It’s all about the Little Things...
Our Mission
Children's Friend is the innovative leader in improving the well-being and healthy development of Rhode Island's most vulnerable young children. We accomplish this by providing flexible, effective, and culturally-relevant services, and advocating for programs and policies that support and strengthen these children and their families.

Our Vision
Our vision is that every child in Rhode Island grows and develops in a safe, healthy, loving, and stable family.

dear Friend...

Imagine not having diapers for your baby, or a healthy meal for your children, or a few small gifts for them on their birthdays or during the holidays... it's the little things that sometimes matter most for struggling families.

In these pages you will learn how Children's Friend works every day to provide integrated support for our most vulnerable children and families. We treat families like we do our very own, listening, caring, and supporting them every single day. That is what makes our services unique and our impact so great. Whatever it takes to provide the stability needed by our families.

Families Matter
We do this because families matter. Studies show that what a family does is more important to student success than family income or education.* At Children's Friend we encourage family engagement and stability through all programs and activities to create a compassionate support system necessary for growth and success. In difficult economic times, families living in poverty have so many struggles to face every day. These daily hurdles often make or break the long term success of families.

It is these little things – the ones that help conquer daily struggles for success – that will matter more than ever.

You Matter
Your investment in our work is as important as ever in facing these new challenges. Your generosity provides the necessary resources to connect the dots, pay attention to the details, and make our services so flexible and comprehensive. We are so grateful to those who make our work possible.

On behalf of our children and families, we thank you — our donors and supporters — for your continued generosity and support during these challenging times. We simply cannot do it without you!

Sincerely,

David Caprio, President and Chief Executive Officer
Big and small, all gifts make a huge difference in the lives of our families.

With a generous gift from just one donor, “Music and Movement” classes were made available to our Early Intervention child and parent groups. Early Intervention is a program designed to enhance the development of infants and toddlers from birth to age three who are experiencing developmental delays, have certain diagnosed conditions, or whose particular circumstances may result in developmental issues.

With parents and children both participating, the instructor exposed families to different types of music, explained the benefits music and movement have for children, and how they could integrate music and movement activities at home.

For families who struggle with developmental delays in their children, music can help children develop:

- Both fine and gross motor skills
- Social skills
- Rhythm and pitch – a part of a child’s natural development
- Listening and participation skills
- Memory skills
- Expression and feelings

With two generous donations from Irving Oil and CVS Caremark, we were able to purchase sensory materials for our Kids Connect classrooms.

Kids Connect provides direct classroom support to children with special needs. Kids Connect staff recommend ways teachers can support the children, including how to integrate specialized materials into the classroom to help children manage their emotions, focus, and play cooperatively. Supporting the development of these skills is important in order for children to have successful learning experiences.

One wonderful example of the success of these sensory materials is Joshua, a 3 year old who was not able to soothe himself to take a nap during rest time at Head Start. When our Kids Connect Clinician placed a therapeutic weighted blanket on him, he was instantly able to calm himself down and go to sleep. The comfort and security provided by the blanket helped him relax enough for a restful nap. The very next day, Joshua asked for his blanket at naptime.

New tools and enrichment opportunities that offer new skills and strategies for children to develop are not available to our families without the generosity of our supporters. Every dollar contributed is used to support direct services to children and their families.

In 2012, 82 fathers and their families received the resources they needed through the Dad’s Making a Difference Program...
At Children’s Friend, we believe it is every child’s right to grow up in a stable, loving home. Jordan was recently adopted by his foster parents, Susan and Lloyd. The journey to his adoption is a wonderful illustration of love.

Six years ago, Susan was volunteering with CASA, the Court Appointed Special Advocate Association, as an advocate. She was assigned to work with a child who was placed in a Children’s Friend foster home. Susan worked closely with our Partners in Permanency Program in order to help achieve a permanent, stable home as quickly as possible for this one particular child, Christopher.

