



Children's FRIEND

Personal Imprints
2010 Annual Report



We are all as unique as our fingerprints...

And we all leave our mark on the world.





"I've learned to become an advocate"

Nayrobi carries the world on her shoulders, and then asks how she can help others. A social worker at the Department of Human Services suggested Nayrobi visit the Children's Friend Drop In Center in Central Falls two years ago. She and her then 2-year-old daughter Diosa were living at the Ronald McDonald House while baby Zaida was in the hospital with a severe flu. Zaida has a genetic disorder known as Trisomy 13 from which most babies don't survive their first year.

"Children's Friend 'adopted' us for Christmas" with holiday gifts and clothes, Nayrobi remembers appreciatively. "And when Zaida got out of the hospital, Children's Friend provided me with a nurse!" Just as important, Children's Friend was able to enroll Diosa into Head Start and support Nayrobi's passion for advocacy.

"Since the little one (Zaida) was born, she needed so much. Diosa was getting so little attention," Nayrobi says. "She loved school! I saw the big change in her immediately. She always put her head down whenever people were around. She was so shy. Two weeks later, we went to the Children's Museum. She was talking about kids, and I knew who she was talking about. The classroom teacher asked if I would come to a Policy Council Meeting to hear about a problem with transportation. I liked the discussion, and I brought it back to the other parents and explained it to them."

A voice for others. "Nayrobi's passion for advocacy influences her role as a model parent, member of the community, and mother," reports Yolanda M. DaSilva, a Bilingual Family Development Worker for Children's Friend, who has since watched Nayrobi take on every leadership opportunity and responsibility.

"She's just amazing," DaSilva says. "Nayrobi volunteers in the classroom, clothing closet, every field trip, helps organize the end-of-the-year celebration, and is a member of the Children's Friend Health Committee.

"She attended the statewide Head Start conference where she presented to Senator Reed in front of 500 people. She sits on the Central Falls Square Mile Coalition, and finds time to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House monthly and with families with children with special needs." Zaida is a miraculous 3 and Diosa 4. In addition, Nayrobi is also helping raise her two younger sisters.

Nayrobi says being a part of Children's Friend encouraged her to return to school to become a legal translator to better serve people. "Since I came to Children's Friend, I've learned to become an advocate," Nayrobi states. "There's always something to do. You can make your dreams come true now."





Choosing Love...

Samantha Hines writes a joyous, tender, insightful blog about life with her ever-patient husband Don and the three active boys they adopted through Children's Friend: Oscar, 6; Edgar, 5; and August, 2. Her stories can be about bedtime or holidays, snacks or sibling rivalry. Frequently, they cut right to the heart.

Samantha's childhood was not easy and as a result her mother is not a big part of her life, nor is she there to share in the wondrous journey of raising these boys. As is often the case, children don't miss much and Oscar once asked about Samantha's mother, the grandmother he had never met.

After listening carefully to Samantha's comments about her mother Oscar asked, "Mom, do you ever wish your mother had made an adoption plan for you?"

The decision to create an adoption plan is not easy. The staff at Children's Friend put incredible effort into guiding parents through this process. And as Samantha so articulately explains about Oscar's birth parents, "they had the foresight, selflessness and courage to create his adoption plan."

In January, Samantha wrote, "When I learned last night that my mother had died, Oscar asked me if I was going to cry. I told him that I wasn't sure what I would do. And then he looked at me with soulful eyes and said, 'You know, if you need a hug this week, I'm your guy.'"

They choose parenthood. After her childhood experiences, Samantha and Don had considered lives of traveling, lofts in New York City, the arts, and intellectual pursuits. Instead, after watching the children's movie "Babe", the Newport couple found themselves training to be foster parents through Children's Friend.

And they fell in love with a difficult DCYF placement. "We couldn't have done it without Children's Friend. The caseworkers helped us with WIC, setting us up with childcare, cribs, and stipends for emergency needs."

After some starts and stops, Samantha and Don chose to adopt, and met Lisa Granda, who would work with them throughout all three adoptions. "She's a bit clairvoyant, I think," Samantha laughs. "She knew when to call and when to step back. She knew which cases to put in front of us. When I think Children's Friend, I think 'Lisa'."

The boys agree. Samantha wrote in her blog recently, "(Once) as we sat quietly chatting, the boys engaged in an art project, Oscar suddenly looked up, turned to Lisa and uttered a simple but incredibly profound sentiment: 'Thank you for bringing us all together.'"





The Next Step

Sonia Duarte knew she had to come to the United States from her native Cape Verde Islands. “I was excited to come here. I knew I would have better opportunities for my future, for my children. Here, I knew I’d be able to go to school!”

