embracing
Children’s Friend, a non-profit organization founded in 1834, is Rhode Island’s oldest child-serving organization, and a leading provider of child welfare, family support, mental health, and child development services.

**MISSION**

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

**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.

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

Thank you for your continued support of our work. Because of your efforts and generosity, we continue to move the work of Children’s Friend forward. As an agency with a long and rich history, we were proud to enhance our services to foster and kinship families this past year. We were also excited to increase the length of the school day and school year for our Head Start kids, as the research consistently shows that the more hours a young vulnerable child spends in a high quality early childhood program, the better they do.

We’re also very aware of, and concerned with, the performance of our child welfare system in Rhode Island. We have all seen the too frequent headlines detailing poor outcomes for our vulnerable young children. In the past two years, the Office of the Child Advocate published three reports documenting eleven fatalities and six near fatalities of children due to abuse and neglect.

With the above areas in mind, our Planning Committee worked throughout the past year to scan our landscape and set our direction forward. With the assistance and input of many friends and stakeholders, and embracing the concept of real-time strategic planning, we began 2018 with a new strategic priority.

Our new strategic priority is: 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 repositioning itself to proactively respond to this crisis. With vulnerable young children dying in this state because of abuse and neglect, how could our strategic priority be anything different? I am so proud to be associated with an organization that is willing to take on this challenge, and work to make the changes needed to better support our kids.

Your continued support and hard work will help us implement our strategic priority, and meet the challenges we face. Thank you for being part of the Children’s Friend family; we need you more than ever.

Sincerely,

David Caprio
President and Chief Executive Officer
When 11 month old Stevie* was referred to our Early Intervention (EI) program, her mother, Lana*, was nervous and scared. The EI program provides home-based services to infants and toddlers with special needs or developmental delays. Lana did not know what it meant for Stevie to have a developmental delay or how the program would help Stevie. She also did not think it was a problem that Stevie was not crawling or talking; she was only 11 months old!

During the first few appointments, Lana met a variety of EI staff: a Service Coordinator, a Physical Therapist, a Speech and Language Pathologist, and an Educator. It was a lot of people, but they explained what each person did and how they could help. They explained how they would play with Stevie to learn what she did best and what she might need help with. Then, together, they would figure out the next steps.

After assessing Stevie’s development through play, the EI Team discussed their concerns with Lana. Lana did not know how to play with her baby; she was concerned about Stevie moving around the house; and she would love for Stevie to call her “mama.” Lana also talked about her challenges being a new single mother, and her struggle to provide for Stevie’s needs. Lana was amazed when the EI Team included her concerns into Stevie’s developmental plan. They explained how they would teach Lana to play with Stevie, starting with their favorite game, “peek-a-boo,” and use it to encourage Stevie to make different sounds and eventually say “mama.” They determined who would be best to take the lead from the EI Team to help work on these goals and decided they would bring out other staff, when needed.

During the next visit, they provided baby-proofing materials, such as gates and electric outlet covers, to create a safe space in the house for Stevie to explore. They showed Lana how she could encourage Stevie to rock on her hands and knees to promote crawling. They scheduled a co-visit with Women, Infants, and Children Food and Nutrition Service (WIC) to help alleviate Lana’s concerns of having enough food, and brought diapers and wipes, as Lana was struggling with having an adequate supply.

Between visits Lana played “peek-a-boo” with Stevie and helped Stevie to get onto her hands and knees. After a few months, Stevie began to crawl. Lana was so excited. Yet, the happiest moment was when Stevie finally said “mama,” making her the proudest “mama” of all.

“EARLY INTERVENTION TAUGHT ME HOW TO WORK WITH MY CHILD AND SEE HER PROGRESS.”

Infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities were provided therapy and educational services.
Joe*, one month old, living with his mother, Maria*, when the family was referred to our First Connections (FC) program and other community services by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families due to child welfare concerns. The FC program is a short-term program, responsible for conducting child and family assessments and linking families to needed services. Nancy*, our Registered Nurse (RN), coordinated external services and met with staff from the external community program to discuss numerous challenges with the family. The family had received one home visit, however, Maria had not been home for the other visits. Maria worked in the healthcare industry and her schedule made it very difficult to get in touch and schedule home visits. It had been over two months of missed appointments, and the external program was ready to discharge.

Nancy did not want to give up. She decided to stop by the apartment, unannounced, hoping to see the family. Unfortunately, Maria was not home. She left a note on the door saying she was trying to meet with Maria and that she had a portable crib for her. Nancy knew that Maria did not have a safe sleep arrangement for Joe and the crib would be appreciated by Maria. Maria called back the next morning and said she was home. Nancy immediately went out to see the family, bringing the portable crib along with “sleep sacks” and fitted sheets to promote safer sleep. At the visit, Nancy and Maria called the external program and immediately scheduled a co-visit for a date Maria knew worked for her schedule.

When the date of the visit arrived, the family was home, and Nancy and the external program staff worked together to make sure the family’s needs were identified, as well as a plan for future contact and visits made. Nancy and the external program continued to provide a few co-visits with the family. Once a good relationship was established, everyone agreed that our FC program’s services were no longer needed. Maria has continued to work with the external program, receiving support and parenting education, and reducing the initial child welfare concerns which brought them into care.

Expectant mothers and families with newborns received home visiting services to promote and strengthen positive parent-child relationships, promote positive growth and development in children, and build strengths of families and their protective factors.

**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.

**THE CHILDREN’S FRIEND**
Nurse left a note that she had a portable crib for mom and that they were trying to get in touch with her. Mom called back this morning, and we scheduled a follow-up visit. What a great success story.
The Children’s Friend Culturally and Linguistically Responsive (CLR) project aims to further promote diversity and the development of language and literacy skills, particularly supporting the unique needs of dual language learners, while fostering strong parent involvement. Our CLR classrooms are equipped with additional materials to enhance our classrooms and parent engagement activities, beyond our typical classrooms. Our teaching staff receive intensive training and ongoing mentor-coaching to support the integration of best practice strategies that lead to the promotion of diversity, and language and literacy development in every day lessons.

The CLR project has far exceeded our expectations. Teachers have added new content to their lessons—having children learn about diversity, using new cross-cultural books and other play materials, inviting parents into the classroom to talk about and share their culture, and celebrating the diversity of our world in special family events. During one of our center’s “Family Cultural Night” over 270 individuals attended. Parents and children made their own flags, leading to wonderful conversations about where parents grew up and what their cultures meant to them.

For children in our CLR classrooms, their improvements in the developmental areas of language and literacy are staggering. In comparing the spring to fall data, language increased 125% in children who were meeting educational and developmental expectations—from 28% to 63%. In literacy there was a 152% increase—from 29% to 73%.

We must do all that we can to foster compassionate and open-minded children who are ready to learn and succeed. In particular, reading proficiency at the end of 3rd grade is linked to numerous academic, economic, and social outcomes. In Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls, reading proficiency at the end of 3rd grade is among the lowest in Rhode Island. We continue to monitor the success of our CLR classrooms and make adjustments to strengthen our approaches, while seeking support to expand this effort to make it part of all of our over 60 classrooms.
National research demonstrates that among all child care settings, the infant-toddler workforce is generally the least-qualified. And we know that they are one of the most critical professions in ensuring impact on young and vulnerable children. As a grantee for Rhode Island’s only Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP) program, our goal is to partner with licensed child care centers and licensed family child care homes and ensure that infants and toddlers are participating in high-quality programs. This includes facilities which meet the highest health and safety standards, along with infants and toddlers being taught and cared for by staff who meet a minimum requirement of having a Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate.

Individuals who have obtained a CDA certificate have completed a variety of training and classroom instruction requirements, along with passing an observation of their teaching practices and a written examination.

