



2023 Annual Report





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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Neiuber Chair	Laura Chaidez Trustee	Carla Kingsbury Trustee
Danny Kesheshian Vice Chair	Marissa Chiappetta Trustee	Sharon Nagel Trustee
Ashley Adams Secretary/Treasurer	Christina Jackson Trustee	Cher Ofstedahl CEO

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Cher Ofstedahl CEO	Jenelle Phillips Director of Development	Linh Triu Financial Controller
Briana Calderon Volunteer Coordinator	Alexandra Ofstedahl Administrative Assistant	Paula Leal On Call Staff

VOLUNTEER CAPTAINS

Tony Chiappetta Golf Tournament	Blanca Amezcuia Gift Wrap Fundraiser	Jorge Merlos Community Outreach	Karen Valente Warehouse Inventory
---	--	---	---

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

“Difficult roads lead to beautiful destinations.”

– Anonymous

As we begin another year dedicated to improving the lives of children, it is important to reflect upon the accomplishments and challenges of the previous year and use this information to inspire us to even greater heights.

This past year, the Children’s Foundation of America increased the number of child-serving organizations it assisted by nearly 50%. This would be a significant outcome in any year but in a year where the Foundation was seriously understaffed, it felt like a miracle.

The field of Child Welfare is reaching an existential crisis. New legislation is being introduced over the next two years that supports the appealing premise that every child should be raised by family. What could possibly be the issue, you might wonder?

For the majority of the 45,000 California youth currently in the foster care system, returning to their family of origin is the absolute priority. However, for children who have been physically, sexually or mentally abused by a parent or parents, reunification may not be safe, and living with other kin, such as grandparents may still provide familial perpetrators access to children who have been victimized. For other children, there may not be extended family who are willing or able to care for them, and for children in court-mandated, residential placements where specialty mental health services are prescribed, fully accredited agencies that provide safe, nurturing care under the guidance and governance of a multitude of regulatory oversight entities will always be a necessity.

The Children’s Foundation of America exists for these children, for youth aging out of the foster care system who face adulthood without the benefit of any support or guidance, and for the myriad of children who are at risk of being removed from their families, simply because they live in poverty.

As funding to children’s service organizations in California is being cut to offset the state deficit, the work of the Children’s Foundation is more critical than ever. The Children’s Foundation’s mission, **“To provide every person with an opportunity to help children**



heal, learn, and thrive” is a direct call to action.

- **If you can volunteer, please volunteer.** The Children’s Foundation of America is 100% volunteer-staffed. There are no paid employees.
- **If you can donate new, unused goods for children and families, please donate.** The Children’s Foundation provides these items to children served by more than 30 local nonprofit organizations and school districts.
- **If you can contribute funds, please give.** The Children’s Foundation provides scholarships and transitional funding to youth aging out of foster care, as well as operational grants to help nonprofits bridge the gap between what the government pays for children in foster care and what it actually costs to provide safety, well-being and permanency.

Thank you to each and every individual who made a difference in the lives of children this past year. You are the workers of miracles!

With gratitude,

CHER OFSTEDAHL

Chief Executive Officer

Children's Foundation of America

HEROES

In February, the Children's Foundation of America celebrated our seventh annual Volunteer Recognition Party. The event was held at Claremont Lincoln University with 30 of our top volunteers from 2022 in attendance. This event was held to recognize the hard work and accomplishments CFA's volunteers achieved last year.

To thank our committed volunteers, trophies and plaques were awarded to those who served the most hours and went above and beyond. The Volunteer Superhero Award went to our longtime volunteer, Karen Valente. Karen volunteered a total of 97.5 hours in 2022. She has participated in Birthday in a Bag, Holiday Heroes, packing Halloween treat bags, and helped out at the annual golf tournament fundraiser. We also awarded a second Volunteer Superhero Award to Annette Brunske to acknowledge her amazing 49 hours of service.

CFA's Action Hero of the Year was Jorge Merlos for helping with the toy drive for our Holiday Heroes campaign incredible work in raising awareness for children in need through social media.



The Star Command Award went to U.S. Bank for all their help in our warehouse throughout the year. The Holiday Hero Award went to Blanca Amezcuia who contributed 38 hours to our gift wrapping fundraiser.

Lastly, the Superhero Squad Award went to the volunteer group Lion's Heart, who contributed 18.5 hours of service.

Each and every one of our volunteers deserve recognition for the work they do. Volunteers are the heart and soul of a nonprofit and we wanted to show our volunteers how much we appreciate them. We are proud of the accomplishments achieved by this group of helping hands in a single year.

2023 Volunteer Impact

263

Individual Volunteers

75

Volunteer Opportunities

5,355

Volunteer Hours

\$199,849

Volunteer Hours Value

Offering Hope Through Care Package Assembly

Each year, the Children's Foundation of America provides over 3,000 youth with care packages and needed items.

For our Warm and Fuzzy February campaign, we provided nine children's agencies with new books, stuffed animals, baby items, and warm clothing. Board member, Christina Jackson, helped make sure we were able to provide new socks and underwear for teen boys in residential programs.

