

Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

# **CWLA** 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





## LETTER FROM THE CEO

I am happy to provide our annual report for 2023.

This year CWLA continued to carry out its work within the context of its *National Blueprint for Excellence in Child Welfare (National Blueprint)* that articulates the foundation and framework for achieving the vision that all children will grow up safely, in loving families and supportive communities, with everything they need to flourish—and with connections to their culture, ethnicity, race, and language. The *National Blueprint* advances a collaborative approach to addressing the needs of children, youth, and families that leverages the knowledge and resources gained from families, communities, and other systems that can contribute to better outcomes for children and families. In this regard, CWLA has continued to place a special focus on working collaboratively with our member agencies, youth, families and communities, other child and family service systems, advocates, funders, and policy-makers. The success of CWLA is dependent on the strength of these collaborative efforts. As you read through the next few pages of key activities for the year, you will see examples of our commitment to working collaboratively on behalf of children and families and several exciting new partnerships that have resulted from this work.

Special appreciation is extended to the CWLA committee members; senior fellows; *Child Welfare* journal, *Childrens Voice* magazine, books, and special publications writers; the people who served as guest editors for our special issues of *Child Welfare* journal; and the webinar and conference presenters who shared their knowledge and wisdom.

We are also deeply indebted to our numerous partners whose expertise, resources, and connections we were able to leverage to achieve our work this year.

As a special point of privilege, I want to thank the CWLA staff team, who carried out their work with such passion and commitment this and every year that we have worked together.

On behalf of CWLA's employees and board, I am proud to submit my final report on the highlights of our work in 2023. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as CEO of this important organization.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine James Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine James-Brown  
President and CEO



# MISSION, VISION AND FOCUS

## Our Mission

CWLA leads and engages its network of public and private agencies and partners to advance policies, best practices, and collaborative strategies that result in better outcomes for children, youth, and families that are vulnerable.

## The Vision

Our vision is that every child will grow up in a safe, loving, and stable family.

## The Focus

Our focus is children and youth who may have experienced abuse, neglect, family disruption, or a range of other factors that jeopardize their safety, permanence, or well-being. CWLA also focuses on the families, caregivers, and communities that care for and support these children.



homelessness support, kinship care, juvenile justice, mental health, positive youth development, substance abuse prevention and treatment, and community-based services. CWLA actively involves young people and family members and engages them as active participants in our efforts to support and improve the field of child welfare.

## Historical Commitment to Excellence in Child Welfare Practice

Since our founding in 1920, CWLA has fulfilled a commitment to children and families, starting with advocacy for laws protecting children in the workplace, encouraging childhood immunizations, and supporting families with homemaker services and child care. Over the last 60-plus years, a clear need for practice improvement led CWLA to focus on strengthening practice within the nation's child welfare systems. To that end we established, promoted, and maintained *Standards of Excellence for Child Welfare Services* that have served as a foundation for best practices and the definition of quality in child welfare practice. It is increasingly clear, however, that evidence-based practice needs to be more evenly applied and that the child welfare system alone cannot solve the problems facing children and families. It must work within the community context and with the understanding that what happens to children who are vulnerable is very interconnected with how the nation treats children and families as a whole.

## Focus for the Future

In 2013, CWLA released the *National Blueprint*, which articulates a foundation and framework for achieving the vision that all children will grow up safely, in loving families and supportive communities, with everything they need to flourish—and with connections to their culture, ethnicity, race, and language. It advances a child welfare system that is linked to and operates in partnership with families and communities. In the last decade, CWLA's work has been framed by the vision and principles of the *National Blueprint*. Our partnerships, policy and practice agendas, publications, and

## WHAT MAKES CWLA UNIQUE?

CWLA is a coalition of hundreds of public and private organizations and individuals. CWLA's national programs and expertise reflect the scope of our member agencies' services by spanning a range of community services designed to strengthen and support parents, families, and children.

