

SOUTHEAST

Region Older Youth Adolescent Life Skills
UNIT



Champions for Older Youth

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Team Member Biographies



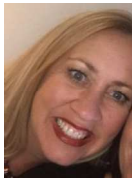
Rene' Brinkman

I am the current Supervisor of the Southeast Royals unit. I have worked for Children's Division for almost 14 years and have held previous positions as an Alternative Care worker, an Alternative Care Supervisor, and the 23rd circuit Program Manager. The Southeast Royals Unit has ignited a passion in me to ensure that all older youth receive the support they need to become productive members of society.



Shasta Miller

I am a Field Support Manager in the Southeast Region. I have worked for Children's Division for 12 1/2 years and I provide oversight to the Royals Unit and the Southeast Region Children's Division.



Nicole Robinson

I am a Royals Older Youth Specialist for the Southeast Region. I have worked for Children's Division for 14+ years in several positions. I have a strong desire to help older youth achieve their best selves and believe all youth deserve to be given the best opportunity to succeed.



Bobbie Thomas Schiller

I am the Older Youth Transition Specialist for the Southeast Region. I have worked for Children's Division for 11 years and have a passion for helping older youth successfully transition to adulthood. In my years with the agency, I have been able to improve reporting, knowledge, and overall services our youth receive.

Data/Return on Investment

Data/Statistics

- National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) 2018 Cohort - 215 youth were surveyed. NYTD data is comprised of only a sample of youth that fall within that age category.
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/nytd-services-and-outcomes-reports>
 - 32% (69 youth) of 19 year olds with child welfare involvement do not have a diploma or HiSet
 - 56% (120 youth) of 19 year olds with child welfare involvement are unemployed
 - 17% (37 youth) of 21 year olds with child welfare involvement are homeless
 - 13% (28 youth) of 21 year olds with child welfare involvement were incarcerated

- Since October 2019, 407 youth have aged out of Missouri’s foster care system. With 6 Royals units statewide, 74% of these youth could have been served by the Royals. (6 units with 5 workers=30. Each worker carries 10 cases 30x10=300. 300 divided by 407=74%) *CD data report

	State of MO Percentage	SE Royals Percentage
Youth who have a driver’s license, permit, or state ID	36%	83%
Youth who have a bank account	12%	77%
Youth who are employed	25%	63%

*Information from the Children’s Division Quarterly Outcome Reporting

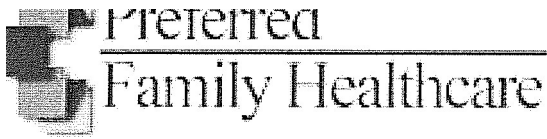
Return on Investment

- It costs \$71.14 per day to house and inmate in Missouri and \$25, 966 per year. Per the statistics above, it has cost Missouri upwards of \$727,048 (www.columbiamissourian.com)

- A chronically homeless person can cost tax payers \$35,578 per year. According to the above statistics, Missouri tax payers have paid upwards of \$1,316,386 million dollars.
<https://endhomelessness.org>

- If youth leave care with employment, stable housing, community supports, Diploma/HiSet (previously known as GED) by gaining essential life skills from the Royals unit, we could save tax payers and Missouri upwards of \$2,043,434.00. (Based on the amount spent for incarceration and homelessness listed above multiplied by the number of youth represented in those categories in the NYTD data at the top of the page)

- If more youth leave care employed, the state could generate more tax revenue. According to the NYTD data above, 120 youth surveyed reported being unemployed. If each of these youth worked 40 hours per week making minimum wage (\$9.45) they would make a salary of \$19,656.00. According to SmartAsset.com, this would generate \$182 per year, per person in revenue. The return on investment for these 120 youth would be \$21,840.00 per year in tax revenue. (www.smartasset.com)



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October 15, 2020

Dear Rene,

I would like to take a moment and express my sincere gratitude and appreciation of the Royals Program in the Southeast region of Missouri. At this time Chafee and the Royals serve 29 youth cooperatively. The majority of these youth have, in the past, struggled to improve behaviors and keep consistent placement due to personal barriers. These struggles have also affected their ability to achieve their personal goals and acclimate into the community in a positive manner.

I believe our collaboration of efforts has significantly contributed to the success of several older foster youth in several domain areas such as employment, education, social and family relationships, as well as youth leadership. Since including the Royals Program, these youth have blossomed and grown into a more mature level of adulthood than they have previously shown.

