

October 15, 2021

Dear We Care Family,

It has been a complex and challenging year, but ultimately a positive and important time for We Care.

“Complex and challenging” in that our attempts to help our community’s most vulnerable children during an overwhelming pandemic required incredible innovation and effort from our teachers, therapists, specialists, and support staff. “Positive and important” in that our efforts worked.

Last year (our 60th anniversary), when I wrote to you about our “State of the Agency” as COVID began to take hold in Contra Costa, I outlined two questions that guided our pandemic response:

- **How do we adapt to meet the needs of at-risk children when we can’t be in the room with them?**
- **What can we do to ensure that when the world starts spinning again, we’ll be strong and ready to start the next 60 years?**

I’m thrilled (and more than a little relieved) that this year’s report comes on the heels of 18 months of novel programming, effective advocacy, and remarkable support from so many of you. We adapted – and we remain strong. There is no way to adequately express our gratitude to you for the part you played in making that happen.

And while we spent the past year responding to immediate needs and an uncertain future, we’re confident now that we have the agility and skills to manage any version of the epidemic that may lie ahead. We know how to be effective in a virtual environment, we know how to reach families struggling in isolation, and we know how to address the huge impact that seclusion has on preschool children.

We now look forward, not with worry, but with confidence. We Care’s board and agency leaders are meeting regularly in planning sessions to chart the next few years’ paths. The pandemic has clearly created extreme difficulties, but it has also allowed us to better understand our strengths and opportunities.

**We have begun programs to match our new circumstances, including:**

- **Kindergarten-readiness to help address gaps in children’s social and emotional development created by virtual classrooms**
- **A new multi-agency consortium (that we’re leading) to focus on destigmatizing mental help services for at-risk families with young children**

We are in an environment that will continue to contain surprises, but we know that the people who got us through this past year – inside and outside of We Care – will continue to be our greatest strength and our best reason for assurance.

To each of you who help We Care – and thus the families we serve – we promise your generosity will ensure that the children and families who need us most will be taken care of, always.

With deepest gratitude,



Pete