

ANNUAL REPORT



2020-21





Founding Board Members, Cherie Murphy and Pastor Nat Edmond Recognized

As Alignment concluded its fiscal year in June, the organization had to say goodbye to two of its founding board members, Cherie Murphy and Pastor Nat Edmond. As they retire and both move to Texas, their contribution to the Elgin community is too large to measure.

Both represent everything that Alignment values and hopes to achieve as it works with School District U-46 to build strong schools and strong communities. Although their shoes may never be filled, just knowing each of these community leaders has inspired us all to collaborate our work across our communities to ensure that ALL STUDENTS LEARN.

It is with sadness and joy that we wish Cherie and Pastor Edmond the happiest of retirements. Please know how much you are appreciated and how much we will miss you!





Summer Reading in the Parks 2020

Plans began in early January 2020 to expand the Summer Reading in the Parks program for Summer 2020. Generous sponsors included Elgin Township, Hoffer Foundation, Kiwanis, and School District U-46.

Alignment's Early Education A-Team and the Elgin Partnership for Early Learning quickly converted to a Summer Reading Grab and Go program. Partnering with School District U-46, parents could drive by for food supplies and an early education weekly curriculum. The ten-week program distributed early learning materials, bi-lingual books, and family food boxes to over 300 children weekly.

Child Care Taskforce Launched to Facilitate Remote Learning

Facing 100% remote delivery in August 2020, Tony Sanders, Superintendent, called upon Alignment to build a taskforce of organizations serving children and youth. The goal was to provide safe spaces for the children to be during the school day and to offer assistance with remote learning.

Working with the Elgin Partnership for Learning and the U-46 Distance Learning Team, Alignment convened child care centers, community non-profit organizations, and U-46 staff to assist students and families.

Thank you to our taskforce organizations for a job well done:

Bartlett Park District
Boys and Girls Club
City of Elgin
Elgin Partnership for
Early Learning
Gail Borden Public
Library

KinderCare
Learning Tree East
Learning Tree West
Poplar Creek Library
School District U-46

School District U-4 South Elgin Parks and Recreation Streamwood Park District

Summit School Taylor Family YMCA

The Centre













JULY - SEPTEMBER 2020



High School Work-Based Learning (WBL) Plan Goes Remote

Principals from U-46's five high schools and the Dream Academy came together to plan the district's first, fully remote WBL plan. Plan offerings included career events across all industry clusters and an array of post-secondary visits from regional and national colleges and universities.

Program delivery began in October and concluded in May. Over 1,600 high school students participated in the events offered for the 2020-21 school year.

ACE Interface Training with Early Education Professionals

Alignment, Elgin Partnership for Early Learning (EPEL), and Gail Borden Public Library partnered to offer training in adverse childhood experiences to representatives from early learning centers and children services organizations throughout the community.

The training supported families of elementary and middle school students faced with 100% remote learning challenges. Funding was provided by the Grand Victoria Foundation.

Community Capacity Development





Festival Park Grand Opening

Alignment joined the City of Elgin, the Elgin Partnership for Early Learning, and the Kane County Fit for Kids organization for the grand opening of the Move, Play, and Talk playground project. The project included bi-lingual signage throughout Festival Park that promoted communication, health, and play.

Thank you to the Kane County Fit for Kids Program for funding the grant and to the City of Elgin for allowing Festival Park to be the new home for the Move, Play, and Talk project.













University of Missouri













Post-Secondary Admissions Panels Featuring 12 Universities

Alignment offered three university panels in October and November 2020 introducing high school students and parents to the admission application process along with financial aid and scholarship opportunities. University representatives highlighted programs of study and how to access specific degree offerings.

Counselors from the high schools and representatives from each university offered advice to the students about the university selection process and the recommended timeline.

Alignment Hosts Architecture and Engineering Professional Panel

Students interested in architecture and engineering as future career pathways visited with Judson University's School of Architecture, Purdue's College of Engineering, and local industries Elgin Sweeper and Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick, Inc. to discuss future employment opportunities in architecture and engineering.

The panel attracted 160 high school students. Discussions also included post-secondary education and skills needed for successful job placement.