I believe The Royals Program's weekly contacts and extensive case management has contributed to this. I believe your caliber of employees has made a difference as well. Royals workers have shown by their actions that they truly care about the youth they serve and I have witnessed all of them continuously providing quality services at any given time.

I am open to and promote any expansion of your services, and look forward to working with The Royals Program even more in the future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Cat Leonard'.

Cat Leonard
Desloge Office Manager
SE Regional Chafee Lead
903 E. Chestnut, Suite D
Desloge, Missouri 63601
Phone: (573) 431-5507
caleonard@n/h.org

To whom it concerns,

Hello, my name is Shay. I am 20 years old and I am in the Royals Unit. Learning how to be an adult is already hard. It doesn't help that most high schools do not give any type of lessons of what is after high school. We don't learn how to budget, pay bills, build credit, and many more life skills we should know. I know I personally struggle with these things. Being an adult is hard with no guidance. I am one of the few lucky youth who is getting help from the Royals Unit. I am getting the guidance I need to become an adult.

The Royals Unit has helped me in more ways than I can explain. The worker on my case helped me get into college, find resources, and helps by answering a lot of my questions. Which can range from going shopping to talking about what doctor to go to. I also talk to her on budgeting money. This unit offers adults supports and resources we don't always have access to. Personally, with my experience the unit goes above and beyond for their youth. It has helped me grow as a person and I believe they can do amazing things for the older youth in the system.

