



Children's  
FRIEND

All through COVID, we did not close any programs. But beyond that, all over the organization, staff and families have worked together in new ways to support our children and their parents.

It's often said that COVID-19 has brought about a "new normal." Here at Children's Friend, we are building a better normal. This organization has risen to the challenge of COVID and launched innovations big and small.

2021 Annual Report

Innovation +  
Teamwork = Strong Families

# Dear FRIENDS



made innovation at Children's Friend possible. And, I want to thank our staff, my colleagues, who bring dedication, grit, and creativity to work every day. They remind us of the difference between a job and



As I sit down to write this, it's been a little more than two years since COVID-19 turned our personal and professional lives upside-down and placed so much new stress on already vulnerable families and communities.

I am tremendously proud of the performance of Children's Friend staff all through the pandemic. They've done much more than just keep us operating -- although that is an accomplishment worth bragging about. All through COVID, we did not close any programs. But beyond that, all over the organization, staff and families have worked together in new ways to support our children and their parents.

It's often said that COVID-19 has brought about a "new normal." Here at Children's Friend, we are building a better normal. This organization has risen to the challenge of COVID and launched innovations big and small, ranging from a new way to assess children's socialization through a family event in the park, to myriad ways to ensure that the more than 6,000 families in our Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) have uninterrupted



access to healthy food, to the never-ending need to create home learning activities for days when our classrooms must close due to COVID exposure.

Our cover says "Innovation + Teamwork = Strong Families." I know it isn't that simple -- it takes hard work, creativity, and boundless patience, too. We tell just a few of these innovation stories in the pages that follow.

I want to thank our donors, supporters, and friends who have made innovation at Children's Friend possible. And, I want to thank our staff, my colleagues, who bring dedication, grit, and resilience to work every day. They remind us of the difference between a job and a calling.

Thank you all for making Children's Friend a better place.

Sincerely,

*David*

David Caprio  
President and Chief Executive Officer

## OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Too many of the youngest and most vulnerable children in Rhode Island are experiencing devastating outcomes, including death, as a result of abuse and neglect. As stewards of the resources entrusted to us, Children's Friend is realigning itself to proactively respond to this crisis.

## MISSION

Children's Friend is the innovative leader in improving the well-being and healthy development of Rhode Island's most vulnerable young children.

Children's Friend is a founding member of the Child Welfare League of America and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation.

\*The names of the children and families we serve have been changed to protect privacy and confidentiality.



## FAMILY-CENTERED:

Discovering child and family needs and working with families to best meet them. Providing opportunities for families to be meaningfully engaged in the design of services. Being committed to serving families of diverse cultures and lifestyles in a non-biased and non-judgmental way.

## SEAMLESS:

Coordinating and integrating our services to ensure that families receive the support they need, regardless of point of entry to the agency. When our families face challenges outside our expertise, we partner with other high-quality organizations.

## OUTCOME-DRIVEN:

Thoughtfully measuring the impact and effectiveness of our services. Engaging in ongoing learning and innovation to ensure we are offering effective services to children and families. Consistently identifying what we can improve, doing what we can do best, and measuring our self against national benchmarks.

## ADVOCATES:

Taking a leadership role in educating policymakers and the public on the needs of the youngest and most vulnerable children, even when it means taking risks for the benefit of children.

## STEWARDS:

Taking responsibility for growing and sustaining our human and financial capital. Demonstrating respect and cultural sensitivity for our community, staff, and Board.

# OUR PRINCIPLES




# early HEAD START

## A TWO-GENERATIONAL APPROACH TO STRENGTHENING OUTCOMES

Many parents we serve ask: How can I give what I never received? That is certainly true of Marli, mother of Ava. Within the first year of her daughter's life, Marli was reported to DCYF twice. That is how she became involved in our First Connections program where staff quickly referred her and her daughter to our Early Head Start (EHS) program.





EHS improves a child’s cognitive, language, and behavioral outcomes, but even more striking is the program’s influence on and partnership with parents. Parents are more likely to read to their children and less likely to resort to punitive discipline when they are involved in EHS. EHS staff partner with and empower parents in their journey of growth, for both themselves and their children. With the referral to our EHS program, Marli was about to begin that journey, but it would not be easy.

Marli came from a broken and dysfunctional home. Her parents had separated when Marli was young, so she spent her youth bouncing between her parents’ homes. One day when she was a young teen, Marli was nowhere to be found. Each parent just thought she was at the other parent’s house. In reality, Marli had been kidnapped on her way home from school. Since her parents didn’t know she was missing, neither bothered to look for her. Marli was held for three days. During that time, she was raped.

Not surprisingly, Marli struggles with mental health issues (depression, anxiety, PTSD, and borderline personality disorder), physical and relationship issues. As the first-time mother of baby, Ava, she needed a wide range of supports. At first, Marli did not bond with her EHS Family

## “ THE EHS FAMILY ADVOCATE BEGAN WORKING WITH BABY AVA WHEN SHE WAS 11 MONTHS OLD.”

Advocate and canceled most of her scheduled home visits. Instead of closing the case, the program manager assigned Marli’s case to another Advocate. And this time, the fit was right!

The EHS Family Advocate began working with baby Ava when she was 11 months old. As the months progressed, Ava demonstrated physical and speech developmental delays, and she and Mom were helped by our Early Intervention (EI) program for families with children under three with developmental disabilities. EI specialists felt that Ava needed further evaluation, and she was referred to the Hasbro Children’s Hospital Children’s Neurodevelopment Center for a neurological evaluation and to an audiologist for a hearing evaluation. Those were not the baby’s only challenges. What was initially thought to be swollen lymph nodes, was eventually diagnosed as a non-tuberculous mycobacteria infection. Ava spent a week at Hasbro Children’s

Hospital to have masses removed from her neck area. Marli never left her side, for the full week.