These services include adoption, adolescent pregnancy prevention and teen parenting, child day care, child protection, children affected by incarceration, family foster care, group residential care, housing and

membership system have been expanded beyond core child welfare issues to be inclusive of the context in which child welfare operates. Poverty, race, housing, mental health, substance use/misuse, health, and education and how they impact child welfare involvement are important components of our work.

The ten years since the release of the *National Blueprint* has been filled with change, challenge, and opportunity for our country and child welfare. The pandemic, racial awakening, and the emergence of new research about the impact of trauma, poverty, and the social determinants of health on children and families have reinforced the importance of the vision of the CWLA *National Blueprint* but also underscores the need for a sharper focus on how the impacts of racism, trauma, poverty, and the social determinants of health impede the ability to achieve the *National Blueprint* vision. In this regard, this year we created a new set of principles that will be embedded in an updated volume of CWLA's *Standards of Excellence for the Child Protective Services Function* and a new volume for *Community-Based Prevention Services* to transform and guide the work of child welfare.

We also worked with a group of child welfare leaders to develop "Creating a High-Quality, Humane, and Respectful Approach to Advance Our Vision." The paper goes beyond the *National Blueprint* and embraces the new principles to propose that child welfare continues to reflect upon and learn lessons from its successes and failures; acknowledge the significant impact of racism, poverty, and lack of a safety net for the children, parents, families, and communities served; and redouble its commitment "to functioning differently to advance child safety, permanency, and well-being within the context of racial and social justice." The paper was designed



to challenge the field, to serve as a launching pad for future policy and practice work, and to inform our partnership agenda. Consistent with the *National Blueprint* and the "Approach" paper, CWLA will work collaboratively with its members, partners, parents, families, communities, and other systems to advance the recommendations in the paper.

## SELECT KEY ACTIVITIES IN 2023

### Membership:

- Held a successful 2023 national conference with 85+ workshops and 725+ attendees.
- Enhanced "Members Only" access to resources and discounts via new online portal.
- Introduced new special rate membership for Tribes & Indigenous Nations.
- Redesigned and expanded our monthly e-newsletter, *The Networker*, with in-depth articles about projects, members, committees, and partnerships.
- Secured foundation funds and hired two new staff members to support our members in advancing equity.

### Policy:

- CWLA members from Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Texas participated in a virtual roundtable with Congressional staff about the child welfare workforce that was attended by 20 staff members from 15 Congressional offices.
- CWLA and the Children's Defense Fund have relaunched the Child Welfare-Mental Health Coalition.
- CWLA has created a new working group of national advocates to address the shortage of foster families.
- Policy briefs on Title IV-B, CAPTA, and the Budget were created for the 2023 national conference.



## Practice:

- Expanded our partnerships in three main areas:
  - **Training** – Developed a formal agreement with the Alliance for Experiential Problem-Based Learning at the University of Illinois-Springfield to create a simulation training curriculum for the CWLA *Standards of Excellence for the Child Protective Services Function*.
  - **Workload/Caseload** – CWLA and Amazon Web Services (AWS) are partnering to develop a Data Lake to allow collection and sharing of evidence-based information that links workload/caseload data to outcomes that create positive change in the lives of children and families.
  - A formal partnership agreement has been developed between CWLA and the National Head Start Association to advance increased collaboration between child welfare and Head Start to support children and families.
- An informal partnership was developed with the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors for coordination around practice and policy for behavioral health-related issues.
- CWLA is hosting the official website for The National Research Agenda for a 21st Century Child and Family Well-Being System and collaborating with Casey Family Programs, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the William T. Grant Foundation on work related to this agenda.
- Updated the volume of CWLA's *Standards of Excellence for the Child Protective Services Function* and created a new volume on *Community-Based Prevention Services*, which will be released in 2024.
- CWLA National Fatherhood Advisory Committee was established.

## Education and Training:

- *Supervision to Advance Success and Excellence* curriculum was updated to include a focus on equity and trauma.
- *Traditions of Caring and Collaborating* kinship care curriculum has been updated and is now available in English and Spanish.