Susan was known to go above and beyond for the children she served and Christopher was no different. Through her role as advocate, Susan formed a close and lasting relationship with Christopher’s foster mother. When Christopher was adopted by his foster family, Susan was asked to be his Godmother.

Inspired by Christopher’s journey, Susan and her husband, Lloyd, decided to become foster parents in the hopes they could help children like Christopher. Their plan was to provide stable care to children in transition. Susan and Lloyd went on to foster nine children over the years. They provided support to the birth parents of the children they fostered, and in some instances were an integral part of reuniting families. They stressed that they were not interested in adopting.

Then came Jordan and everything changed.

Jordan was placed with Susan and Lloyd when he was thirteen months old. Jordan’s birth mother was a teenager in foster care who was struggling with her own issues. Through open communications and family visits, Susan and Lloyd were hopeful that the birth mother would make good choices for herself and be able to permanently reunite with her son. They were always willing to assist with visits and felt that it was in Jordan’s best interest to see his foster family and birth family together.

Unfortunately, it soon became clear that Jordan’s birth mother would not be able to achieve her personal goals and reunite with Jordan and the families then began discussing an open adoption.

The day of the adoption was such a special one for Susan and Lloyd. Susan’s Godson Christopher, the child that inspired them to become foster parents in the first place, was present with his adoptive mother. Susan and Lloyd chose the name “Christopher” for Jordan’s middle name to honor the child who brought them to their own journey to complete their family.
Summer is a time of fun activities for many families, a break from the routine that often includes trips to the beach, ice cream in the park, and long afternoons playing outside. Sadly, many of these simple activities are just not accessible to our families.

For families living in poverty, the start of the summer often means an end to the services they rely on throughout the school year — healthy meals for their kids, a safe learning environment, dental and health screenings, and the care and support from family support workers. The loss of these services means new hurdles for their everyday routines.

Thanks to the tremendous support of our sponsors, donors and community, Children’s Friend provided 195 preschool students with consistent, safe, and fun educational activities in a ten week program last summer. Six of these children were homeless. The Summer Learning Program provided much-needed stability and consistency for them, while their parents worked to secure permanent housing.

Our comprehensive classroom curriculum led by highly-trained teachers supported our students all summer long! They enjoyed summer as children should — exploring the community, visiting the library, playing at our neighborhood water parks, and spending a day at the beach — a first time experience for some.

Our children made new friends, learned how to work as a team, and succeed on their own, building skills that will support success throughout their lives. They were not cooped up in a hot apartment, with little food, unable to go outdoors.

Andrew came to the Summer Learning Program with developmental delays. Andrew’s family faced many struggles, including managing Andrew’s needs, financial instability, health concerns, and depression.

“In the summer program Andrew was able to go places that I couldn’t take him — like to the ocean for the first time,” said Nini, his mother. “He wasn’t around other kids before, and he didn’t talk much. But in the summer program he was around kids every day. And now he won’t stop talking! He’s like his mother.”

A Children’s Friend family worker helped Nini set goals and get organized, so that she could start taking care of herself for the sake of her children. Because of the consistency and support of the Summer Learning Program, Andrew was able to increase his social emotional skills, as well as his self-help skills. He is now able to feed himself using utensils as well as clean up after himself. He has been able to express his wants and needs with words.

Juan joined our summer learning program after participating in our Head Start Program last year. He was in such need because his family was struggling with being homeless, and bounced from shelter to shelter. Juan’s mother struggled with her own emotional difficulties and history of abuse, which made it difficult for her to care for Juan. Losing the stability of Head Start programs during the summer months would have been devastating to this family. Thanks to the collaboration of their family worker, who helped
the family with housing, and the classroom staff, who provided a safe and enriching environment. Juan and his family thrived during the summer months. The day to day consistency of the classroom helped this child grow. He left the summer program able to express when he was upset without having a ‘meltdown’. He transitioned back to Head Start in September and is doing well. He continues to get support from his teachers and family worker. The family now has permanent housing and mom is working on continuing her education.

