Dear Friends,

This past year has truly taught us the importance of honing our skills and improving what we do best to better serve children and families in our community: Supporting children and families at all stages of development through educational and social/emotional programming.

Throughout all levels of our organization, we have spent countless hours improving our practice to have a focus on trauma-informed care. This work was led by Sarah Zawaly from our Innovation Lab to look at the effects of primary and secondary trauma. I am proud to say that this work is having a positive effect with our internal and external interactions.

United Way of Greater Cincinnati, the Childhood Poverty Collaborative, and many other talented leaders in our community have brought poverty issues, specifically childhood poverty, to the forefront of our discussions about supporting families in need. We are proud to partner with many organizations such as CityLink Center and Life Learning Center to tackle this community problem. Our multi-generational approach to serving families has many dimensions and is already showing great results.

Our work to fight poverty is expansive through all our programs. NavGo College and Career Prep program is making great headway with their River Cities Initiative to provide students in Northern Kentucky’s urban core opportunities to have in-depth exploration of career opportunities. Our Parent Academy is partnering with members of the Innovation Lab to improve family engagement at schools all around our region. We know solving the issue of poverty in our region will not happen overnight but we also know that making targeted, dynamic steps toward support families in our community will make a significant impact for generations to come. None of this would be possible without the continued support of our generous, dedicated donors and partners.

Thank you,

Shannon Starkey Taylor
Rest, Reflect, Recharge: Children Inc. is Trauma Informed

Nationally more than 34 million children, 46% of our youth, have at least one Adverse Childhood Experience. ACEs affects all aspects of a child and can impact physical and emotional health throughout the life span. We can’t deny the traumatic events happening throughout the country as well. Mass shootings, natural disasters, neighborhood violence, racial discrimination can impact our emotional health even if we are not directly affected. It is essential that we recognize and respond to the widespread impact of trauma throughout our community, region and nation. Through a year long program developed by the National Council of Behavioral Health and offered by Tri-State Trauma Network, Children Inc. has dedicated time, resources, and staff to fully integrate trauma-informed practices. As a trauma-informed organization we are committed to understand how trauma affects those who work at Children, Inc. and those we serve. Being trauma-informed is an organizational, cultural change that will continue to evolve to meet the needs of staff and families.

No matter what you have experienced in life; some days, weeks or months can feel overwhelming. At Children, Inc. our goal is to provide a place where staff and families feel safe and secure, are treated compassionately, and recognize that diverse social and cultural groups experience and react to trauma differently. Through encouraging life/work balance, supporting self-care activities and providing trainings we are well on our way to fostering a culture of relationships that includes positive interactions, smiles, expressions of concern, and resources to understand and respond to the internal life of ourselves, our families, our children, and our community.

BECAUSE OF YOU…

Every day we help 4,000 students annually identify their strengths, country as well. Mass shootings, natural disasters, nationally more than 34 million children, 46% of our youth, have at least one Adverse Childhood Experience. ACEs affects all aspects of a child and can impact physical and emotional health throughout the life span. We can’t deny the traumatic events happening throughout the country as well. Mass shootings, natural disasters, neighborhood violence, racial discrimination can impact our emotional health even if we are not directly affected. It is essential that we recognize and respond to the widespread impact of trauma throughout our community, region and nation. Through a year long program developed by the National Council of Behavioral Health and offered by Tri-State Trauma Network, Children Inc. has dedicated time, resources, and staff to fully integrate trauma-informed practices. As a trauma-informed organization we are committed to understand how trauma affects those who work at Children, Inc. and those we serve. Being trauma-informed is an organizational, cultural change that will continue to evolve to meet the needs of staff and families.

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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead

WE EXCEEDED OUR $5 MILLION DOLLAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GOAL AND RAISED $5,179,243 TO SERVE MORE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

YOU’VE built brighter futures for so many children. Since 2017, we’ve been able to serve an additional 400 children through five new early learning centers.

YOU’VE awarded $200,000 in scholarships annually to families in need.

YOU’VE fueled innovative research to better serve children and families. The Innovation Lab is operating a Regional Family Engagement Center in NKY and developing and testing innovative family engagement strategies for statewide dissemination.

YOU’VE empowered high school students and parents to reach for the stars.

You’ve helped 4,000 students annually identify their strengths, use them to set career goals, and navigate towards a successful future.

You’ve joined Children, Inc. in 2017 the Parent Academy has empowered 628 parents/caregivers at 32 sites.

Our Early Learning Programs Support the Whole Family

Our agency is continuing to take a serious look into how our efforts can lift families out of poverty and create a brighter future for our region. In the past year, we have taken a strategic look into how Children, Inc. can truly change the trajectory of the families we serve. While this work will continue for years to come, major strides have been taken in a few key areas.

The first was to begin the colocations of services. We have opened early learning centers on site at Life Learning Center, CityLink Center, and Gateway Community College. Our goal with these expansions is twofold: (1) provide the critical need of high quality early learning experiences to parents already enrolled in these great programs and (2) support our families in accessing more services by being a connector to agencies housed in the same location. We know barriers like transportation can prevent a family from receiving the help they need so by being a “one-stop shop” we can ease their burden and support our community.

Secondly, we created working groups to begin the implementation of providing multi-generational support throughout our organization. Lead by VP of Programs, Patti Craig, members of our direct services team attended trainings and small group discussions about how to better serve parents and caregivers. Through these trainings and staff supports, our early learning center directors each chose one family to intentionally partner with so they can reach self-sufficiency goals. We know that self-sufficiency is different for each of our families so building strong relationships and celebrating the small steps that can lead to a stronger future for a family. We followed and adapted the self-sufficiency matrix to guide our discussions with families.

As we look to the future, the multi-generational working groups have expanded to include nineteen more employees who are currently partnering with a family to explore and support their goals of self-sufficiency. We are already getting great results and are excited to share these success stories with you in the future.

73% of children met or exceeded age appropriate cognitive skills like matching and counting
79% of children met or exceeded age appropriate language skills like reading comprehension and naming objects
84% of children met or exceeded age appropriate fine motor skills like writing and manipulating small objects
92% of children met or exceeded age appropriate gross motor skills like moving large objects
92% of children demonstrated or exceeded age appropriate initiative
93% of children were securely attached to an adult in their lives
93% of children demonstrated or exceeded age appropriate social emotional skills

Student Outcomes for children enrolled in a Children, Inc. early learning program for at least one year