Ava recovered from surgery and continued in our EHS Infant/Toddler room at Dexter. EHS and EI continued to work with Marli to have little Ava evaluated with the Pawtucket School Department for an Individualized Education Plan. Ava received a school department placement and when she turned three years old, transferred to a pre-school classroom in the Pawtucket school system.

While working with and supporting Mom to address all of Ava’s developmental needs, the EHS Advocate also helped Marli work on her mental health concerns. Marli’s anxiety and panic attacks were preventing her from keeping a job. Her Advocate helped Marli resolve housing insecurity, food insecurity, heating disruption, benefits being suspended, and relationship conflicts resulting in restraining orders.

Before closing the family to EHS, the Advocate wanted to make sure there was another supportive service in place for Marli and Ava. She made a warm handoff from EHS to our Family Care Community Partnership program. Marli was so grateful for the services she received and the relationships she formed, that she occasionally calls her former Advocate, just to check in and talk.

## LIVES CHANGED THROUGH EARLY INTERVENTION AND COLLABORATION

Marcus was referred to Early Intervention (EI) in February of 2020, shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic changed everyone's worlds. At 16 months of age, Marcus had not met many typical developmental milestones. His mother, Ana, a former infant-toddler teacher, recognized behaviors in Marcus that seemed atypical for a child his age. He was not tolerating solid foods and seemed overly sensitive to sounds. Ana and Marcus' pediatrician made the decision to seek additional support from the EI program at Children's Friend. The EI program serves families with children under three who have diagnosed or suspected developmental disabilities.

Less than a month after Marcus was referred to EI, the COVID-19 pandemic forced all Early Intervention services to switch from in-home, face-to-face meetings to virtual visits and phone calls. While the Early Intervention team worked to transition

services to this new virtual environment, Marcus and Ana's world was changing, too. Ana fould herself at home with her son full-time, as a single parent. Together, EI and Ana completed a virtual evaluation and soon began virtual visits with a team of EI therapists designed to address Ana's concerns. The team included an Early Interventionist, Dietitian, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Speech-Language Pathologist and an Interpreter. The collaborative relationship that the EI providers developed with Ana during the intake process supported her to be able to discuss her concerns with the team. The team used creative strategies along with Ana to learn what worked for Marcus. They all listened to Ana, guided her through the setbacks and celebrated each milestone with Marcus.

As their work continued, Ana and the team pursued further evaluation for Marcus, which led to an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis. As a result of that diagnosis, Ana and Marcus were able to participate in an innovative virtual occupational therapy group that offered Ana opportunities to learn with other parents. The team also helped Ana to find a dentist and new pediatrician for Marcus. At what was undoubtedly a very vulnerable time for any parent, Ana was able to lean on her Early Intervention team for information, resources, and support.

Marcus is three and a half now, and aged out of EI after making tremendous progress. If you asked Ana, she would tell you that her EI team is responsible for all this. However, throughout Marcus' time in EI, the team providers on the case credited Ana as the one responsible for Marcus' successes.

Marcus' story is full of positive outcomes. He participates in daily activities at home, like eating regular meals and helping out with simple tasks. He plays and communicates with his parents and others. He continues to receive services now provided through the school department and his Individualized Education Plan. The best part of Marcus' story is not just the positive outcomes, but rather the way those outcomes were achieved. Ana showed her dedication by trying out strategies and offering feedback, and being open to share her struggles and triumphs with the team, and the EI team was right there with her. Together, Ana and Marcus' EI team learned and played; they tried things out, and they supported each other. That intensive collaboration led to those beautiful outcomes and demonstrated that the new ways of working, developed during COVID-19, would work to support families in any environment.