In addition to the heartwarming successes that the children accomplished in the Summer Learning Program, Children’s Friend staff also worked to evaluate the effectiveness of the program overall, using a tool called the Developmental Readiness Review (DRR). We compared pre and post scores for kids who participated in our Summer Learning Program against those who did not participate.

Those who participated in summer learning showed improvement in all eight domains that were measured. In some domains, especially science and math, children attending the program saw gains of nearly double that of their peers who did not attend.

This data reinforced what we witnessed firsthand – summer learning opportunities are an essential piece of the educational puzzle for our students.

In 2012, The Children’s Friend Summer Learning Program provided 195 preschool students with a safe and fun educational environment. Children attending the Summer Learning Program showed improvement in all measured domains on the Developmental Readiness Review.

Science Improvement

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<th>Children who participated in the summer program</th>
<th>Children who did not participate in the summer program</th>
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Math Improvement

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<th>Children who participated in the summer program</th>
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In some cases the improvement was as much as DOUBLE that of their peers who did not attend the Summer Learning Program. Science and Math showed the greatest improvement.
At Children’s Friend, we support families any way we can and help them find the strength to overcome their daily hurdles all year long. We work hard to integrate services and programs to best serve them. By helping parents gain access to the resources, education, and support that they need, we can give children the foundation to help them live healthy and productive lives.

Lisa, a single mother, is struggling to raise five children on her own, while assisting in the care of her elderly mother who resides with them. The family lives in a cramped apartment without even basic furniture. Adults and children sleep on mattresses on the floor and there aren’t enough chairs for them to sit for a meal together. A simple family dinner, a small step toward stability for a family in transition, is out of their reach.

Recently, Lisa’s father, who also had been living with them, passed away and she gave birth to her fifth child. Many changes for this family have created behavioral challenges for the children.

Thanks to our comprehensive services, we were able to provide support for the entire family. Through periodic check-ins with Mom, we assist her in managing behaviors within the home. Early Head Start and Early Intervention services are ensuring that her youngest children receive the support that they need to have the best possible start in life.

We were also able to assist Lisa with her two oldest elementary level children with after school services. This was a much needed support for these children, offering a safe place to play and help with homework, while allowing Mom some additional time alone with the younger children.

The family was sponsored through our Holiday Drive which provided the children with toys and clothing to open on Christmas morning. This spring, staff donations and support from our agency drop-in center provided the family with household necessities, children’s clothing, and clothing for Mom. Lisa’s family worker is now working to secure basic furniture for the home and is looking to find a larger apartment for the family. Because of the wrap-around services we provide, this family is able to plan for a much brighter future.

Connecting the dots...

In 2012
177 at risk families received high fidelity wrap around services...
Quality Family Time

Even the smallest detail in a daily routine has a huge impact on our families. What might seem like simply an inconvenience can create an unnecessary hurdle. Our families are often in transition and special attention to the details can make all the difference in the world.

At Children’s Friend, our team works together to understand the needs of our families and create the best plan of action to support them. Although the agency serves over 33,000 families each year, we don’t miss the details that mean so much. Take Anna’s story for example:

Anna had been living with relatives in Providence and her children were enrolled at McAuley Village, which at the time was convenient for her work schedule. A recent move to Central Falls changed that. She was taking the bus back and forth to bring her children to McAuley Village, causing them to have to start their day two hours earlier than her actual work schedule. The children had to start their day extremely early and the family had less quality time together due to the burdensome commute by bus.

Anna’s Family Worker was aware of the situation early on and immediately requested that the children be transferred to our Dexter Street Center in Central Falls. A team was formed to implement the transfer and space was found for both of her children.

The Children’s Friend team met with Anna to fill out child care paperwork and ensure she understood each step of the process. Anna was very grateful for the opportunity to cut down on her commute time and thrilled that her young children no longer had to start their day so early in the morning.

Anna had been through a lot of difficult things in her life and was finally getting back on track. This small change made her daily schedule far more manageable.

