ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Where the Possible Becomes REAL
Dear Friends,

This year we ask you to join us in a celebration of your support for SCO Family of Services and the investment you have made in the lives of the 55,000 New Yorkers we have reached. We focused our work in communities and on the people who need us most, helping them develop the skills they need to live safe, stable, independent and engaged lives.

Last year, SCO:
- sheltered 9,900 homeless youth, adults and children
- helped 2,100 individuals with special needs develop skills to reach their full potential
- guided 7,500 children and teens on the path to success through academic, after school, summer and work readiness programs
- prepared 1,900 young children for kindergarten in our early childhood programs

We deepened our roots and strengthened our core services in Corona, Queens, opening our fifth early childhood center, and in Brownsville, Brooklyn – one of the most impoverished urban areas in the nation – adding a new initiative aimed at ensuring that families find the help they need and that children thrive. We’ve also expanded our services in Brownsville, with two new after school programs, a nutrition and fitness initiative, and our Baby & Me program, which helps parents build a network of support and promotes parent engagement in early learning.

Both the scale and the impact of our work have been extraordinary, with more than 80 programs in 120 locations throughout New York City and on Long Island. Our greatest point of pride is sharing the individual stories of lives we’ve changed. In the pages that follow, you’ll read about:

- Madelin, who felt overwhelmed and isolated, raising twin toddlers on her own until she joined our Baby & Me program; Tais, a teenage mother who was homeless before moving with her son to our Bethany residence; Faiz, a 10-year-old boy who was unable to speak when he came to our Robert J. McMahon Children’s Center; and Noah, who found a loving, forever family when he was adopted by Brigid.

We welcomed Douglas O’Dell as our new Executive Director. A staunch advocate and trailblazer for youth, Doug’s work has advanced efforts to keep young people in communities close to their families and friends so they can develop meaningful connections. We are confident his leadership and vision will enable SCO to meet new challenges, respond to emerging needs and sustain our high-quality services.

Thank you for believing in SCO and in our ability to provide the right combination of support, guidance and care that makes the difference between a life of hardship and a life of promise.

Douglas O’Dell
Executive Director

Kelly Williams
Board Chair
Promoting Healthy Development in Brownsville, Brooklyn

With support from The Sirius Fund, SCO is providing fitness classes for children and nutrition workshops for parents in our three early childhood centers in Brownsville, Brooklyn. The initiative aims to reduce the impact of poverty on health outcomes and includes monthly take-home packages of fresh produce with family menu ideas and recipes. Also in Brownsville, with a grant from the Child Welfare Fund, SCO is offering parents and their young children the opportunity to participate in our drop-in Baby & Me classes. These playgroups offer parents the opportunity to build a network of support, learn about child development and lay the foundation for school readiness and parent engagement.

New Early Childhood Center Opens in Corona, Queens

We continued to expand our early childhood portfolio by opening our fifth center and second site in Corona, Queens, this fall, offering pre-kindergarten. SCO’s Jerome Hardeman Early Childhood Education Center II educates 54 four-year-olds and has been fully enrolled since opening day.

“A mom and her boys find community and support. Madelin & Twins

“I was struggling,” recalls Madelin.

A new mother of twins, she seldom left her home. She didn’t feel that little Omariano and Mariano would be safe at the park. So for the most part, they stayed home. Every day. For almost two years.

“It was hard,” she recalls. “I felt guilty. The boys were so little, and they weren’t speaking because we didn’t socialize enough.”

Everything changed last May, when Madelin and her twins joined the Baby & Me program, which offers developmental playgroups and parenting support for parents and their children ages 0-2.

“It’s like a little preschool!” she raves. “So safe and positive. It’s amazing.”

Now every Monday, Madelin and her boys enjoy guided activities like songs and circle time. And as the twins gain essential development and socialization, Madelin soaks up parenting skills and confidence from the community.

“The first time the family came, Madelin seemed overwhelmed,” says Group Facilitator Mimi Ogawa-Spigland, LMSW. “Omariano and Mariano clung to her, didn’t make much eye contact, but they made tremendous progress in a matter of months.”