- A revised edition of *Building Blocks for Effective Co-Parenting* is now available in English and Spanish.
- Launched a series of trainings by CWLA Senior Fellows in 2022-2023 on a variety of topics including:
  - *Crisis Assessment and Intervention When Gun Violence and Trauma Strikes: A Five-Step Approach to Foster Hope, Collaboration, & Change*;
  - *A Responsive Framework of Care for Children and Youth with Emotional and Behavioral Health Challenges*; and
  - *From Discussing to Doing: What You Need to Know Before Launching a Racial Equity Effort*.

## Publications:

- CWLA Press produced:
  - Third Edition of **CARE: Creating Conditions for Change** in English and Spanish;
  - **Child Sexual Abuse: Practice Approaches to Prevention and Intervention**;
  - **Child Sexual Abuse: Investigations and Assessments**;
  - *Child Neglect, Inequity, and Poverty: Contextual Issues and Implications*;
  - Two special issue **Child Welfare** journals – *Latino and Hispanic Child and Family Well-Being and Social Determinants of Health*
  - Five-Volume *Child and Family-Serving Systems: Compendium of Policy and Practice*

## Projects and Activities in the Works:

- Development of a series of public policy briefs on residential care, child poverty, and the child welfare workforce.

- Launch of a Father Engagement Podcast series in 2024.
- Special issue **Child Welfare** journals to be released shortly or in the coming year include:
  - Opportunities for Child Welfare to Respond to Prenatal Alcohol and Other Substance Exposures;
  - Participatory Research, which will be edited by people with lived experience;
  - African American Families; and
  - Volume 2 on Latino and Hispanic Child and Family Well-Being.
- Publication of Volume 2 of *Child Neglect, Inequity, & Poverty: Contextual Issues & Implications*.
- Debut of the Emerging Leaders Committee's Learning Collaborative on Leadership Development
  - Launch of an online Advocacy Platform and Legislative Tracker.





# OUR MEMBERSHIP

## ALABAMA

Alabama Department of Human Resources  
Children's Aid Society of Alabama  
Christian Services for Children in Alabama  
Gateway

## ALASKA

Alaska Department of Family  
and Community Services  
Child Welfare Academy,  
University of Alaska-Anchorage

## ARKANSAS

Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

## ARIZONA

Arizona Council  
of Human Service Providers  
Casa de los Ninos  
Casey Family Programs – Arizona Office  
Conant, Ali  
Seal, Kendall

## AUSTRALIA

Noye, Marion

## BERMUDA

Bermuda Department of Child  
and Family Services

## CALIFORNIA

CASA of Humboldt  
Casey Family Programs – San Diego  
Field Office  
Latino Family Institute, Inc.

## A Greater Hope

California Alliance of Child  
and Family Services  
California Department of Social Services,  
Children & Family Services Division  
Casey Family Programs –  
Bay Area Field Office  
Casey Family Programs –  
Los Angeles County Field Office  
Central California Training Academy  
Children and Family Futures, Inc.  
Children's Bureau of Southern California  
Children's Institute, Inc.  
Communities in Motion  
Contra Costa County Employment  
and Human Services Department  
County of Sacramento, Department  
of Health & Human Services  
Drew Child Development Corporation  
ExtraordinaryFamilies  
Foster Love  
Fresno County Department  
of Social Services  
HUGS Foster Family Agency  
Human Services Agency  
of San Mateo County  
Kern County Department  
of Human Services  
Los Angeles County Department  
of Children & Family Services  
Nuevo Amanecer Latino  
Children's Services  
Orange County Social Services Agency  
Purposely Chosen, Inc.