“The services I receive through Head Start and the support of my Family Worker have made a huge difference for me! Thank you for making things just a little bit easier for me,” said Anna.

She was looking forward to allowing her little ones to sleep in just a little bit longer in the mornings, and not having to drag them on an arduous commute through three cities each day. Less time commuting meant more quality time for this young family.

Everything in this situation worked out in the best interest of the family. Thanks to our continuous service plan, Anna is able to continue with the same Family Worker despite transferring to a center in a different city. The Children’s Friend Team worked together to meet their needs, big and small!
Children's Friend is deeply grateful to the individuals, businesses, foundations, and organizations that support us every day. Your investment in our next generation families provides essential services to help them succeed.

Please join us in recognizing those who supported Children’s Friend in 2012.

2012 DONORS

$50,000+

Steele-Davis Founders Group

The Rhode Island Foundation

$25,000+

City of Providence, Department of Planning and Development

$10,000+

Anica Mutual Insurance Company & Labrie Foundation

Childcare Charitable Foundation

CVS Caremark & The CVS Charity Classic

$5,000+

Bristol County Savings Bank

AMICA Companies Foundation

Development Department of Planning and

Gilbane Building

Anthony-Arthur Consulting

$1,000+

The following lists have been prepared with care. If you feel as though you are incorrectly listed, please notify Julie Casimiro,

Foundation Inc.

Ian and Ting Barnard

The Bank of New York

GTE Corporation, Inc.

Mellon Foundation, Inc.

The Bank of America

The Rhode Island Police

$100+

Blair, Justin, and Scott Holback

Cristie Hanaway

Elena Almonte

Alfred and Naida

Joel and Katharine Stark

Richard Kinslow

Margaret Green

Maryellen O’Mahony

Matthew and Kathleen

Moses Afonso Ryan, Ltd.

Peter J. Miniati, Esq.

Ariel Medina

Katie L. McGrath

Warren and Mary

Santa George Martin

Michael Magee

Ann Marie Maccarone, Esq.

Jennifer and Steven

William J. Ledoux

Leonard L. Lopes, Esq.

John and Grace Cregan

Cornerstone Design/

Callaghan

Bryant

Esq. and Daniel C.

Partridge

Larson

LaPerriere

Partridge

Kilguss

Kilguss

and Steve Koopman

Robert D’Arpino

Dan’s Donuts

Curt and Kathy

Regina Clement

Anita Chase

Lea and Josephine Chouquette

Carroll K. Clark

Paul Conforto

Ragina M. Corra

Stacy C. Coutts and

Brenton Dewe

Tom A. Cleaves

Carol and Kathy

D’Aquino

Kendall DiMino

Gina DiSpirito and

Col. and Mrs. L.T.

Bruce and Brenda

Ronald and Doreen

John and Regina

Oliverio

Bonnie Mutter

Gerald and Sarah Fogarty

Donald and Kathy

Michael Allen

Judy and Ronald

Marcia Vecci

Iris Spanier

Robert J. Odle

Wendy O’Neill

Mary Anne Riddle

Gina Abbattista

Virginia A. Alessi

Nina E. Beraud

Colleen B. Bivens

Brenda Keys

Patricia Kelleher

Maryellen O’Mahony

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The Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive provides gifts of clothing and toys to make the winter holidays a special time for Rhode Island's most vulnerable families. The drive matches sponsors with families, and the sponsors are currently receiving services from Children's Friend and are in great need.

The Holiday Drive at Children's Friend began over fifteen years ago with staff members assembling gift baskets with donations for a small number of families. From those roots, the Holiday Drive has developed into the event that it is today, with a family selection process, reviewed and approved families, wish list services, and volunteers to sort, organize, and deliver gifts, and gift drives that are held by other groups to benefit families.

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, we served over 1,210 families and approximately 3,500 children in all during the 2012 Drive!
In Memoriam :: Joseph Silva
Dedicated Holiday Drive Organizer, Supporter and Volunteer

Joseph Silva lost a lifelong friend, when Joseph Silva of East Providence passed away in February. A dedicated Holiday Drive volunteer, Joe ran the Christmas Toy Drive Dinner through the East Providence Knights of Columbus to honor his friend’s spirit for over twenty years.