Today the boys actively participate, developing skills that will prepare them for success in school. Madelin is thrilled to see them so engaged. And Madelin has grown, too, talking about parenting with other moms — including two others with twins.

“It’s like a support group,” says Madelin. “I get so much out of it. I don’t know what I’d do without Baby & Me.”

We prepared 1,900 young children for kindergarten

• Home visiting for first-time mothers
• Early childhood education centers
• Family child care homes

Early Childhood: Getting Young Children Off to a Good Start

Where the possible becomes REAL

SCO Annual Report 2015
Community Schools Initiative Expands Services for Students and Families

This year, one of our three Transfer Schools – East Brooklyn Community High School (EBCHS) in Brownsville, Brooklyn – became one of New York City’s Community Schools, a Department of Education initiative aimed at improving efforts to keep struggling students engaged and on track to earn a Regents Diploma. By providing students and their families with access to health, mental health, early childhood and family planning support services, EBCHS has reduced barriers to school attendance. Youth development activities, offered after school and throughout the summer, are motivating and engaging more students in the EBCHS community. This summer, our students and teachers teamed up with the Groundswell Community Mural Project to create a vibrant mural for the residents of Brownsville.

Addressing Mental Health Needs of NY’s Most Vulnerable Youth

Recognizing that unmet mental health needs can be a catalyst for youth homelessness and court involvement, SCO is providing mental health screenings in our transitional housing for homeless and runaway youth and in our programs serving families with youth who have entered or are at risk of entering the juvenile justice system. This will allow front-line staff working with youth and their families to intervene early with behavioral health services necessary to treat underlying mental health issues that may be a contributing factor to delinquent behavior or leaving home.

Independent Youth: Launching Youth into Adulthood

We guided 7,500 children and teens on the path to success

• High schools for struggling students
• After school programs
• Group homes for at-risk youth
• Internships and jobs

SCO was 15, living in a homeless shelter with her mother and five siblings, when she became a mother herself. “My mom had just enough for the six of us to basically survive,” recalls SCO. “When I had Kaiden, she made the decision to place me into foster care. It was my first time separated from my family, but I was in need of something stable for both me and my son.”

So just after her 16th birthday, SCO and baby Kaiden moved into SCO’s Bethany I, a residence for pregnant and parenting teens in foster care. There, she found the support she needed and quality childcare for Kaiden. “It definitely was challenging, but SCO staff was very supportive of my dedication to schoolwork,” says SCO. “It was a ticket to my success.”

Last spring, SCO graduated with two gold medals for academic achievement, an award from the City Council and a college scholarship. Today she’s studying political science at Endicott College, living in a dorm for students with young children. While she’s in class, Kaiden attends preschool. On visits to New York, they come home to Bethany.

“SCO provided me with the resources to be able to grow, to further my education,” says SCO. “We’ve made lifelong friends and family. It was a beautiful struggle.”

From homeless teen mom to college freshman. SCO & Kaiden
Finding his voice.

Faiz

After years of loving care at home, Asma and Neveed came to a difficult conclusion: that their son, Faiz, the eldest of five, would benefit from a residential school program. By age nine, Faiz was unable to speak and prone to self-injury. But when his parents sought support from the Robert J. McMahon Children’s Center and the on-campus Tyree Learning Center last year, everything began to change.

Upon arrival, recalls teacher Andrea Verios, “Faiz had no way to communicate. He was frustrated, sad and defiant, hitting his own face incessantly.” But in the Tyree Learning Center’s structured environment, Faiz flourished.

Andrea implemented a picture exchange system (PECS) book filled with sentence-starters like “I want,” “I see” or “I need” – and it unlocked the world for Faiz. Gaining the ability to communicate changed everything. In the classroom, Faiz earns prized rewards for his progress, such as balls or trampoline time. And he has developed a close relationship with his roommate.

Faiz is also gaining real independence, from putting on his shoes to setting the table for lunch, to proudly fetching the backpack and medical bag for weekly field trips to the park or library. “We’re working on financial concepts,” explains Andrea, “and he handles the trip money, taking real pride in making purchases for the group.”

Faiz goes home on weekends, where he uses PECS to do what had been impossible for the first nine years of his life: communicate with his own family. “His progress has been exponential,” says Andrea. “In barely a year, he’s surpassed everyone’s expectations. It’s been transformative.”