During the spring season, CFA provided goody bags for children in need. This year a total of 270 were assembled. Thanks to an anonymous donor, we were able to provide Easter weekend activities for youth living in group homes.



In May, we distributed 275 coffee tumblers, Starbucks gift cards, and board games to resource families and social workers during National Foster Care Month.

Volunteers from U.S. Bank and Target Apple Valley were a huge help during our Back to School Drive, compiling backpacks, duffle bags, and school supplies for



115 children in need at four nonprofit agencies.

During Halloween time, our board members came together once again and purchases spooky goodies for children in foster care. Image Source provided the candy and Sysco provided snacks for the bags. We were able to provide 215 Halloween treat bags for foster children.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make a difference this year for children in need.

Our Success in 2023

3,071

Children Supported

30

Organizations Served

\$50,000

Awarded in Scholarships and Educational Grants

\$434,269

Monetary Donations Received

\$445,893

In-Kind Donations Received

COMMUNITY



A Little ChariTea Goes a Long Way

After the great success of last year's inaugural ChariTea, the Children's Foundation of America held our second tea fundraiser in May with 120 guests in attendance. The sold-out tea party and fundraiser welcomed various members of the community to support our cause.

This year's theme was "RoyalTea," with the fundraiser occurring on the same day as King Charles III coronation. Guests donned hats and crowns and enjoyed taking photos in our throne chair photo booth.

Claremont Lincoln University was the presenting sponsor and the university's president, Dr. Lynn Priddy made a few remarks to welcome guests for attending and making an impact for children in need.

The Children's Foundation of America presented

donation checks cumulating in \$2,000 for the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art's ARTstART program for kids and St. Annes home for girls.

The event ultimately raised \$14,166 for displaced children during National Foster Care Month and we are very much looking forward to continuing this popular fundraiser for many years to come.



Golf Spooktacular

In October, supporters of the Children's Foundation of America gathered for spooky fun on the golf course for a good cause. The day started with a Bloody Mary bar provided by Sazerac and a putting contest sponsored by The Difference Card.



This year, the event was held at Glendora Country Club on a crisp autumn day. At 11 a.m., the exciting Helicopter Golf Ball Drop sponsored by AMC Modern IT commenced. We were overjoyed when CFA Chairman of the Board, John Neiuber, won and announced that he would be donating the full amount back to the Foundation!

Tony Chiappetta, who was this year's event chair, shared a few words and introduced Robert DeValle on behalf of our presenting sponsor, HUB International Insurance.

The two kicked off the tournament filled with wonderful activities like golf challenges, tastings on the course, and a chance to win a car sponsored by Glendora Chevrolet.

Michael from Elite Golf Promotions helped us fundraise with the opportunity for guests to shoot their golf ball with an air cannon for a tournament advantage. The activity was a fan favorite and Michael was a hoot!

After the tournament, guests were invited to an awards reception and dinner. Through this important fundraising event, the Children's Foundation of America is able to support thousands of trauma-affected children so they may heal, learn, and thrive. From scholarships, to a chance to participate in sports and school activities, as well as tools for therapy for children who have experienced abuse or neglect.



The Children's Foundation of America once again sponsored the annual Claremont Village Venture Children's Costume Parade at Halloween time. We invited a wonderful adoptive family to lead the parade: the Graham-Lee Family.

IMPACT



A Shiny Brite Holiday For All

As 2023 drew to a close, the Children's Foundation was hard at work ensuring hope and joy was brought to thousands of children in need at Christmas.

In October, the West End Real Estate Professionals (WEREP) held an Oktoberfest fundraiser to support our cause. During their holiday breakfast, they awarded our organization \$5,500 from the fundraiser.

In December, we held our first-ever in-person holiday gala dinner with over 100 guests in attendance. At the event, we featured our partnership with the organization, A Stable Space, to help furnish a baby room for an adopted little girl named Daisy. Due to the sudden nature of adoption, families often don't have time to put together a new baby nursery. We were happy to make a wonderful (and pink!) space for sweet Daisy to grow in.

During the holidays, we provided gifts to 2,015 displaced children at 20 different organizations. 71 participating businesses, along with several individuals, collected \$76,086 worth of toys and gifts for children in need this holiday season.

We returned to our gift wrapping fundraiser at Montclair Place, wrapping gifts for donations at the mall throughout the holiday season. We had a wonderful location near Santa Claus and surpassed our fundraising goal, collecting a whopping \$9,427 for children in need at Christmas.

Funds raised were used to provide holiday festivities for foster families and group homes. Remaining funds will continue to support these children's wishes and needs throughout the year, including scholarships, grants and specific requests.



Thank you to our dedicated volunteers who contributed several hours packing and distributing gifts for children in foster care, group homes, shelters, underserved school districts, crisis centers and more. What we were able to accomplish this year would not have been possible without the participation of our generous community. Thank you so much for all you do for the children we serve.



CFA Chairman Celebrated for Community Contributions

2023 was a big year for Children's Foundation of America Chairman of the Board, John Neiuber. John was selected as the City of Claremont's Fourth of July Parade Grand Marshal in honor of his many contributions to the city as a business and nonprofit leader, his conservation and historical storytelling work with Claremont Heritage and the Claremont Courier Newspaper, his wisdom and advisement on the city's Architectural Commission, and his many years of service on the Claremont Chamber of Commerce Board.

