

Within the first year of service, CHS cared for 34 children – the organization relied solely on community donations.

November 17: Children’s Home Society of Florida (CHS) was established in Jacksonville under the leadership of Reverend Dr. David W. Comstock.

Fagg was an active contributor to the writing, editing and passage of several child welfare laws including the Child Labor Law, the Compulsory Education Law, and the Wife Desertion Law.

September 15: Marcus C. Fagg became the charismatic face of CHS at only 24 years old. In his first year, CHS grew from 155 supporters to more than 2,000.

CHS expanded into Lakeland with the donation of the Rose Keller Home. The City of Lakeland rallied around CHS to get the house move-in ready for nearly 30 kids in need of immediate housing. This year, we celebrate 90 years in Lakeland!

During the first 40 years, CHS provided 48,710 children with aid and care, possible through \$3.7 million in donations.

CHS suffered The Great Depression with the rest of the nation when more than 100 children previously placed in adoptive homes were returned to CHS due to personal financial failure. CHS became further emboldened to create a change.

CHS helped form Florida’s first standing committee determined to **reform child labor laws in Florida.** The majority of the state’s working children were employed by oyster and shrimp canneries, rural farms and some cigar factories.

CHS grew 3 locations: Jacksonville, Miami and Pensacola and collectively cared for 1,458 children with 50 employees. Still then, we were recognized as one of the nation’s leading children’s agencies.

1902

1904

1910

1925

1930s

115 YEARS OF BUILDING BRIDGES TO SUCCESS FOR CHILDREN.

1947

1951

1962

1970s

2017

Marcus C. Fagg retired after 41 years. Through all of his accomplishments, he maintained he felt most honored by his time spent with the children. “The title and honor I appreciate most of all is the one given to me by thousands of homeless orphans and needy children” – “Daddy” Fagg. “This is my price [sic] possession of all the years.”

CHS established counseling programs within schools and began offering family counseling throughout the state.

CHS has helped finalize **more than 50,000 adoptions and empowered more than 1 million children and family members** to cross bridges to success.

CHS opened Central Florida offices to a community that was largely orange groves and cattle farms. Today, Orlando is the bustling hub of our home office operations.

C. Farris Bryant declared Children’s Home Society of Florida Day for providing service, care and loving homes for many thousands of children.

CHS received our first National Accreditation by the Council on Accreditation. CHS has continually earned this distinction ever since and in 2017 we celebrated 25 years of Accreditation! See a full list of additional accolades and honors at www.chsfl.org/affiliations.