“So it was a very hard decision to have him live away from home,” says Asma. “But for now, it’s the right place for him.”

Enabling More Children with Emotional Challenges to Remain at Home

Over the last two decades, SCO has built expertise in helping families with children who have a serious emotional challenge avoid hospitalization. Through home visits and collateral visits with all those involved with the youth (teachers, therapists, etc.), SCO staff assesses and coordinates an array of services and support needed to ensure the stability and safety of the child and family, including skill-building, family support, crisis response, respite and intensive in-home services.

Building upon the successes of this program in Brooklyn, SCO brought it to Suffolk County this year, allowing more children to remain at home with their families.
The call came on a Tuesday. Brigid, a special education teacher who’d taken in foster children, told SCO she was ready to adopt. After being a temporary mom, helping to strengthen and reunite families, she wanted to build a “forever family” of her own. And then, one day, her phone rang.

“They said, ‘We have a baby who is two months old, and he has nobody,’” she recalls. “And I thought, ‘I’ll be his somebody.’”

Three days later little Noah was in her arms. The first day was intense, but Brigid recalls, “I woke up the next day and looked at him in his crib and thought, ‘This is my kid, and this is meant to be.’”

The legal adoption process would take six years, and SCO was there every step of the way.

“SCO’s adoption unit was really on it, so organized,” Brigid recalls with gratitude. “They were able to explain everything going on in court. It took a long time, and they were like, ‘Let’s stick with it.’”

Throughout the process SCO was really supportive of his birth mom too. They recognized that she really loved this baby, but that life circumstances meant he wouldn’t be safe there.” So SCO worked hard to support both Noah’s adoptive mother and his birth mother, and to sustain and nourish both relationships.

And then, the big day came. “His adoption court appearance took five minutes, but when they said he was legally my son, it took my breath away.”

Now seven, Noah’s doing great – playing chess, learning French and mastering soccer.

“He’s my world,” Brigid says. “I love being a mom. It’s my favorite thing in the world.”
In 2015:

**Learning**
- 175 high school students who were at risk of dropping out graduated with a NYS Regents Diploma
- 298 young adults enrolled in college this academic year with our help
- 81 children ages 2-4 years and their parents completed our evidence-based Parent-Child Home Program concentrating on early literacy, school readiness and parenting

**Work**
- 2,115 young adults were connected to internships, community service or work
- 298 young adults enrolled in college this academic year with our help
- 164 youth and adults with special needs participated in volunteer projects in their community

**Well-being**
- 175 high school students who were at risk of dropping out graduated with a NYS Regents Diploma
- 298 young adults enrolled in college this academic year with our help
- 81 children ages 2-4 years and their parents completed our evidence-based Parent-Child Home Program concentrating on early literacy, school readiness and parenting

In our four Early Childhood Education Centers:
- 97% of children met or exceeded national literacy performance standards, an increase of 26% from the beginning of the year
- 92% of children met or exceeded national mathematics performance standards, an increase of 40% from the beginning of the year

- 321 adults became employed heads of households
- 159 adults found steady work through our employment services
- 162 adults became self-employed in a cooperative-owned business

- 507 children left foster care
- 116 children were adopted by loving forever families
- 391 children were reunified with their parents who worked hard preparing for their return home

- 104 mothers completed our nationally recognized, evidence-based Nurse-Family Partnership program for first-time mothers
**Donors Helping us help others.**

**H. Craig Treiber** Craig Treiber says supporting SCO is in his DNA. That’s because the Treiber ties to the organization go back three generations. Craig’s grandfather, John, was actively involved at Queens’ Ottilie Orphan Asylum, which would merge with the St. Christopher Home to become SCO. Craig’s father, Howard, was Board President. Craig’s mother, Hope, deepened the family’s tradition of philanthropy. 

Craig joined the board in 1999. He’s not the type to talk about his generosity, but Craig’s quiet commitment is unshakable. Each year, he and his wife Lora are among SCO’s top donors and volunteers.

“My family has been very blessed to have a successful business over a number of generations,” says Craig, “and giving back was essential in our upbringing. If you’re fortunate enough to have your health and acquire some financial means, it’s important to give back. There’s tremendous need, and my family is honored to support organizations that make a real difference.”