Upon receiving the EHS-CCP grant, we knew that we would have on-the-ground, as well as systemic work ahead of us to ensure that the infant-toddler workforce was well-trained and supported. At the time, Rhode Island had not championed the CDA and the workforce was woefully under supported. We were left with no choice but to access this coursework out of state. The available credit-bearing courses did not recognize the years of experience that our infant-toddler workforce had in the field, nor did they provide them at a time when the staff could access them.

To support high-quality instruction and care for infants and toddlers, Children’s Friend and our EHS-CCP partners, worked with Roger Williams University to make available college-bearing courses in the field of infant-toddler education, which recognizes and builds upon the years of experience many staff already have. We actively pushed for courses to be offered at flexible times in a hybrid model to allow working infant-toddler educators to participate and for the courses to be available in English and Spanish. And we worked with the Rhode Island Department of Human Services, and our local colleges and universities to begin the work on a state-recognized Infant-Toddler Credential.

At the end of 2017, this work culminated in Roger Williams University’s School of Continuing Studies, with support from the Center for Early Learning Professional, launching an innovative model of education which supports our existing workforce, has the qualification and college credits to advance their careers, and ensures that those educating our youngest children are providing the highest quality education.

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.

Vulnerable children and their family members received child and family development services, including education, health, nutrition, social services, and other supports.

THE CLASS WAS VERY INFORMATIVE AND HELPED WITH MY TEACHING...ABSOLUTELY LOVED THE PROFESSOR! SHE IS BI-LINGUAL AND TAUGHT IN BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH.
The work we do would not be possible without the dedication and talents of our staff, and the generosity of corporations, foundations, and individual donors. We are extremely fortunate to have a dedicated and skilled staff, as well as the financial well-being to offer high-quality and innovative services to vulnerable children and their families. At times, the work that we do can be a juxtaposition of the most rewarding and the most challenging. For that reason, we provide a variety of supports to staff that enable them to be armed with the tools they need to feel confident to do good work, as well as opportunities to have fun and be rewarded for their incredible work. Last year, nearly 450 staff members participated in the over 250 professional development trainings provided by the agency. We also hosted an array of staff appreciation and employee health and wellness activities to continue to show our staff how much we value their hard work and dedication. Through the tremendous support of our donors, we have been able to bring a variety of new programming to the children and families we serve. Some of these have included initiatives to better support early language and literacy, improve child safety in homes, better support the needs of children with disabilities and special needs, and provide more robust learning experiences in our classrooms. We also evaluate the effectiveness of these additional services on child and family outcomes. Every year we implement activities geared to hear from our staff, families, and the larger community on their ideas on how to continue to make Children’s Friend a place which staff are proud to be a part of, to provide services that are effective and valuable to families, and to ensure that every individual feels respected. We will continue to listen to our staff, families, friends, and the community, to ensure we are responsible stewards of all the resources entrusted to us.

Stewards
Taking responsibility for growing and sustaining our human and financial capital. Demonstrating respect and cultural sensitivity for our community, staff, and Board.
Children & families received individual & family counseling services addressing issues of loss, parent-child conflict, school and behavioral issues, etc.

At-risk families received high fidelity wrap around services.

Early care & school age educational professionals participated in training and technical assistance.

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

DONORS MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE

Let’s do the numbers...

111 At-risk families received high fidelity wrap around services.

290,919 Nutritious meals were provided to children in our programs.

16 Pregnant or parenting teens received essential support in building daily life skills, educational goals, and a strong foundation for their child’s future services.

10,003 Families participated in a nutrition program that provides healthy foods, nutrition education, and referrals to doctors, dentists, and other community services.

112 Substance-affected families participated in intensive home-based services designed to help parents overcome addiction while safely parenting their children.

1,072 Early care & school age educational professionals participated in training and technical assistance.

1,746 Families received home-based outreach services intended to promote the health and well-being of mothers and their newborn children.

