



Children's
Foundation
of America™



2018 Annual Report

ABOUT US

Over 400,000 children each year are not able to live with their families as the result of trauma due to abuse, neglect and abandonment. The needs of these children are greater than public funding is able to provide. The **Children's Foundation of America** identifies and accesses resources to support foster care, adoption, residential treatment, mental health and community-based programs of the highest quality, so that children in need or who have been the victims of trauma, abuse, neglect or abandonment may lead healthy, productive lives.

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Trinity Classic Golf Tournament

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Outreach & Awareness

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Nationally, over 400,000 children each year are not able to live with their families due to the trauma created by abuse, neglect and abandonment they have experienced. What seems like an overwhelming problem is best addressed on the local level by organizations that help children. That is where the Children's Foundation of America comes in, by "being the difference" in one child's life at a time.

We do this through community engagement and by "Providing an opportunity for every person to help children heal, learn and thrive." In this way, the Children's Foundation of America, through its donors, partners, sponsors and volunteers, achieves its mission and brings happiness and normalcy to the lives of foster and at-risk children.

Especially noteworthy during 2018, was that the Foundation awarded \$55,000 in scholarships to foster youth to attend college or vocational programs. Outreach efforts of our dedicated staff allowed the Foundation to engage more volunteers and reach more children. During our 2018 Holiday Heroes gift drive, the Foundation provided more presents to at-risk and foster children than ever before. Back-to-school supplies were provided to hundreds of children. And once again, the Annual Golf Tournament raised in excess of \$100,000.

The Children's Foundation of America is a good investment of charitable dollars, because 93% of all funds raised directly benefit the children. Only 7% goes to overhead. That is an important factor when donors give to a charity. They want to give to an

organization knowing that their donation is being responsibly stewarded. That is why I am a donor to the Foundation also.

The time I give to the Foundation in my capacity as the volunteer CEO and Chairman of the Board is most rewarding. To our donors, sponsors, partners and volunteers who support the Foundation, I want to offer my deepest thanks.

If you have not done so already, please join us and Be the Difference in the lives of children who need your help the most.



JOHN NEUBER
CEO & Chairman of the Board
Children's Foundation of America



CFA's Trinity Classic Raises \$130,000

In October, over 110 golfers gathered for a day of purposeful play at South Hills Country Club in support of foster youth at Trinity Youth Services. HUB International once again presented the event and businesses like Image Source, Sysco, Kaiser Permanente, Sun Life Financial, and American Financial Network, sent teams to participate in the tournament.

This year's theme was "Golftoberfest: The best, wurst golf tournament benefiting trauma-affected children." The band Oompah Meisters dressed in their finest lederhosen and provided traditional German music for guests to enjoy. Claremont Craft Ales sponsored our "biergarten" lunch complete with bratwurst bar and dessert from Scoops on Tap ice cream.

TNN sponsored our Helicopter Ball Drop for a chance for participants to win \$10,000. Our executive director, Cher Ofstedahl, won with her designated golf ball landing first in the whole, but since she saw that a second ball had also landed in the whole, she offered to donate \$5,000 of the winnings to the Foundation and let the next person win the other \$5,000.

Afterward, golfers got to participate in a putting contest then headed out to the course where Buca di Beppo was serving tiramisu tastings for guests. John Elway's Claremont Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram provided an opportunity to win a car for a hole in one,

although no one achieved that feat this year.

Proceeding with the evening, guests gathered in the banquet hall for a German-style dinner. Afterward, Trinity Youth Services CEO, John Neiuber, and Children's Foundation of America Executive Director, Cher Ofstedahl, were our masters of ceremonies. They began by awarding raffle prizes. Packages included a full trip to San Francisco, \$500 The Diamond Center gift certificate, \$500 Amazon gift card, Palm Springs weekend getaway, tickets to local Oktoberfests, Los Angeles museum package, San Diego package and so much more donated by generous companies helping to raise funds for children in need.

