



Wisconsin Counties Association  
**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
*& Exhibit Hall* **2022**

**10:30 - 11:30 AM**

**Year of Pals Mentorship**



# Year of Pals Mentorship

*Brown County and Community Partners  
Announce Year-Long Initiative for 2022*

# Brown County Executive Troy Streckenbach

*"It is time for us as a community to tackle this issue if we want better outcomes and break the child adversity to prison system. It starts with children, they need mentors, hope and love to prove they can be more than their learned experiences."*







## Kickoff Event – January 26<sup>th</sup> @ Lambeau Field

- *Brown County Executive Troy Streckenbach, along with the Green Bay Packers, Oneida Nation, and the Brown County Sheriff's Office, announce partnership to help recruit volunteer adult mentors to provide crucial support and guidance to youth involved with Brown County Child Protective Services.*



# Green Bay Packers President/CEO Mark Murphy

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*"We are proud to spread the word about how mentorship can make a critical difference in the lives of youth. When kids have an adult serving as a positive influence in their lives, it helps put them on the path to success and it makes our communities stronger."*





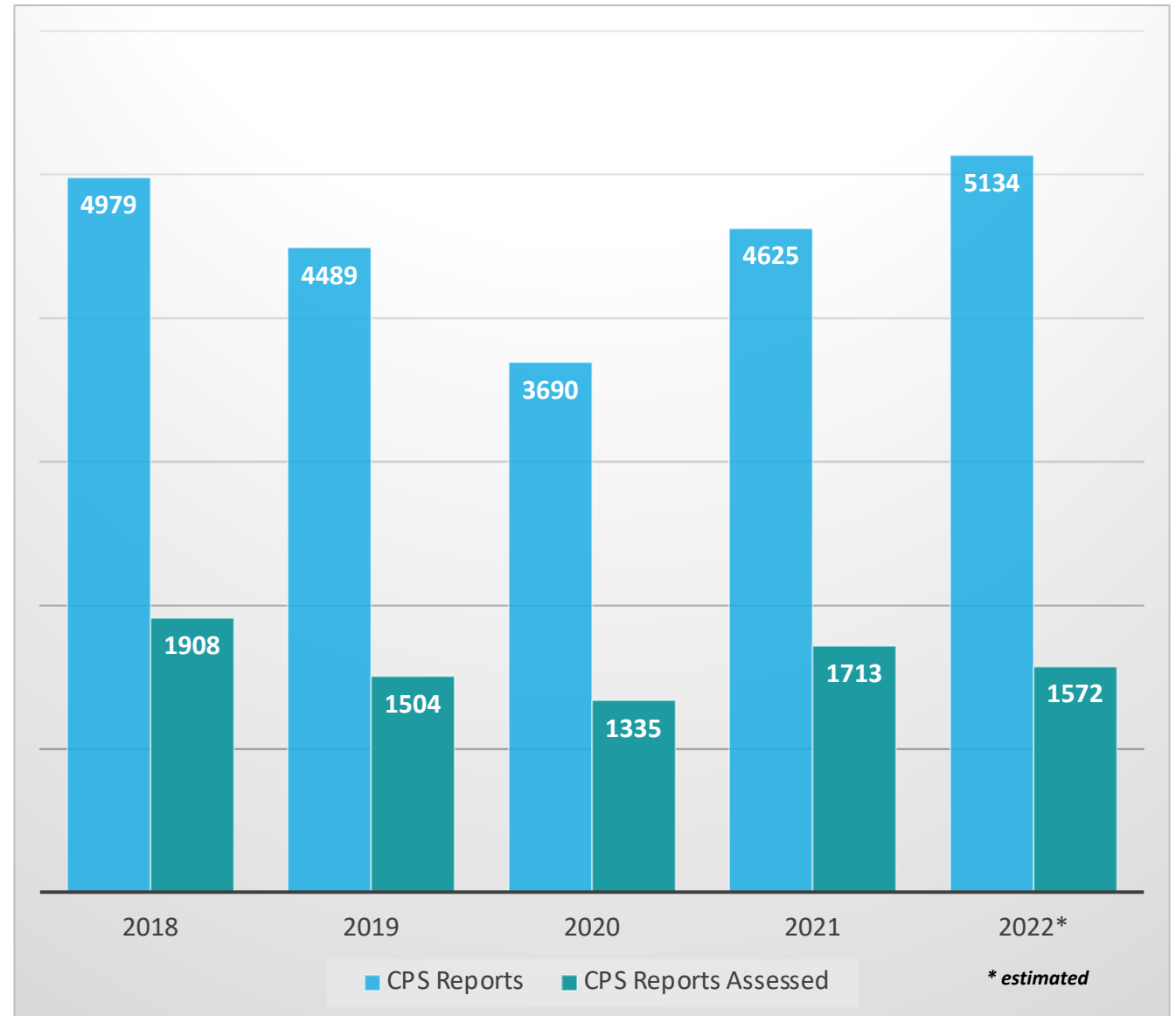
# Oneida Nation Tribal Chairman Tehassi Hill

