



Investing in Children First A Return that Grows

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Message From the Chairman

Far too many Black, Hispanic, and poor children in our communities grow up in early learning deserts, attend under-resourced schools, lack after school or summer enrichment options, suffer from poor quality health care, and often are harmed by the very systems intended to protect or rehabilitate them.

Children First is a one-of-a-kind organization that gives us each a concrete way to make the lives of kids better.

Your investment in Children First is paying dividends. This year, we looked at the return on your giving – or the ROI. Every dollar and volunteer hour you contributed to Children First generated a \$131 return for kids evidenced by more access to great early learning options, better performing public schools, innovative mental health services for youth coping with trauma, and new protections for the most vulnerable children in our region.

131-1
ROI for every
\$ donated
in 2023

It's easy to make the case that Children First is a smart investment!

Each day, the Children First team sets its sights on goals that are more difficult to measure, but at the end of the day, are why we do this work. We see the potential unleashed when a child attends pre-K, the achievement gained when public schools have the resources to meet student needs, and life's chances increased because children are healthier and safer. These are the real returns that we produce together.

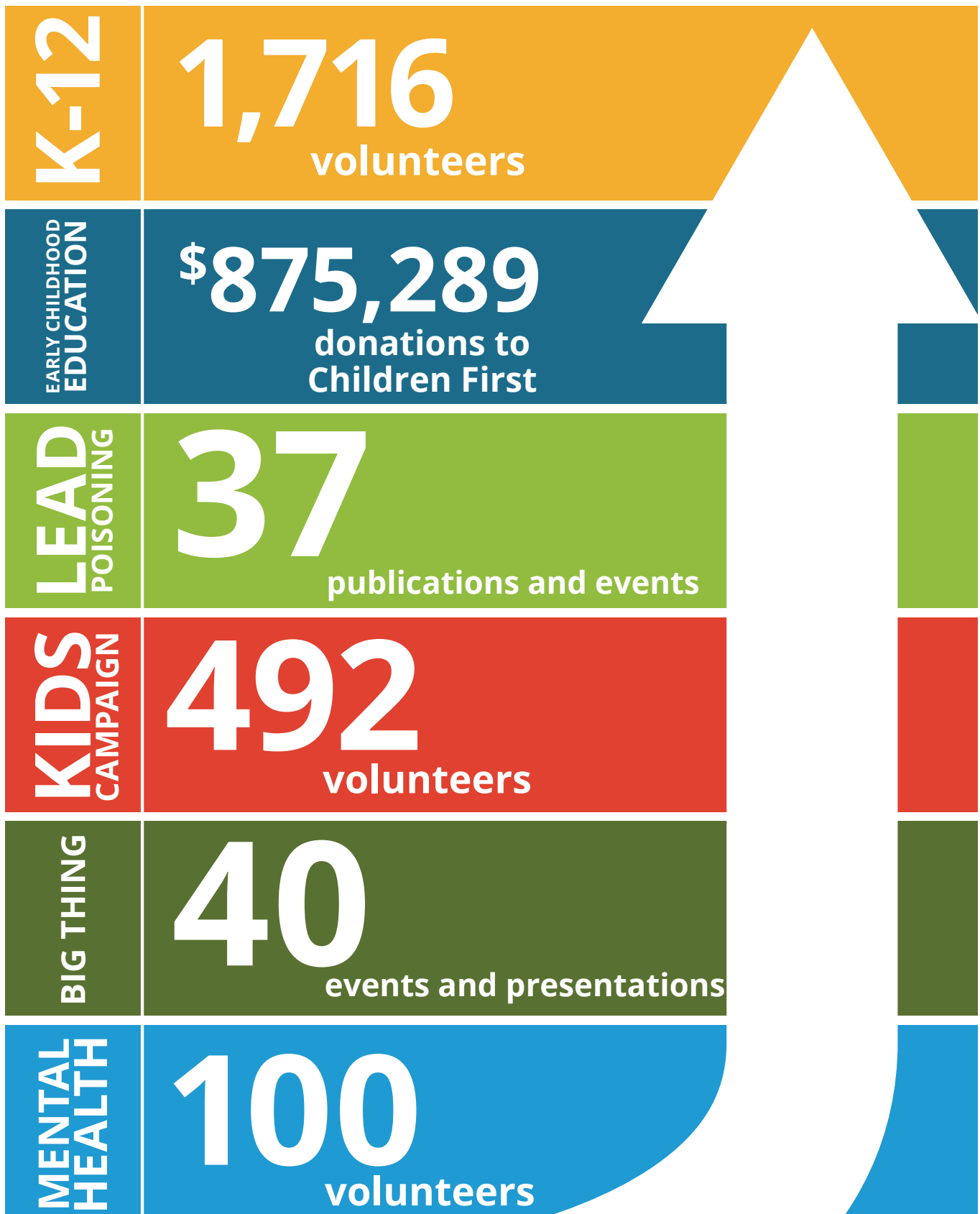
Through Children First, the power of your investment of resources and time unlocks the potential of more children, every day.

