

# Spring Newsletter

## The Spirit of Giving is **STRONG** in Rhode Island

Gloria\* didn't know how she was going to give her two small children a good holiday. This single Mom had experienced many struggles this past fall, and was focused more on food and safe housing than on buying gifts for her children.

"I had many nights awake, worrying and feeling like I was failing my kids because I knew they were excited for Christmas. I just didn't know how I was going to make it happen."

This is a common refrain amongst the families we serve at Children's Friend. The Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive,

now in its 20th year meets the needs of many of our neediest families by providing their children with warm coats, clothing and toys for the holidays.

This is no small effort. Hundreds of individuals, community groups and businesses sponsored families, donated items, or volunteered their time, while our staff worked extra hours to make sure the gifts were delivered in time.

Our combined efforts helped over 1,600 families; a new record! We couldn't have done it without the time and generosity of our donors and volunteers. It was a wonderful reminder of the spirit of the season and our little state's ability to rally around those who need it most. Thank you for being such an important part of our work!

\* Name has been changed to protect the privacy of our client.

Left: Panera Bread staff pose outside our main office with President and CEO David Caprio and Vice President of External Affairs, Stacy Couto. Right: Development Coordinator Wendy King; Vice President of External Affairs, Stacy Couto; Scott Connery of Skyline at Waterplace; Holiday Drive helper, Judith Cuccorelli. Holiday Drive photos continued on the next page.





From left to right: Blue Cross Blue Shield RI volunteers; Citizens Bank volunteers pose with our own Children's Friend elf, Linda Landolfi; ABC6 anchors Doreen Scanlon and Melissa Randall shopping for a family in our Holiday Drive shopping room; Stanley Tree dropping off gifts for the kids; US Trust posing with our Major Gifts Officer, Johanna Corcoran as they drop off gifts; Congressman David Cicilline gives Development Associate Jill Caslowicz a hand; President and CEO David Caprio and WJAR anchor Emily Volz pose for a festive photo.

## Did You Know You Can Leave a Lasting Legacy?

Many planned giving options provide income tax and capital gains tax deductions for donors.

You can make a meaningful donation to Rhode Island's most vulnerable children and actually *save* money. It's a win-win!

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





# Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

Longer, sunny days means spring is in the air. As we prepare for the change in season, we look back on such a successful 2018. We are so grateful

to our sponsors and donors who made our 2018 **Spirit of Giving** Holiday Drive the best ever. In these pages, you see the many, many faces it takes to pull off such an effort. Thanks to your generous support, 1,644 families were served through the Holiday Drive. What an incredible, direct impact you've had on our children and families.

Looking forward, a milder winter has allowed construction to progress at our new Children's Friend Center of Excellence in the old Asa Messer Annex School building in Providence. Stay tuned as we work to complete renovations in time for fall classes. Follow our progress by liking the Children's Friend page or joining the Althea St. School and ASA Messer Annex Alumni group on Facebook.

The Children's Friend 5K Walk & Run is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Temple to Music at Roger Williams Park. This annual event is not only a major fundraiser for our programs and services, but also a great family event.

We've got it all! Breakfast and lunch served by our friends at Panera Bread, great music, games and activities for the whole family, and a challenging walk and run.

Registration is open online at [childrensfriendwalk.org](http://childrensfriendwalk.org). Register today and build a team! Encourage your family, colleagues, and friends to join you. We need your support to make the Walk & Run a great success for our children.

The best part – 100% of Walk proceeds directly support our children and families. You help us serve our children and families in the best way possible and we cannot thank you enough! Spread the word – our new hashtag, **#WhyIWalkCF**, highlights all the reasons to walk for our most vulnerable children.

I walk for the safety, health, and education of our children. Why do you walk? Let us know!