As for the tournament, the HUB International/Kaiser Permanente team took 3rd place, a team of guests of the CEO won 2nd place, and 1st place was awarded to team Image Source.

We are so grateful to everyone who participated and supported children in need at our 2018 Trinity Classic golf tournament and fundraiser. The work we do would not be possible without our generous sponsors, volunteers, business partners and individual supporters. You are all winners in our book! Thank you for being the difference for children in need. Together, we raised \$130,000 for children in foster care and residential programs at Trinity Youth Services.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Another year has come and gone. Time really does fly when you're having fun, especially if you are having fun and making a difference in the lives of others!

Children's Foundation of America (CFA) really put the "fun" in fundraising this past year, as evidenced by the smiles and laughter we experienced at our numerous community events, speaking engagements, volunteer projects and in the distribution of gifts to children and youth in need. One of the things that makes what we do so impactful, is the overwhelming amount of joy that can be found in the smallest acts of giving. The Children's Foundation connects compassionate, caring individuals and businesses with the significant, specific needs of children living in foster homes, therapeutic residential treatment centers and mental health settings. These needs may be as simple as providing tutoring to a child who has missed too much school as a result of abuse or neglect; or purchasing knee pads and sports shoes for a shy youth, who overcame abandonment issues and found the confidence to try out (successfully!) for his school's soccer team.

The past year provided so many joyful examples like these, where generous donors and volunteers gave of themselves to provide foster children with opportunities to fit in with their non-fostered peers. Being unable to participate in activities; or being labeled "different" adds to the isolation, loneliness and insecurity children can feel without love and support. How amazing it is to be part of an organization that helps kids feel special by allowing them to feel normal!

I do not want to give the impression that the Children's Foundation is only capable of helping one child at a time. During "Warm and Fuzzy February," several groups of our community volunteers created the cutest, coziest one-of-a-kind, hand-made blankets to literally wrap more than 150 children in love! Our annual golf tournament raised more than \$100,000 to directly benefit foster care, adoption

and emancipation programs serving more than 300 children and youth. "Funny 4 A Reason," the Foundation's yearly comedy show, hosted by the world-famous Improv comedy club, combined hilarity and charity to help raise funds for scholarships. CFA was thrilled to be able to offer \$55,000 in scholarship funds to youth entering college or vocational training programs in 2018.

If you are just learning about the Children's Foundation of America and the ENORMOUS, little, HUGE, tiny, wonderful work we are doing, I would like to personally invite you to join us and get involved – as a volunteer, a monthly donor or a corporate sponsor. The Foundation's mission is ***to provide every person with an opportunity to help children heal, learn and thrive***, and we have plenty of smile-inducing, laughter-producing opportunities to share. The truth is, we can't spell "FUN" without "U!"



CHER OFSTEDAH

Executive Director

Children's Foundation of America



Funny 4 A Reason Stirs Laughter for a Cause

The twelfth annual “Funny 4 A Reason” comedy benefit show featured some of today’s top comics at the famous Ontario Improv in April. Our host, Cher, began the evening introducing some new faces including Jessica Porter and Lindsey then welcomed southern California favorite, Jason Helfgott, to the stage.

Gayla Johnson followed, sharing hilarious stories about her former career being a children’s party clown. Gayla has been seen on Showtime: Fierce, Funny Women, Brothers and Sisters, Beverly Hills 90210, The Practice. She is a comedian, actress, producer and casting director.



Next up was Bruce Jingles, a fixture in the southern California comedy scene and seen on USO tours, ABC, VH1, NUVOTV, Showtime specials, “Driving Bill Crazy,” TMZ and has his own comedy album on iTunes, Pandora and Spotify: “Bruce Jingles: Comic” by RBC Records. Bruce brought the audience to tears of laughter with his impression of his mom getting on his case about getting his own place: “Is signing autographs supposed to impress

me? How about signing a lease?”