That's a lasting impact that we are grateful you helped make happen.

Javier Suarez
Board Chair



Children First Delivers



1,716 volunteers



**Demanding Educational
Opportunity, Unleashing
Next Generation
Advocates**

The historical, legal victory that confirmed that Pennsylvania's school funding system is unconstitutional fueled our momentum to persuade state lawmakers to invest in the public schools that educate 1.7 million students.



Instead of taking the sober court decision to heart, politicians attempted to thwart progress toward enacting a constitutional remedy by shifting the debate to old tropes that continue the status quo and divert attention from the needed changes. The youth in Children First's Justice in Education program are making clear demands by testifying before the Pennsylvania Basic Education Funding Commission and meeting with lawmakers. Their message is one of urgency and equity.

“Children First made sure that I knew that instead of funding public schools, state lawmakers were looking for ways to reduce public school funding and enrollment by increasing funds for private, and religious schools. My personal experience attending public, private and charter schools was enough for me to know that I had to act. We produced real results with more than half a billion dollars for public schools and no vouchers.”

Fati Sidibe, High School Senior
Bodine High School, Philadelphia

\$875,289

donations to Children First



Forcing Lawmakers to Focus on Needs of Young Children

More than 100,000 Pennsylvania children are locked out of pre-K programs proven to boost their educational outcomes, in part because parents can't afford the cost. Children First made sure Philadelphia politicians made solving this problem for children and parents their priority. Thanks to our deep relationships with dedicated local elected officials, early learning providers, and parents, Philadelphia's pre-K programs expanded to give 5,500 kids the smart start in life we know they need.



“

“I heard over and over again from Children First as we were debating the city budget. They demonstrated that parents wanted to send their kids to pre-K programs and that early learning programs were ready to expand. We were fortunate that the city budget could absorb the cost of expanding pre-K without cutting other programs, so I was happy to work with my colleagues to push for the increased funding. We are proud of the expansion and grateful that Children First kept us focused on what really matters — educating our children.”