The Treibers’ support has long underwritten SCO’s efforts, but Craig commits his time too – overseeing Risk Management, serving as Vice Chair and Executive Officer of the Board. “We have a family foundation, and our giving goes well beyond SCO, but there’s a difference. Writing a check is one thing, but to invest your energy, to have skin in the game is what is important. The diversity and impact of the services provided make me proud to support the organization.”

**Adam Graves** Ask hockey legend Adam Graves about SCO, and the retired New York Ranger doesn’t talk about what he’s done for the organization. He talks about how lucky he is to be a part of it.

His passion for helping families originated early on. Adam’s parents took in 30 foster children. “I was fortunate to have foster brothers and sisters,” he says. “It strengthened my family. So it was natural to be involved with an organization that does such wonderful work strengthening families.”

In 1991 Adam dove right in, hosting holiday parties, committing his time and money to benefit children and families in SCO’s Family Dynamics program in Bedford-Stuyvesant and Brownsville, Brooklyn. His involvement deepened in 2006 when Madison Square Garden (MSG) founded the Garden of Dreams Foundation to “make dreams come true for kids facing obstacles.” In the decade since, Garden of Dreams has provided life-enriching experiences to thousands of children in SCO programs: skating with the Rangers, going backstage at Radio City and attending countless games. But Garden of Dreams doesn’t just open their doors to foster children. “I was fortunate to have foster brothers and sisters,” he says. “It strengthened my family. So it was natural to be involved with an organization that does such wonderful work strengthening families.”

Although retired, Adam remains active in SCO events. “These programs strengthen families and enrich kids’ lives. That’s what SCO does on a day-to-day basis. SCO embodies what we’re doing at the Garden of Dreams,” says Graves. “Everyone in the MSG family – every employee – they’ll say Garden of Dreams is the single most important thing we do.”

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**Our Donors**

**Life-Changing ($250,000+)**
- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- The Clark Foundation
- Estate of Agnes Trill Funk
- The Pinkerton Foundation
- The Price Family Foundation, Inc.
- Robin Hood Foundation
- Single Stop USA, Inc.
- The Taft Foundation
- The Tiger Foundation
- United Way of New York City

**Extraordinary Reach ($50,000+)**
- The Altman Foundation
- Catholic Charities Community Services
- Charles Hayden Foundation
- Child Welfare Fund
- The Durst Family Foundation
- The Edith Glick Shoolman Children’s Foundation
- Estate of Nancy M. De Bruin
- Garden of Dreams Foundation
- Help for Children/Hedge Funds Care
- The Ira W. DeCamp Foundation
- New York Women’s Foundation
- Anne L. Peretz
- The Sirus Fund
- The Stella and Charles Guttman Foundation
- Surdna Foundation

**Unconditional Care ($15,000+)**
- Alexandra Alger
- ALLINBKLYN
- Photine M. Anagnostopoulous and James Stynes
- Astoria Bank
- The Barker Welfare Foundation
- Benjamin Development Co., Inc.
- Brooklyn Community Foundation
- Chem Rx Long Term Care Pharmacy
- The Frances L. & Edwin L. Cummings Memorial Foundation
- Food Bank for New York City
- Grace J. Fippinger Foundation
- Ingber Law Firm
- The Janey Fund
- Levitt Foundation
- Long Island Community Foundation
- Madonna Heights Ladies Auxiliary
- Joseph and Laurel Mancini
- Steven and Leslie Marentis
- The Mary J. Hutchins Foundation, Inc.
- Mechanic Group
- Newsday Charities, A McCormick Foundation Fund
- The New York Community Trust
- Michael and Jessica T. O’Mary
- Douglas and Allison Schloss
- TD Charitable Foundation
- Stephen and Lori Ann Tyree
- Lee and Cynthia Vance
- Mark and Lisa Walsh
- Whisants Culinary Group
- David and Kelly Williams