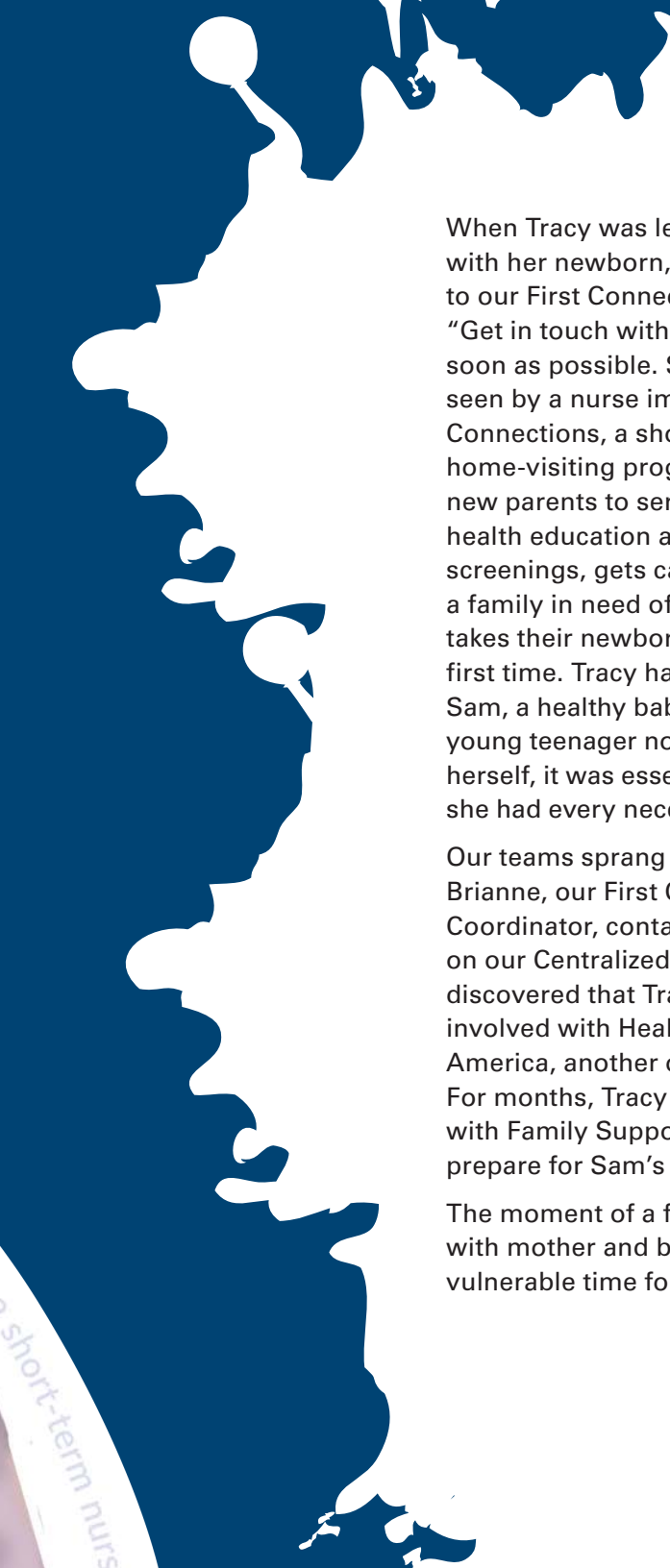
# early INTERVENTION



# first CONNECTIONS

MAKING CONNECTIONS TO  
CRITICAL RESOURCES





When Tracy was leaving the hospital with her newborn, a call went out to our First Connections program. “Get in touch with this mom as soon as possible. She should be seen by a nurse immediately.” First Connections, a short-term nurse home-visiting program that links new parents to services and provides health education and developmental screenings, gets called like this when a family in need of additional support takes their newborn home for the first time. Tracy had given birth to Sam, a healthy baby boy. But as a young teenager not yet in high school herself, it was essential to make sure she had every necessary support.

Our teams sprang into action. Brianne, our First Connections Coordinator, contacted Tracy. Keiry, on our Centralized Intake team, discovered that Tracy was already involved with Healthy Families America, another of our programs. For months, Tracy had worked with Family Support Worker Lori to prepare for Sam’s birth.

The moment of a first homecoming with mother and baby is often a vulnerable time for new parents.

So, rather than overwhelming Tracy with multiple visitors, the care team took a measured approach. Lori followed up with Tracy to discuss the support that First Connections Nurse, Laura, might provide, such as developmental assessments and education. Thoughtful teamwork paid off. Tracy agreed to a visit. After a warm introduction, Laura met Tracy.



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## TRACY AND HER TEAM CAME UP WITH A PLAN.

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During their visit, Tracy shared concerns about returning to school and her mental health. Tracy and her mother were interested in long-term support, but given Tracy’s age and situation, typical resources for new mothers experiencing stress or depression were not the right fit. The team was faced with a challenge: what is the right kind of support for this young teenage mom coping with a newborn, worried about returning to school, and facing her own mental health challenges?

Tracy and her team came up with a plan. They arranged for Tracy to meet

with Dr. James Greer, a psychiatrist who works with Children’s Friend to support families and consult with staff. He provided Tracy and her mother with immediate support and offered long-term options for managing her concerns about school and mental health.

Following that intervention, First Connections was ready to end their work while Lori continued to support Tracy and Sam. Tracy recently returned to school and the team helped her advocate to get the support she needs, including the privacy to pump breastmilk for Sam. Tracy was accepted into two application-only high schools for next year. Together, Tracy, Tracy’s mother, and Lori are tracking Sam’s development. Tracy and Sam are developing a strong mother-child bond and Tracy is exclusively breastfeeding Sam.

## EARLY IN THE PANDEMIC

Hugo walked into our Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) office in Central Falls. A dad of four young children, including a newborn, Hugo had lost his wife to COVID-19. He was grief-stricken and overwhelmed with all his new responsibilities. He had lost his job in the service industry and had no idea how he would manage. The WIC office in Central Falls was one of only a few places to access in-person services in the community.

“Our WIC team immediately sprang into action on Hugo’s behalf,” says Margaret Tremblay, Head Start/WIC Nutrition Supervisor. “We enrolled his children under five in WIC and linked Hugo to our family advocates who arranged to deliver free home meals to his family. We were able to get him store gift cards for diapers and other necessities through our Emergency Crisis Fund. Every time he received something, he cried with thankfulness.”

Our WIC program provides a lifeline to low-income pregnant women,

and women with children under five. Before COVID struck, the Children’s Friend WIC program served over 6,000 women, infants, and children a year. Although participation in WIC dropped nationwide due to the challenges of the pandemic, our program maintained its level of service through innovation, motivation, collaboration, and just a lot of plain hard work.

“During the first few months of the pandemic, WIC was one of the only Children’s Friend programs that was open for in-person visits,” explains Lucia Santiago, Director of Nutritional Services. Through WIC, caregivers receive critical nutrition education, vouchers for nutritious foods, breastfeeding education, screening and referrals to other needed services, and, as needed, special formulas for their babies. “As a national WIC requirement, we need to collect the height, weight, and blood samples from enrolled parents and their children so that we can track and tailor their nutritional care. In the first few months of the pandemic, with a staff of only ten in two of our normally five sites, we were able to see WIC participants from all of our sites.”

Staff and clients persevered through program changes, from in-person, to all virtual, and eventually to hybrid in-person/virtual; multiple location changes for WIC staff; and plenty of headaches for everyone. “When

we were all-virtual, getting required client health data took lots of research, phone calls, faxes, scans, and repeat calls to doctor’s offices and other sources. Much more time than in-person visits,” says Lucia. Even simple check-ins to support clients were plagued with challenges. There were frequent dropped calls and bad connections. “We tried different ways to communicate to find the best solutions for each client. But trying to show a new mother how to breastfeed was impossible over the phone or zoom!” Margaret explained. So they worked with the agency’s Facilities team to set up a breastfeeding training center in one of the agency’s buildings, using curtains for privacy.