Jonny Loquasto, seen on Comics Unleashed, Gotham Comedy and Standup & Deliver, headlined the show. He is a comedian, author, physical therapist, sportscaster and “recovering Pennsylvanian.”

“I feel like we often make the mistake of assuming that if someone has an education that means they’re intelligent, which I don’t think they necessarily go hand-in-hand. It’s true! I have a master’s degree, I’m a moron,” he joked.

The evening of love and laughter raised funds for children in foster care, residential therapeutic programs and mental health services. This support allows children affected by abuse, neglect or abandonment to heal, learn and thrive from the trauma in their lives. Thank you to all our guests for contributing to the cause and a big thank you to our hilarious comedians who generously donated their time to entertain us! Thank you also to Ontario Improv for their hospitality in hosting our event.

Where Do the Funds Go?

Last year, the Children's Foundation of America provided so many wonderful opportunities to bring a sense of normalcy to children in need. We bought a digital camera for teens in a residential program to learn photography. We purchased a prom and interview suit for a young man in a group home. With your donations, we helped a teen in foster care take pre-college courses online. We partnered with a therapist who needed weighted therapy vests for trauma-affected toddlers. The vests bring a sense of security and comfort as the children learn to heal from their experiences.

We were very happy to provide a trip to Disneyland for five exceptional youth who were successfully turning their situation around. They were placed into a short term residential therapeutic program by probation and with the help of their therapists and support team, they are successfully completing their program and making some wise decisions for their future. To reward them, we partnered with their supervisors to send them to Disneyland for a day, complete with a food and souvenir allowance.

Did you know that contact lenses are not considered a necessity and therefore are not covered by public funding for foster youth? We knew we had to do something after hearing the story of a child who was being bullied at school for being in foster care and for having thick glasses. We purchased contact lenses for him, which will help him to focus on his schoolwork and building relationships.

This year, there were so many youth in need of education support. Youth with little to no family support, were provided their high school graduation cap and gown and, of course, their yearbook so they could share in celebrating the friendships they made. We helped former foster youth with paying for college expenses, special online courses and awarded a whopping \$55,000 in scholarship funds!

Our mission is to provide foster youth the same opportunities as their non-fostered peers. This year, we helped a foster youth join the wrestling team, by purchasing their needed gear and uniform. For others, it's the simple things that help a youth feel like a "normal kid," like getting to do holiday activities. We had one special request from a foster youth who wanted to take DIY classes to make their friends holiday gifts. Who could say no? What a thoughtful way to spread holiday cheer!

The Children's Foundation of America was also able to distribute thousands of items donated for children in need. We provided handmade blankets, springtime baskets, cards for kids, books, art therapy items, school supplies, birthday and seasonal festivities, holiday gifts and more.

It is only through our valued partnerships with local and corporate businesses, the community, volunteers and donors that we are able to accomplish what we have in 2018. Thank you to everyone who gave their time and resources to ***Be the Difference.***

Our Success in 2018

93%

Of funds raised directly benefit children

2,857

Children Supported

596

Individual Volunteers

3,367

Care Packages & Gifts Distributed



AWARENESS

The Children's Foundation of America conducts annual awareness campaigns to bring light to the children we support. Our volunteer team makes presentations to service and community groups, hosts social media campaigns and posts to community bulletin boards about the responsibility we have to help children in need.

April: National Child Abuse Prevention Month

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families. During the month of April and throughout the year, communities are encouraged to share child abuse and neglect prevention awareness strategies and activities and promote prevention across the country.

A big thank you to our business partners who raised funds during this month for this important cause. It's no laughing matter, during the month of April, the Foundation also hosts the annual Funny 4 A Reason comedy benefit show to raise funds and

awareness at the famous Improv comedy club.

May: National Foster Care Month

National Foster Care Month is a time to recognize that we all can play a part in enhancing the lives of children and youth in foster care. It is a month set aside to acknowledge foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other members of the community who help children and youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections.