## Raising the Future

San Gabriel Children's Center  
Santa Clara County Social Services Agency  
Saving Innocence  
Stanford Sierra Youth & Families  
Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Department  
of Community & Family Wellness  
Trinity Youth Services  
University of California,  
Davis – Continuing and Professional  
Education – Human Services  
Wayfinder Family Services  
Cagle, Bobby  
Colby, Lily  
Jackson, Michael  
Johnson, Heather  
Pasztor, Eileen Mayers  
Pro, Cherie  
Vietze, Alan  
Zepeda, Jeany

## CANADA

Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC)  
Davies, Deb  
Kirkby, Levi  
Koster, Andrew

## COLORADO

Casey Family Programs –  
Indian Child Welfare Program  
Colorado Association of Family  
and Children's Agencies  
Colorado Department of Human Services

## Jefferson Hills

JusticeWorks Colorado  
Raise the Future  
Arnold, Lauren

## CONNECTICUT

Child and Family Agency of  
Southeastern Connecticut  
Connecticut Alliance  
of Foster and Adoptive Families  
Connecticut Department  
of Children and Families  
NAFI Connecticut  
'r kids Family Center  
The Connection, Inc.  
Gentile-Doyle, Cathy

## DELAWARE

Delaware Department of Services for  
Children, Youth and Their Families  
Fischer, Abigail  
Kelly, Vicky

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Children's Advocacy Institute  
Elevance Health  
Human Rights Campaign Foundation  
Lutheran Social Services  
of the National Capital Area  
National Children's Alliance  
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops,  
Migration and Refugee Services,  
Office of Special Programs  
Voice for Adoption  
Brooks, Brandynicole

## OUR MEMBERSHIP CONTINUED

### FLORIDA

4Kids of South Florida, Inc.  
Center for Family and  
Child Enrichment, Inc.  
ChildNet, Inc.  
Children's Services Council  
of Broward County  
Citrus Family Care Network  
Families First of Palm Beach County  
Family Support Services  
of North Florida, Inc.  
Florida Department of Children  
and Families  
Florida Institute for Child Welfare  
Florida Network of Youth  
and Family Services  
Heartland for Children  
Juvenile Welfare Board  
of Pinellas County  
Kids Central, Inc.  
Neighbor To Family, Inc.  
Selfless Love Foundation  
Supervised Visitation Network  
Youth and Family Alternatives, Inc.  
Gifford, Danielle  
Gillen, Marti  
Hawks, Will

### GEORGIA

Bloom Our Youth, Inc.  
CHRIS 180  
Georgia Emergency Stabilization  
and Assessment Centers for Children  
(GESACC)  
Multi-Agency Alliance for Children, Inc.

Together Georgia  
University of Georgia School  
of Social Work  
Blodgett, Alison  
Krause, Virginia  
New, Katie

### HAWAII

Consuelo Foundation  
Parents and Children Together

### IDAHO

Casey Family Programs — Idaho Office

### ILLINOIS

Firman Community Services  
Illinois Collaboration on Youth  
Illinois Department of Children  
and Family Services  
Jane Addams College of Social Work,  
University of Illinois-Chicago  
Maryville Academy  
One Hope United  
Shelter, Inc.  
University of Illinois Springfield Alliance  
for Experiential Problem-Based Learning  
Teteak-Berg, Heather

### INDIANA

Family Solutions  
Indiana Association of Resources and  
Child Advocacy  
Indiana Department of Child Services  
The Villages of Indiana, Inc.  
Wythe, Jayna

### IOWA

Coalition for Family  
and Children's Services in Iowa  
McHugh, Taylor

### KANSAS

Children's Alliance of Kansas  
Kansas Family Advisory Network  
Saint Francis Ministries

### KENTUCKY

Children's Alliance  
Kentucky Department for Community  
Based Services  
Bowman, Karen

### LOUISIANA

Clover  
Jewish Children's Regional Service  
Louisiana Department of Children  
and Family Services  
Raintree Children & Family Services  
Gray, Ernestine

### MAINE

Good Will Home Association  
Maine Department of Health  
and Human Services,  
Office of Child & Family Services  
Spurwink Services  
O'Neill, Moira  
Wilson, Annette