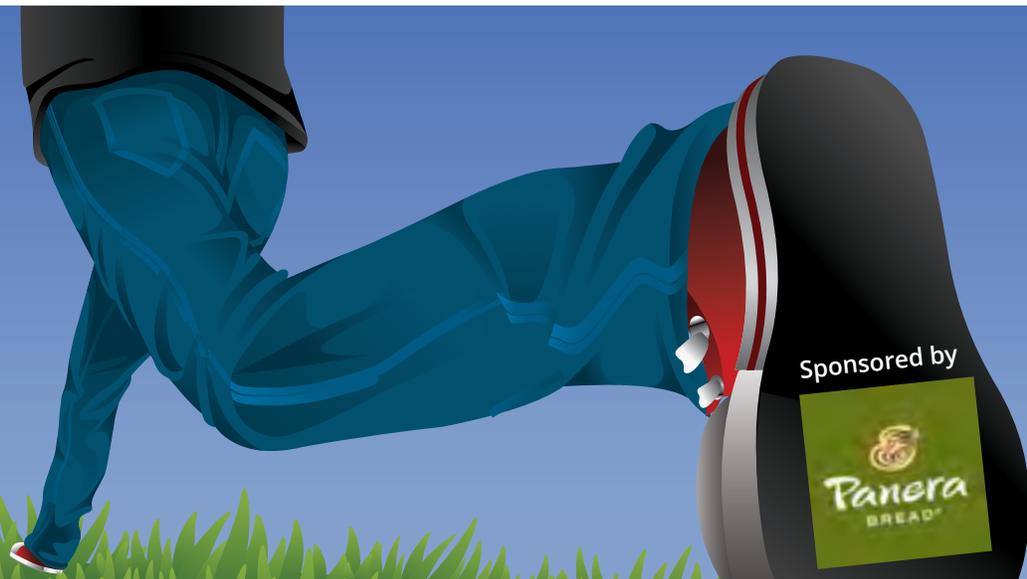
**I hope to see you on May 4<sup>th</sup>,**

David Caprio

President and Chief Executive Officer

[childrensfriendri.org](http://childrensfriendri.org) • ChildrensFriendRI • CFRI1834 • childrensfriend

CHILDREN'S FRIEND  
**5K WALK  
& RUN**  
Roger Williams Park



## SAVE THE DATE • MAY 4, 2019

Register Online at [childrensfriendwalk.org](http://childrensfriendwalk.org) • Text ChildrensFriend to 71777 to Donate from Your Phone

# Donor Spotlight - *Rhode Island Irish Coalition*



Shaun O'Brien and Children's Friend Major Gifts Officer, Johanna Corcoran.

Shaun O'Brien doesn't think he's a hero. However, we're his biggest fans here at Children's Friend! For the last three years, Children's Friend has been the beneficiary of a toy drive sponsored by his Pawtucket-based group, The Rhode Island Irish Coalition. The mission of the Rhode Island Irish Coalition is to build relationships with local businesses in the interest of performing charitable acts for the less fortunate members of the community.

These generous Rhode Island entrepreneurs create awareness for the toy drive by hanging posters and placing collection boxes within their businesses. The month-long effort culminates with a party at a local Irish pub, where all of the boxes are collected.

Shaun then rents a U-Haul, and with giant teddy bear in tow (the same donor donates a new bear every year!) he delivers the toys to our headquarters in Providence. He always seems to have perfect timing, showing up just when we need it most.

Shaun's main goal is to make sure that kids have something to share when their classmates compare notes about what they received for Christmas. "I don't want any child to feel left out of that conversation." Shaun shared as he unpacked the U-Haul truck just days before Christmas. "No kid should feel bad after the holidays."

Thanks to Shaun and the Rhode Island Irish Coalition, we were able to grant his wish for many of the children we serve!



## Rhode Island Irish Coalition

Galway Bay Irish Pub  
Barber Ettes Hair Salon  
The Flower Shoppe  
Dance Attitudes

Quinn's Irish Pub  
Shannon O'Brien School of Dance  
Riverside Animal Hospital  
Sean Connell Music

# Volunteer Spotlight - *Chris Cosimano*



"We love Children's Friend" is a quote often used by Chris Cosimano and boy does it show! Her year-round effort to shop, donate and help stock the Shopping Room never go unnoticed.

Her devotion to our children and their families is exhibited in many ways: Insight and planning- she shops all year long, her family sponsors multiple families and with her husband, Sal, gives countless hours toward strategizing, setting up and staffing our shopping room.

Her family's commitment to Children's Friend has been lengthy and truly shows the spirit of giving. She is a delight to work with and we are so grateful to have her!