Current Youth in the SE Royals Unit

Shayna Garner

Southeast Royals Unit Overview and Impact

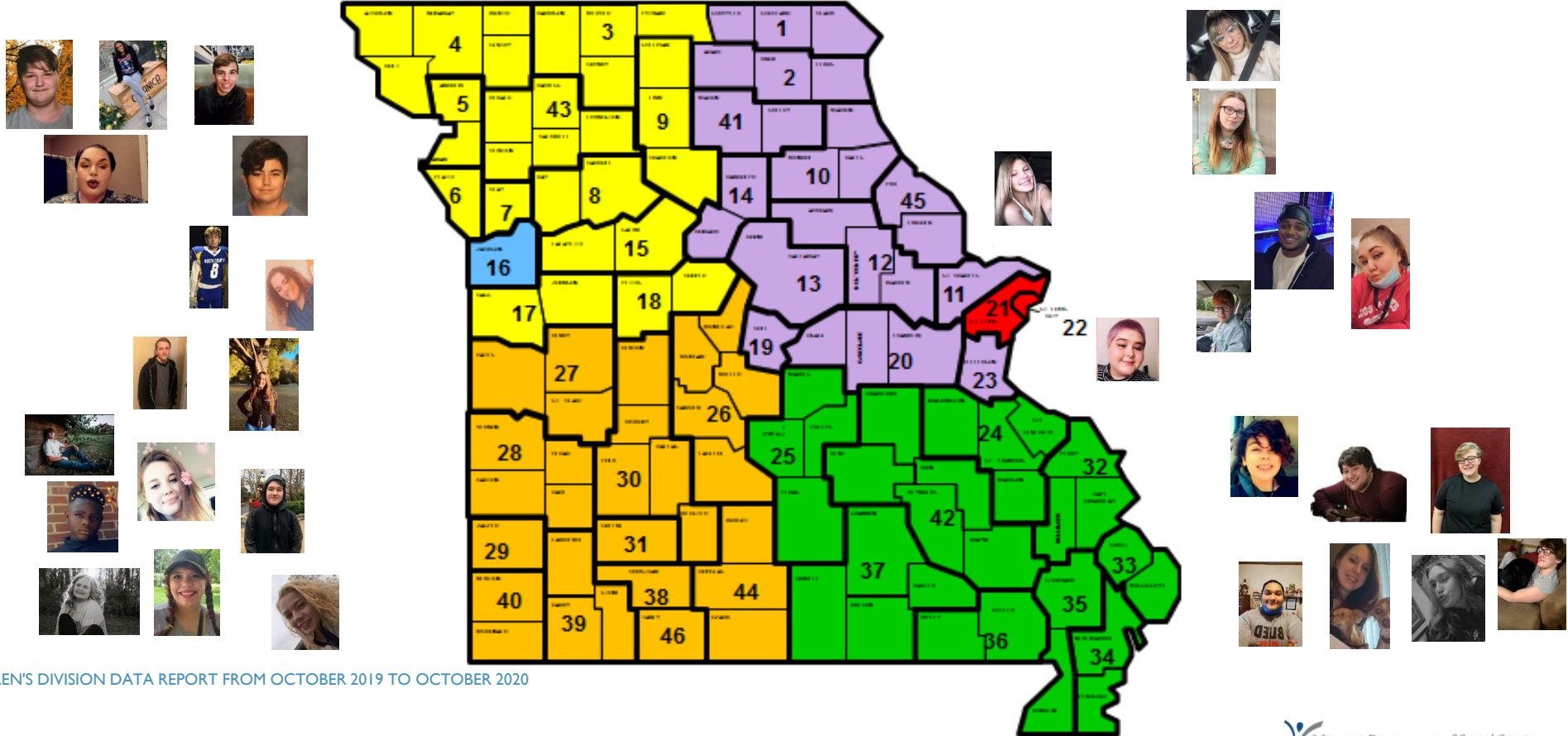
- **Vision Statement/Best Hopes:**
 - Young adults in the Southeast Royals unit will have been given every opportunity afforded to other children their age that were not in foster care. Every young adult who moves from the Southeast Royals unit to independence, outside of the foster care system, will have been given the opportunity to learn essential life skills that will aid them in becoming successful and productive members in their community. When these young adults reflect on their time with the Royals unit, they will know they were valued and will see that their opinions, their hopes, and their dreams mattered. Each of these young adults will believe they can exceed their own expectations because they always have someone who believes in them.
- **A Snapshot of What We Do:**
 - We look at transition planning as a process – Ask them, “If we were to terminate jurisdiction today, what would your life need to look like for you to believe you are ready to be on your own?” We then take their long-term goals and break them down into smaller tasks between now and the date they exit care.
 - We do this by utilizing the Life on Track Mapping Tool which is developed within the first 30 days and then updated monthly. This tool identifies their goals, their progress toward goal completion, and any barriers to goal completion.
 - We engage the youth in every step by creating purposeful goals that match their interests and needs. This helps to show them that their voice matters.
 - Teach them how to advocate for themselves in court and how to run their own Family Support Team meetings.
 - We help youth understand their financial aid packages to ensure they know if they are financially responsible for any of their schooling and to make sure they have a plan in place.
 - Help them create and adhere to a budget.
 - We meet each week as a group to talk about successes, struggles, resources, webinars, ideas, etc. This helps us remain connected, allows us to collaborate, and makes everyone feel supported in this difficult work.
- **Feedback from Stakeholders:**
 - “Since the Southeast Royals unit was established in our area, it has been a wonderful resource for older youth in custody. The Royals have stepped in and helped in ways I didn’t know was possible. We work as a team to tackle issues and concerns together. I’d say this program is going to touch many lives.” (Crystal Ford - Residential Care Manager)
 - “I love that you hold meetings when a youth is struggling as we can all come together and offer needed support. This was wonderful and I hope it continues.” (Community Counseling)
 - “I really support this unit and hope it expands within the State. The youth we have in common have come such a long way since you have had them. It really is amazing.” (Cat Leonard Chafee provider)
- **Feedback from Royals Staff**
 - “I feel like I am actually helping these youth make a difference.”

- “This unit feels like a family in the way we rely on one another and bounce ideas off each other.”
- “Having less of a caseload allows me to give youth the attention they really need. Being able to focus on the same population helps us become experts on subject matter.”
- “The youth tend to build better relationships with us because we are more connected since we get to spend more one-on-one time with them.”
- **A Snapshot of Feedback from Youth:**
 - “Before you told me that you would help me lead my own Family Support Team meetings, I felt like my voice was not heard.”
 - “I feel like you listen to me more than any other caseworker I have had. In the past, it seems like no one has listened to me.”
 - “Things move much quicker in the Royals unit. Things happen in like 1-2 days when before I would wait 1-2 months. Having more contact with my worker definitely helps.”
 - “The Royals unit has been more of a family to me than my real family.”
 - “You’re the only person that treats me like a real person rather than just another case.”
 - “My trauma has fueled me to build my own empire. I’m ready to go out on my own because of your help.”
 - “I am overwhelmed with how you treat me like you care about me.”



If you had the opportunity to help older youth in your community, would you take it?

