The 2019 
_Spirit of Giving_ 
Holiday Drive

This year your generosity helped us provide gifts and warm clothing for 1,725 families!
SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, MAY 9 • 9AM - 12PM
ROGER WILLIAMS PARK, TEMPLE TO MUSIC
ChildrensFriendWalk.org

KICK OFF PARTY
TUESDAY, MARCH 3 • 5PM - 9PM
Providence Flatbread Pizza
161 Cushing Street, Providence, RI 02906

SCAN ME TO R.S.V.P. FOR THE KICK OFF www.cfsri.org/2020-5k-kick-off/
Dear Friend,

Thanks to your efforts and support in 2019, we achieved many successes for the children and families we serve.

In September, we opened a new Center of Excellence in the West End of Providence, located in RI's highest poverty zip code for families. Our Althea Center offers full-day Head Start classes, Early Head Start, Child Care, mental health services, and crisis drop-in support for basic needs. Our high-quality programming supports parent, family, and community engagement, self-sufficiency, and positive parent-child relationships.

Through a new partnership, Children’s Friend also opened a new Head Start classroom at Dorcas International’s north campus in Providence, serving children and families with diverse backgrounds and languages.

The Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive provided gifts to 1,725 families. Those families had warm clothing for their children. They didn’t have to choose between rent and food or gifts for their children. Coming soon is the Children’s Friend Walk sponsored by Panera Bread on May 9, 2020.

However, overall in 2019 at risk children in Rhode Island continued to experience devastating outcomes. In 2019 three children died, and nine children were classified as near fatalities as a result of child abuse and neglect.

We can and must do better as a state to improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children. Please join with Children’s Friend in 2020 as we come together to demand better for children in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

David Caprio
President and Chief Executive Officer

Children’s Friend donors have a rich history of generosity that has helped to provide the services of today and will be instrumental in providing the services of tomorrow.

The vital future of our agency’s work depends on that generosity. Planning to give later is a great way to leave a legacy of support. This new decade will bring many new challenges, and with your help, we will face those challenges and succeed.

If you would like to create a lasting gift through planned giving for Children’s Friend, please contact Joyce LaFrance Tormey at 401.276.4318 or jtormey@cfsri.org to learn more.
The Omni Providence Hotel was the setting for the Children’s Friend 17th Annual Investing in Our Children Luncheon on Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

This year’s luncheon raised in excess of $150,000 which will ensure that Rhode Island’s youngest and most vulnerable children have a happy, healthy start in life and the best possible chance for success in the future.

In honor of their long-time commitment to at-risk children and their families, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island was awarded the 2019 Friend of Children Award.

From volunteering to grant funding, Blue Cross & Blue Shield has had an incredible impact on the lives of children. They support our early education programs, including Head Start, to increase consumption of healthy foods for over 1,000 children.

Thank you to Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island for their tireless efforts in championing the cause of children and their families who need our help now more than ever.

In celebrating ten years of providing Head Start and the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) services, a brief video was shown at the luncheon spotlighting some of our accomplishments in this area.

This important undertaking would not be possible if it were not for the overwhelming investment of our 45 corporate sponsors as well as the support of our many businesses and organizations who purchased program ads and donated auctions items.

In addition, a special thank you to our generous donors who opened their pocketbooks and wallets to support the work of Children’s Friend through our silent and social investment auctions.

In his remarks, David Caprio, President and Chief Executive Officer of Children’s Friend, addressed those in attendance and said, “Thanks to your support, we are able to advocate and adapt and enter into innovative and exciting partnerships to best support our youngest and our most vulnerable citizens.”

Mr. Caprio added, “Thank you for caring, thank you for being here, thank you for supporting our work. You are the reason we are able to make a difference for our kids.”