

## **Advocacy Corner**

Welcome to our Advocacy Corner! While We Care's mission focuses on the immediate needs of the most vulnerable in our community, the children and families we serve are impacted daily by decisions at the local, state, and federal level – as is We Care. Because we are a nonprofit, we never support a political party or an individual candidate, but we can encourage your involvement in legislative and policy matters that concern anyone who cares about the welfare of children.

The word "advocacy" may sound like something that only applies to lobbyists or politicians, but there is an advocate in all of us even if we don't realize it. If you've ever helped a family member receive needed services, stood up for someone who was treated unfairly, or attended a parent/teacher conference at your child's school, you have acted as an advocate.

Going forward, we'll be keeping you updated about opportunities to make your voice heard and get good things done!

There are several types of advocacy, including:

• Case Advocacy: Intervening to address an individual child or family's problem.

This is what We Care does on a daily basis. When you make a donation or otherwise support We Care, this kind of advocacy is life-changing for the most at-risk in our community.

• Administrative Advocacy: Affecting the creation of new policies, regulations and guidelines.

If you know someone at the county or state level who makes decisions that impact children's lives, please consider making your voice heard or helping us with an introduction.



Bob Sachs Chair

Linsey Dicks Vice Chair

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Marc Greenberg Treasurer

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Iona Da Costa Pereira Dirk Fitzgerald Glenn Garabedian Juhee Krishan Carolyn Levitt Fred Piazza

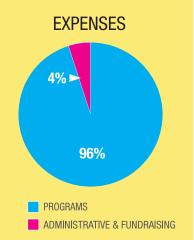
## 2019-20 Financial Report

Below is a review of our financials for our Fiscal Year 2019-20.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES

- REGIONAL CENTER OF THE EAST BAY
- PRESCHOOL
- DONATIONS & OTHER INCOME



## A message from: **Pete Caldwell**, Executive Director

Dear We Care Family,

I hope this message finds you and your family well.

In these letters to you, I have focused for a year now on the depth of the disruption we've experienced during the pandemic and our responses to it. It feels like I've written mostly of my heartfelt gratitude for We Care's incredible staff and for your steadfast support.

But now I can write about starting to look forward. Vaccinations are happening. Transmission rates are down (as I write this), and the light at the end of the tunnel is absolutely getting brighter.

We have tried throughout this year to keep an eye out for the lessons that will seem obvious in retrospect. We know we will be using the best aspects of telehealth because we've learned that for some families, this suits their needs best. Working from home actually is productive for a lot of positions. And going forward, we'll be able to get the work done and keep more cars off the roads.

In addition, we know that as rough as it's been on parents, there are a lot of newborns who benefited from the stay-at-home order over the past year and all the increased bonding time.

But on the opposite end, and in ways we believe could create lasting harm, an entire year of school preparation for 4-year-olds has been lost. A year's worth of learning how to be successful in a classroom setting – how to share, how to focus, how to learn – is gone. It's hard to overstate the impact of this, particularly on children who were already at risk. We know the power of pre-K on creating a successful school experience and to address this, We Care is developing enhanced pre-kindergarten services to help. More on this soon.

We Care is incredibly fortunate to have weathered the pandemic as well as we have, and we are anxious to start taking on the tremendous challenges that this past year will leave in its wake. Thank you as always for your support and for

sharing our vision of what young children need to grow up healthy and well.

Please catch up with us through this newsletter, reach out with any questions or comments, and again – thank you for everything you've done for all the families who rely on us!

Best,

Pete





# • Legislative Advocacy: Working with elected officials to educate them about the impact of policies or programs in their home districts.

We Care is involved at the county-level with many supervisors and is continually advocating for child-supportive efforts. We may ask you to help us by reaching out to your representatives.

# • Media Advocacy: Using media to increase broader public awareness and debate about early childhood issues.

We Care has been showcased in local media many times, and we always looking for opportunities to highlight ways to help the community's most vulnerable children.

