

Portraits of Hope

Summer 2024 Newsletter

Celebrating 150 years of service
to families and people like you.

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YEARS OF CHILD
AND FAMILY
SERVICES



Thank you for being the Lead Sponsor
of Heartlight at the Harbor!



Kaleida Health

A Message From President and CEO, Elizabeth McPartland

Dear Friends,

Every year, we acknowledge and honor all of our donors who have supported Child and Family Services (C+FS) during the previous fiscal year. Because of your incredible support, we have been able to help provide children with a safe place to sleep at night, domestic violence survivors begin a life of peace, individuals address their mental health needs and students achieve educational success. Thank you for your generosity.

It is also important to recognize donors who chose to make a planned gift in order to help create long-term sustainability for the Agency. This can be a powerful way to demonstrate your trust and belief in the mission of the charity you have supported over the years.

When I made my planned gift to C+FS, I wanted to dedicate an endowment fund in memory of my brother, Paul.

Paul passed away in 1996 at the age of 21. I remember when we were children, me playing with my Barbie dolls while Paul played with his Star Wars figures. Occasionally, Han Solo would travel in Barbie's convertible. As we got older, our activities overlapped more, and we enjoyed attending concerts together. While in high school, Paul decided he wanted us to see a Meatloaf concert. To me, this felt like the longest concert in history, and Paul's lack of driving finesse meant that we were almost the last car to exit the Darien Lake parking lot. I found the evening painful, but he was thrilled with the experience. I will always remember the smile on his face that night. These are the memories that I hope to keep alive.

I invited those close to Paul to contribute to the Paul T. Orrange Memorial Fund as a way to honor him while giving back to the community. This allows my family and friends an opportunity to help keep his memory active. Paul was not alive when I started working at C+FS, but he was definitely one of my biggest cheerleaders and I'd like to think he would be proud of our work.

When my tenure as CEO began in March 2020, I immediately saw firsthand how planned giving could help the Agency. Understanding that we had to keep our kids safe, and our domestic violence shelter open during the COVID lockdown, we significantly increased the wages of those providing services in our children's residential programs and Haven House shelter. Growing our Foundation through planned giving - and having it to assist in scenarios such as this - is critical to the sustainability of C+FS.

As we continue to celebrate over 150 years of C+FS, we encourage supporters to consider making a planned giving gift. You can pass on the legacy of those no longer with us in order to make a better tomorrow for future generations.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth McPartland
President and CEO



Elizabeth McPartland,
President and CEO

Board Member Spotlight



Kara Oliver-Perez posed on the runway at Fashion Show with a Twist, 2023!

“This is how I want to give back and this is an organization I want to give back with.” – Kara Oliver-Perez

As an emerging leader, multi-faceted communications professional and published author, Kara Oliver-Perez brings her expertise and passion for serving the community on the Board of Directors for both Child and Family Services and the Stanley G. Falk School.

Originally from East Harlem, Kara grew up surrounded by a family of educators; she always wanted to be involved in education. Throughout her career, she has worked with public schools, local charter schools and private institutions, including her alma mater, Niagara University.

For years, Kara worked as a youth program coordinator where she had the opportunity to showcase how diversity directly affects children in the WNY community. Kara’s role and passion for diversity, equity and inclusion work allowed her to tell authentic stories about why her work is so important.

“DEI work is imperative because it allows innovation and creativity to exist within an organization,” emphasized Kara.

When she was five months pregnant, Kara lost her unborn son. Experiencing such a tragedy helped define Kara’s life purpose. She described her work as a “labor of love” centered around children having access to literacy, education and a better quality of life. One year later, Kara was appointed to C+FS Board of Directors. When asked why she chose C+FS, Kara responded, “Doing the work at C+FS is how I honor my son. There’s a level of transparency, honesty, integrity and dedication that resonates with me personally.”