In September of 2021, WIC was able to re-open four sites to in-person visits. “That was our best day,” reflects Margaret. “We were all missing the joy of actually seeing the kids. That’s what motivates us. That filled the deep wells we all felt during isolation.”

WIC  
A LIFELINE  
DURING COVID





**21,508**

**Individuals participated in**  
services during the year

donors  
**MAKE IT ALL  
POSSIBLE**

Thanks to your support, Children's Friend provided essential services to our most vulnerable children throughout Rhode Island.

**LET'S DO THE NUMBERS...**

88



**Children were placed** in safe and stable foster homes.



164,672

**Nutritious meals** were provided to children in our programs.



176

**Families received** quality, bilingual child care services



291

**Children attended** our Universal Pre-K program

5,948



**Families received healthy foods,** nutrition education, and health referrals from our WIC program



1,263

**Children and their families** participated in our high-quality Head Start program



593

**Children with developmental disabilities** and their families were helped through our Early Intervention program.

303



**Families received regular home visits from a Registered Nurse** through our Nurse-Family Partnership program for first time moms and their children from pregnancy to age two

127



**Substance-affected families** participated in intensive home-based services through Project Connect, designed to help parents overcome addiction while safely parenting their children

# OUR DONORS



Please join us in recognizing those donors who supported Children's Friend in 2021.

Children's Friend is grateful to the individuals, businesses, foundations, and organizations who generously invest in the lives of our most vulnerable children and families. Your investment has a significant impact. You provide essential services for our families to succeed. Thank you for your generosity!

We very much appreciate your generous support! We prepared the following lists with great care.

If you feel your name has been omitted or incorrectly listed, please accept our sincerest apologies and notify Tiffany Estrada, Donor Relations Manager, at 401-347-5456 or [testrada@cfsri.org](mailto:testrada@cfsri.org).

Thank you!

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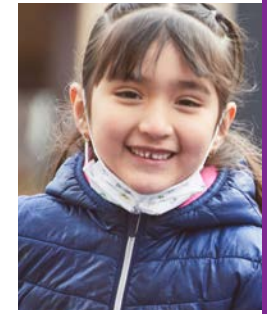
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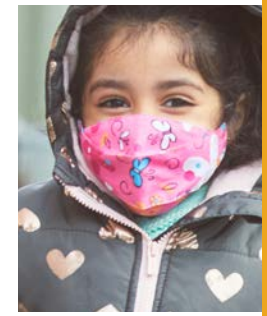
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**In Memory of Virginia Murphy**  
Emily Murphy  
Stephen Murphy



Socially Distant and Santa Approved

# HOLIDAY DRIVE

Your Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive Donations Help Families like Eliana's

Eliana\*, a 22-year-old mother with a very low income, was diagnosed with throat cancer during her pregnancy. She began chemotherapy immediately after her daughter was born, helped by a caring neighbor who took care of the baby when Eliana was in treatment. Eliana did not have the support of her mother or father, and was terrified about what would happen to her and her baby.

Her neighbor then referred her to Children's Friend and Healthy Families America (HFA) where staff Esperanza and Beatriz connected Eliana with critical resources for food, formula, and diaper supplies. They also made sure that Eliana and her baby would be sponsored as part of the agency's Holiday Drive. This support made a huge difference for Eliana and her baby, and gave her hope for the future. Eliana is having radiation treatment and further testing to make sure the cancer has not spread.

*\*Name changed to protect the family's confidentiality.*



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Vincent Tomassi  
Natasha Torres  
Elissa Tortolani  
Gail Tortolani  
Alison Tovar  
Sharon Trahan  
Vincent Tran  
Donna Trapassi  
Karoline Trepper  
Susan Trocina

Tufts Health Plan  
Brenda Turcotte  
Christina-Jo and  
Richard Turcotte  
Eric Turner  
Shany and Timothy  
Turner  
Sheila Turner  
U.S. Trust, Bank  
of America  
United States Coast Guard  
United Steelworkers of  
America Local #916  
United Methodist Church  
of East Greenwich  
University of Rhode  
Island Police  
Henry and Lillian Urban  
URI Professional/  
Technical Administrative  
Association  
US Sailing Association  
David and Ava Vanech  
William D. Vanech  
Suzanne Vargas  
Ryan Vaughan  
Brian Vaughn  
Andrea Wizer and  
Robert Vecchi  
Charles and Susan Vecchi  
Nicia Ventetuolo  
Kimberly and  
Thomas Verdi  
Christopher Viau  
Victoria's Secret  
Mary Villani  
Marianna Virella  
Vistage Team  
Mary Viveiros  
Maria Voccio  
Richard and  
Rebecca Wade  
Lindsay Wagner

Sarah Walker  
Courtney Ward  
Bethany Wardyga  
The Washington  
Trust Company  
Audrey Waterman  
Waters Church  
James Watson  
Stephanie Watson  
Katherine Weingartner  
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Meredith Wright  
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Deveney Young  
Michael Young  
Sheri Young  
Tracy Young

Matthew Youngers  
Donald Zambarano  
Zebra Technologies  
Lori Zegarzewski  
Joanne Zito



## BROADEN YOUR IMPACT WITH ONE SIMPLE STEP

Did you know that you can significantly increase the value of your gift to Children’s Friend? Simply verify that your employer offers a Matching Gift Program that encourages employees to contribute to charitable organizations.

Please note that most Matching Gift Programs match contributions dollar-for-dollar, while some programs even double or triple the amount of your donation. Some companies provide matching funds to support employee volunteer hours.