*"We believe our actions to work towards building healthy relationships and strong self-esteem are critical to the success of our children into the future. Our core values encourage us to surround our children with a good mind, a good heart, and a strong fire."*





# Annual Reports to Brown County Child Protective Services





# Brown County CPS & Youth Justice Expenditures 2017-2021





# Goals

Immediate:	Establish a waitlist of <i>volunteers</i> vs. a waitlist list of children
Long-Term:	<p><u>Increased:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Graduation rates</li><li>- Post-secondary education opportunities for children impacted by trauma</li></ul> <p><u>Decreased:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Overall reports made to Child Protection</li><li>- Number of Child Protection reports being screened in</li><li>- Juvenile arrests</li><li>- Youth sent to Lincoln Hills (\$1,100/day x 14 youth on average annually)</li><li>- School contacts regarding behavioral issues with students</li></ul>
Overall:	Improve the lives of the children in our community in effort to create a better future for everyone



# Pals Program Data

Presented by Melinda Mommaerts

Brown County Human Services –  
Social Worker Supervisor





## Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Impact

“While some will succeed despite the long odds, many more will become statistics of other systems: mental health, homelessness, unemployment, and chronic disability. Thousands more will transition out of juvenile justice systems close to their age of legal majority, many without support networks. These youth, almost entirely made up of young people with histories of abuse and neglect are at risk for numerous negative outcomes including re-arrest and transition into the criminal justice system.”

*-Focal Point: Youth, Young Adults & Mental Health. Trauma-Informed Care, 2015, v. 29*

<https://www.pathwaysrtc.pdx.edu/pdf/fpS1506.pdf>

# About the Pals Program

The Pals Program is a mentoring program of Brown County Health & Human Services. Program Coordinators are responsible for training volunteers and matching them with a Pal based on compatibility.

Volunteers spend time in a recreational or learning activity with their Pal. Volunteer mentors help the child adjust to the separation or loss of a parent, enhance self-esteem and confidence, and learn new skills.

Volunteer Coordinators provide support to matches as long as the volunteer and child are involved with the program.

## **Population Served:**

- Children ages 3-17
- Children who have been involved with Brown County Child Protection and/or Youth Justice in some capacity
- Children who could benefit from a positive role model in their life





# Mentoring Stats

Research shows that youth who are connected to a mentor are:

- 55% more likely to be enrolled in college
- 78% more likely to volunteer in their community
- 46% less likely to start using illegal drugs
- 27% less likely to start drinking
- More likely to flourish and become productive adults themselves
- Less likely to have externalizing behavior problems (bullying) and internalizing problems (depression)

# Be The Inspiration

*"I have met many people in my life due to me growing up in foster care some of them was good, some of them not so much. Then I met [my mentor] even though he wasn't my foster parent he still treated me with kindness and respect as if I was his own child, it seemed as if every year I grew into an adult he was there helping me thru it couldn't ask for a better role model, father-figure, friend, or someone I can call family."*

**—Pals Program Youth**

*"Nothing has made me prouder in my time with [my Pal] than seeing him graduate from high school. Over the past 4 years, I have watched him grow into the wonderful adult he has become, and I know that even greater opportunities are on his horizon."*

**—Pals Program Mentor**





A decorative graphic consisting of a series of green dashed line segments forming an arc on the left side of the slide, and a solid green circle on the right side.