361 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.

212 Children & families received individual & family counseling services addressing issues of loss, parent-child conflict, school and behavioral issues, etc.
OUR DONORS

$50,000+  
Rhode Island Foundation

We appreciate you, our donors!
Thank you for your generosity!

CITIZENS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Panera Bread/Rowley Bread Group
The Providence Journal Charitable Legacy Fund of the Rhode Island Foundation

$10,000+

Donald and Judy Horton
J A & A General Contractor
Joy in Childhood Foundation
Michael and Amy Mayer
Meto Auto & Home
Providence Journal Holiday Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation

SHIFTERES OF RHODE ISLAND CHARITABLE TRUSTS

The Alice I. Sullivan Charitable Foundation
Patrick and MaryKyn Tormey
Vanguard Charitable

$5,000+  
American Community Foundation & Anna H. Moore Charitable Fund
Andrew, Robert & Ronald Jr. Foundation
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Barnstable Community Foundation
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Fun...
Our participation in the volunteer Saturday at Children’s Friend is the most rewarding, feel-good event for the employees and our families. After a busy morning, my grandson wanted to know if we are coming back next year. That says it all.
In memory of Armando E. Albanese
Petrina Caccia
Rosemary M. Dwyer
Richard and Lorene Scambio
Elaine and Alan Spiegle
Lillian Spinelli
Lisa Spinelli

In memory of Judy Alexander
Dinah and Winn Round

In honor of Andrie Butler
David Butler

In memory of Bernard R. Cull
Bev Cull

In memory of Edward Capacci
Elizabeth Capacci

In honor of the excellent work of the adoption staff
David J. Strachman

In memory of Katie Cosimano
Laura and Kenneth Otzel

In honor of Doris Donovan
Carole Anderson

In memory of Patrick Dwyer
Katherine Dwyer

In memory of Thomas L. Dwyer
David and Maureen Caprio
Rosemary M. Dwyer
Stanhope Hagerty and Joseph Zullo
Arthur and Dorothy Karasz

In memory of Joyce W. Falsafi
Jean-Aimee

In honor of the memory of George Grubin
Rhode Island Foundation

In memory of Robert A. Kennedy Sr. and Robert A. Kennedy Jr.

In memory of Brian E. Krasner
Mary E. Krasner

In memory of Howard and A.D. Otis
Timothy Otis Foundation

In memory of Kim Yoon
Mary Jane and Scott O’Malley

In memory of Bonnie J. Young
Marilyn Lou

In memory of Dr. William G. Lewis
David L. Lewin

In memory of Michael Rose Levine & Martin Joseph Levy
Rose & Martin Rose Foundation

In honor of Dr. Kathleen Maguire
Catherine MacKay
Robert and Susan Marks

In memory of King & Michael Morris
Peggy and Jonathan Gottfried

In memory of Judy Murdock
Larreta Ann Leasing, Ph.D. and Bernard T. Leasing, Jr.

In honor of Eleanor O’Brien
Carol Paris

In memory of Paula O’Donnell
Theresa & C. O’Donnell

In honor of Eric L. Phillips
Cardinal Foundation

In honor of the three kids children’s friend
Gracce Mo

In honor of Luke Rogers
Jennifer Tieran

In honor of Joseph Sim
Dinah and Maureen Caprio

In memory of Scott Simmons
John and Dorothea Loomis

In memory of the sunny family
Robert and Michael Savoy

In memory of Tom Vachon
William T. Vachon

In memory of Sally West
Leslie Ann Leasing, Ph.D. and Bernard T. Leasing, Jr.

In honor of Jackie Winsor Vecchi
Christina Jonasson
Arlene Vecchi
Each year, the Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive provides gifts of clothing, pajamas, books, and toys to make the winter holidays a special time for Rhode Island’s most vulnerable children. Children’s Friends matches donations from individuals, families, businesses, corporations, churches and synagogues, as well as community organizations with families in great need who are currently receiving services from Children’s Friend.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our donors, 2017 set a new record, serving a record 1,590 families! Thank you for helping us spread hope and joy during the holiday season.