## MATCHING GIFTS

Children’s Friend would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the companies listed below for generously matching the charitable gifts made by their employees to support our mission.

AbbVie Employee Engagement Fund  
Amica Companies Foundation  
Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Charities Aid Foundation of America  
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Citizens Charitable Foundation

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Markel Corporation  
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Oracle  
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Verizon Foundation  
Wells Fargo Matching Gifts

## CONTRACTS THAT GENERATE REVENUE

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City of Providence  
DC Child & Family Services Agency  
Family Service of Rhode Island  
Local Initiative Support Corporation  
Rhode Island Department of

Children, Youth and Families  
Rhode Island Department of Education  
Rhode Island Department of Health  
Rhode Island Department of Human Services

US Department of Health and Human Services  
Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)  
United Way of Rhode Island



# donor SPOTLIGHT

THE MAYERS AND CHILDREN'S  
FRIEND: SHARING A MISSION



When Michael and Amy Mayer settled in Rhode Island almost a decade ago, they were looking to connect with a worthy local organization that helped vulnerable children. Each of them had grown up in large, loving and secure families, and believed that every child deserved to have the same. Not long afterwards, Amy, a wildlife biologist and researcher at the University of Rhode Island, was introduced to the Children's Friend Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive through colleagues who donated to the event. The annual Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive provides gifts of warm new clothing, books and toys, and other necessities to over 1,300 low-income families, representing about 5,000 children. Amy felt a real connection to the family in need she sponsored. She only knew the names and ages of the children and a little bit about their story, but she shopped for them like they were her own.

As a result of her experience with the Holiday Drive, Amy and her husband, Michael, a software engineer, decided to learn more about Children's Friend and its programs. They visited the agency, took a tour of one of the early childhood education centers, and realized that they had found what they were looking for: an agency they could support where they would feel part of the mission and where their dollars would go directly to help improve the lives of vulnerable children.

"When I think of Children's Friend, the word 'holistic' comes to mind," Michael says. "Help for the whole

family is what Children's Friend provides," adds Amy. Families enter into the agency's many programs such as Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Intervention, and WIC so that their children will have high-quality early childhood developmental support. Through



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## POVERTY IMPACTS CHILDREN'S SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, PHYSICAL, AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

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their involvement in agency programs for their children, families can receive "wrap-around" support from family workers who can help them develop plans for their long and short term goals and can link them to resources to address critical needs.

Poverty impacts children's social, emotional, physical, and educational development. By helping families connect to critical resources, the agency can help alleviate some of the extreme stress on families brought on by poverty. This help, in turn, can reduce the "adverse childhood events" or ACEs children experience that are associated with poverty, such as hunger and the lack of stable housing. "There are great equalizers

in life, like access to food, housing, education, and healthcare," Michael says. "Children's Friend helps families directly and indirectly address all of these basic needs."

Michael and Amy connect with the agency in a variety of ways. They attend the "Investing in Our Children Annual Luncheon" when their schedules permit. During Reading Week in previous years, they have read to children in the classrooms. Michael especially enjoys Reading Week and looks forward to when it will be reinstated and COVID restrictions are lightened. Most recently, they have lent their support to the agency's part in the United Way's 401Gives event. The greatest connection they have is in their passion and dedication to give back in order to help enable positive change in the lives of others. "We want our gifts to benefit kids in the programs and, as much as we can, incrementally improve lives."

Booker T. Washington, an American educator, author, orator, and adviser to several Presidents, once said, "If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else." Children's Friend is grateful to Michael and Amy Mayer and all of our donors for their commitment to our shared mission to support the well-being and healthy development of Rhode Island's most vulnerable young children.

# FOSTER HEROS

All children deserve safe and loving homes. Children’s Friend is grateful for our dedicated Foster Parent Heroes, who provide stable and loving care to children in need of temporary places to live. Our diverse Foster Parent Heroes care for children throughout the state, ensuring that their needs, from the tall to the small, are met day and night. Thank you to our Foster Parent Heroes, who all make a tremendous difference in the lives of our most vulnerable young children.

- |                                    |                                    |                                      |                                     |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cassie and Mike Affonso            | Julie and Richard Doire            | Ngina Johnson                        | Krystal and Anthony Pezza           |
| Kellen and Hakeem Alabi            | Kim Drape                          | Amber Kaltenstein and Kevin McKenna  | Stephanie and Matthew Plain         |
| Megan and Jeff Bain                | Rebecca and Dean Duffy             | Brittany Masion and Ed Kanderzki     | Jennifer Rado and Bethanie Roman    |
| Shayna Banfe                       | Tammy Eaton                        | Margaret Koosa and Jaime Borch       | Alison and Jeffrey Riese            |
| Lori Basile                        | Erica and Stephen Emond            | Janet and Brian Lacroix              | Christie and Corey Rishworth        |
| Kelli and Lee Barber               | Jessica Farell and Gelissa Salazar | Brian and Patty Lamothe              | Robert Rocchio and Arthur Taylor    |
| Jennifer and Andrew Beck           | Eugenia Ferreira and Kevin Cliff   | Norkis Latigue                       | Marissa and Eric Schaumberg         |
| Sydney and David Bilodeau          | Stephanie and Barkley Finsterbush  | Maureen Lawrence                     | Karen Scotti                        |
| Kristine Boavida                   | Jamee and Mike Flynn               | Lisa and Scott Listenfelt            | Bridget and James Sherrod           |
| Tamara and Nathan Bonds            | Shirley Fraticelli and Alex Miller | Kathleen Mahoney                     | Korina and Ken Short                |
| Krystin and Paul Breau             | Amy and Tyler Fontaine             | Dawn Manchester and Deidre Rowles    | Deb and Tim Steen                   |
| Thea and Michael Brennan           | Adrienne Bryant & Lester Goss      | Anthony and Shaun Martins-Torres     | Jose Tavares                        |
| Amy and Stephan Brock              | Hillary Greene and Riley Nolan     | Tammy and Lee Martin                 | Cherylanne Turgeon and Scott Santos |
| Betinna Brothers                   | Kristy Griffiths                   | Lisa and Dino Messina                | Jordan and Anthony Votto            |
| Brenda and Alfred Carnevale        | Annette Hama n & Michael Kerr      | Stacy and Julio Murga                | Becky Wallace                       |
| Lisa and Scott Carr                | Jessica Hatch                      | Dana Borelli-Murray and Colin Murray | Jay Wolstencroft and Tiago Costa    |
| Sherri Casali                      | Seth and Shannon Hobson            | Laura Napolitano                     | Ashley and Zachary Yoakum           |
| Megan and Ryan Coolan              | Sarah Howe                         | Sara and John Natalizia              |                                     |
| Erica Crossman                     | Eben and Marc Hutchinson           | Lauren and Tyler Nobis               |                                     |
| Bethany Dansereau                  | Colleen and Matthew Johns          | Gina and Timothy O’Donnell           |                                     |
| Daniel DiCamillo and Kyle Spalholz |                                    | Crystal and Luis Pacheco             |                                     |
| Laurie and John Dickinson          |                                    | Elizabeth and Alberto Palmeri        |                                     |



