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## BACKGROUND

### CHILDSERV TODAY

Today, ChildServ serves nearly **3,800 children and their families** through a variety of programs including foster care and adoption, child care, tutoring, early childhood education, parenting support and immigration support services. Its annual operating budget is **\$12.4 million**. ChildServ has more than **192 committed staff and interns** and is led by a dedicated Board of Trustees. James C. Jones, MSW and MBA, has served as ChildServ's president and chief executive officer since June 1994. Under his leadership, ChildServ has greatly expanded its programming and enhanced the quality of its diverse child care and community-based services.

The organization was founded as the Methodist Deaconess Orphanage in 1894, when Methodist Deaconesses Jessie E. Arbuckle and Lucy J. Judson rented a small cottage in a summer retreat campsite in Lake Bluff with space for seven homeless children from Chicago. The children lived in a church tent on the Methodist Campground for the summer of 1894; the program was so successful, they acquired the property in 1895. Within a year, the orphanage moved from the cottage to a building with room for many more children. As the agency grew, the organization was renamed the Lake Bluff/Chicago Homes for Children and later to its current name of ChildServ.

Since its founding ChildServ has upheld its mission of helping children and their families build better lives. The programs provided by ChildServ give children and their families the tools they need to make positive changes in their lives. ChildServ also works with families, communities and legislators on child advocacy issues.

### CHILDSERV SUPPORTERS

Currently, more than **650 volunteers and 450 licensed foster parents** take an active role in helping ChildServ reach its goals and objectives. Volunteers can be found tutoring, mentoring, assisting with special events or administrative tasks. ChildServ's volunteers donate more than **3,000 volunteer hours** per year. In addition, ChildServ also works with a fundraising auxiliary, The Friends of ChildServ (a group of Chicago area professionals dedicated to raising resources and awareness), to produce its annual Jazz Mixer. ChildServ also relies on other volunteer committees to produce the annual walk-a-thon and golf outing. The organization also receives funding support from many corporations, foundations, churches, individuals, civic organizations, United Way and government grants.

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### **CHILDSERV AT-A-GLANCE**

ChildServ is a private, not-for-profit child and family well-being organization. ChildServ was founded in 1894 as an orphanage in Lake Bluff, Illinois. Today, more than a century later, ChildServ has evolved into a multi-site organization with **15 locations throughout Cook, Lake and DuPage counties**. ChildServ’s wide range of programs includes foster care and adoption, group homes, child care, tutoring, early childhood education, immigration support services and parenting support.

### **AFFILIATIONS**

ChildServ is licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Children and Families. In addition, ChildServ is a United Way agency affiliated with the United Methodist Church (UMC) and registered with the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Related Ministries (PCHARM). Our organization maintains memberships with the Alliance for Children and Families and the Child Welfare League of America.

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