Mark Squilla, City Councilmember, Philadelphia

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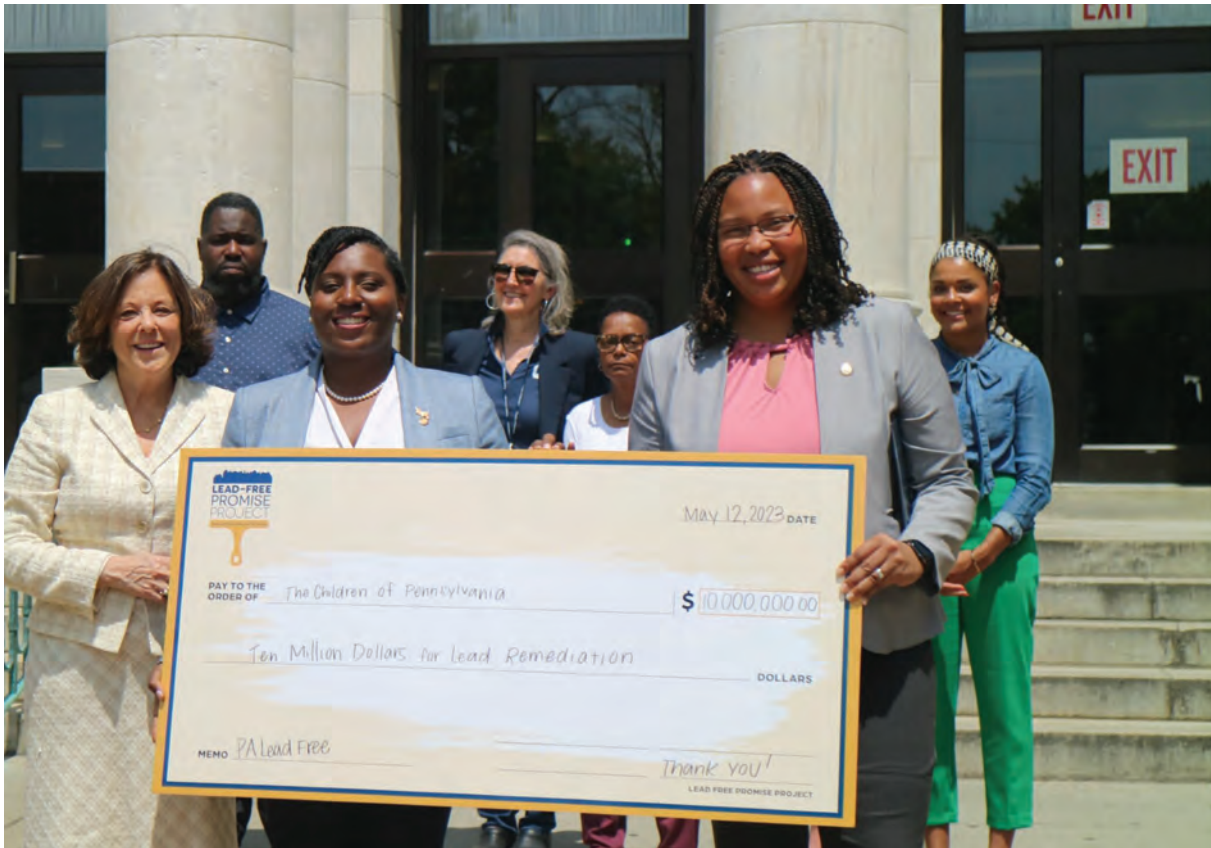
7

**publications
and events**



Organizing to Protect Kids from Environmental Hazards

Tens of thousands of children in PA are exposed to lead paint and lead dust in their homes putting them at grave risk of the lifetime consequences of lead poisoning. The Center for Disease Control is very clear that there is no safe level of lead exposure. Thanks to the leadership and creativity of Children First, the statewide Lead-Free Promise Project secured \$2 million – the state's first appropriation of its kind – to remediate the presence of lead in homes.



“

“I have never been involved in leading an advocacy effort before, but I was eager to partner with Children First to learn how to do it. We have an amazing coalition of more than 60 organizations and, in record time, nearly every state lawmaker knows we have an urgent problem that must be fixed. When Children First asked me to lend my knowledge to this work, I never imagined we could see results so quickly.”

Harriet Okatch, Assistant Professor
Thomas Jefferson University



492 volunteers



**Kids Campaign – Helping
Parents Make Elections
about Kids**

Philadelphia elected its 100th Mayor in 2023. Children First's goal was to make kids the central focus of every candidate's campaign by recruiting more than 100 organizations and hundreds of parents and youth to join the Kids Campaign. Children First organized partners and helped them draft and release policy papers and hold candidate debates. Candidates knew what the Kids Campaign was demanding and that parents and kids were serious about making this election matter for them.



“

“I was worried that the needs of my children and my community would be ignored in this very important election. I am so grateful Children First assembled an amazing coalition of parents, youth, and many powerful organizations to design a campaign to make sure we could not be ignored. When I met with candidates to explain what the Kids Campaign expected of the next mayor, they listened. That's because Children First supported us to strategically use our time, voice, and networks to put kids front and center.”