The Foundation provides gifts for resource families during this month and works with community partners to raise funds and awareness. Additionally, this year we partnered with She Stories and the dA Center for the Arts to collect **\$500 worth of care items for teen girls in foster care!**

November: National Adoption Month

While all adoption-related issues are important, the particular focus of this month is the adoption of children currently in foster care. Raising awareness of foster care helps remove the stigma of adoption and celebrates adoption as children become part of their forever families.

IMPACT

The Children's Foundation of America conducts several campaigns a year to collect care items for children in need.

In our Warm & Fuzzy February campaign, volunteers came together to create handmade comforts for youth. This year volunteers made colorful fleece blankets with fringe. We also collected other things for care packages including books, plush animals, pajamas, socks and handmade cards of encouragement. In all, we distributed **262 "Warm & Fuzzy" care packages** to youth in need.

In the spring, our volunteers compiled **180 springtime baskets** filled with goodies, candy and toys for children in foster care and shelters. And in July, we provided **200 trauma-affected youth with art therapy kits**.

With the partnership of the community, we collected **300 backpacks and school supplies** for disadvantaged youth. During our Holiday Heroes campaign, we provided **2,365 toys** to displaced youth.



SCHOLARSHIPS

The Foundation was proud to award 11 very deserving former foster youth with transitional support through scholarships this year!

The Michael A. Alexander Memorial Scholarship Fund is designed to assist Trinity Youth Services present and former foster youth in pursuing their academic and/or vocational education. The goal of the scholarship fund is to ensure academic success and/or a successful emancipation from Trinity's care.

The fund allows youth who are or have been in Trinity's care to experience a network of support, the keys to successful emancipation, and the understanding that regardless of their past, it is always possible to look toward a brighter future.

Each scholarship assists youth by granting awards of up to \$5,000 per year, totaling **\$55,000 in scholarships awarded** in 2018. There are several ways we are supporting these very bright and motivated youth as they enter independence in adulthood.

We helped one young man with a down payment for a car to get him to and from film school in Los Angeles, one youth asked us to help him with his student loans, and others simply needed help with living expenses like gas money, books and student housing. Thank you to all our donors who make this type of support possible for foster youth.

COMMUNITY

At the Children's Foundation of America, we believe that the key to helping as many children as possible is to engage and invite the involvement of the community. Our booth, sponsored by Claremont Escrow, can be seen at various community events hosted by our amazing volunteers. In 2018, we participated in Earth Day/CicLAvia, Claremont Pie Festival, Fourth of July festival, Pomona Beautification Day, Village Venture Arts & Crafts Faire, passed out Halloween candy to trick-or-treaters, Giving Tuesday, Claremont Holiday Promenade and more.



Our Volunteer Program

Volunteering provides a sense of connection to community, satisfaction in moving a cause forward and puts circumstances into perspective by making someone else's needs a priority.

At the Children's Foundation of America, we are so grateful to our amazing volunteers who truly live our tag line: **Be the Difference!** Last year we had nearly 600 volunteers participating in our mission to help children heal, learn and thrive. 110 of these volunteers were returning volunteers. We enjoy seeing our volunteers come back time after time to support the cause.

Thank you to all who contributed to 1,645 hours at our 35 volunteer opportunities in 2018. We couldn't do it without you!

If you are interested in volunteering, call us at 800.KIDS.730 or email volunteer@trinityys.org.



Annual "Valenteer" Party & Recognition

In February, we hosted our 2nd annual "Valenteer" Party celebrating a year of tremendous growth and success. To show our volunteers our love and appreciation, we decorated our office with Valentine decorations, provided refreshments, conducted fun activities and handed out certificates to volunteers who went above and beyond.

