Community. Over the past 65 years, CRH has taken an increasingly proactive role in caring for those placed under its protection, many with complex behavioral and emotional needs. CRH’s most recent program, developed this year, will teach independent-living skills to youth reaching their legal age in foster care—an effort that extends CRH’s responsibilities and prepares teenagers for adulthood. The goal is to enable the youth to achieve self-sufficiency before leaving the foster-care system and to provide support services upon emancipation.

“An Independent Living Program is a critical need for those of our kids who are getting close to emancipating from foster care. To leave them underserved is not in our DNA. We serve kids, they have these needs, and through this program we are going to step up for them,” says David Ballard, CEO of Children’s Receiving Home.

CRH and its dedicated staff continually seek compassionate ways to reconnect or connect children to family, school and community—a process that begins the moment law-enforcement or child-welfare officers deliver a youngster to our doorstep.

Unfortunately, ill-treatment often does not occur during regular business hours, and CRH stands ready to receive a desperate child 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When they arrive, children are immediately immersed in the home’s efforts, enhanced over the past four years by medical and therapeutic support services provided on-site by CRH’s highly-trained team, including a doctor, nurses, social-service workers, teachers and administrators.

In addition to 24-hour residential and shelter care for up to 70 children, the CRH campus offers an assessment center, medical services, counseling and social-work services, on-site and community-based mental health services, a Kinship Support Services program, activities, recreation and a child/family visitation center.

CRH also collaborates with San Juan Unified School District to provide a multi-grade on-site public school attended by most of the school-age children under its care. Taken as a whole, this integrated array of services is designed to stabilize a child’s life and to provide a nurturing routine to what often has been a chaotic and fearful existence.

In all its varied activities, CRH works closely with Sacramento County Child Protective Services and Mental Health to fulfill the agency’s primary goal: “To make the next placement of a child be his or her last placement.”