Elgin Community College (ECC) TRIO Staff Attends Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Workshop

ECC's TRIO Student Support Services team participated in adverse childhood experience training facilitated by members of Alignment's Trauma Informed Care A-Team. The TRIO team assists low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities as they progress from middle school to post-secondary programs.





OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2020



Alignment and Streamwood Park District Receive "Best of the Best" Award

Streamwood Park District (SPD) and Alignment were recognized by the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association for their partnership to provide a drive-by summer reading and food distribution program at Kiddie Corner Park. Educational and food resources were distributed for 10 weeks to over 1,000 children.

Thank you to our partners: Elgin Partnership for Early Learning, Poplar Creek Library, School District U-46, and the Streamwood Police Department for a successful summer program.

Inspire | Ignite | Instill Appreciation Campaign

The "Inspire | Ignite | Instill" campaign recognized the teachers, administrators, and staff of School District U-46 for their commitment to students and families. Teachers and staff began the 2021 school year 100% remote, overcoming the challenges of delivering all classes online, while still supporting individual student needs through afternoon and evening remote visits.

Yard signs, posters, and social media were posted throughout the community along with the Bartlett, Elgin, South Elgin, and Streamwood municipal governments providing proclamations of support and gratitude.











Healthcare Panel Featured Dentistry, Nursing, and Physical Therapy Careers

Panelists from Creighton University, Elgin Community College, and Marquette University were joined by healthcare professionals and U-46's health science teachers to discuss post-secondary education requirements, expectations for admission, and successful completion of programs to achieve certification. Helpful tips were provided on high school courses and work-based learning experiences leading to successful, competitive admission.

Thank you to our healthcare professionals, post-secondary faculty, and post-secondary students for sharing their advice and tips on future career choices.

ECC "Step-by-Step" Admissions Workshops Hosted

ECC offered step-by-step fall workshops for senior students and parents that addressed the complex topics of admissions and financial aid applications. Student were also introduced to programs of study across multiple industry clusters, critical dates for application, scholarship availability, and transfer opportunities.

Introductions were made to points of contact within ECC to address specific questions as students progressed through the school year. Additional ECC workshops were offered in the spring as seniors prepared to graduate.

Accounting, Entrepreneurial Studies, and Information Technology Careers Featured

Representatives from Mueller, Northern Illinois University, and W. Capra Consulting discussed the wide array of career opportunities in accounting, computer science, information technology, and entrepreneurial studies. Professional volunteers and post-secondary partners outlined the various education and experience requirements needed to be successful in these career fields.

Examples of successful job placement were discussed at the certificate, associate degree, and baccalaureate levels, as well as further professional studies. Students were encouraged to take advantage of related work-based learning experiences and high school courses that encourage business acumen, data analytics, and high performance teams.







OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2020

Business & Community Partners

Acceleration Sports Performance

Advocate Aurora Health Alden Poplar Creek Alignment USA

All Paws Veterinary Clinic American Welding Society

Amita Health Saint Joseph Hospital

Amy Kartheiser Design Ariano Hardy Ritt

Associated Equipment Distributors

AT&T

Aurora University **AVID CNA School Bear Family Restaurants Biggers Chevrolet** Blackhawk Bank

Boys and Girls Club of Elgin

Centre of Elgin

Changing Childrens Worlds Foundation

City of Elain **CKL Engineering**

Clarke

College of DuPage ColorWord Creative

Comcast ComFd

Community Crisis Center **Custom Aluminum** DePaul University District 301

Downtown Neighborhood Association Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce

Elgin Area Convention and Visitors' Bureau

Elgin Coalition of Religious Leaders

Elgin Community College Elgin Development Group Elgin Hispanic Network

Elgin Partnership for Early Learning

Elgin Public House Elgin State Bank Elgin Sweeper

Elgin Symphony Orchestra

Elgin Township **Elgin Youth Symphony**

Embry Riddle

Eric J. Fernandez & Co.