## Curious About Foster Care? Want to Help?

There are still many children in Rhode Island who need foster homes. Please consider partnering with us to ensure that every Foster Care child experiences a stable upbringing where they receive love and support. These children need our help now more than ever.

Do you think you would be a great Foster Parent? If so, please call Children’s Friend and learn more about the steps involved in becoming a Foster Parent. Barbara Whitman, our Foster Care Recruiter is available to talk to you about your decision and the special joy that you will experience when you help a child in need. You can reach Barbara at [bwhitman@cfsri.org](mailto:bwhitman@cfsri.org) or by calling (401) 632-9756 or (401) 276-4300.



# PLANNED GIVING

## The Harriet Ware Society

**Be a part of our innovative future through Planned Giving at Children's Friend.**

Since 1834, Children's Friend has been the leader in supporting vulnerable children and their families. Over the 187 years of the agency's existence, families have been affected by poverty due to economic depressions, social inequities, wars, illnesses, and most recently a worldwide pandemic. Through it all, Children's Friend has been innovative, creating new ways to be there for the families we serve. We have a vision for growth and new services, always evolving to meet the needs of our families.

There are several ways that you may become part of our future. You can make a bequest, transfer appreciated stock, donate bonds, or direct a required minimum distribution of retirement funds to Children's Friend.

The following visionary members of our Harriet Ware Society have chosen to help us meet the challenges of the future by creating their bequests to the agency. Please consider joining them.

William & Amabel Allen  
Alida J. Anderson  
Mildred A. G. Anderson  
Lillian Barton  
Mabelle H. Chappelle  
David Caprio  
David & Mary Cram  
John D. Cregan  
Walter L. Davol  
Theakston DeCoppett  
Louise Dempster

Charlotte Diffendale  
The Dodenhoff Family  
Doris Stearn Donovan  
The Dwyer Family  
Alexander Grant  
Mark & Linda Griffin  
Lee Grossi  
William H. Heisler  
Cornelia Howell  
Kimberly I. McCarthy, Esq.  
Aimee G. Mitchell

Emma Myrick  
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Stephen Peck  
Florence Y. Petri  
Alfred K. Potter II  
Daniel Quinn  
Martha Shepard  
Laura B. Sims  
Charlotte Lumb Swift  
Imogene Watson

**Become a member today! For further information contact:  
Joyce LaFrance Tormey at [jtormey@cfsri.org](mailto:jtormey@cfsri.org).**





Charlotte Diffendale made an important life decision in 2021. She wanted her passion for helping the families Children’s Friend serves to be expressed as a long-lasting gift, so she chose to join the Harriet Ware Society. “I wanted to make a contribution to the world in some way and Children’s Friend gave me the opportunity to do that,” Charlotte says. The Harriet Ware Society, named for our founder, honors those who help to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our children and their families long into the future.

During Charlotte’s career as an early childhood educator in a low-income community, she witnessed the enormous challenges poor families face, and saw the impacts on children. “I will never forget one



## FAMILIES LIKE ELI’S NEEDED A WHOLE RANGE OF SUPPORTS.

little boy, Eli, a special child who made a lasting impact on me. He was a tall, skinny boy – some would describe him as emaciated. He wore a winter coat to school with sleeves too short and without any buttons on the front. I was worried he would be too cold, so I put safety pins to close the coat before he left for home. I did this for a few days, and each time the next day he came back with his coat open again, and the safety pins gone. I asked him what had happened to the safety pins, and he explained that his mother would remove them. I realized that his mother was reusing the safety pins for other needs. Another day Eli told me that his mother said he would

have a good dinner because she could not give him any breakfast. About a week later, I saw Eli on the street selling handmade potholders at twenty-five cents each.” In those days the school where Charlotte worked was not able to provide any help to families. “I knew the family needed many more supports than I could provide by just buying a few potholders. I still have two of them. Families like Eli’s needed a whole range of supports.”

Charlotte’s career eventually linked her to Children’s Friend where she has served as a Board member since 2013. She cites the agency’s long history as proof of sustainability, trustworthiness, and dedication to quality services. “I made a planned gift so that the Elis of the world would have the resources they need well into the future and would be given the best possible chances.”

If you are interested in Planned Giving, please contact Joyce LaFrance Tormey at [jtormey@cfsri.org](mailto:jtormey@cfsri.org).