HOLIDAY DRIVE SPONSORS

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BROADEN YOUR IMPACT!
You can substantially increase the total gifts you give to Children’s Friend. Your employer may offer a Matching Gift Program to encourage employees to contribute to charitable organizations. Some even provide matching funds to support employee volunteer hours. Most of these programs match contributions dollar for dollar, and some will even double or triple the amount of your gift. Please inquire at your place of employment to enhance your gift. Children’s Friend is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt non-profit organization under Federal Tax ID #0015028-599 and a United Way designee.

MATCHING GIFTS
Children’s Friend thanks the following companies for matching the charitable gifts made by their employees:

- The Rhode Island Foundation
- Aetna Employee Engagement
- Amica Companies Foundation
- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- Citigroup Foundation
- Federation Drive for Global AIDS and World Values
- Liberty Mutual Foundation
- Markel Corporation
- Providence College - Finance and Business Plans, Inc.
- Rhode Island Bank of America Charitable
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- TribalVision
- Tufts Associated Health Care
- URI CELS Seeds of Change
- URI Professional/Leadership Consultants
- URI Student Organization
- URI Student Alumni Association
- URI Student Senate

The Harriet Ware Society

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 36,000 people across our small state with family-centered, seamless, and outcome-driven services. Since our founding, generous donors with a long-term vision have helped Children’s Friend meet the needs of our state’s most vulnerable children long into the future. Individuals who remember Children’s Friend in their will and who notify us of their intention qualify for this recognition and special benefits.

Many thanks to the donors who have made our mission possible — local and far-flung. Representatives of Rhode Islanders are grateful to the members of the Harriet Ware Society for their vision and generosity.

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT

ALFRED K. POTTER II

A longtime Board member and Co-Chair of the Development Committee, Al Potter is a true believer in planned giving. It all began some time ago, after having completed some involvement with another non-profit agency, Al was looking for an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children in our state. “I happened to see a published interview of the then CEO of Children’s Friend, Lenette Azzi-Leasing, about the work that Children’s Friend does with the most vulnerable children in Rhode Island. I met with her just to explore the agency’s work and how I might be able to help. When, to my surprise, I was asked to join the Board of Children’s Friend, I jumped at that opportunity,” says Al.

That was over nineteen years ago. “Although it sometimes seems like yesterday, I look back with pride on the work that Children’s Friend has done over the past two decades, and how we have become such a powerful factor and voice in ensuring the well-being and growth of young children in our state. I’ve been fortunate to have been able to contribute in many ways to Children’s Friend’s work – in strategic planning, development, assisting with new facilities, our relationship with the Rhode Island Foundation, and other activities of the Board.” When asked what was the most enriching part, Al believes that it has been finding ways for other people and organizations to become aware of the positive results we produce for kids in need, and then facilitating ways that these new stakeholders can take in contributing resources to enhance Children’s Friend’s success in its mission.

Philanthropy and stewardship have long been important to Al and his wife, Linda: “Along with our church and various other charitable causes that are important to us, including Children’s Friend in our annual giving plans has provided me with a sense of joy and satisfaction, and has formed a closer tie with the agency for almost two decades. As I approached planning for retirement, when my annual income would obviously drop, I was looking for a way to make a more lasting philanthropic impact with Children’s Friend and a few other organizations that I have been close to. The answer was relatively simple. I set up a straightforward bequest provision in my estate documents that includes Children’s Friend as a beneficiary of a specified amount upon my death. Although it will realistically mean only a fairly modest impact on my assets, it is an easy thing to do – just a quick phone call to our attorney, a simple codicil to my estate documents, and all done! More importantly, this step has provided me with a painless and easy way to feel even closer to Children’s Friend and the work they do.”