Fabricators and Manufacturers Association Family Service Association of Greater Elgin

Fermilab **Fidelity**

First Midwest Bank

Forest View Rehabilitation & Nursing

Center

Fox River Rehab & Healthcare

Fox Valley SHRM

Gail Borden Public Library Foundation

Gail Borden Public Library Gerald Automotive Group Golden Corridor Family YMCA **Good Earth Lighting**

Grand Victoria Foundation Greater Elgin Family Care Center

Hagg Press Hamilton Wings Hampshire Farms

Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick, Inc.

Hanover Township

HARTING

High Point Dental Hoffer Foundation Hoffer Plastics, Inc.

IFD

IHC Construction

Illinois Department of Employment

Securities

Illinois Manufacturers' Association

Illinois State University Image Design Marketing Innovative Power Systems (IPS)

ITW Shakeproof

John B. Sanfilippo & Son, Inc. JPMorgan Chase Bank Judson University Junior Achievement Kane County Fit for Kids

Kane County Health Department

Kane County Region 110

Kane County Regional Office of Education

Kane County Sheriff's Office

Kane County Teachers' Credit Union

Keith French Photography

KinderCare

Kluber Architects and Engineers

Lauderdale Electric Learning Tree

LIFT

Lincoln Ave Barbershop

Lincoln Marsh Lincoln Tech **Literacy Connection** Lobsterboys

Loyola University LSI

Manpower

Manufacturing Careers Internship Program

Mechanical Services

Microsoft Services Premier Support

Middleby Corporation MKD Electric, Inc. Morehouse Motorola **PKF Mueller**

National University of Health Sciences

NICOR

Northern Illinois University Northshore Medical

NTN Bearing One Hope United **Peak Construction**

Poplar Creek Public Library Presence St. Joseph Hospital

Purdue University Rieke Office Interiors Roosevelt University Ryan Specialty Group

SCARF

School District U-46 Board of Education School District U-46 Foundation Second Baptist Church of Elgin

SGS

Shales McNutt

Siegles

South Elgin Parks & Rec Southern Illinois University State Representative Anna Moeller State Representative Fred Crespo State Senator Cristina Castro Stellar Edge Marketing Steve's IT Company

Strategic Balance Consulting

Streamwood Behavioral Health Care

Streamwood Park District

Subaru Suburban Tire Summit School

Suncast

Synergy Kettlebell Tandem HR TBK Bank

The Learning Tree Child Care Center

The Oaks at Bartlett The Overture Group Two Rivers Head Start U.S. Armed Forces

U.S. Congressman Krishnamoorthi U-46 Community Advisory Council

United Way Metro Chicago Universal Technical Institute University of Illinois, Chicago University of Illinois, Urbana

University of Iowa Valporaiso University Vigilant Training Group Village of Bartlett Village of Hanover Park Village of Hoffman Estates Village of South Elgin Village of Streamwood Visiting Nurses Association

Vituity W. Capra

Well Child Center West Suburban Bank Windy City Bulls

Wintrust

Wolko Design Group, Inc.

YWCA Elgin



Alignment Awarded Workforce Development Grant from Kiwanis

Thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Elgin for its grant of \$1,500 to support Alignment's work-based learning initiatives in the high schools. Grant funding was provided to offer U-46 seniors that graduated in May a job fair connecting them with local employment opportunities.

Seniors enrolled in such programs as U-46's automotive, culinary arts, early education, engineering, nursing assistant, precision manufacturing, welding, etc., also received assistance with resume development and interview skills, along with a virtual job fair setting where they spoke with local companies about specific job openings.

Alignment Launches Freshmen Experience at Larkin High School

In February 2021, Alignment began its Freshman Experience pilot with two classes at Larkin High School. The eightweek program is designed to help students develop the social and emotional skills needed for success in high school, their future careers, and everyday life. Each week focused on the following topics: Respect, Identity, and Inclusion; Teaming; Listening and Conflict Resolution; Valuing Diversity; Using Voice to Advocate for Self, Equity, and Social Justice; and Leadership and Career Skills.

Alignment hopes to continue the development of this program so that it can be offered to more freshmen students in Fall 2021.



JANUARY - MARCH 2021

Health Care Panel Featuring Nursing, Nurse Practitioner, and Physician Assistant Careers

Health Science students met with health care professionals from the community and faculty from Valparaiso University. Valparaiso faculty currently teach all three programs of study and were uniquely qualified to feature these career options explaining to students how the Nursing field can lead to even more advanced degrees.

