

## CROSSNORE SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S HOME AND YOUTH VILLAGES

### PARTNERING TO MITIGATE CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE'S RISK OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Young people served by the child welfare system in North Carolina and the United States have an increased chance of sexual exploitation due to high risk factors. Crossnore and Youth Villages currently serve this population of young people (i.e., children in foster care) and are uniquely positioned to mitigate the risk factors causing a young person to be exploited. Together, they propose to create a continuum of services to protect young people, heal past trauma, and prevent future harm or risk from commercial exploitation.

Crossnore and Youth Villages both provide various community-based services to help keep a family

together and prevent them from becoming involved in the child welfare system. If a young person can be safely maintained in their home, in-home family preservation services are focused on strengthening a family's internal protective factors and teaching them to care for and protect their child in their homes and communities. This is the best first step in serving young people and mitigating risk of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) because it prevents further trauma and develops skills to allow for long-term sustainability and stability of the family unit. Components of the partnership allows for a home-like environment while also providing the necessary protective factors this population deserves.

### PROTECTIVE FACTORS FOR A YOUNG PERSON INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- The presence of a stable adult figure and a close positive bond with at least one caring adult
- A strong support network, including positive friendships
- Job training and employment opportunities
- Positive performance in school
- Structure in the home and parental supervision
- Strong communication skills for caregivers, families, and youth
- The allowance for young people to "make mistakes" while receiving both consequences and love and care concurrently
- A sense of mastery with arts, athletics and extracurricular activities
- A solid and realistic plan for the future