Al continues, “I am pleased by the growing number of people who value Children’s Friend’s work, and also have joined The Harriet Ware Society with a legacy gift in their estate plans for the benefit of Children’s Friend. As Children’s Friend embraces the important challenges embodied in our new strategic plan, I am hoping many others who are committed to Children’s Friend will join us in making similar decisions. Together, we can make a positive impact on Children’s Friend’s endowment, which is a critical financial and strategic resource in allowing the agency to do its good work. Collectively and over time, members of the Harriet Ware Society will make a significant and lasting impression on Children’s Friend as the most impactful organization working to improve the lives of vulnerable children in Rhode Island. That will make our state a better place for all of us.”

More importantly, this step has provided me with a painless and easy way to feel even closer to Children’s Friend and the work they do.
Thank you for your hard work! Your skills, creativity, and knowledge have a great impact committed to the mission of the agency.

Ada Berdecia
Jose Benitez
Jacquelyn Bell
Adrienne Begin
Yulen Bautista
Heather Ashworth
Courtney Arruda
Elsie Aquino
Dorothy Andrus
Tanya Anderson
Aleydita Amado
M Christine Allan
Joanna Alicea
Vanessa Albanese
Cristina Afonso-Gore
David Caprio
Joseph Capobianco
Sherley Capitaine
Marquis Capellan
Ysmabel Canela
Tammy Camillo
Lisa Calderon
Kristen Caine
Yesica Bustamante
Mary Burtt
Fresa Burgos
Suzanne Budano
Tara Buckler
Lori Brown
Audrey Bright
Carlos Braz
Nicole Botelho
Tamara Bond
Melissa Bernardo
Jessica D’Alessio
Elizabeth Czerwein
Amy Crawford
Michelle Courchaine
Diaraliz Cortijo
Marybel Coogan
Ronald Contreras
Regina Clement
Jill Caslowitz
Taylor Casali
Crescencia Figueroa
Gina Ferri
Perla Fernandez
Misty Faella
Maylem Estrella
Johanna Espinal
Susan Dounetos
Kayla Donnelly
Sophia Dong
Carrie Dipietro
Linda Dipasquale
Isabel Diaz
Paula DesLauriers
Elisa Dematos
Brianne Defaria
Linda DeVincent
Belinda DePina
Jennifer DeMeneses
Tina Darling
Meghan DaLuz
Nelida Da Graca
Veronica Grullon
Jennifer Greenwood
Brian Greene
Lisa Granda
Andrea Gosselin
Malia Goodwin
Carla Goode
Nelitza Gonzalez
Carmen Gonzalez
Manuel Goncalves
Rosa Gomez
Daysi Gomez
Isolita Gomes
Felicia Gomes
Maria Gibau
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Allison Frongillo
Sandra Fraenkel
Johanna Flores
Maryann Finamore
Ramos
True Kue
Geneva Kpangbai
Alice Knight