# Pals Program Effectiveness

Presented by Glen Tilot

Retired Director of Brown County Pals Program –  
Current Board Member: Friends of Pals, Youth, and  
Families Inc.

Pals Program  
Worker  
Should NOT  
be a CPS  
Worker







Pals Program Social  
Worker has a  
Different role with the  
Parent/Child

Cooperation  
of the Parent  
is Critical

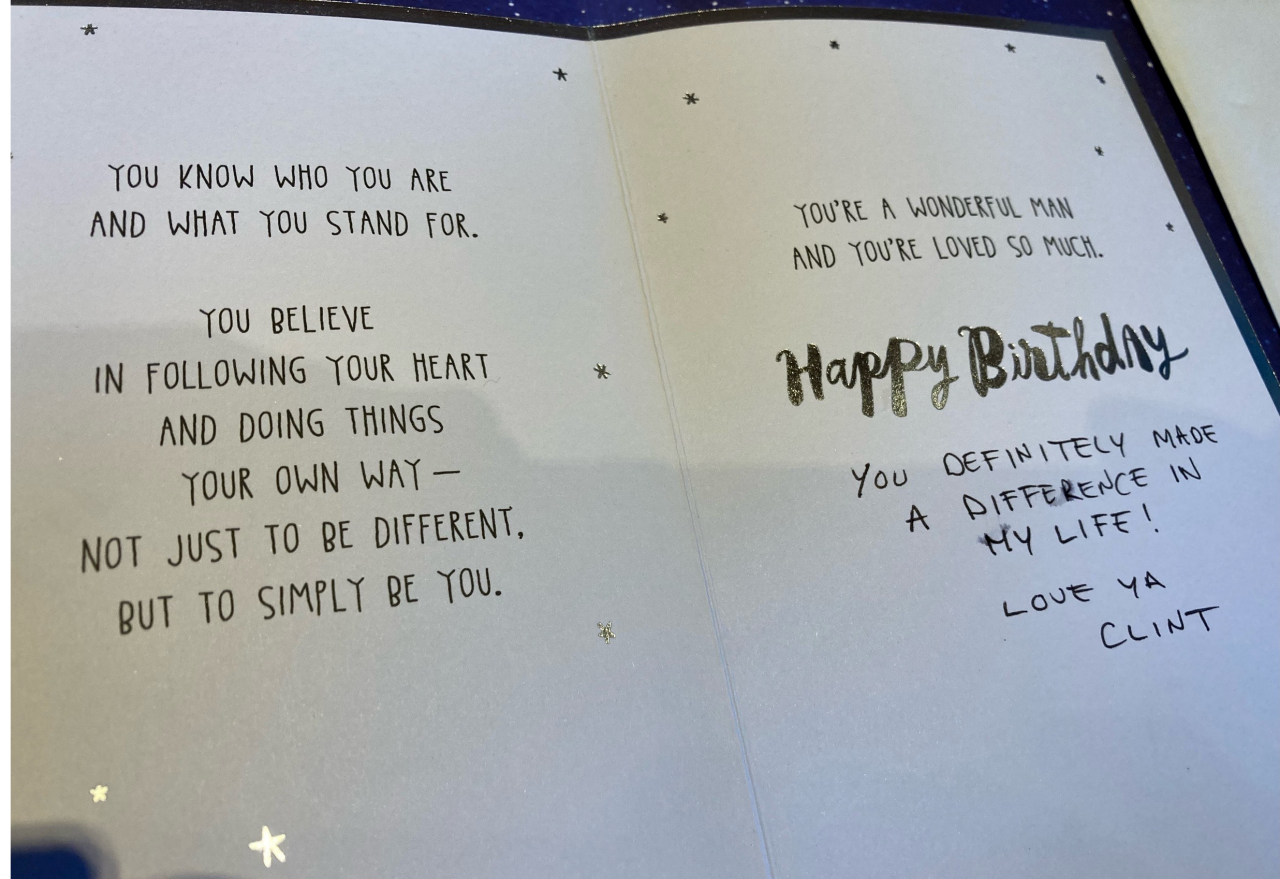
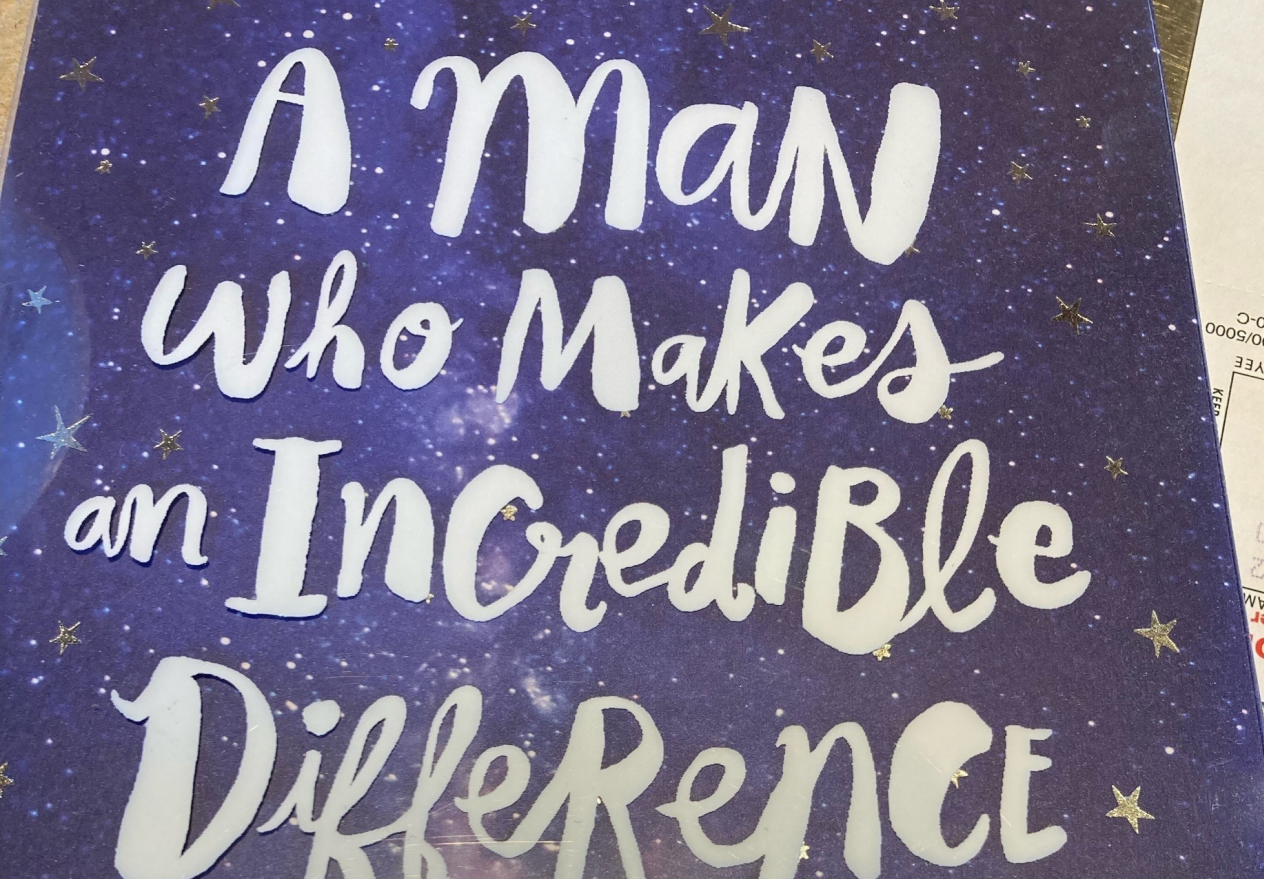






This Cooperation  
can Enhance the  
work being done  
by CPS/Foster  
Care Worker





Card Received by Long-Time Pal Volunteer





# Thank You

*Question & Answer Session*