Maritza Guridy, parent activist

40 events and presentations



Helping
Philanthropists
to Think Big

Children First convened 300+ parents, youth, and child serving leaders in the Summit to Change Young Lives focused on tearing down the biggest obstacles to a child's success. Now, more than 100 organizations are our partners focused on creating a robust youth mental health system, enact strategies to diversify the teacher corps, and stimulate a dramatic expansion of high schools offering students college courses, apprenticeships, and high-quality career and technical education.



“When I was asked by Children First to be on the Steering Committee of the Summit to Change Young Lives, I knew we were going to make history together. The youth involved yearned to be part of something that would change their lives and the lives of their younger siblings. They wanted modern schools, support for their mental well-being, and they urgently asked us to train teachers of color and help all teachers to combat their own racial biases. I own these causes now, and I venture everyone who attended the Summit to Change Young Lives feels the same way.”

Stacy Holland, CEO, Elevate 215

100

volunteers



Partnering with System Leaders to Meet the Mental Health Needs of Children

More than four in ten youth in Pennsylvania report feeling sad or depressed, which accounts for the spike in youth suicides, now the second leading cause of death for children (behind gun violence). Kicking off this new area of advocacy, in just one year, Children First has already moved public officials to increase spending for youth mental well-being at the state and local level. Children First is on the cusp of winning the systemic changes parents and youth tell us are most needed.



“

“I’ve been using one-time funds to provide mental health resources and support in our schools. As a school community, we take the emotional well-being of our staff and students seriously despite the limited resources we have at our disposal. Over the years, we have developed a wonderful relationship with Children First, and we are grateful that they continue to do the leg work to get state lawmakers to put permanent resources in place. I’ve worked side-by-side with Donna and her staff for more than a decade. I am confident that together we can get this done.”

Dan McGarrity, Superintendent
Upper Darby School District



Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	As of May 31, 2023
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,878,378
Pledges and Other Receivables	3,122,261
Investments	1,536,984
Furniture, Equipment, Leases Net	277,336
Other Assets	18,947
Total Assets	7,833,906

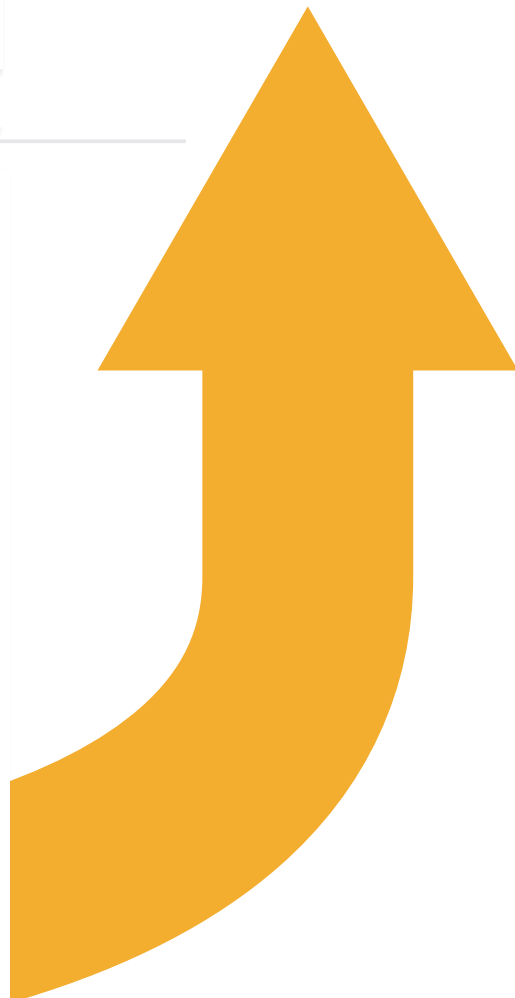
LIABILITIES	As of May 31, 2023
Accounts Payable Accrued Expenses	250,691
Fiscal sponsorships	13,248
Accrued Leases	317,687
Total Liabilities	581,626

NET ASSETS	As of May 31, 2023
Without Donor Restrictions	3,453,715
With Donor Restrictions	3,798,565
Total Net Assets	7,252,280