In Rhode Island, Sonia saw her first snow. She started working in a factory and took ESL (English as a Second Language) classes three times a week. She earned her GED and went to CCRI.

But Sonia and her husband, Robert, are ambitious for their children: Ohana, 11; Kelley, 7; Robert, 5; and John Paul, 3. “I want to do something more,” Sonia admits.

Sonia joins Children’s Friend. Happily, Children’s Friend was providing Head Start services from which her son, Robert, would be benefiting. “The social worker, Amie Rajotte, came to the house to fill out the papers and meet the family.

“But she did so much more. She found job information for my husband, got us clothes donations, heating and rent assistance, as well as help from the Emergency Crisis Fund.

“She also urged me to volunteer in the Head Start classroom. She explained the benefits of knowing the people who work with your child. But it’s also good, she said, to be involved. ‘It’s one thing to be outside, and another to see from inside.’”

Sonia began as a volunteer where she was surprised to find herself welcomed. Then she joined the Policy Council which governs and provides oversight of Head Start and Early Head Start Services.

“I felt like I was doing something important. It was a different sensation. I didn’t know parents had that voice. I didn’t know I had a voice!”

It didn’t take long for employers to realize that Sonia’s was a special voice, indeed, and one that speaks in five languages: English, Portuguese, Spanish, Cape Verdean, and Creole. Sonia is employed full time as a WIC Program Assistant — and is building a great future for her family.

“I’m ready to give more of myself,” Sonia says. The rest of us are grateful.





A Turn From a Dark Road

Sara was 6 when she hit her mother's boyfriend on the head with a picture frame as he beat her mother. Sara still remembers clearly that he stood up slowly, stared at her and growled, "I'm tired of this," then left the house.

She ran away from home for the first time in the 3rd grade. By age 10, she was regularly running away, breaking into people's basements to hide away, stealing food to get by until she was inevitably "recaptured" and taken back to her mother.

Her father, having remarried, took Sara into his home when she was 11, but it was a Cinderella story with a bad ending. Stepmother and stepsister made life miserable and an angry Sara was expelled from middle school for breaking a teacher's nose. Father and daughter moved away. Allegedly homeschooled, Sara was getting drunk and stoned while her father was working 8-to-8 shifts. Adjudicated to a strict residential program, Sara got off meds and excelled in school. But when the program was finished, she dropped out of school. She was pregnant at age 16. Another baby followed, and so did domestic violence.

The changing point: Project Connect. When her second baby, Jeremy, tested positive for drugs at birth, Sara was in another dangerous relationship, explains her caseworker. "When DCYF sent Sara to Children's Friend in 2009," explains Sue Dounetos, "she was homeless, with a 10th grade education, and two small boys and a daughter who was not in her care. She was actively using."

Dounetos continues, "The slide has finally stopped for 23-year-old Sara. Sara is and was highly motivated. She completed her GED in five weeks; it usually takes six months. She has a full-time job, maintains appropriate housing for herself and her children, reunified with her daughter, left a violent relationship, and addressed her substance abuse successfully."

Children's Friend provided Sara with:

- Substance abuse assessment and monitoring
- Family assessment and counseling
- Court advocacy
- Connections to child care, health care, housing, education, mental health, and legal and medical services.

In the end, Sara gives a lot of the credit to Dounetos herself. "It takes a lot for me to bond with someone and tell them my story. She earned my trust. She was always there for me. She's one of the greatest people I have ever met." Dounetos returns the compliment: "Sara is a remarkable young mother who is now a wonderful example of a parent who can accomplish much with the right support."





She advocates for all kids

New lawyers at the firm of Partridge Snow & Hahn were expected to volunteer at area nonprofits. That wasn't a hard choice for Kimberly I. McCarthy in 1997. "I wanted to do something with children. So I pulled the Yellow Pages from the shelf, looked under 'Children', and found Children's Friend & Service," she remembers. Amazing things have grown from that inauspicious beginning.

"I participated right away in the Holiday Drive, surrounded by mounds of all donated gifts. I still find that a moving experience. But the work of Children's Friend started being real for me when I became a Board member. I was 9-1/2 months pregnant with my third child at my first board meeting," she said, laughing. "The social workers would present their cases at meetings. I still remember how powerful and important I realized the agency's work was."

So important, in fact, that in 2001 she successfully lobbied Partridge Snow & Hahn's managing partners to establish the firm's only staff-wide standing committee – with its own budget – so that everyone could be involved. "I knew that if we concentrated our efforts, we could make a real difference in the lives of children. And we have, I'm glad to say," McCarthy points out.