The Children's Foundation of America would be nothing without the support of the community and our wonderful volunteers because they believe in our mission to help children heal, learn and thrive. Thanks to the combined efforts of hundreds of volunteers, the Children's Foundation of America was able to provide care packages and more for children in need. To celebrate this wonderful achievement, we invited all of our volunteers to join us at the Foundation headquarters in the Claremont Village for a night of celebration, acknowledgment and togetherness.

We presented awards to individuals who volunteered multiple times last year. The awardees received special certificates from the Foundation, Senator Anthony J. Portantino and a free ticket to our comedy benefit show, "Funny 4 A Reason."

As a fun activity for volunteers, we asked them to bring books to donate as part of our "Warm & Fuzzy February" campaign. Volunteers who participated were entered into our raffle drawing for some great prizes. Delilah DeBellis, one of our consistent volunteers, won a \$10 Jamba Juice gift card!



Haley Amidan frequently volunteers with the Foundation and we gave her special recognition for recently getting hired at our partner organization Trinity Youth Services. She will be part of the Trinity El Monte residential therapeutic program support team.

Haley was interested in volunteering and working with youth in foster care as a result of the trauma she experience in her youth. "I don't know what would have happened to me if I stayed in the situation I was in. Now, I want to help other kids find their way and heal from their past," she said.

It is our devoted volunteers and supporters who truly make the difference for children in need and we are so grateful to everyone who invests in the future of these children.

Volunteer Impact in 2018

596

Individual
Volunteers

110

Multiple Event
Volunteers

1,645

Volunteer
Hours

35

Volunteer
Opportunities



Holiday Heroes Campaign Supports 1,800 Children!

This December, the Children's Foundation of America provided holiday gifts to 1,800 displaced children. Youth served were in foster care, residential therapeutic programs, shelters, under-served community centers, or were identified by school districts as in need.

This year, we partnered with the following 16 organizations to bring joy and hope to trauma-affected children: Ark Family Homes, Ontario-Montclair School District, McKinley Children's Center, Uncommon Good, Trinity Youth Services, Oak Grove Center, Inland Empire Residential, Fields Comprehensive, Greater Hope Foundation, Inland Temporary Homes, New Dawn Group Home, San Bernardino County Schools, Upland Unified School District, St. Anne's, The Veteran's Center, and Pomona Unified School District.

In all, 2,365 toys and other items were sorted and distributed by nearly 100 volunteers. Thanks to the community and our business partners, we raised over \$19,000 in donations and collected \$33,000 worth of toy donations!

Thank you to this year's box sponsors and business partners: Heirloom Claremont, Claremont Village Marketing Group, Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard, Image Source, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Mijac Alarm, JCM Engineering, NRI Distribution, Scripps College, Claremont



Craft Ales, Farmers Insurance, Vinmar Capital Group, Plume Ridge Bottle Shop, Sweet Obsessions Cheesecakes, Chaffey College, White Nelson Diehl Evans, Montclair Place, Foundation 4 Life, and CG Realtors.

Without the support and generosity of our Holiday Hero volunteers and donors, the success of this campaign would not be possible. 191 volunteers contributed hours of their time to raise funds at our gift wrapping station at Montclair Place. We are so grateful to the mall for supplying a full store space for us the past two years! Funds raised provided holiday festivities to foster youth and will continue to be used throughout the upcoming year for special requests like contact lenses, prom and graduation attire, yearbooks, music lessons, scholarships and more.

GIFTS & GRATITUDES

A heart-felt thank you to everyone who partnered with us in 2018 to **Be the Difference** for children in need. The Children's Foundation of America would not be able to fulfill our mission without the support of the numerous individuals, businesses and volunteers who contributed gifts of time, goods, services and donations. If you are interested in joining our newly created, Star Membership Program, please call 800.KIDS.730 or email donations@trinityys.org to make a monthly, sustaining donation. Special thanks to our 2018 top donors:

McMaster-Carr Supply Company	Carla A. Kingsbury	Glendora Country Club
Sophie Alexander	Carole Kolla	Halper Fine Art
Judith Jarvis	Long Beach Philoptochos	Heirloom Claremont
Image Source	Cher Ofstedahl	Inland Valley Repertory Theatre
Brad & Jill Craft	Opus Bank	Kidspac Children's Museum
John Carroll	Sugar T's Lounge LLC	Los Angeles Sparks
Helen Apostle	George Vlahakos	Lewis Family Playhouse
West End Real Estate Professionals	Inger Walker	Marine Science Institute
Hauser & Wirth	Gil Quinbar	Natural History Museum LA
Robert DeValle	Claremont Escrow, Inc.	Nick's Restaurants
Curtin Maritime Corp	Claremont Print	Nuno's Bistro
St. Katherine Philoptochos Society	Engrave N Embroider Things	Ophelia's Jump
Kaiser Permanente	Lykes Creatives	Pacific Park Santa Monica
Sun Life Financial	Inland Empire Magazine	Packing House Wines
Sysco Corp	Claremont Village Marketing Group	Palm Springs Aerial Tramway
Purpose Church	CG Realtors	Pasadena Playhouse
Bradford Renaissance Portraits	Scripps College	Plume Ridge Bottle Shop
Rowley Portraits	Renee Futter	Rowley Portraiture
Hub International Limited	Hotel Irvine	San Dimas Canyon Golf Course
Santa Barbara Foundation	John Elway Claremont	San Francisco Giants
Top Notch Networking	Stacy Owens	San Francisco Opera
Sharon L. Nagel	Cindy Mendez Moreno	San Francisco Zoo
Christina Jackson	Adventure City	Santa Ana Zoo
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage	Amelie	Scandia
NRI Distribution	Anaheim Ducks	SeaWorld San Diego
Foundation 4 Life	Aquarium of the Pacific	Sheraton Park Hotel Anaheim
Kevin & Rebecca Mink	Arbonne	Six Flags Magic Mountain
Jordan B. Craft	Aromatique	Skirball Cultural Center
MJS Design Group, Inc.	Arthur Murray Dance Studio	SMUIN Contemporary Ballet
John Neiuber	The Autry Museum	Southwest Airlines
Claremont Craft Ales	Bert & Rocky's Ice Cream	The State Theater New Jersey
Daniel Skagen	Buca di Beppo	Spirit Airlines
The Diamond Center	Candlelight Pavilion	The Broad
Jeff Madden	Chabot Space & Science Center	The Diamond Center
Hiram Rivera-Toro, LMFT	Children's Museum at La Habra	The Huntington
Southwest Airlines	Claremont Headstones Caskets Urns	The Statesman Barber Shop
Aerospace Corporation	Comfort Inn Gaslamp San Diego	Trader Joe's
Air 1 Radio	Discovery Cube Museum	USS Midway Museum
Aristotle Alexander	DoubleTree Hotel Claremont	Via Verde Country Club
Fr. John Alexandres	Emerald Isle Golf Course	Vom Fass
Enterprise Holdings	Fine Arts Museum San Francisco	Walt Disney Family Museum



MISSION

Providing an opportunity for every person to help children heal, learn and thrive.

VISION

Our vision is that children who have experienced trauma, crisis or victimization will:

HEAL from their physical, emotional and psychological wounds

LEARN that they are not at fault, not to blame and not alone.

THRIVE through essential programs and services and surrounded by the love of friends, family and community.

The Children's Foundation of America provides support to children, directly and indirectly, through programs and agencies that provide foster care, adoption, residential treatment and mental health services. Our Annual Report illustrates the meaningful, measurable achievements that, together, volunteers and donors have accomplished over the past year. Responsible, prudent stewardship of our donor's funds and strict controls of our incoming and outgoing gifts, both monetary and in-kind, are critical to our success. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments you may have regarding this Annual Report.

Children's Foundation of America is a 501 (c)(3) charitable, public benefit organization. The Foundation is overseen by a volunteer board of trustees and fully staffed by volunteers.

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