Joe embodied the true spirit of the Holiday Drive with his compassion and desire for all children to have a happy holiday season. Over the years, Joe, the Knights of Columbus, and the East Providence community donated thousands of books, toys, clothing, and household goods for families in need.

It was Joe’s commitment and hard work that ensured these gifts were collected each year. Joe organized the annual Knights of Columbus Christmas Toy Drive Dinner to benefit the Holiday Drive, securing donations, raffle prizes and gifts, selling tickets, and ensuring the event was a huge success each year. Even this past holiday season, when Joe was not well, he never slowed down for a minute, working hard to make his event successful and delivering gifts right through the holidays – all with a big grin on his face!

To honor Joe’s dedication and love for the Holiday Drive, the 2013 Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive will be held in his memory. We could not think of a better way to thank a man who understood the true meaning of the holidays and lived it out in his actions every day. He will be greatly missed.

The 2013 Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive will be held in his memory. We could not think of a better way to thank a man who understood the true meaning of the holidays and lived it out in his actions every day. He will be greatly missed.

Leaving a Legacy

In 1834, Harriet Ware, a young school teacher from Massachusetts, began her work to provide a refuge for children in desperate situations. The result of her vision is the Children’s Friend you see today, an organization serving over 31,000 people across our small state, 96 percent of whom have incomes below the poverty level and the majority of whom are in extreme poverty. The Harriet Ware Society honors those who help to ensure that we can continue to meet the needs of our state’s most vulnerable children long into the future.

Requests have made it possible for us to serve Rhode Island families for over 179 years. Since our founding, generous donors with a long term vision saw the need to perpetuate the agency for future generations.

For many, bequests are often the easiest and safest way to give. Life insurance policies, unused IRA proceeds, the sale of real estate, and appreciated stock may be worth considering for their tax advantages as well.

We, and future generations, thank the members of the Harriet Ware Society for their vision and generosity.

Alicja J. Anderson
Mildred A. S. Anderson
Elizabeth Barton
Malakie H. Chapelle
David Caprio
Walter L. Daunt
Theodore Driscoll
Ludwig Dutterer
The Deafkoff Family
Deidre Donovan
Alexandre Giroi
The Griffon Family
Lee Gross
Cornelia Howard
Kinney J. McCarthy, Esq.
Louise G. Mitchell
Elena Myrick
Havana G. Pick
Stephen Peck
Elliott T. Pest
Horatio Shepard
Lucas J. Silva
Charlotte Linn Scott
Virginia Watson

For more information, please contact Stacy Couto, Vice President External Affairs at scouto@cfsri.org or 401.276.4306.

Monthly Giving

Ensure that our most vulnerable families have the resources they need throughout the year… give a recurring monthly gift and sustain the needs of our children. You can make a difference, one child at a time!

Wise Stewardship of Resources

Our Endowment is as important as ever to the financial security of the organization. Endowment earnings cover administrative and fundraising costs, allowing us to increase the endowment for further outreach, ensuring our donors that 100% of their gift will make the difference in a child’s life rather than being used for a fundraising event or for administration.

While we live in a time when financial resources at the local, state and federal levels are constrained, Children’s Friend has maintained our remarkable level of services and staffing when other agencies saw their budgets cut. This was accomplished thanks to wise stewardship of our resources and a disciplined “spending rule” that holds our annual spending to 5.5% of the 3-year market value average of the endowment.

You can earmark donations to the endowment by contacting Julie Casimiro, Advancement Officer, at 401.276.4359 or jcasimiro@cfsri.org.
Children’s Friend employees have unique sets of creativity, skills, knowledge, experiences, and ideas that add value to the organization. Employees feel a strong commitment to the mission of the agency.
**Our Fearless Leaders**

We are deeply grateful for the leadership provided by our Board of Directors and Head Start Policy Council. They are essential in carrying out the mission of the agency.