At the Claremont Chamber Installation Dinner, John was recognized with the 2023 Chairman's Award and, at the Children's Foundation Holiday Gala, the committee recognized John as the 2023 Love in Action Awardee for his years of service in the social



work sector, his leadership, and continued support and advocacy of higher education and scholarships for foster youth.

Those who have worked with John and those who are lucky enough to call him a mentor, continue to benefit from his wealth of knowledge and experience as he continues to build his incredible legacy.

Congratulations, John, from all of us at the Children's Foundation of America!

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

“There is nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact.” – Anonymous

Sherlock Holmes uttered those words in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's book, **The Bascombe Valley Mystery**. Doyle was pointing out that thing we all know that we have a tendency as humans to discount the obvious as deceptive, to let our own emotional response or how we perceive something override the facts.

But, as the old saying goes, “facts don’t lie.” The facts about the successes of the Children’s Foundation of America do not lie and give us hope for the future. Just look at some of these:

- Over 3000 children were supported by the Foundation in 2023!
- 30 different organizations served!
- \$50,000 in scholarships and education grants were awarded!
- Nearly \$900,000 raised in monetary and in-kind donations!
- 263 volunteers contributing 5,355 hours of their time!

The all-volunteer staff of the Foundation means that zero dollars were spent on salaries, allowing for low-overhead costs.

Our volunteers deserve much thanks for ***Being the Difference*** in the lives of foster and at-risk youth, and children in need. In 2023, the 263 volunteers, up from



112 volunteers in the previous year, participated in 75 different volunteer opportunities. Those volunteer hours translate into a monetary value for serving children in excess of \$199,000 for the year.

The Children’s Foundation of America achieves its mission because of the generosity of our donors and volunteers. To our donors, sponsors, partners, and volunteers who support the Foundation, please accept our grateful thanks.

If you have not become involved with the Foundation, we invite you to become a donor or a volunteer, or both! Please join us and ***Be the Difference*** in the lives of children who need our help the most.

Best regards,

JOHN NEIUBER

Chairman of the Board

Children's Foundation of America

2023 Financial Report

\$158,263

General Operating

\$0

Salaries

\$157,002

Funds Distributed

Gifts & Gratitude

A heart-felt thank you to everyone who partnered with us in 2022 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 becoming a sustaining donor, please call 800.KIDS.730 or email donations@trinityys.org.

Achabahian Foundation	Engrave 'N Embroider Things	Paycom
Adam Russell 	Eric Nelson	PROUD 90 Golf Co.
AMC Modern IT	FDS Manufacturing	Raising Cane's
Andrew Behnke 	First Team Real Estate	Robert DeValle
Apostle Foundation	Future Flashback Photobooth	Rolan Terrazas
Ashley Adams   	Highpoint Brewing Company	Ryan Wines
Assistance League of Arcadia	Hiram Rivera-Toro	Sazerac Co., Inc.
Authentix Sneaker Boutique	Hub International Insurance	Scripps College
Bradford Renaissance Portraits	Ignite City Church	Shailesh Ganwani
Bunny Gunner	Inland Empire Magazine	Sharon Nagel  
Caitlin McNulty	Integrity Home Finance	Smile Needs Dental
Caleres	Janell Lewis	Sotheby's International Beverly Hills
Century 21 Citrus Realty	John Neiuber   	Spirit Airlines
Century 21 Senergia	John Rensch	St. Katherine Ladies Philoptochos
Cher Ofstedahl 	John Stamp 	State Farm Glendale
Christen Lee 	Judith Jarvis 	Stephan Larue
Christina Jackson  	Karen Rosenthal	Sysco Riverside
CLA	Kimberly Olbrich	Terilyn Shamhart
Claremont First Baptist	Knights of Columbus St. Anthony's	The Diamond Center
Claremont Heritage	Last Name Brewing	The Headquarters Salon
Claremont Lincoln University	Laura Chaidez 	Tony Chiapetta
Claremont Village Marketing Group	Lynn Priddy 	Trumark Homes LLC
Danny Keshishian 	Magical Bangtan Shop	Valerie Martinez
Delia Haro	Marissa Chiappetta  	Village Dance Arts
Direct Difference 	Markwins Beauty Brands	Visual Edge Inc.
Doubletree by Hilton	Montclair Place	VMA Communications, Inc.
Element Real Estate	Nathan Gruenewald	West End Real Estate Professionals
Elite Golf Promotions	Pat Samuelson	

 Star Monthly Donor  Grand Champion  Board Member



MISSION

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

VISION

Through careful planning and collaboration, the Children's Foundation of America identifies and accesses resources to support abused, neglected and trauma-affected children so they may lead healthy, productive lives. As a 100% volunteer-operated organization, the Foundation strives to be the difference, for children, between what it takes to survive and what it means to thrive.

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.

[f](#) [t](#) [p](#) [g](#) | www.ChildrensFoundationOfAmerica.org
PO Box 1210, Claremont, CA 91711 • 800.KIDS.730