

# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



On October 29, 2018, city, state and Congressional leaders joined with neighborhood leaders to break ground with Children's Friend President and CEO, David Caprio, on a \$7M restoration of the former Althea Street School/Asa Messer Annex in Providence. The building will become an Early Childhood Center of Excellence for the city's West End for the 2019/20 academic year.

Located at 245 Althea Street, the school was closed in 2012 and has been sitting vacant ever since. With the jump start of a \$4.5M grant from Federal Head Start (secured with assistance from Rhode Island's Congressional delegation) the building will be transformed into a first class early learning and family support center.

Children (ages three to five) will be able to attend a full-day, academic-year educational program, in place of the

## A NEW CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IS COMING TO THE WEST END



current 660-hour, part-time program that Children's Friend provides in morning and afternoon sessions.

In addition to Head Start, the Center of Excellence will provide low-income children and families with a wide range of programs and services to include child care, Early Head Start, and mental health services and will host community meetings and professional development training for staff and community members.

The new Center of Excellence will also provide the West Side Play Space (WSPS) with a designated play space for activities and access to common areas of the building.

As a result of this collaboration, young children and families in the West End will benefit from access to this newly renovated community hub and all of the amenities that it will offer.



## The Children's Friend Early Learning Center at McAuley Village is Now Open!

Thanks to a wonderful new partnership between Children's Friend and McAuley Village, children living there and in the surrounding neighborhood now have easy access to the Children's Friend Head Start Program.

Children ages 6 weeks old to 5 years old will enjoy enriching early learning experiences that will prepare them for success when they enter kindergarten and beyond.



# Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

The holidays are a time to gather and celebrate with family and friends and enjoy the many special moments of the season.

This is sadly not the case for families in need. For so many of the families we serve, there is no extra money to set aside for presents, warm clothing, or a new winter coat.

The Children's Friend Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive helps parents by providing holiday gifts and basic necessities during the season of giving. Thanks to donors like you, struggling families do not have to choose between putting food on the table and providing their growing children with warm clothes for the winter.

Last year, the Children's Friend Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive provided holiday gifts for 1,596 of our families—that's over 5,000 children. We are so grateful that you have made our Holiday Drive a meaningful tradition.

This year, we're hoping you'll renew your commitment and help bring hope and joy to the lives of the children who need it most. **You can make a difference in the life of a child this holiday season! There are so many ways to participate:**

- **Sponsor a Family:** Please sign up online at [spiritofgivingdrive.org](http://spiritofgivingdrive.org) or call the Spirit of Giving Line at (401) 276-4346, and we will match you directly with a family.
- **Make a Donation to the Holiday Drive:** Monetary donations are used to support families that do not get sponsored. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate all of the families we serve and your gifts help us to serve more families each year.
- **Hold a Toy or Warm Clothing Drive in Your Community:** Donate warm clothing, toys, or gift cards that can be used to support families that are not matched directly with sponsors.
- **Volunteer:** Volunteers are needed to support the Holiday Drive: sort gifts, check in gifts, and assist staff in a number of ways. Please call the Spirit of Giving Line at (401) 276-4346 for more details.

Your support makes a great impact in the lives of our families. I hope we can count on your participation this holiday season!

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season,

David Caprio  
President and Chief Executive Officer

## GIVE THE GIFT THAT LASTS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON... INVEST IN OUR MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Making a planned gift is a wonderful way to ensure that Children's Friend and its mission to improve the well-being and healthy development of Rhode Island's most vulnerable young children is secure in perpetuity.

For more information, please contact Stacy Couto, Vice President External Affairs, at 401.276.4306 or [scouto@cfsri.org](mailto:scouto@cfsri.org).



# 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Investing in Our Children Luncheon

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, more than 280 friends, donors, corporate sponsors, community partners, and legislative representatives joined us for our 16th Annual Investing in Our Children Luncheon at the Providence Omni Hotel. It was a wonderful show of support for our most vulnerable children and their families.

This year, Children's Friend honored Collette with the 2018 Friend of Children Award for their long history of investing in Rhode Island children. Collette is a global partner, supporting projects both locally and internationally through their Collette Cares program, encouraging philanthropy and volunteerism in Rhode Island and beyond.

Our annual Luncheon also serves as an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of our mission. Our theme, "Children's Friend: Needed now, more than ever." was present throughout the program as we shared our new strategic priority and the impact childhood trauma can have on a developing child's brain development. With so many of Rhode Island's most vulnerable children in need, our services are truly needed now more than ever.

Thanks to the participation and generous support of hundreds of individuals and corporate sponsors, the 2018 Investing in Our Children Luncheon was our largest and most successful. To date over \$137,000 has been raised to support the work of Children's Friend. A heartfelt thank you to the 39 corporate sponsors who generously invested in the event, the businesses and organizations who supported it through program ads and auction donations, and our generous donors, who helped to raise over \$20,000 during the live auction social investment at the event. Thank you to all who invested so generously in our children and families.



David Caprio, President and Chief Executive Officer, Children's Friend; Lynne Kelly, Community Relations Manager, Collette; William J. Allen, Chairman of the Board, Children's Friend.

## 2018 LUNCHEON SPONSORS

### Platinum



### Gold



### Silver



### Bronze