So please stay tuned as we continue to update our Advocacy Corner. And if you have an advocacy topic you would like more information about, please contact Pete Caldwell at pcaldwell@wecarechildren.org.



### We Welcome our Newest (and Previous) Board Member, **Glenn Garabedian**



We would like to welcome our newest board member, Glenn Garabedian, to We Care's 2021 Board of Directors. In fact, we are really welcoming him back because this is his second time serving on the board!

Glenn and Lynda Garabedian's daughter Darci began attending We Care in 1970 at age 17½ months after being referred by her physician. When Glenn and Lynda saw how much We Care was helping Darci, they decided to become more

involved. Glenn joined the board and Lynda joined the Mother's Club, a group of mothers who volunteered in the classroom and ran fundraisers to support We Care.

After retiring from his position as a health physicist for the University of California, Glenn was a consultant and served on some nonprofit boards – most recently for the Auburn Symphony and Sutter Medical Foundation.

When his term as board member at the Auburn Symphony ended, he wanted to use his volunteer and board experience to help make a difference. He immediately thought of We Care, which had a place in his heart all this time. He reached out to Pete, We Care's executive director, and it is now our pleasure to welcome Glenn back!

"After seeing what We Care did for our daughter, as well as countless other children, I am a loyal fan for life. And I'm looking forward to serving on their board of directors again." – Glenn Garabedian

Best Wishes to Board Member, Volunteer, and Dear Friend **Nina Rowe** 



For many years, Nina Rowe has been one of our remarkable board members and an amazing resource to this agency. Not only did she serve as secretary on the board of directors and as head of the Resource Development Committee, she had been volunteering in We Care's preschool every week before the Covid-19 crisis. The children and staff have tremendously benefited from her many years of teaching in elementary and preschool settings, and she is adored by all!

2020 brought many changes for Nina and her husband Mike, including a move to Southern California. While they will always stay connected with We Care, Nina has resigned her board position. We Care has been extraordinarily lucky to have had her talents. grace, and compassion, and we thank her for giving so much of her time and support to us. We won't say good-bye because Nina and Mike will remain in our grateful hearts forever, and we wish them all the best on their new adventure!

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Donations have never been more impactful than during this crisis we are all facing. We know everyone is trying to make the most of their resources in light of an uncertain future, and despite all of that, you still chose to support us. Your incredible generosity has helped the children and families who need us most – and they know how much you care.

#### \$100,000 and Above

Steve and Debra Gonsalves The Sierra Health Foundation

#### \$30,000 to \$100,000

Dan and Shay Martin Dean and Margaret Lesher Foundation Jim and Laura Hulburd Vicki and George Gallegos

#### \$15,000 to \$30,000

BlackRock, Inc. Bernard E. & Alba Witkin Charitable Foundation

#### \$5,000 to \$15,000

Hendrika Neys Mabel Neys Marathon Petroleum Corporation Matt Hill James and Patty Geraghty Trio Foundation

#### \$2,500 to \$5,000

Betsy Beros Bob and Susan Sachs Ed & Betty Manoyan Foundation

#### \$250 to \$2,500

Alfred Accurso. Jr. Ann Whittemore Barbara Bentley and Rex Johnston Basil and Maryann Piazza Brenda Truax Brian Assael Carol Lane Charles and Kristin Chen **Charles Columbus** Chervl Mills Chris Anderson Christine Banducci Christopher Hulburd Cynthia Kay Rucker-Raulston Diane Matlock Dirk and Marilynn Fitzgerald Dorina Dianda Douglas J. Maggi Eric Marshall Frank A. O'Connell Fred Piazza and Gina Hens-Piazza Garda Pohle Glenn and Lynda Garabedian Gordon Gore Greg Coplans and Joy Fauvre lanthus and Xi Martin Jaclyn Martin James and Dianne Dunathan Janet Reinstra