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **7,833,906**

SOURCES	As of May 31, 2023
Foundation	2,196,149
Individual	922,657
Corporate	590,716
Government	450,827
Special events	239,331
Contracts	173,314
United Way Of Greater Philadelphia	120,000
Other	70,601
Total	4,763,595

USES	As of May 31, 2023
Program Services	3,764,763
Fundraising	286,512
Management & General	344,712
Total	4,395,987



2022-2023 CITIZEN LEADERS

Anonymous
Carolyn & Tim Adams
Judy Adamson & Fred Jackes
Lindsay & Sam Albright
Nancy Bernstein
Steven & Linda Bradley
David Camp & Gwen Borowsky
Renée Cardwell Hughes
Diane Castelbuono
Bruce & Carol Caswell
Vinh Chau & Jude Bornstein-Chau
Katherine Christiano
Jolley Christman
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Michael & Elizabeth Eagles
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Evelyn Eskin
William Ewing
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Alan Gardner
Amy Ginensky & Andrew Rogoff
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Jane Goldblum
Mary L. Goldman
Philip & Estelle Goldsmith
Ira Goldstein
Mark & Judi Goldstein
Carole Gravagno
Rosemarie & Anne Greco Morrissey
David & Jacqui Griffith
Janet Haas
David Hackett
Beverly Hahn
Rosemarie Halt
Mary Hurtig
Kenneth Jarin & Robin Weissman
Philip Jaurigue
Victor Keen & Jeanne Ruddy
Caroline Estey King
Kenneth & Eve Klothen
Kurt & Lindsay Kolakauskas
Nadia Kunz
Charisse Lillie
Elaine Lindy

Nancy Lucas
Ed Mahlman & Moya Kinnealey
James Martin
Diego Matamoros
Ruth Nerken
Sara Nerken
Kathleen Noonan & Johnathan
Lipson
Lisa Panepinto
Nicole Parker
Susan & Curt Parnes
Jeffrey Pasek & Kathy Hirsh Pasek
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Sister Mary Scullion
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Nora Winkelman
Flora Wolf & Laslo Boyd
Wendy Wolf

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Anonymous
Aynye Adams
Tara Ahmed
Mattan Alalouf
Amber Allen
Courtney Altemus
George Aman, III
Diana Anderson
Eleanor Anderson
Emily Anderson
Andrew Arbutina
Joyce Arbutina
Kelly Attridge
Carol Austin
Saumya Ayyagari
Marcy Bacine
Jacqueline Baker
Vicki Baldwin
Maureen Barden
Dennis Barnebey
Brad Barnett
Harry Beam
Julie Becker
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Beth & Gershon Ben-Avraham
Jodi Benjamin
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Margaret Berger Bradley
Gregory Bergman
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Unis Bey
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Thomas Brown
Lynette Brown-Sow
Suzanne Brubaker
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Laurie Buck
Marianne Callaghan
Carla Campbell
Carla Canuso
Christine Carlson
Jeanie Carpenter
Rafi Cave

Frank Cervone
Gladys Chen
Joan & Joel Chinitz
Katie Chisholm
Robert Cicco
Elisha Coffey
Monique Collier Nickles
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Zoraida Cordero
Deborah Cousins
Susan Cousounis
Barbara Craig
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Sara & Allan Crimm
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Tyrell Culcleasure
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Lauren Daniele

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Donna Fields
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Linda & James Freed
Rachel Freed
Karen & Jeffrey Freedman

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Nancy Geryk
Eva Gold
Edward Goldberg
Joan Goodman
Mary Catherine Gordon
Kathy Gosliner
George Gould
Mary Graham
Elaine Griffin
Melissa Grimm
Naomi Gubernick
Lois Hagarty
Anne Hagele
Ehmonie Hainey
Lyle Hall
Linda Hansell

"We like to think our giving unleashes the powerful advocacy of staff and volunteers, allowing them to achieve great things for kids."