### MARYLAND

Allegany County Department  
of Social Services

Anne Arundel County Department  
of Social Services  
Baltimore City Department  
of Social Services  
Baltimore County Department  
of Social Services  
Calvert County Department  
of Social Services  
Caroline County Department  
of Social Services  
Carroll County Department  
of Social Services  
Cecil County Department  
of Social Services  
Center For Adoption Support  
and Education, Inc.  
Charles County Department  
of Social Services  
Dorchester County Department  
of Social Services  
Family-Run Executive Director  
Leadership Association, Inc. (FREDLA)  
Frederick County Department  
of Social Services  
Garrett County Department  
of Social Services  
Harford County Department  
of Social Services  
Howard County Department  
of Social Services  
Kent County Department  
of Social Services  
Lutheran Immigration  
and Refugee Service  
Maryland Department  
of Human Services



Montgomery County Department  
of Social Services

National Adoption Association

National Foster Parent Association  
(NFPA)

Prince George's County Department  
of Social Services

Queen Anne's County Department  
of Social Services

Somerset County Department  
of Social Services

St. Mary's County Department  
of Social Services

Talbot County Department  
of Social Services

The Children's Home, Inc.

The Martin Pollak Project, Inc

The National Center for Children  
and Families

Washington County Department  
of Social Services

Wicomico County Department  
of Social Services

Worcester County Department  
of Social Services

Castillo, Cristel

Garcia, Andrea

Macer, Sam

Wilson, Dana

#### **MASSACHUSETTS**

Boston University School of Social Work

Center for Human Development, Inc.

Children's League of Massachusetts

EMPath

Federation for Children with Special Needs

Home for Little Wanderers

Key Program, Inc.

Massachusetts Department  
of Children & Families

NAFI / NFI

New England Association of Child  
Welfare Commissioners and Directors

NFI Massachusetts

Public Consulting Group

RFK Community Alliance

The NAN Project

Walden School, Learning Center  
for Deaf Children

Wayside Youth & Family  
Support Network

Brown, Kelly

Chung, Connie

Root, Kirsten

#### **MICHIGAN**

Adoption Option, Inc.