Both the Nurse Practitioner and the Physician Assistant careers were ranked in the top five of all health care careers by US News and World Report in 2021. These rankings are based on the number of future job openings, median salary data, and current unemployment rates.

Thank you to our health care professionals, post-secondary faculty, and post-secondary students for sharing their advice and tips on future career choices.





Harting's Roadshow Truck Visits Larkin High School

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and STEM Academy students had the opportunity to visit with Harting's engineering and human resources teams. The Harting Technology Group is a global leader in providing connectivity solutions with 14 production sites and 43 sales companies providing data, signals, and power to meet industrial technology solutions.

The Harting Team brought its Roadshow Truck to Larkin High School to share their connectivity technology and engineering applications with over 180 students via Zoom. Students had the opportunity to meet members of the engineering and human resources teams to learn more about careers at Harting, including specific engineering disciplines, product development applications, global sourcing, and customer support roles.

Thank you to our partners at Harting for making this work-based learning experience a reality for our U-46 students!

Teacher Pipeline Kick-Off

Alignment's Early Education A-Team began its partnership in March with Elgin Community College (ECC), Northern Illinois University (NIU), and the Kane County Region 110 to direct more attention to the current and future projected teacher shortage impacting early education and secondary school providers. The goal of the pipeline work over the next 24 months is to attract more students to the teaching profession while still in high school. Students will have the opportunity to pursue foundation classes in education for entry level certifications. The second goal of the pipeline is to ensure that students have the opportunity to earn dual credit and seamless transition to associate and baccalaureate degrees.

Alignment, ECC, and NIU are joined in the pipeline work by early education center professionals, the Elgin Partnership for Early Learning, and School District U-46 teachers to proactively address current and projected teacher shortages.



















University Panel – Judson, Loyola, NIU, University of Illinois at Chicago

Alignment offered its fourth and final university panel for the 2020-2021 school year on March 17th. Students and parents were introduced to the application process along with financial aid and scholarship opportunities across four local and regional universities.

Representatives from each university offered advice to the students about the university selection process and the recommended timeline for admission

applications, scholarship opportunities, etc. Given that most universities were not offering live visits, students had the opportunity to meet face to face via Zoom with specific university representatives assigned to recruit U-46 high school students. Students also received email contact information and access to all recruitment communications from these universities. Alignment will offer its next series of university visits in Fall 2021.

JANUARY - MARCH 2021

Career Panel – Law and Public Administration

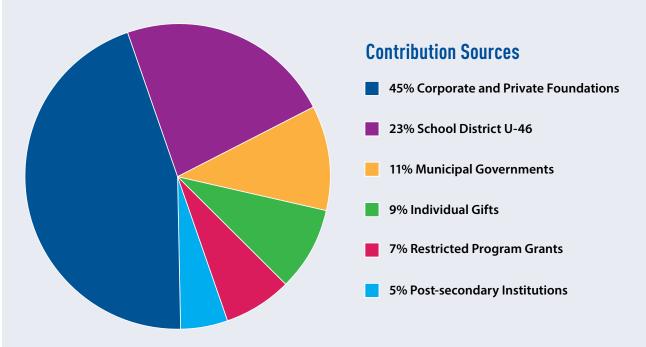
Elgin High School, in partnership with Alignment, hosted a career panel featuring law and public administration for all five high schools. Students had the opportunity to engage with City of Elgin's mayor, David Kaptain; assistant city manager, Karina Nava, and John Steffen, attorney and city council member.

Students specifically learned about the legal profession and the roles of legal assistant, paralegal, and attorney along with career opportunities in public administration. City of Elgin leadership also visited with the students to share their career successes and challenges from high school to post-secondary completion.

Thank you to the City of Elgin for its expertise and willingness to share career advice with our U-46 students!



Financial Contributions Supporting Alignment's Work



Alignment's Cost Per Child and Youth Served: \$27

Please Join Us in Alignment's Important Work

Help Alignment and School District U-46 build the community's future workforce by providing financial and human resources that will support:

- Increasing early education awareness and access
- Building a trauma informed care community
- Preparing students to be academic and career ready

The Alignment Collaborative for Education is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization.