Impact of Royals Unit



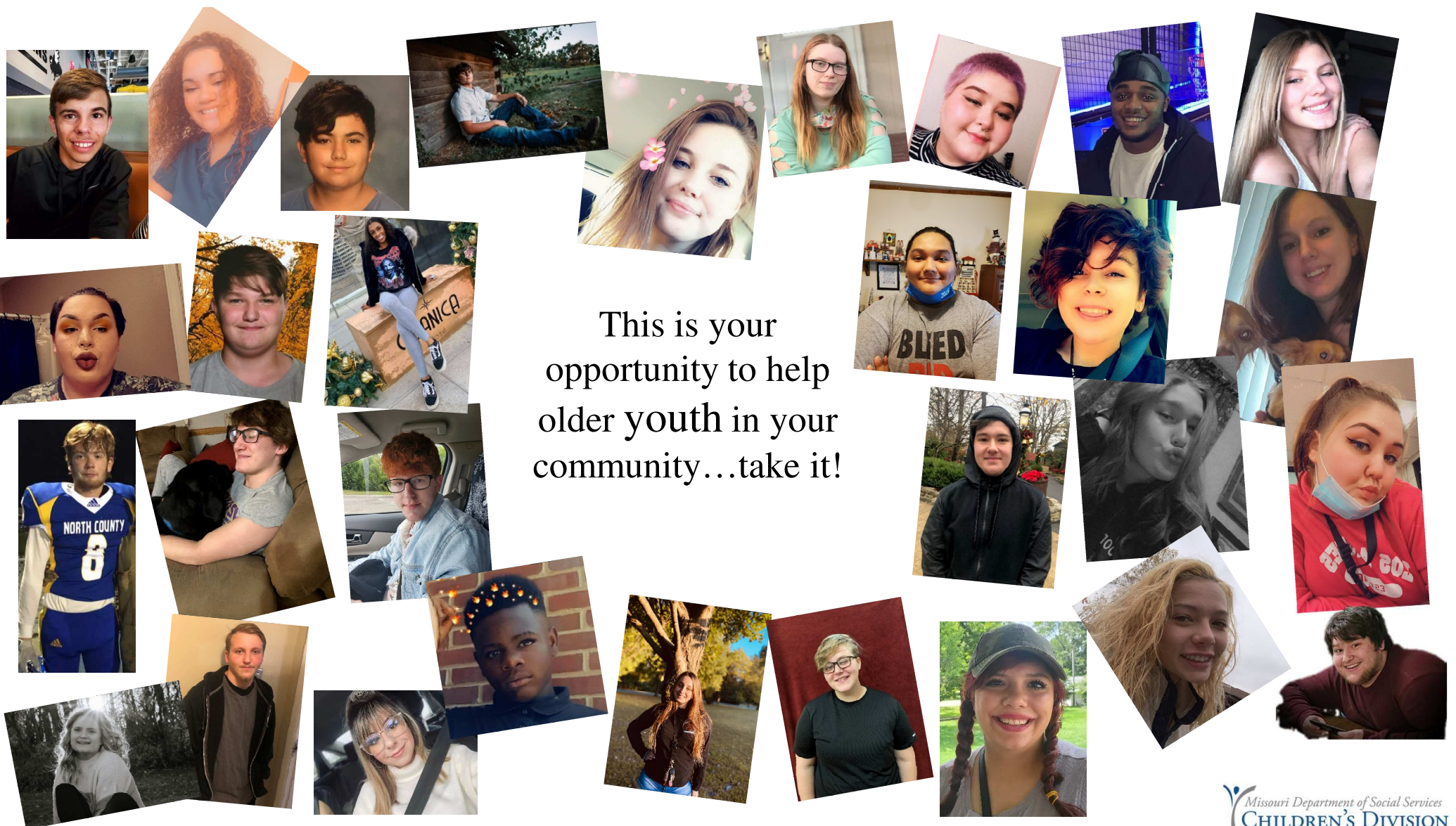
CHILDREN'S DIVISION DATA REPORT FROM OCTOBER 2019 TO OCTOBER 2020

Southeast Royals are Making an Impact

Children's Division	Southeast Royals Unit
36% Youth have a permit/driver's license/state ID	83% Youth have a permit/driver's license/state ID
12% Youth have a bank account	77% Youth have a bank account
25% Youth are employed	63% Youth are employed

Southeast Royals Accomplishments





This is your opportunity to help older youth in your community...take it!