Michigan Federation for Children  
and Families

Ortega, Robert

Tadgerson, Stacey

#### **MINNESOTA**

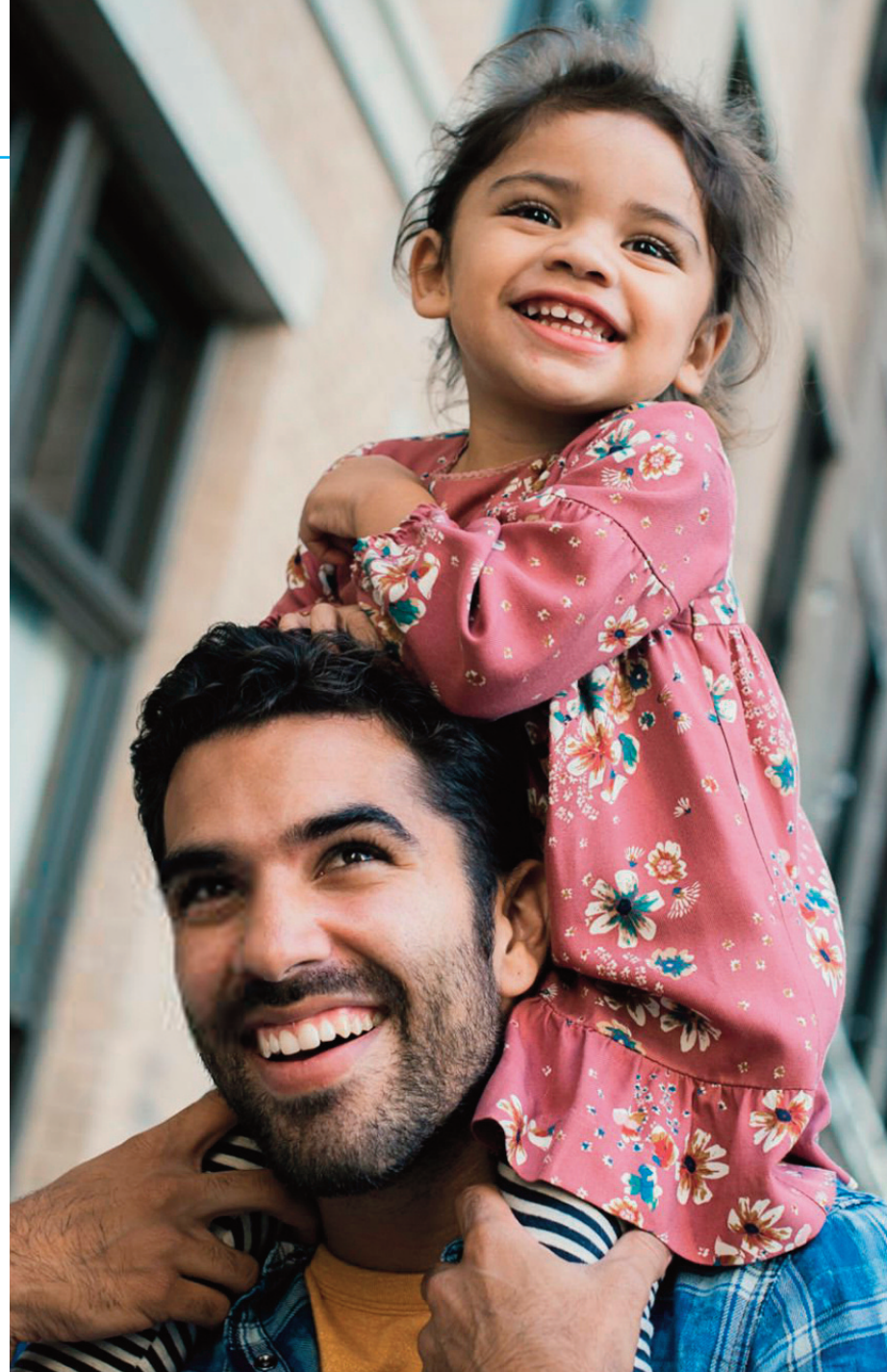
Hennepin County Human Services  
and Public Health Department

Minnesota Office of Ombudsperson  
for Families

Olmsted County Health, Housing  
and Human Services

Optum Behavioral Health

Fineday, Anita



## OUR MEMBERSHIP CONTINUED

### MISSISSIPPI

Canopy Children's Solutions  
Hope Village for Children, Inc.  
HORNE  
Mississippi Department of Child  
Protection Services

### MISSOURI

FosterAdopt Connect  
Missouri Department of Social Services,  
Children's Division  
Parents as Teachers National Center

### MONTANA

New Day Ranch, Inc.

### NEBRASKA

Center for Holistic Development, Inc.  
Nebraska Association of Homes  
& Services for Children  
Nebraska Department of Health  
and Human Services, Division  
of Children & Family Services  
Omni Inventive Care  
Wright, Andrea

### NEVADA

Nevada Department of Health and  
Human Services, Division of  
Child & Family Services  
Cash-Calhoun, LaTanya  
Summers, Alicia  
Thomas, Sarah

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

Child Welfare Education Partnership  
at Granite State College  
NFI North  
Cloran, Martin

### NEW JERSEY

Acenda Integrated  
Health  
Anchor House, Inc.  
Center for Great  
Expectations  
Children's Aid and  
Family Services, Inc.  
Community Access  
Unlimited  
Embrella  
Family Connections  
Family Focused Treatment  
Association (FFTA)  
New Jersey Alliance for Children,  
Youth and Families, Inc.  
New Jersey Department of Children  
and Families  
Passaic County CASA  
The Children's Home Society  
of New Jersey  
The Father Center of New Jersey  
Manley, Elizabeth

### NEW MEXICO

All Faiths  
Childhaven, Inc.  
New Mexico Children, Youth & Families  
Dept., Protective Services Division  
Southwest Family Guidance Center

### NEW YORK

Catholic Guardian Services  
Children's Aid  
Citizens' Committee for Children  
of New York, Inc.