Explore 2020-2021 Showcased 85 Careers to over 2,200 Students

Alignment partnered with School District U-46 to organize and facilitate Explore 2021 on May 3, 2021. The virtual event provided over 2,200 eighth grade students the opportunity to visit with business professionals representing 85 careers.

Explore was able to demonstrate the important connection between education and future careers, as evidenced by the engaging and thorough questions received from students. In addition to

offering the students a way to explore careers earlier in their education, the Explore event is also a way for our partners and panelists to show their investment in the community and the future workforce. As stated by one of our 2021 panelists, "Being able to engage and connect with one of the upcoming generations was revitalizing and refreshing. I found it enjoyable to speak to them about various career options and to

also talk about my journey to where I am now professionally."

From all of us at Alignment, we want to thank School District U-46, our community partners, volunteers, and students for making Explore 2021 a tremendous success.



Thank You To Our Amazing Sponsors













Blackhawk Bank











APRIL – JUNE 2021

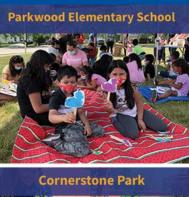


Alignment Launches Senior Job Fair for U-46, CTE Students

Thank you to our business and community partners for launching the first U-46 Senior

Job Fair for students enrolled in career and technical education programs. The event provided job preparation and employment opportunities to students in automotive, business, child education, culinary, engineering, health care, manufacturing, and welding. Partners from Gail Borden Public Library and Junior Achievement assisted with interview skills and resume preparation sessions.

Featuring almost 40 employers, over 350 U-46 seniors learned about current and future job availability, interview skills, resume preparation, and the application process. We wish to thank the Kiwanis Club of Elgin for grant funding received to support this inaugural event, and we hope to grow the event in 2022 to include more participating seniors and local employers.











Alignment and EPEL Partner with U-46 to Launch Summer Reading Program "Learning on the Go"

Alignment and EPEL, in partnership with School District U-46, kicked off the Summer Learning on the Go program the week of June 7th. The program has grown to include five locations with weekly early educational activities in all locations, along with food distribution to families. The weekly schedule included: Buena Vista Neighborhood & Cornerstone Park, Parkwood Elementary School, River's Landing Neighborhood, and Century Oaks Elementary School.

School District U-46's Food Services was highly supportive and distributed family food boxes each week at Buena Vista, Parkwood, River's Landing, and Century Oaks. Cornerstone benefitted from the City of Elgin Parks Program and food services from the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

The program in all five parks concluded at the end of July serving over 1,200 children. Both Alignment and EPEL greatly appreciate the grant received from Elgin Township to help fund this program for the children of our community.

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Chief Financial Officer Lobsterboys

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President/CEO Golden Corridor Family YMCA

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Director, Strategy & Organizational Development Bear Family Restaurants

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Kane County Sheriff's Office

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Director
The Overture Group

A-Team Recognition

EARLY EDUCATION A-TEAM

Bianca Alonso

Site Director and Volunteer Co-Chair Coordinator Boys and Girls Club of Elgin Elgin Partnership for

Linda Breen

Principal Summit School

Jennifer Bueche

Director of Youth Services Gail Borden Public Library

Kathleen Cox. Co-Chair

Director of Early Learners School District U-46

Lisa Fabris

Childrens' Services Manager Poplar Creek Library

Irma Figueroa

Community Outreach Liaison Visiting Nurses Association

Lisa Jackson

Coordinator of Assessment & Accountability School District U-46

Elisa Lara

Community Outreach Liaison **Visiting Nurses**

Lorena Nunez

Community Outreach Liaison **Greater Elgin Family** Care Center

Amber Peters,

Executive Director Early Learning

Kerry Reynolds

Early Childhood Supervisor Centre of Elgin

Annamarie Schopen

Managing Director of Institutional Compliance and Curriculum Elgin Community College