**Board Members**
- Chairman: Kimberly L. McCarthy, Esq.
- Vice Chairman: Maureen Gurganious
- Treasurer: Michael Dillandro
- Assistant Treasurer: John D. Cregan
- Secretary: Eva C. Hulse-Avila

**Head Start Policy Council**
- Community Partner: Eva C. Hulse-Avila
- Executive Officer: Jennifer M. Sousa
- Secretary: Alfred K. Potter II
- Treasurer: William J. Allen
- Assistant Treasurer: John D. Cregan

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**Foster Care**

All children need safe and loving homes. Children's Friend Foster Parents continue to serve Rhode Island's most vulnerable children – well after most of us go home at the end of the day. Our Foster Parents come from all walks of life and from all types of professions. However, they have one thing in common: they are committed to making a difference in a child's life by providing a safe and loving home. Thank you to Children's Friend Foster Parents for opening your hearts and your homes to children in need.

If you have thought about becoming a foster parent and would like to learn more, please make the call: Joyce LaFrance-Tormey, Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention, at 401-273-4318 or email at journey@cfsri.org.

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**See Our Mission in Action**

Come in for a tour and learn more about what we do! Contact Art Finocchiaro, Advancement Officer, at 401-276-4359 or atinfo@cfsri.org to arrange a personal tour at one of our sites.

**Contracts that Generate Revenue**

Family Service of Rhode Island
- Foster Forward

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

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**2012 Annual Report Designed by GLAD WORKS with Illustrations by Charlotte Zoe Gilbert, Age 7**
Let’s review the Numbers

Clients by Gender

Female (57%)
Male (43%)

Clients by Age

Zero - Nine (52%)
Ten - Nineteen (10%)
Over Twenty (38%)

Clients by Ethnicity

Hispanic (52%)
Non-Hispanic (46%)
Unknown (2%)

Clients by Race

White (51%)
Black (22%)
Multiracial (9%)

Clients by Income Poverty Level

Under 100% (96%)
100 - 175% (3%)
Above 175% (1%)

31,298 children, families, and child care professionals benefited from Children’s Friend services.

231 children and family members received concurrent permanent planning services, foster care placement, and adoption services – including children with special needs.

2,277 vulnerable children and their families received child and family development services including education, health, nutrition, social services, and other child and family supports.

82 dads and their families received the resources needed to support their families, including education, job training, parenting and nurturing skills, and enrichment opportunities.

308,208 nutritious meals were provided to children in Children’s Friend programs.

Statistics from 2012

449 infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities were provided therapy and educational services.

65 substance-affected families participated in intensive home-based services designed to help parents overcome addiction while safely parenting.

1,732 families received home-based outreach services intended to promote the health and well being of mothers and their newborn children.

6,630 families participated in a nutrition program, that provides healthy foods, nutrition education and referrals to doctors, dentists and other community services.

71 families received home visits by a registered nurse including prenatal and parenting education, developmental screenings, social supports, as well as support for educational and professional goals for the client.

177 families at risk received high fidelity wrap around services.

Annual Income Statement

Revenue 2012

Contracts $16,346,019
Fee for Service $4,662,345
Investment income (losses) $874,023
Contributions $504,201
Donated goods, services, facilities $1,041,790
Other Income $14,020
Total Operating Revenue $23,442,978

Expenses 2012

Early Intervention $1,621,275
FCCP $556,378
Family Childcare Food Program $2,129,955
Family Counseling $828,276
Family Support $13,627,227
Foster Care/Permanency $835,370
Health & Nutrition Services $2,134,365
Project Connect $1,242,295
Total Program Expenses $22,975,141

Administration $325,504
Development/Fundraising $537,271
Total Operating Expenses $23,837,916

Children’s Friend complete audit is available upon request. Please contact Stacy Coute, Vice President external Affairs at 401-274-4306 or scouto@cfsri.org for more information.