# member SPOTLIGHT

A MEMBER'S PASSION FOR  
HELPING VULNERABLE CHILDREN  
LEADS TO A LASTING GIFT



# OUR TEAM

In times of constant change, it takes creativity, flexibility, and strong relationships to meet the needs of children and families. Through 2021, the pandemic's long tail continued to affect the community and the way we work. With patience and understanding, our staff delivered services to families that were responsive to their needs while keeping in mind the health and safety of all.

Children's Friend is proud to acknowledge and thank our many valuable employees for their continued hard work and admirable dedication.

Madellin Abreu Moncion  
 Lisa Afonso Lynes  
 Cristina Afonso-Gore  
 Vanessa Albanese  
 Clarissa Aleman  
 Ariane Almeida  
 Aleydita Amado  
 Marissa Ambrosio  
 Tanya Anderson  
 Dorothy Andrus  
 Martin Araujo  
 Sonia Arboleda  
 Aleika Arias  
 Dalia Arriaza  
 Leslie A'Vant  
 Claudia Avila Martinez  
 Bienvenida Aybar  
 Jessica Baez  
 Kaitlyn Barron-Shashok  
 Julia Barros  
 Vielka Batista  
 Yulen Bautista  
 Jessica Beaupre

Adrienne Begin  
 Rachele Bellevue  
 Ada Berdecia  
 Berenice Betancur  
 Tracy Blackham  
 Justin Bloomberg  
 Maria Bolivar  
 Nicole Botelho  
 Shayla Bouchard-Mora  
 Nely Brandao-Paul  
 Lindsey Brannon  
 Lily Braz  
 Tracey Braz  
 Kerri Lee Breton  
 Madelyn Brito  
 Lori Brown  
 Melissa Brum  
 Fresa Burgos  
 Mary Burt  
 Yesica Bustamante  
 Franchesca Cabreja  
 Roberto Cabrera  
 Kristen Caine

Lisa Calderon  
 Caroline Calhoun  
 Tammy Camillo  
 Lorena Cano  
 Marquis Capellan  
 Joseph Capobianco  
 Susan Capobianco  
 David Caprio  
 Maria Cardenas  
 Nigela Carpenter  
 Therese Carpentier  
 Jenni Carrascoza  
 Jill Caslowitz  
 Lina Castillo  
 Rebecca Celio  
 Ana Chacon  
 Zachary Charette  
 Nichole Cherenzia  
 Maria Chionchio  
 Cecily Chuoke  
 Regina Clement  
 Julie Colangeli  
 Maria Colon  
 Erin Combs

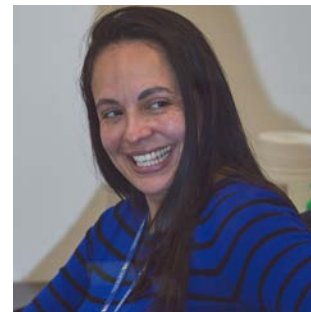
Ronald Contreras  
 Rachel Cooper  
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 Michelle Courchaine  
 Amy Crawford  
 Yolanda Crockett  
 Christine Crohan  
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 Elizabeth Czerwein  
 Jessica D'Alessio  
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 Justice DaRosa  
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 Debra Delves  
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 Linda Ann DiPasquale  
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 Aida Dones  
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 Michael Dulin  
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 Zoraida Medina  
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 Marie Melucci  
 Carmen Mercedes  
 Daiana Mercedes  
 Laura Miles  
 Cynthia Miranda





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 Alexandria Molina  
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 Romira Monteiro  
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 Mabelin Montenegro  
 Harryetta Moore  
 Mercedes Mora  
 Caren Morales  
 Luis Adolfo Morales  
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 Tiana Ochoa  
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 Hilcias Olivo  
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 Zobeida Ramos  
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 Natalie Redfearn  
 Christine Rego  
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 Joycy Reyes  
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 Telma Rodas  
 Shirley Roderick  
 Aixa Rodriguez  
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Georgina Rodriguez  
 Ingris Rodriguez  
 July Rodriguez  
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 Brenda Rojas  
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 Maritza Rosario  
 Lucy Rose-Correia  
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 Christopher Salaun  
 Christine Salem  
 Paola Salgado  
 Kim Samos  
 Melissa Sanchez  
 Narcisa Sanchez  
 Kyana Santiago  
 Lucia Santiago  
 Chantelle Santos  
 Monica Sar  
 James Savickas  
 Luz Scanlon  
 Sara Schiavoni  
 Shelli Schofield  
 Michelle Scorpio  
 Andrea Scott  
 Maria Serrano  
 Lorelin Silfa  
 Janie Silverio  
 Miriam Silverman  
 Dominique Smith  
 Kathleen Smith  
 Sola Solarin  
 Jennifer Soucar  
 Jodi Staplins  
 Hope Starkey Cox

Roxeanne Strickland  
 Julie Sullivan  
 Deborah Taillon  
 Dinora Tangui  
 Rita Tavares-Burk  
 Sabrina Taylor  
 Courtney Teixeira  
 Katherine Tejada  
 Yanelly Tejada  
 Lori Thurber  
 Tori Tobey  
 Jessica Toc  
 Gauri Todkari  
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 Lisuannette Torres  
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 Margaret Tremblay  
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 Milagros Weber  
 Derek Webster  
 Barbara A. Whitman  
 Gail Williams  
 Diane Williams-Giordano  
 Sandra Witherell

Joshua Wizer-Vecchi  
 Golnue Yang  
 Alycia Zagaglia  
 Emily Zanzarov  
 Cruz Zapata  
 Jezebel Zuleta



# OUR LEADERS

Children’s Friend is fortunate to have exceptional leadership. We are grateful to our Board of Directors and our Head Start Policy Council for their guidance in implementing our mission. By sharing their time and talent, our leadership team exemplifies their sincere dedication to safeguarding the well-being and healthy development of the vulnerable children and families we serve.

