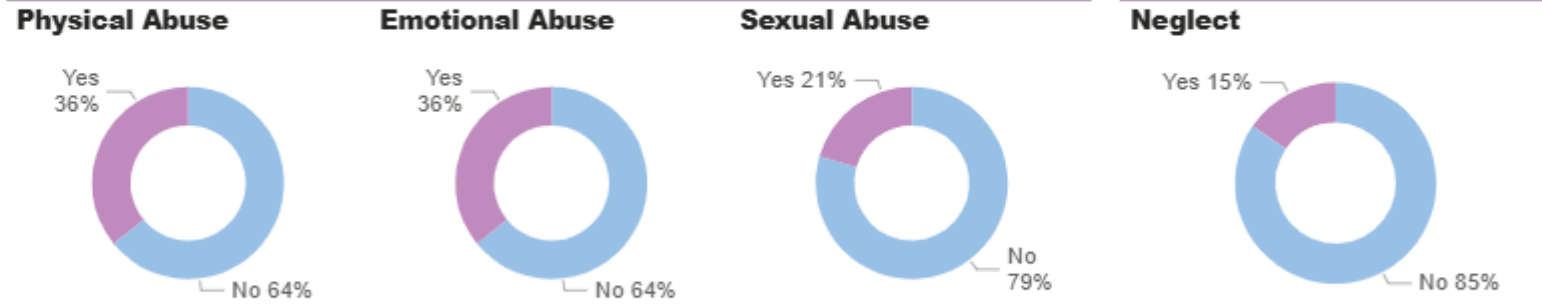
July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Percent of Girls Served with 4+ Adverse Childhood Experiences

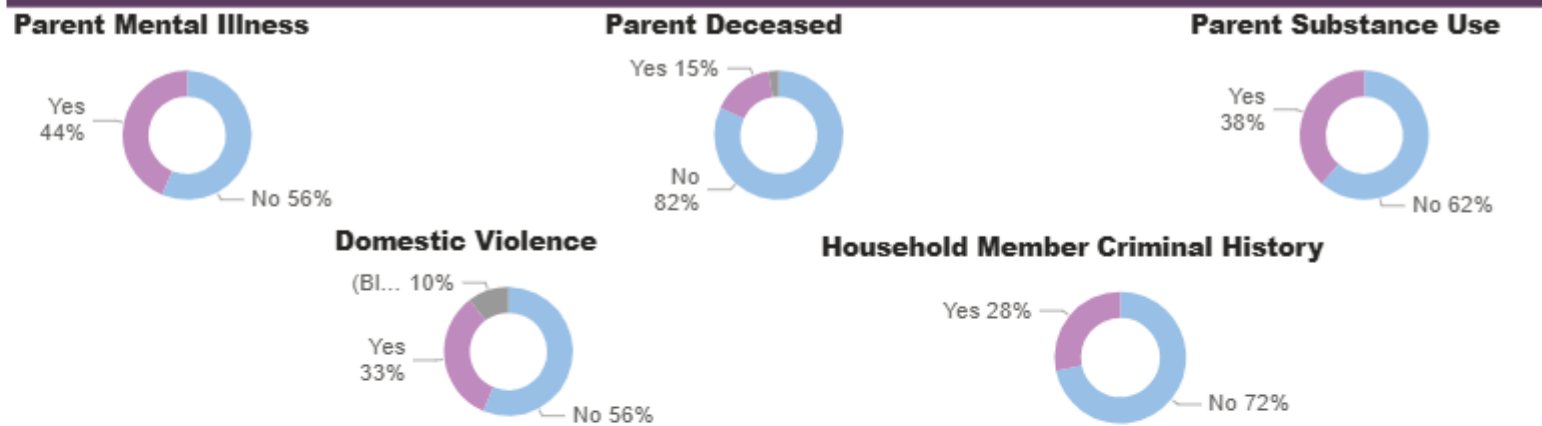
● No ● Yes



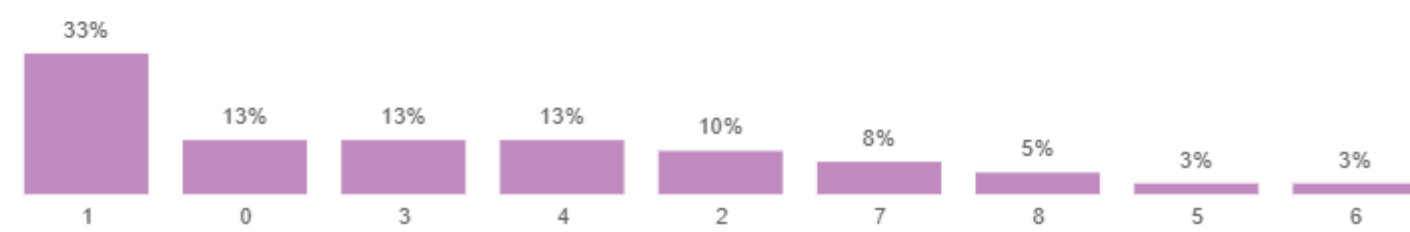
Abuse



Household Stressors



Percentage of Girls Served by Number of ACEs



FAST FACTS

Reach Program

The Pace Reach Program offers social, emotional, and behavioral health support for girls ages 11-17 and their families. Reach therapists provide these therapy services at community locations, such as partnering schools, homes, and at Pace Centers.

52 Girls Served FY2025

SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS



AS A RESULT OF PACE

9 in 10 GIRLS
improved healthy social
relationships with peers
and family members

*Before Pace, 7 in 10 girls were feeling sad or hopeless,
including thoughts of self-harm.*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



AS A RESULT OF PACE

9+ in 10 GIRLS
are engaged in their
community, measured by an
increase in healthy behaviors

*Before Pace, 1 in 10 girls were disengaged
in school and community life.*

PACE HERNANDO BOARD OF DIRECTORS



- Valerie Pianta (Chair) – Hernando County Office of Economic Development
- Nicole Hughes (Vice Chair) – Delamere Industries
- Stacy Whitehead – Whitehead Farms
- Shannon Wynn – YMCA
- Deborah Bonacki – Chick-Fil-A
- Riki Peterson – Publix
- Dawn Leo – Hernando County Schools

PACE values all girls and young women, believing each one deserves an opportunity to find her voice, achieve her potential and celebrate a life defined by responsibility, dignity, serenity and grace.