**Stability & Strength ($5,000+)**
- 599 Ralph Ave Development, LLC
- Ahmuty, Demers & McManus
- Albanese Organization, Inc.
- Keith and Peggy Anderson
- Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
- Beacon Therapy
- Alvin and Deborah Benjamin
- Philip Bonanno and Dorothy Whalen
- Bulova Stetson Fund
- Robert B. Catell
- CBRE
- Kathryn Chen and Jason Bonanca
- Clarion Capital Partners
- Colonial Wire & Cable Co.
- Credit Suisse Americas Foundation
- John and Joan D’Addario
- Federico and Martina DeGiorgio
- Laura Ensler
- Farrell Fritz, P.C.
- Douglas and Jessica Fenton
- Peter and Karen Ferrandino
- Timothy and Meghan Fulton
- Amedeo and Antonella Gabrielli
- GAP Foundation
- Money for Time
- Robert and Peggy Garlant
- Leonard and Geraline Genovese
- Goldman Sachs & Co.
- James P. Gribbin
- Fabrice Grinda
- Richard and Eileen Henning
- Heritage Strategies, LLC/Fanning, Fitzgerald Families
- James Hernandez
- Hunt Enterprises, Inc.
- Industry City
- The Jack Fanning Memorial Foundation
- Jaspin Schlessinger Hoffman LLP
- John T. Underwood Foundation
- Kean Development Company, Inc.
- Robert and Terry Lindsay
- Lone Pine Foundation, Inc.
- Long Island Charities Foundation
- James R. Maher, Sr.
- Malcom Gibbs Foundation
- MDRC
- Morfit Hock & Harhoff LLP
- Mutual of America
- Pav-Lak Contracting Inc.
- People’s United Bank
- Peter and Crisler Quick
- Red Land Strategy Inc.
- Robair Reichenstein and Jin K. Lee
- Rockland Bakery, Inc.
- John and Jo Anna Schoonmaker
- Maulin Shah
- Shannon Leigh Briggs Memorial
- Robert and Margaret Sherman
- Susan R. Sinclair
- Skaggs-Walsh
- Mitali V. Sohoni
- Edward and Christina Stack
- Steel Equities
- John R. Stevenson
- Switzer Foundation
- TD Bank
- John and Michele Theobald
- Thirdview LLC
- Thompson Hine LLP
- Mary Pat Thornton and Cormac McEnery
- Tides Foundation
- Scott and JoEllen Treiber
- Barbara M. Tyree
- Victoria Lomcoslo Foundation, Inc.
- Wheatley Agency, Inc.
Empowerment ($500+) 

100 Black Men of New Jersey, Inc. | 1257 Grand Tire Corp. | 257 Nassau Corp. | 4C Foods | A&R Food Services, Empowerment ($500+)

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Financials
Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Revenue and Support

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Change in Net Assets from Operations $853,465
Actual Expenditures FISCAL YEAR 2015 by program area and percentage:

- 5.28% Family Support Services
- 5.84% Early Childhood Services
- 28.39% Special Needs & Behavioral Health Services
- 12.85% Education & Youth Development Services
- 26.06% Foster Care Services
- 7.00% Management & General
- 0.57% Development
- 14.01% Shelters & Homeless Services

Total Expenses $254,326,921

Expenses

Program                                         $235,053,829
Management & General                           $17,814,299
Fundraising                                     $1,458,793
Total Expenses                                 $254,326,921

Government Partners

New York City: Administration for Children’s Services | Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
| Department of Education | Department of Homeless Services | Department of Youth and Community Development | Small Business Services | City Council: Council Member Julissa Ferreras | Council Member Robert Conney | Council Member Carlos Menchaca | New York State: Department of Health | Education Department | Office for People with Developmental Disabilities | Office of Children and Family Services | Department of Health | Office of Mental Health | Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services | Council on the Arts | Suffolk County: Department of Social Services | Nassau County: Department of Social Services | United States: Department of Health and Human Services
SCO CHAMPIONS

SCO welcomed Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and NYC First Lady Chirlane McCray to SCO/FirstStepNYC.

SCO LGBTQ program staff and youth marched alongside NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio in the Queens and Brooklyn Pride parades.

NYS Assembly Member Latrice Walker joined us for Stepping-Up Day at our Shirley Chisholm Early Childhood Center.