Coalition for Hispanic Family Services

Council of Family and Child  
Caring Agencies

CSH (Corporation for  
Supportive Housing)

Good Shepherd Services  
JCCA

Lower East Side Family Union

Martin de Porres Group Homes

New Directions Youth & Family  
Services, Inc.

New York City Administration  
for Children's Services

Pajama Program Inc.

Professional Development Program  
Rockefeller College, University at Albany

The Children's Village

The New York Foundling

Cullen, Alexis

Webster, Erica

### NEW ZEALAND

Kirikiriroa Family Services Trust

### NORTH CAROLINA

Another Choice for Black Children Inc.  
Durham County Dept. of Social Services  
Family Centered Treatment  
Foundation, Inc.  
FRIENDS National Center for  
Community- Based Child Abuse  
Prevention  
Lutheran Services Carolinas  
Masonic Home For Children at Oxford, Inc.  
North Carolina Dept. of Health & Human  
Services, Division of Social Services  
Wake County Human Services

### NORTH DAKOTA

Children & Family Services  
Training Center  
Home On The Range

### OHIO

CareSource  
Foster Care to Success  
Franklin County Children Services  
Kinnect  
Licking County Department  
of Job and Family Services  
Lorain County Children Services  
Lucas County Children Services  
Ohio Children's Alliance  
Raven House Inc.  
Trumbull County Children Services



## **OKLAHOMA**

Choctaw Nation Children and Family Services  
Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services  
The University of Oklahoma National Resource Center for Youth Services  
Tulsa Girls' Home

## **OREGON**

Department of Children & Family Services – Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Jasper Mountain  
National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA)  
Options Counseling and Family Services  
Oregon Alliance  
Oregon Department of Human Services  
Burns, Monique  
Edwinson, Roxanne  
Mitchell, Monique  
Reams, Redmond

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

Adelphoi Services Inc.  
Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health  
JusticeWorks YouthCare, Inc.  
Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center, University of Pittsburgh  
Pennsylvania Dept. of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth & Families  
The Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research, University of Pennsylvania  
Voce  
Youth Service, Inc.

Bunce, Ron  
Kulick, Anita  
Lynch, Rufus Sylvester  
Volk, Steve  
Wagenhals, Diane

## **PUERTO RICO**

Proyecto Nacer, Inc.

## **RHODE ISLAND**

Children's Friend  
Foster Forward  
Harmony Hill School, Inc.  
Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

Carolina Youth Development Center  
Helping and Lending Outreach Support

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment  
South Dakota Dept. of Social Services, Division of Child Protective Services

## **TENNESSEE**

Chambliss Center for Children  
The Florence Crittenton Agency, Inc.  
Youth Villages  
Dittman, Sarah

## **TEXAS**

Casey Family Programs – Austin Field Office  
Casey Family Programs – San Antonio Field Office

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston  
Centene Corporation  
Children's Emergency Relief International (CERI)  
Harris County Resources for Children and Adults  
Magellan Health  
Rainbow of Love  
Ratcliff Youth and Family Services  
Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services  
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services  
Feuerstein, Stefan  
Ulsher, Joan  
Waddell, Stan

## **UTAH**

Children's Service Society  
Utah Department of Human Services, Division of Child & Family Services  
Utah Foster Care Foundation

## **VERMONT**

NFI Vermont  
Vermont Department for Children and Families  
Richards, Ann

## **VIRGINIA**

ADORE Children and Family Services  
City of Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services  
Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Department of Social Services

Child Welfare Information Gateway ChildSavers  
Fairfax County Department of Family Services  
Foster Care Alumni of America  
Friends Association for Children  
Loudoun County Department of Family Services  
Richmond Dept. of Social Services  
Virginia Beach Department of Human Services  
Virginia Dept. of Social Services  
Boone-Thornton, Michelle

## **WASHINGTON**

Casey Family Programs  
Casey Family Programs – Seattle Field Office  
Casey Family Programs – Yakima Field Office  
National CASA/GAL Association for Children  
Partners for Our Children  
The Mockingbird Society  
Ulrich, Sonja

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

Concord University Social Work Department  
Necco of West Virginia  
The Children's Home of Wheeling, Inc.