As a board member, Kara looks forward to introducing more talented individuals to C+FS and witnessing the Agency become the premier social services organization for families and children. “This organization endeavors everything to ensure families are getting the services and resources they need to live a successful, sustaining life,” explained Kara. “I truly believe everybody at this organization wants better for our community.”

Recently, Kara was also appointed to the Falk School’s Board of Directors. Kara is most excited to see the Falk School establish more relationships with community partners, become more diverse and continue curating an environment that recognizes the whole child.

“There is a need for human services now more than ever,” stated Kara. “Everyone, whether they recognize it or not, is impacted by the work of C+FS. There are so many different programs, support services and subsidiaries that work with C+FS. You may not need a service now, but you never know when you might.”

Thank you, Kara, for your dedication to fulfilling our mission and being a valuable board member for C+FS and the Falk School.

A Second Chance: Forever Family Adds One "Moore"

Just over one year ago, Cece Moore's adoption made national headlines after the family was featured on Good Morning America. The morning of Cece's adoption, Jeff and Cindy Moore found out they would also be able to adopt Cece's brother, Chance, whom they had been fostering since he was three months old. On Friday, June 21, Cindy and Jeff were thrilled to make Chance's adoption official.

Chance's "signing day" – as the Moore family referred to it due to Chance's love of sports – was a heartwarming event after he spent 1,308 days in foster care, or "training camp."

Older siblings Matthew and Mikayla couldn't contain their excitement that "Buba" was officially their brother. They talked about how hard he makes them laugh, which everyone could see in the courtroom hallways throughout the afternoon as the siblings played together. "He's always been my brother, but now he's really my brother," Mikayla smiled.

When asked about the newest adoption, Cindy discussed how happy she was to unite the family. She explained that Cece and Chance have an "immeasurable biological bond" that can be seen in everything they do. "They have the same mannerisms, the same personalities and spunkiness. It's just so neat to see the two of them interacting," Cindy said.



Jeff, Cindy and Chance Moore.



Chance had an entire team of family members show up to support his adoption.

Throughout the Moore family's fostering journey, they have fallen in love with the process. They understand the need for foster parents who are willing to open their homes, particularly for multiple siblings. Not only are Cece and Chance biological siblings, but Matthew and Mikayla are also biological siblings. "This is a huge accomplishment to be able to keep the siblings together," said Bailie Murty, who worked with the Moore Family as their Case Planner. "It's so important for kids in the foster care system to be able to maintain those connections and bonds to their families."

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent and would like to learn more, please email homefinding@cfsbny.org or call (716) 882-0555.

Thank You 2023-2024 Donors!

Child and Family Services extends a sincere thank you to the following donors who gave financial contributions totaling \$100 or more during the 2023-24 fiscal year (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024). All efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please call (716) 335-7079 with any questions or corrections.

2023-2024 Grant Awards

Circle of Hearts (\$10,000+)

East Hill Foundation

Circle of Family (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Buffalo Rotary Club
Evans Devereux Memorial Fund
Kilian J. and Caroline F. Schmitt Foundation, Inc.

Circle of Love (\$2,000-\$4,999)

Health Foundation of Western & Central New York
The John R. Oishei Foundation
RBC Wealth Management
The Starbucks Foundation

Circle of Guardians (\$1,500-\$9,999)

Maria Love Convalescent Fund

Circle of Hope (\$1,000-\$1,499)

The Almar Family Foundation



The Rachael Warrior Foundation, Inc. presented C+FS with a \$125,000 check.



Wegmans employees volunteered at the Stanley G. Falk School on 716 Day.

Circle of Hearts (\$10,000+)

26 Shirts
Amazon
Melissa Baumgart
Paul N. Bogner
Buffalo Sabres Foundation
Geico
Kathleen G. Gleason
Hodgson Russ LLP
Independent Health
Johnson & Johnson
Kaleida Health

William and Colleen Loecher
Mark and Carol Russell Family Foundation, Inc.
Elizabeth and Kevin McPartland
Michael and Kathleen Munster
Orchard Park Country Club, Inc.
Rachael Warrior Foundation Inc.
Eugenia H. Smith
John and Amy Spitzmiller
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.
West Herr Automotive Group

Thank You 2023-2024 Donors!