Rev. Dr. Cleon and Tasha Williams

Kathleen D'Auria
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Len & Judy Davidson
Bolivia Davis
Patricia Davis
Tad & M. Candace Decker
Connie & Terry Dellmuth
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Kristyn DiDominick
Sharon Dietrich
Margaret Diorio Daily
Gail Donner
Kirk Dorn
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Ruth DuBois
Joseph Dzierza
Patrick Egan
Zoe Ehrenberg
Patrick Eiding
Erica Elefant
Steven Engelmyer
Helen Evelev
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James Farmer

Meryl Freedman
Kathy Fromell
Marie & James Fynes
Steven Fynes
Danielle Gallagher
John J. Gallagher
Claire Gavin
Jeffrey Gelles

Caroline Harries
LeAnn Hart
Lynn Hartle
Beverly Hayden
Paulette Heath
Violet Henighan
Patricia Higgins
Denise Hinkle



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 Bettina Hoerlin
 Diona Howard-Nicolas
 Elena Huang
 Eric & Kia Hubacher
 Veronica Art Hudson
 Charlotte Hummel
 Donna Hunter
 Yvonne Hyde-Carter
 Germaine Ingram
 Roberta Iversen
 Rosie Jacobson
 Sara Jann
 Rebecca Jarosh
 Cory Johnson
 Paul Johnson
 Monique Jones
 Richard Jones
 Aldustus & Keisha Jordan
 Anita Kaplan
 Dee Kaplan
 Jane Kasserman
 Linda Katz
 Marie Keeley
 Shelly Kessler
 Toni & Herb Kestenbaum
 Susan & Robert Kettell
 Deborah Klehr
 Nancy Kleinberg
 Erich Klothen
 Charlie & Susan Koerwer
 Carrie Kohs
 Dierdre Konar
 Nina Korsh
 Elizabeth Kozart
 Vicki & Don Kramer
 Alexander Kratchman
 Julie Krug
 Jamie Kudera
 Muriel Kudera
 Haley Kulp
 Jacob Kurtz
 Chau Wing Lam
 Sandra Lang
 Nancy Lanham
 Mary Laver
 Alan & Judith Lawit
 Doris Leisch
 Emily Leopard-Davis
 Burddiua Leuvv
 Alex Levin
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 Rosa Parks-Green
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 Holly Perry
 John Phillips
 Joe Pilling
 Talia Pines
 Coleman Poses
 Mindy Marlene Posoff
 Sara Potter
 Barbara Pressman
 Carol Prushan
 Hope Punnett
 Ros Purnell
 Bonnie Raines
 Ana Ramos-Hernandez
 Michael Ranck
 Inella Ray
 Donyale Reavis
 Natalie Renew
 Ulises Reyes
 Beth Rezet
 Len Rieser
 Dana Riker Jackson
 Martina Rivers
 Susan Robbins
 Jill Roberts
 Lynne Roberts
 Christina Rodriguez
 Monica Rohrer
 Gregory Rohrman

Stephanie Rossi
Thomas Roush
Phyllis Rubin
Debra Sam
Pat & Scott Sanders
Marlena Santoyo
Abby Sauers
Linda Schleifer
Ruby & Bob Schmidt
Lesley Schwarzman
Susan Segal
Sol & Susan Shapiro
Steven & Barbara Shapiro
Sandy Sheller
Narasimha Shenoy
Sam Silver
Alexis Simchak
James Simples
Andrew Simpson
Nicole Sing
Harriet & Bob Singer
BethAnn Smetak
Adela Smith
B. David Smith
Gail Smith
Meghan Smith
Nicole Smith
Robert Smith
Kim Smith-Whitley
Joy Soto

Katey Speck
Leslie Spina
Ann Spishock
James & Lisa Steiker
Mark Stern
Jianna Stork
Adelaide Sugarman
Michi Tashjian
Zakia Tate
Muriel Taylor
Michael Ticzon
Agnes & Michael Tinker
Janine Tkach
Jensen Toussaint
Kyle Tribble
Margret Trotzky
Cameron Troy
Hin Wing Tse
Walter Tsou
David Turanski
Carol Tyler
Nancy & Bruce Urbschat
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Irv & Pat Urevick-Ackelsberg
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Benjamin Waxman
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Sam Weidman
Elliot Weinbaum
Debra Weiner
Deb Weinstein
Marlene Weinstein
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Mazz Whitaker
Paul Whitson
David & Betsy Wice
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Samuel Wojnilower
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Steven Wray
Judi Wren
Shelly Yanoff & Gerald Kaufman
Mary Beth Yarish
Alexander Young
Gerald Zahorchak
Nancie Zane
Deborah Zubow