Margaret King
Nancyann Kimball
Mailee Khang
Megan Kerrigan
Jonathan Keller
Susan Kane
Julia Jimenez
Jennifer Jarvais
Fern James
Esperanza Jaime
Milangie Irizarry
Lori Iannella
Rita Holmes
Mary Jane Holland
Michelle Hirst
Leila Hill
Jennifer Heywood
Orlando Hernandez
Jenise Harrison
Heather Hall
Erica Guerrero
Diosa Martinez
Alice Martin
Kathleen Marques
Diana Marin
Shalini Malhotra
Jennifer Maldonado
Shelby Mack
Robert MacDonald
Laurie Lucia
Lucrecia Lopez
Maria Lopes
Nicole Long
Gizzel Llanos
Elizabeth Laureano
Christine Lantagne
Linda Landolfi
Elizabeth Laguaite
Karen Lacey
Nancy LaChance
Stanley Kuziel Jr.
Jonathan Packer
Eufrocina Osorio
Wilnelia Ortiz
Pablo Ortiz
Peggy Orsini
Christine Olsen
Amber Olsen
Hilcias Olivo
Karen Obispo
Yaquelin Nunez
Vivian Ng
Judy Nelson-Mintzer
Richard Nattinger
Patricia Nance
Dana Mullen
Rebecca Morin
Pamela Morales
Harryetta Moore
Jacqueline Molina
Aimee Mitchell
Amy Merola
Marie Melucci
Sasha Medina
Debra Medeiros
Mammy Mclean
Tara McHugh
Abby McGuire
Denise McCall
Amie Marzilli
Tina Darling
Anne Marie
Bianelly Rodriguez
Aixa Rodriguez
Shirley Roderick
Allison Roderick
Shirley Robinson
Lilia Roberson
Milagros Rivera
Cristina Rivera
Nayla Rifai
Natalie Redfearn
Judith Raponi
Liliana Ramos
Kenia Ramos Murcia
Frank Puleo
Sanford Pliskin
Paula Pirolli
Katie Pietrantonio
Jacqueline Phillips
Kimberly Pete
Wendy Perez
Nelson Perez
Yeisha Pereira
Jennifer Paradis
Rebecca Paquette
Gregoria Palma
Yesenia Palacios
Gracia Painadle
Rebecca Paquette
Jean-Francois Painable
Jennifer Paris-Boit
Charlene Palma
Heather Paul
Veronica Pareena
Erica Pareho
Rebecca Paule
Carolyn Parlone
Rebecca Paule
Sarah Parrilla
Leonie Pars
Carmen Parra
Celina Pastor
Liz Paternoster
Gladys Patino
Nicole Patin
Susan Patino
Chasity Parham
Regina Patterson
Pamela Parsons
Becky Parker
Lauren Park
Rachel Parreira
Mostafa Parhizkar
Tina Parson
Nancy Parson
Kayla Parson
Kendra Parson
Sandra Parzynski
Miguel Parzynski
Carol Parzynski
Nancy Parzynski
Caroline Parisi
Suzanne Pazhayil
Deborah Paul
Andrew Paul
Tommy Paul
Nicola Pawlak
Jordan Paul
Anastasia Gerasimenko
Jenier Paul
Haley Paul
Stephanie Paton
Vivian Paul
Denise Payne
Katherine Payne
Rita Payne
Lori Payne
Patricia Parker
Linda Parker
Robert Park
Darren Parks
Jill Park
Kathy Paige
Michelle Parker
Gloria Pelaez
Karen Pender
Carmen Pedrin
Jeri Pedron
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice Chairman
Eva C. Hulse-Avila
Treasurer
Mark G. Griffin
Assistant Treasurer
Michael DiSandro
Secretary
Carmen A. Mirabal

HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL

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Sharlene Owusu
Parent at Dean
Vice Chairman
Sorhenis C. Lee
Parent at Robertson
Vice Secretary
Charlene Antonio Parent at Butterworth
Vice Treasurer
Mackenzie Maynard
Parent at Friendship
Community Representatives
Mary Cram
Children’s Friend Board Member
Roger Williams Zoo
Robyn Giragosian
Head Start State Representative
Bryan Kirksey

Volunteer

At

CHILDREN’S FRIEND

We need YOU! There are countless ways to make a difference in the lives of our youngest and most vulnerable children. We offer many volunteer opportunities on an ongoing basis. Read in our classrooms; hold a donation drive to collect the necessities families need every day, such as diapers and formula; or donate your new or gently used items, such as children’s books, backpacks, school supplies, etc.

Interested in volunteering or coming in for a tour? Please contact Stacy Couto, Vice President External Affairs, at 401-276-4306 or scouto@cfsri.org.

WISE STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

With limited funding at the local, state, and federal levels, disciplined spending allows Children’s Friend to provide a remarkable level of services and staffing when our families need us the most. This is accomplished thanks to wise stewardship of our resources and a disciplined “spending rule” that holds our annual spending to 5.5% of the rolling 3-year market value average of the endowment.

You can invest in the future of Children’s Friend and earmark donations to the endowment by contacting Stacy Couto, Vice President External Affairs, at 401-276-4306 or scouto@cfsri.org.

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EMBRACING CHANGE

FOSTER FOCUS

Being a Single Foster Dad

My experience with Children’s Friend and the fostering experience was a roller coaster. While the staff at Children’s Friend was quite supportive and always there to assist, the unknown about the future of the children in your care can be quite worrisome and stressful at times, especially having a career and being single.

It was hard to understand why any child would be in foster care but I had to push that thought aside when I received my placement, a 10 month old girl. She came to me on a winter’s day in January. I remember her peeking over her blanket in her car seat and smiling. She was a happy baby who took to my family right away. I then found out that the birth mother was pregnant again, and I was asked to take in that baby as well.

In August, I took in her brother a week after he was born. There I was, alone with two children ages one and under. Some thought I was crazy. Some did not understand how I did it all. My secret is to just do it and not think of it. Get support from family and friends to assist and most importantly, don’t feel guilty when you need “me time.”

My placement was challenging in the sense that I wanted to see the children find a permanent home. The planets were aligned for me and on Valentine’s Day, two years later, the judge signed the adoption decree. Five years later, both children are thriving and doing well!

Art Foster Dad, Adoptive Dad

FOSTER HEROES

All children need safe and loving homes. Children’s Friend Foster Parents serve Rhode Island’s most vulnerable children— well after the work day is over and 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: a commitment to making a difference in a child’s life by providing a safe and loving home. Please join us in thanking our dedicated Foster Parents for opening their hearts and homes to children in need:

Foster children need to be safe and supported in a loving family environment. JOIN US IN HELPING TO MAKE THAT A REALITY FOR EVERY FOSTER CHILD.

At Children’s Friend, we are ready to talk to you about the steps involved in becoming a Foster parent. We are here to support you every step of the way and introduce you to the special joy that comes with helping a child in need. For more information, please contact our Foster Care Recruiters, Joyce LaFrance Tormey, or Heather Ashworth at 401.276.4318.
BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR AND MAKE A SUSTAINING CONTRIBUTION ALL YEAR LONG

You can 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 every day. Your monthly gift provides Children’s Friend with regular and reliable income to respond to the needs of our families. With just a couple of clicks, you can make a difference!

It’s so simple and convenient! Go to childrensfriendri.org and set the amount of the deductions from the account of your choice. If your life changes, you can change or suspend your monthly payments at any time.

100% OF YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS OUR PROGRAMS

Our Endowment is as important as ever to the financial security of the organization. Our endowment earnings cover administrative and fundraising costs, allowing us to assure our donors that 100% of their gift to Children’s Friend will make a difference in a child’s life, rather than be used for fundraising or administrative expenses. Thank you for your investment in our children and families.

IMPACT OF INVESTMENTS

100% OF YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS OUR PROGRAMS

INCOME STATEMENT

2017 REVENUE

Contracts 28,427,913
Fee for Service 5,245,337
Investment Income (Losses) 384,017
Contributions/Grants 163,583
Donated Goods, Services, Facilities 709,519
Other Income 25,072
Total Operating Revenue $30,455,440

2017 EXPENSES

Early Intervention 1,955,252
Family Counseling 436,885
Family Support 7,600,710
Family Preservation 3,571,348
Health & Nutrition Services 6,224,051
Total Program Expenses $27,392,468
Administration 894,495
Development/Fundraising 527,818
Total Operating Expenses $29,172,283

The agency’s audited financial statements are available upon request. For more information, please contact Stacy Couto, Vice President of External Affairs, at 401-276-4306 or scouto@cfsri.org.

ANNUAL REPORT DESIGNED BY GLAD WORKS

- THANK YOU! -