Adopt-a-Family 2023

Circle of Family (\$5,000-\$9,999)

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Circle of Love (\$2,000-\$4,999)

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 Michael K. Walsh



WNY MetroRoberts Realty's HOME committee gave \$1,400 to Haven House.



Colleen O'Neill and her family at Celebration of Friends 2024.

Thank You 2023-2024 Donors!



Dr. Constance Moss and her husband.

Circle of Guardians (\$1,500-\$1,999)

Joe J. Arcara
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The Fit Physique
Thomas C. Toy III
Joseph Zwolenkiewicz

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Lancaster Women's Civic Club
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Pepsi-Cola Buffalo Bottling Corp.
Matthew Stahlman
The BFLO Store
The Smith Family Foundation
Richard and Terry Wall
Zdzislaw and Claudia Kania
Zonta Club of Kenmore

Circle of Children (\$500-\$999)

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Catherine Rose Floral Design
Diane J. Ceravolo and James Ptak
Mark Coughlin
Pat Daigler
Delta Kappa Gamma Society, Alpha Lambda Chapter
Albert Erni
F.O.E. Depew Lancaster Ladies Auxiliary #2692
Kathleen Gabriel
Denise Geissert
David Gottfried



Delta Kappa Gamma Society, Alpha Lambda Chapter organized a purse donation with essentials for Haven House.

Thank You 2023-2024 Donors!

Circle of Children (\$500-\$999) Continued

David Gottfried
Michele O. Heffernan and
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Jin Yun
Zonta Club of Cheektowaga-Lancaster
Zonta Club of Grand Island



Little Smiles, a volunteer-driven children's charity donated uniforms to the Stanley G. Falk School.



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Kappa Upsilon Zeta Chapter.

Circle of Caring (\$250-\$499)

Donna Allen
Alpha Sigma Tau Epsilon Rho Chapter at SUNY Geneseo
Alpha Sigma Tau Geneseo
American Baptist Foundation
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Megan Andrews
Diane J. Andriaccio
Thomas and Susan Ballard
Kathryn M. Barker
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Kathleen H. Lell
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Lisa Marsh

Thank You 2023-2024 Donors!

Circle of Caring (\$250-\$499) Continued

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Hayatidance Studio hosted a fundraiser for Haven House.



Wegmans employees at Heartlight at the Harbor 2024.

Circle of Friends (\$100-\$249)

Sally Abell

Actuarial Consulting Services, Inc.

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Amherst Central High School Women 4 Change

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Kathleen L. Anderson

Amy Atkinson

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Buffalo Regional Doll Club

Patricia Bulger

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Jennifer Read



Stanley G. Falk high school students partnered with The Foundry to create night lights for Beds for Buffalo and garden trellises for Grassroots Gardens.

Thank You 2023-2024 Donors!

Circle of Friends (\$100-\$249) Continued

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Mary Beth White
Sharon Winer
Women's Buffalo Golf Club
Karen Woodward



Hodgson Russ LLP at Heartlight at the Harbor 2024.



JetBlue assembled birthday boxes and "Sweet Cases" for children.



Girl Scout Troop 30173 donated empowerment packs to Haven House.



Shine the Light 2023 press conference.

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2024 – 2025

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Buffalo, New York 14214
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Cheektowaga Counseling
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Cheektowaga, New York 14225
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Buffalo, New York 14209
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Buffalo, New York 14202
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Foster Care and Adoption
824 1/2 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209
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Haven House
Domestic Violence Hotline
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www.cfsbny.org/hh-chat/

Stanley G. Falk School
848 Delaware Avenue
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 Child and Family Services of
Erie County, Inc.