Tiffany Trewartha

"Give Me Five!" Community Liaison School District U-46

Kristine Young

Family Literacy Coordinator **YWCA**

School District U-46

Kate McCormack

Community Health Practitioner Kane County Health Department

TRAUMA INFORMED CARE A-TEAM

Marie McKee

School Social Worker

Doreen Roberts

Teacher Leader for

School District U-46

Jeanette Siebens

Mental Health

Worlds

U-46, Dream Academy

Professional Development

Director of School Based

Family Service Association

Kimberly Svevo-Cianci

Executive Director

Kiesha Williams

Social Emotional

School District U-46

Response Team

Changing Children's

Jeanne Ang

Director of Community Health Advocate Aurora Health

Vivienne Bailev

Member Community Advisory Council

Robin Barraza, Co-Chair

Coordinator of Culture and Climate School District U-46

Barbara Bettis

President

Elgin Teachers' Association

Anna Czerniak

Children's Mental Health Kane County Health Department

Deb Dempsey

Equal Chance Program Regional Office of Education

Jehan Hill

Assistant Professor of Counseling Northern Illinois University

Sam LeDeaux

Multi-Tiered Systems of **Support Coordinator**

EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS A-TEAM

Yolonda Barnes

Associate Dean Sustainability, Business & Career Technology Elgin Community College

Stephanie Beale

Marketing Professional

Mitchell Briesemeister, Co-Chair

Director of Educational **Pathways** School District U-46

Alex Brotsos

Business and Career Services Gail Borden Public Library

Michele Chapman

Director of Post-Secondary Success School District U-46

Alexa Charsha-Hahn

Lead Counselor School District U-46

Rose Diaz

Director of Workforce Development YWCA Elgin

Joey Dienberg

Management Analyst Village of Bartlett

Mary Fergus

Director of School and **Community Relations** School District U-46

Brian Hoeg

Director of Information Technology Gail Borden Public Library

Yvonne Irving

VP Community Business Development **KCT Credit Union**

Carmen Lainez

Human Resources Manager Hampshire Farms, LLC

Bob Malm, Co-Chair

Community Volunteer

Billie Moffett

Director of Studio 270 Gail Borden Library

Mike Nakonechny

Business Development Director, Industrial and **Transportation Division** SGS North America

Nick Piekarski

Project Manager Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick Inc.

Matt Raimondi

Assessment Department School District U-46

Doreen Roberts

Teacher Leader School District U-46

Terry Stroh

Systems Director Northern Kane County Regional Vocational System EFE 110

Cathy Taylor

Dean Sustainability, Business and Career Technology Elgin Community College



July to September:

- Summer Reading in the Parks expands to five locations providing weekly educational materials and food boxes to over 3,000 children.
- **Child Care Taskforce** launches to support families challenged with remote learning.
 - **Festival Park Grand Opening showcases** "Move, Play and Talk" signage for families.
- **High School Work-Based Learning** Plan kicks off 100% remote.



October to December:

University admission visits launch featuring 12 universities and Elgin Community College (ECC).

Inspire Ignite Instill

- **Career panels and industry workshops** featuring the fastest growing job sectors serve 430 high school students.
- **ECC's TRIO** staff participates in adverse childhood experiences training.
 - **Alignment and Streamwood Park District** receive Illinois Parks and Rec "Best of the Best" award.
 - Alignment launches community wide "Instill, Inspire and Ignite" U-46 appreciation campaign.

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS













January to March:

Alignment launches the **Freshmen Experience** at Larkin High School.

Harting USA Roadshow visits with 183 PLTW and STEM Academy students.

Health care professionals attract 146 students.

Teacher pipeline project has support from ECC, EPEL, Kane County Region 110, NIU, and local child care organizations.

Alignment joins **U-46's Equity Committee** focusing on community engagement.

April to June:

Explore 2021 goes virtual introducing 2,293 8th graders to 85 careers across all industry clusters.

Inaugural senior job fair launches with over 30 employers introducing 360 students to available jobs, resume development, and interview skills.

Summer Reading in the Parks expands to five locations with live workshops for kids and families.

Alignment promotes "Trauma Informed Care" week with all U-46 schools and community partners.

Alignment's partnerships grow to more than 185 organizations.

2020-2021

Alignment concludes its fiscal year reaching 7,234 children and youth.



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