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Children’s Friend  
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Naomi Stanley

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Sokpha Chea

Rachael Fayemi

Maria Chocoj

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Your time and your talent are valuable resources. Would you like to share a little to help us fulfill our mission? Although COVID-19 restrictions have curtailed visits to our centers, Children's Friend needs volunteers all year long. And, we're hopeful that the COVID restrictions will be lifted in the months to come. Whether you can only spare a few hours, or wish to make a longer term commitment, we welcome you! You can join one of our committees, read to children in our classrooms, or join us in our Holiday Drive to provide children with holiday presents and warm clothing, just to name a few opportunities.

If you are interested in volunteering, would like to take a tour, or want to learn more about the agency, just contact Owen Heleen, Director of Program Development and Innovation, at [ohleen@cfsri.org](mailto:ohleen@cfsri.org), or 401-276-4300.

## WISE STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

Through its long history, Children's Friend has been fortunate to earn the support of many who wished to support our mission through our endowment. This precious source of funding allows us to maintain excellence in services even in times of limited funding from federal, state, and local sources. We maintain that resource through highly disciplined stewardship. We spend no more than 5.1% of the rolling three-year market value of our endowment.

You can support families today and well into the future by earmarking a donation to our endowment. For more information, contact Owen Heleen, Director of Program Development and Innovation, at [ohleen@cfsri.org](mailto:ohleen@cfsri.org), or 401-276-4300.



**“WHEN THE WINDS OF CHANGE BLOW, SOME PEOPLE BUILD WALLS AND OTHERS BUILD WINDMILLS.”**

**- Unknown**

An ancient Chinese proverb



Children's Friend is proud to report that 100 percent of your

use our endowment provides our agency with

receive are carefully utilized and make a positive impact in the lives of our most vulnerable young children and their

provides our agency with





“

We must  
protect families,

**we must protect children, who  
have inalienable rights and  
should be loved, should be taken  
care of physically and mentally,  
and should not be brought into  
the world only to suffer.**

—Indira Gandhi

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# IMPACT OF INVESTMENTS

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## MAKE A SUSTAINING CONTRIBUTION

A recurring gift to Children's Friend will ensure that at-risk families receive the resources and information they need throughout the year. A monthly donation will help us to provide comfort and support to Rhode Island's most vulnerable children and their families.

All it takes is a simple click. Your generosity will certainly make a positive difference in the lives of those who turn to us in their moment of need.

Please visit our website at [www.ChildrensFriendRI.org](http://www.ChildrensFriendRI.org) and click on the "Make a Donation" tab. Once your gift has been designated, you can indicate the amount of your donation and provide your credit card information for processing.

We are so appreciative of the generosity of our donors who make all this good work possible. On behalf of the thousands of families that are served, we thank you!

## THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY – 100% PROGRAM SUPPORT

Children's Friend is proud to report that 100 percent of your gift supports the many programs and services that are offered to our at-risk children and families. Because our endowment provides our agency with long-term financial security, you can rest assured that the donations we receive are carefully utilized and make a positive impact in the lives of our most vulnerable young children and their families. Please note that no donations are used for fundraising or administrative expenses. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.



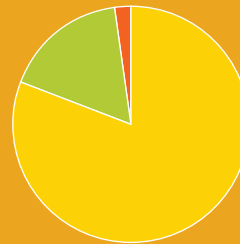
# INCOME STATEMENT

2021 REVENUE	
Contracts	25,339,670
Fee for Service	3,885,162
Investment Income (losses)	950,975
Contributions/Grants	1,953,431
Donated Goods, Services, Facilities	1,302,525
Other Income	693,116
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>34,124,879</b>

2021 EXPENSES	
Early Intervention	2,339,819
Family Support	22,845,160
Family Preservation	2,315,330
Health & Nutrition Services	5,259,416
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>32,759,725</b>
Administration	478,074
Development/Fundraising	851,627
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>34,089,426</b>

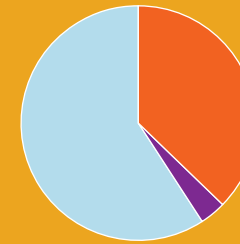
\*Subject to Change Upon Completion of Agency's Audit

# A BREAK DOWN OF THOSE WE SERVED



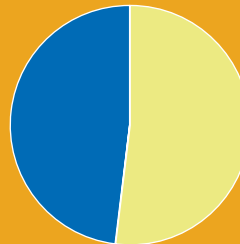
## AGE

- 0-9
- 10-19
- 20+



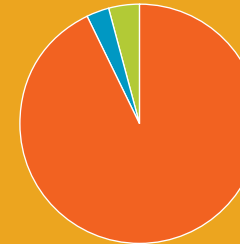
## ETHNICITY

- Hispanic/Latino
- Non-Hispanic/Latino
- Unknown



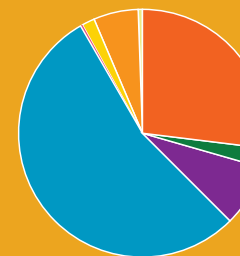
## GENDER

- Female
- Male



## INCOME POVERTY LEVEL

- Under 100%
- 100-175%
- Over 175%



## RACE

- Asian
- Black
- Multiracial
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Client Declined to Provide
- Unknown
- White

The agency's audited financial statements are available upon request.

For more information, please contact Owen Heleen, Director of Program Development and Innovation at [ohleen@cfsri.org](mailto:ohleen@cfsri.org) or 401-276-4300

**ANNUAL REPORT  
DESIGNED BY GLAD WORKS**



# Children's FRIEND

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Providence, RI 02903

401-276-4300

[ChildrensFriendRI.org](http://ChildrensFriendRI.org)