

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER



## Take a Peak Inside of Our Summer Learning & Enrichment Program

Smiling faces, engaging activities, safe places to play, and healthy meals are key to our Summer Learning & Enrichment Program (SLEP). Children's Friend is committed to providing a high quality program for children with the greatest need.

Research conducted by the National Summer Learning Association, among others, clearly demonstrates that children from low-income backgrounds experience summer learning loss at a rate greater than their peers in middle and upper socio-economic statuses. Children who attend preschool in the year prior to kindergarten may experience the "summer slide" if they don't have access to and consistently attend high quality learning opportunities the summer before entering kindergarten.

Children's Friend has the only summer program in Rhode Island designed to promote school readiness and mitigate

summer learning loss for the most vulnerable preschoolers by providing a safe and stimulating educational program that runs for eight weeks, five days a week, for 6.5 hours per day.

Thanks to generous donations from our donors and funders just like you, the 2018 SLEP is our largest yet, with 300 children attending this summer. Your investment provides access to an engaging education program, healthy meals, daily safe outdoor play, field trips, and highly qualified teachers all summer long.

The Summer Learning and Enrichment Program is an important educational experience and an opportunity to build the proper skills to enter kindergarten ready to learn. To support this essential programming, please make your tax deductible contribution today online at [childrensfriendri.org](http://childrensfriendri.org).

Let's Be Friends!



ChildrensFriendRI



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# LETTER from the PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

This summer marks our largest Summer Learning & Enrichment Program to date,

serving 300 of Rhode Island's most vulnerable children. By providing an educational safety net, our children are more academically prepared for the new school year, whether they are moving onto kindergarten or returning to Head Start. This could not happen without your generous investment in our children.

After a year of planning and with the assistance and input of many friends and stakeholders, Children's Friend also launched a new strategic priority for the organization. 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 realigning itself to proactively respond to this crisis.**

We will work to better serve our children and families, and this priority will keep us focused on better outcomes for our most vulnerable children. In the months to come, you'll see our efforts on this front as we continue to move the work of Children's Friend forward. I invite you to join us as we work to make the changes needed to better support our kids.

As detailed in the recent reports from the Office of the Child Advocate, we know our child welfare system is struggling and not properly protecting children in Rhode Island from abuse and neglect.

We also believe that inadequate funding to the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) is part of the problem. So this spring we embarked upon a campaign to restore funding to DCYF in the state budget.

Thanks to each and every one of you, thousands of postcards and emails were sent to the General Assembly urging for the restoration of funds to DCYF to protect our most vulnerable children from abuse and neglect. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Governor Raimondo signed Rhode Island's FY2019 budget into law, which includes an additional \$18 million for DCYF.

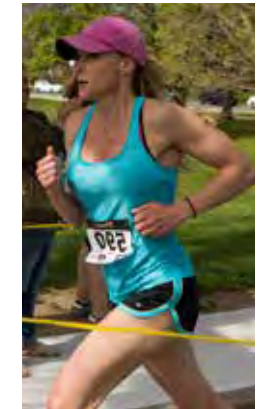
While this additional funding is a great first step, there is much more work that is needed to improve our child welfare system in Rhode Island, and properly protect our youngest and most vulnerable from abuse and neglect.

Thank you for your support, advocacy, and hard work. Together we are making a positive difference in our community.

David Caprio  
President and Chief Executive Officer

# 2018 5K WALK & RUN

sponsored by Panera Bread



The 2018 Children's Friend 5K Walk & Run, on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> was our second highest performing walk in Children's Friend history, raising a total of \$116,000 to date.

This year's big story: staff participation! Our fourteen sites came together for some friendly competition, and to see who could raise the most funds. Their ideas included raffles, bake sales, events, and even an art auction. Staff collectively raised nearly \$20,000! Thank you for your commitment to our mission, in and out of the classroom!

We could not do this without the dedication and generosity of our Title Sponsor Panera Bread for their incredible fundraising efforts. They also supplied all of our

volunteers, walkers, runners and families with a delicious breakfast and lunch. Thank you to Panera Bread for the fuel and funds!

Our wonderful sponsors cumulatively contributed an additional \$42,000. Support from our community and business partners makes so many of our programs possible.

"This event is truly what Children's Friend is all about," said Walk Committee Chair, Randy Stoloff. "It's not only a fundraiser, it's an opportunity for our supporters and the families we serve to spend the morning together. It's great to see everyone enjoy the day."

## INVEST IN A CHILD

### Planned Giving at Children's Friend

High quality early childhood programs like those at Children's Friend can greatly reduce the need for more expensive interventions later in a child's life. Studies show that participation in high-quality early care help children avoid special education, grade repetition, early parenthood, and incarceration.

According to the National Forum on Early Childhood Policy and Programs, \$1 invested in high quality, early childhood programs has a return on investment of \$4 to \$9.

Get in touch with us today to decide on a personal giving plan that fits your needs and wishes. Contact Stacy Couto, Vice President External Affairs at 401.276.4306 or [scouto@cfsri.org](mailto:scouto@cfsri.org).



### THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 SPONSORS!



Mark your calendar for next year's Walk: Saturday May 4, 2019 at Roger Williams Park.

# 184<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING



Mrs. Linda Potter; retiring Board Member Alfred K. Potter II; Board Chairman William J. Allen; Board Nominating Chair Marie Ganim; and President and CEO, David Caprio.

On June 7<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our 184<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting! With staff, board members, friends, and partners in attendance, we had a packed house of early childhood professionals and advocates to share our day.

We paid tribute to retiring Board Member Alfred K. Potter II to commemorate his 19 years of service to Children's Friend. We are so grateful for his wonderful work with us on behalf of vulnerable children in Rhode Island. Children's Friend also celebrated staff longevity. Awards were given to employees who had reached 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years of service.

The event culminated with the presentation of the Michelle Norris Award, our highest honor, to Anthony Maione, retiring President and Chief Executive Officer of the United Way. This award is a highlight of the event each year, named in memory of Michelle Norris, a Central Falls first grader who was abducted from her neighborhood and murdered in 1988. The award memorializes not only Michelle, but also all children whose lives are lost to violent crime and poverty.

Thank you, Tony, for making a positive impact on the most vulnerable in our community throughout your career.



President and CEO, David Caprio; retiring President and CEO of the United Way, Anthony Maione; and Board Chairman, William J. Allen.



Children's Friend employees who received service awards with President and CEO, David Caprio and Board Chairman, William J. Allen.



## INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN LUNCHEON

Friday, October 19, 2018

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

# SAVE THE DATE