2022-2023 BUSINESS, ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORTERS

Ahmad Zaffarese LLC
Adamson & Associates
Alta Management
Alterra Property Group, LLC
AmeriHealth Caritas Services
American Friends Service Committee
Bellevue Strategies
Brightside Academy
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Chinatown Learning Center
CHUBB
Clear Point Communications
Comcast NBCUniversal
Community Behavioral Health
Conner Strong and Buckelew
Cozen O'Connor
Creedon Management Associates
Delaware County Interactive Gaming Revenue Auth.
DLS International
DelCo Medical Society Public Health Fund
District Council 21
Diversified Search
Eckert Seamans Cherin Mellott LLC

Edens Corporation
Esperanza
Fox Rothschild LLP
Geisinger Health Plan
GSL Government Consulting
Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller
Health Partners Plans
Holman Automotive Group
Independence Blue Cross Foundation
Independent Order of Off Fellows #37
Kolber & Randazzo, PC
Laborers Local #57
Laborers Local #332
LOR-MAR Mechanical Services
Mayfield Site Contractors
Meridian Bank
Mosaic School Supports
National Philanthropic Trust
NEPC, LLC
Nueva Esperanza
PK Financial
Parker Philips, Inc.
Pennrose Management Co.
Pennsylvania Child Care Association
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency

Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO
Philadelphia Federation of Teachers
Philadelphia Housing Authority
Phillies Charities
PNC
Project HOME
Reno & Cavanaugh, PLLC
RHEAL Capital Management, LLC
S. Fineman, Krekstein & Harris, P.C.
S.R. Wojdak & Associates, LP
Sabre Systems, Inc.
Saul Ewing LLP
Scotlandyard Security Services
Special Smiles
Surety Title Company
Sustainable Water Resources Management
TD Bank
The Michaels Organization
United Way of Greater Philadelphia and
Southern New Jersey
University Lodge 51 Free and Accepted
Masons
Upper Merion Dental Associates
Wells Fargo
YMCA of Eastern Delaware County

"Investing my time and money in Children First is my antidote to despair - a tangible way to shift parental anxiety into productive action. I trust their team to make real change for kids every day. It's my small revolutionary act of hope and the best ROI for my community and well-being!

Lindsay Albright

2022-2023 FOUNDATIONS

Allen Hilles Fund
Amerihealth Caritas
AMJ Foundation
BlackRock, Inc.
Community Behavioral Health
CHG Charitable Trust
Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback
Claneil Foundation
Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation
Elizabeth B. and Arthur E. Roswell
Foundation for Delaware County
Geisinger Health Plan
Gordon Charter Foundation
Health Partners
Hess Foundation
Independence Blue Cross Foundation
Independence Foundation

Independence Public Media Foundation
Ivywood Foundation
Judith S. Stein Family Fund
Lark Family Fund
Lindback Foundation
NAML Foundation
Nararo Foundation
Neubauer Family Foundation
Nonprofit Repositioning Fund
Partnership for America's Children
Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health
Peter and Sung Kim Family Fund
Philadelphia Foundation
Philadelphia Health Partnership
Pincus Family Foundation
Pritzker Children's Initiative
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Saul Kaplan Foundation
The Catherwood Family Fund of the

Philadelphia Foundation
The EMSS Foundation
The Huron Foundation
The Patricia Kind Family Foundation
The Rosenlund Family Foundation
Thomas Skelton Harrison Foundation
United Way of Greater Philadelphia and
Southern New Jersey
Univest
UPMC
Urban League of Philadelphia
U.S. Department of Education, EIR Program
van Ameringen Foundation
Vanguard Foundation
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation
William Penn Foundation
Wyncote Foundation

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childrenfirstpa.org



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**children
FIRST**
THE ADVOCATE FOR KIDS