It's true. Still going strong more than a decade later, the committee has conducted massive gift drives, cooked spaghetti dinners for thousands of families, sponsored nearly every major Children's Friend event, and provided free legal assistance to clients. (See page 27 for special recognition of "A Decade of Service".)

Important to her family, too. "A very special part of this for me has been watching my children get involved," McCarthy says. "They've always taken part in the Walk, first in baby carriages and wagons; now they're walking on their own. This year we're doing a yard sale to benefit Children's Friend. The youngest one is particularly excited; he's the one who 'attended' my first board meeting with me."

McCarthy has also made provisions for a planned gift to Children's Friend. "It was up to me to show people how it's done. I could make a significant gift to something that matters so much to me after I've taken care of my family."

Even 12 years later, Children's Friend remains a key part of McCarthy's life. A mother of three (Austin, 15; Olivia, 13; Ian, 12) and named one of the nation's top tax attorneys two years in a row, McCarthy was slated for leadership roles with several major organizations. A serious, but thankfully manageable, medical condition forced her to take a break.

"I missed Children's Friend most," she admits. Today, she's the Board Chairman.







Dear Friend,

If you haven't already, I hope you will read the five short biographies that precede this letter. They are the most important part of this annual report. Why? Because their stories tell you why Children's Friend exists.

Sara was a bright child, running away from an alcoholic mother and a broken home, only to find herself pregnant at 16 and using drugs. Samantha, reflecting on her own troubled youth, opened her heart and home to three adopted boys. Nayrobi, faced with the mortality of her youngest daughter, still asked how she could do more for others. Sonia, coming to a new country, sought a voice for her family and for her community.

In every case, each woman reports, Children's Friend played a pivotal role in their lives. Yes, we offer the drop-in centers, emergency fuel assistance, help with rent, and vital health, social, and education services. But our families seem to value most the compassion with which the people of Children's Friend provided help. I couldn't be more proud!

This part is about you

Which leads to our fifth story. Kim McCarthy represents the generosity of her law firm, Partridge Snow & Hahn, as well as all of our volunteers, board members, donors, and corporate sponsors. For many years this amazing team of people has embraced our disadvantaged children in awe-inspiring ways. "Thank you" will never be enough.

I believe you feel as I do, that each of these women, each of their children, and each of their families are precious. Unique as a fingerprint, as the theme running through this annual report. Beginning with Harriet Ware's fingerprints back in 1834, Children's Friend has grown and matured as a result of hundreds of thousands more across the years. Each set of fingerprints makes us a wiser and stronger organization.

Thank you for *your* imprint and for allowing Children's Friend to turn every fingerprint into positive impacts for those we serve. You can – and do – make that possible. Thank you!

Sincerely,

David Caprio
President and Chief Executive Officer

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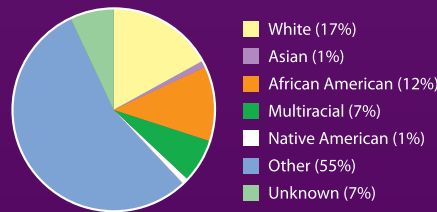
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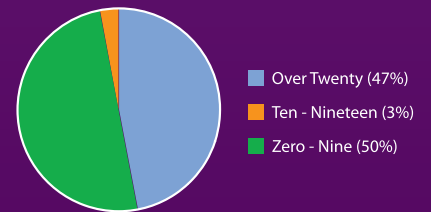
Statistics from 2010...

- 31,488 children, families and child care professionals benefited from Children's Friend services
- 476 children and family members received concurrent permanency planning services, foster care placement, and adoption services – including children with special needs
- 2,297 families with vulnerable young children participated in home-based/center-based services and group sessions provided by the Family Support Initiative
- 1,022 families received crisis intervention, parent support, and other services through the Family Support Center
- 119 children were placed in quality, bilingual, or therapeutic childcare services
- 1,271 children and family members received individual and family counseling services addressing issues of loss, school performance and behavioral issues, and more
- 3,357 early care and school age educational professionals participated in training and technical assistance
- 398 infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities were provided therapy and educational services
- 187 substance-affected families participated in intensive home-based services designed to help parents overcome addiction while safely parenting their children
- 1,550 families received home-based outreach services intended to promote the health and well-being of mothers and their newborn children
- 6,410 families participated in a nutrition program which provides healthy foods, nutrition education and referrals to doctors, dentists and other community services
- 57 families received home visits by a registered nurse which provides prenatal and parenting education, developmental screenings, social supports, as well as support for educational and professional goals
- 209 families at risk received high fidelity wraparound services.