## **WISCONSIN**

Evident Change  
Burton, Lisette  
Knott, Katie

# OUR LEADERSHIP

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**LAUREN ARNOLD**

CEO, Raise the Future (retired)  
Independent Consultant

**CARL AYERS**

Deputy Commissioner  
for Human Services,  
Virginia Department  
of Social Services

**RICK AZZARO**

Executive Director, Voce

**EMILIO BENITEZ**

Attorney at Law and Consultant

**ANGELA CONNOR**

Child and Family Program  
Specialist/Region 9  
Children's Bureau/ACF/USDHHS

**VANNESSA DORANTES**

Commissioner, Connecticut  
Department of Children and Families

**YARIDIS GARCIA**

Community Engagement Manager  
Juvenile Welfare Board  
of Pinellas County

**ERNESTINE STEWARD GRAY**

Juvenile Court Judge (Retired)  
Orleans Parish Juvenile Court

**LESLIE GROSS**

Director, Family Well-Being  
Strategy Group  
The Annie E. Casey Foundation

**MARVA HAMMONS**

Senior Executive Fellow  
Casey Family Programs

**RICHARD HEYL DE ORTIZ**

Director of Training  
and Program Support  
CASA of New York State

**MIKE JACKSON**

Chief Executive Officer (retired)  
Drew Child Development Corporation

**VICKY KELLY**

Director (retired)  
Department of Services for Children,  
Youth and Families

**KEITH LIEDERMAN**

Chief Executive Officer  
Clover (Formerly Kingsley House)

**DARCEY MERRITT**

Professor, Crown Family School  
of Social Work, Policy, and Practice  
The University of Chicago

**ALEX MORALES**

President and CEO (retired)  
Children's Bureau

**TERRY STIGDON**

Regional Chief Executive Officer  
American Red Cross – Indiana Region

**STACEY TADGERSON**

Departmental Specialist  
Michigan DHHS Economic  
Stability Administration

**ANAYRA TÚA-LÓPEZ**

Chief Executive Officer  
Proyecto Nacer, Inc.

**KRISZTINA UDVARDI**

President and CEO  
All Faiths Children's  
Advocacy Center

**ALAN VIETZE**

Consultant, Therapist,  
CWLA Senior Fellow

**CARNITRA WHITE**

Principal Deputy Secretary  
of Programs Maryland Department  
of Human Services



## OUR STAFF TEAM

**Rachel Adams**  
Publications Editor

**Gaelle Augustin**  
Training and  
Administration  
Associate

**Lenette Azzi-Lessing**  
Senior Fellow

**Ray Bierria**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Tim Briceland-Betts**  
Senior Fellow

**Harold Briggs**  
Senior Fellow

**Julie Brite**  
Director,  
Administrative Services

**Julie Collins**  
Vice President,  
Practice Excellence

**Joe Costa**  
Senior Fellow

**April Curtis**  
Senior Fellow

**Paul DiLorenzo**  
Senior Fellow

**Lucille Echohawk**  
Senior Fellow

**Deborah  
Wilson Gadsden**  
Director, Equity,  
Inclusion and Belonging

**Charlene Haskell**  
Executive Coordinator

**Kim Hoyt**  
Senior Fellow

**Larry Liederman**  
Senior Fellow

**Rufus Sylvester Lynch**  
Senior Fellow

**Gary Mallon**  
Senior Fellow

**Kati Mapa**  
Director, Public Policy

**Riva Reed**  
Associate Director,  
Membership  
and Conferences

**Marlene Saulsbury**  
Director, Publications

**Michael Schultz**  
Senior Fellow

**John Sciamanna**  
Senior Policy  
Consultant

**Julie Springwater**  
Senior Fellow

**Marcus Stallworth**  
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