Thank you, NYC Council Member Rory Lancman, for funding new communications systems for our Ottilie campus and Genovese Family Life Center.

Thank you, NYS Assembly Member Maritza Davila for attending a BBQ at our Flushing Family Residence.

Glen Cove Mayor Reggie Spinello attended a reception celebrating Doug O’Dell’s appointment as SCO’s Executive Director.

NYS Assembly Member Charles Lavine and Sea Cliff Mayor Bruce Kennedy attended an art exhibit featuring artists from our Robert J. McMahon Children’s Center.

Thank you, Garden of Dreams Foundation, for giving our Ottilie RTF gym a much-needed makeover.

ONES TO WATCH: Douglas O’Dell, Executive Director, SCO Family of Services

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

A Teenage Mother Breaks the Boundaries

In Ms. Patterson’s sophomore year, she decided to move with her son, Kaiden Taylor, into a group home for single mothers run by SCO Family of Services. Moving into the group home turned out to be “the worst but best experience of my life,” she said. It was hard to leave her family, but she found she was able to focus on herself and her son, she said. “I’ve found myself and my own identity, and my mom has grown, too.”

SOUND OF VIOLIN REVEALS A “DIFFERENT WORLD” TO BROOKLYN TEEN

But ACS Deputy Commissioner Felipe Franco said that stories like Deshawn’s are common in the city’s 30 Close to Home facilities. “Deshawn is an example of the hard work Close to Home staff do every day,” said Franco. “We fully expect to see Deshawn performing at Carnegie Hall one day soon and making us all proud.” And by all accounts, Deshawn is a success story.

DOE’S RECIPE FOR FIXING SCHOOLS LIES IN PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THEM

As science teacher Deborah Schaeffer led a lesson on climate change on a recent Thursday afternoon, not only were her students at East Brooklyn Community High School paying close attention but so were a team of other educators in the room. Schaeffer is a model teacher. Literally. As part of the city’s Learning Partners program, Schaeffer opens her room to educators from other schools.

BIRTHRATE OF BABIES ADDICTED TO DRUGS IN SUFFOLK, NASSAU SOARS

Advocates say the rising number of mothers in need of treatment shows little sign of waning; and that must be combated with more treatment ... and parent-support programs. Of the 20 rooms at Morning Star I, a Dix Hills facility that provides housing and counseling for addicted mothers, 15 are typically occupied by mothers battling heroin and opioid addictions, said Carla Carliyon, a parenting specialist there. The facility is operated by the Glen Cove nonprofit SCO Family of Services.
Early Childhood
- Nurse-Family Partnership: healthy pregnancy and child development
- Parent-Child Home Program: parent engagement and school readiness
- Baby & Me: developmental playgroups and parenting support
- Early Head Start: healthy development, family engagement and pre-K
- Family Child Care Networks: childcare
- FirstStepNYC Leadership Institute: professional development for early childhood leaders

Independent Youth
- Close to Home: residential program for court-involved youth
- Juvenile Justice Initiative and Family Assessment Program: family therapy and delinquent behavior
- Transfer Schools: high schools for struggling students
- Independence Links: transitional housing for runaway and homeless youth
- After School, Summer and Work Readiness Programs
- Scattered Site Supportive Housing for youth aging out of foster care
- Group Homes for young adults in foster care
- Community Residences for young adults in foster care

Special Needs
- Residential Schools
  - Westbrook Preparatory School: high school for students with high-functioning autism
  - Ottlie Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) and Theresa Paplin School: youth with emotional challenges and developmental delays
  - Madonna Heights RTF, Group Residence and School

Strong Families & Communities
- Family Dynamics: after school and family counseling
- Beacon and Cornerstone community centers
- Beacon and Cornerstone community centers
- Family Foster Care and Adoption
- Individual and Family Counseling
- Single Stop: access to public benefits, healthcare, tax filing and legal assistance
- Morning Star: residential substance abuse recovery for women and children
SCO Family of Services helps vulnerable New Yorkers build a strong foundation for the future. We get young children off to a good start, launch youth into adulthood, stabilize and strengthen families, and unlock potential for children and adults with special needs. SCO has provided vital human services throughout New York City and Long Island for more than 100 years.

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www.SCO.org

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