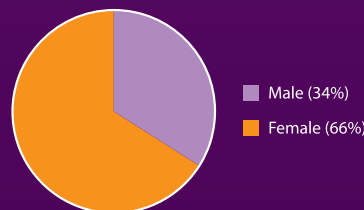
Clients by Ethnicity



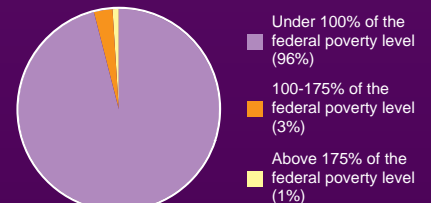
Clients by Age



Clients by Gender



Clients by Poverty Level



2010 Annual Report Credits

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 StraightTalk

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 Gina L. DiSpirito
 GLAD WORKS

Annual Income Statement

Revenue	2010	2009	2008
Contracts	\$16,976,732	\$10,159,056	\$5,710,787
Fee for service	4,214,282	3,695,595	2,820,302
Investment income	935,308	987,446	994,357
Contributions	404,865	585,770	463,377
Donated goods, services, facilities	2,499,440	748,280	-
Other income	8,299	10,150	16,019
Total operating revenue	25,038,926	16,186,297	10,004,842

Expenses	2010	2009	2008
CHILDSPAN	2,956,361	3,205,258	3,437,001
Early Intervention	1,603,048	1,310,679	1,088,674
Family Counseling	432,066	533,543	503,203
Family Support	15,584,889	7,709,552	2,148,625
Foster Care/Permanency	897,297	947,382	898,445
Project Connect	1,198,420	1,380,906	1,134,363
Project Family	-	5,816	300,244
FCCP	565,458	566,545	-
Total program expenses	23,237,539	15,659,681	9,510,555

Administration	390,594	408,112	444,928
Fundraising	311,691	355,452	193,739
Total operating expenses	23,939,824	16,423,245	10,149,222

Audit available by request, contact Julie Casimiro at 401-276-4359 or jcasimiro@cfsri.org.

Wise stewardship & disciplined spending are returning the endowment to former levels

By using investment income to cover administrative costs, Children's Friend ensures that 100% of every gift goes directly to client services. Like every foundation, college, and family IRA, the Children's Friend endowment experienced a significant correction in 2008.

Thanks to wise investments and a disciplined "spending rule" that holds our annual spending to 5.5% of the rolling 3-year market value average of the endowment, Children's Friend maintained our remarkable level of services and staffing during the recession when vulnerable children and families needed us most.

You can earmark donations to the endowment by contacting Julie Casimiro at Children's Friend: (401) 276-4359 or jcasimiro@cfsri.org.

Partridge Snow & Hahn a decade of service... and counting

In 2001, young and freshly named Partridge Snow & Hahn partner, Kimberly I. McCarthy, nervously proposed that the whole firm share its energies on behalf of disadvantaged children... and she just happened to have the best agency to work with: Children's Friend & Service. Ten years later, the PS&H Philanthropic Program is still showing lots and lots of love for Children's Friend families and children.

It's all about the children. "I think everyone here is so engaged because we see the constructive, positive difference Children's Friend makes in the lives of children who need help," McCarthy says.

"Every year we have done a holiday drive for three families. Last year, we decided to 'adopt' 10 children for the entire year – birthdays, holidays, and so on – to celebrate the tenth anniversary. (Administrator, Advancement) Julie Casimiro came to one of our meetings and described each child and his or her family circumstances, within the bounds of confidentiality. People were crying at the table! We went beyond the 10 children, and chose 19 more!"

The firm has several other "specials" just for Children's Friend. It regularly sends new parent "starter" packages of car seats, diapers, and formula to the family centers. It has provided *pro bono* legal assistance to Children's Friend clients. Staff wrap gifts, with founder Jim Hahn teaching newbies how to add a flourish to the ribbon. They've painted a client's apartment, given kids a year's pass to the zoo, and sponsored major Children's Friend events. And founding co-partner, Jack Partridge, who, unknown to most of the employees until recently, adopted his son David through Children's Friend more than 20 years ago, and frequently donates some of the proceeds from his book sales to the agency.

Among the crowd favorites, though, are the PS&H spaghetti dinners the firm's staff have personally cooked for hundreds of families at both the Summer Street and Central Falls locations. "I love seeing the partners in aprons arguing who makes the best meatballs," admits McCarthy.

CHILDREN'S FRIEND

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