Jean Hotaling Jeffrey Martin Jeff and Lyssa Butler Jim Aliferis John Daws Ken Wienholz Kenneth Grullon Linda English Linsey and Natalie Dicks Lori and Ray DePole Marc and Wendy Greenberg Marilyn Empey Martin Gruner Melissa Otoshi Nancy Kenyon and Greg Gould Nina and Mike Rowe Paul and Cathie Staley Pete Caldwell and Jim Martin Peter van Lieshout Prerana Joshi **Richard E. Jones** Saundra Gius Scott & Felicia Monroe Scott Zimmermann Simi Gupta and Nipun Agarwal Susan Harvey Tom and Debi Branich Tracy Duberman Troy Stevenson



#### 2020 Contributions Through Charitable Giving Programs

Our deepest gratitude goes to the many companies and community groups that supported their employees' and members' donations to We Care through charitable giving programs this year:

#### AF Group via CompWest Insurance Alliant AmazonSmile AT&T Clayton Station Starbucks DropBox F&M Bank Fraternal Order of the Eagles Gracenote, A Nielsen Company Google Hooy & Hooy, A Professional Corporation Kaiser Permanente Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley Kiwanis Club of Walnut Creek Liberty Mutual Macy's PG&E St. Perpetua Church United Way of Greater Atlanta Wells Fargo Women of the Moose (Concord chapter)

## Donations in Memory & in Honor

Amanda Lee in memory of Michele Hill Andrew Byrns in honor of Carolyn Levitt Barbara Bentley & Rex Johnston in honor of Margaret and Sue

Basil and Maryann Piazza in honor of Fred Piazza Betsy Beatty in honor of Nina Rowe Bruce Loke in memory of Alice Loke Bryan Chan in memory of Michele Hill Camille Busto in memory of Michele Hill Charles Columbus in honor of Bob Sachs Cheryl Mills in memory of Alex Mills Cheryl Shaffer in memory of Donald Shaffer Chris Anderson in honor of

Fred, Josie and Mary Lou Piazza Christine Banducci in memory of Michele Hill Christopher Hulburd in honor of

James and Laura Hulburd David Oberkofler in memory of Michele Hill Deane Hudson in memory of Michele Hill Diana Galbraith in honor of Dan's 25th birthday Diane Matlock in honor of Laura Hulburd Dina Jacobsen in memory of Michele Hill Dirk and Marilynn Fitzgerald in

memory of Michele Hill Donna Slate in honor of Doug VanWyck's retirement Dorene Silva in honor of Hudson Bullotta Dorine Dianda in memory of Michele Hill Dorothy Flanders-Bull in memory of Shirley Fox Eunice Yan in memory of Michele Hill Frank A. O'Connell in memory of Michele Hill Glenn and Lynda Garabedian in honor of Darci

Garabedian and in memory of Mark Garabedian Hendrika Neys in memory of Michele Hill Howard Fischer in honor of Fred Piazza Irene Delaporte in memory of Michele Hill Jack and Rosa Rico in memory of Michele Hill Jeanny Colias in memory of Michele Hill Jeffrey Oberhauser-Lim in honor of

#### The Carlson Family

Jennifer Jadovitz in memory of Michele Hill Joan Washington in honor of Fred Piazza Jody Fielding in honor of Erica Williamson Joseph Link in memory of Michele Hill Judy Chambers in honor of Fred Piazza Kenneth Grullon in honor of Linsey Dicks Kris Kobata in memory of Michele Hill Kristin Setty in honor of Carolyn Levitt Laura Timmer in memory of Michele Hill Lee Anne Jordan in honor of Paula Tippery's birthday Linda Fjellbo in memory of Michele Hill Lori and Ray DePole in honor of Decoding Dyslexia CA Lori Harrison in memory of Michele Hill Mabel Neys in honor of Steve and Debra Gonsalves and in memory of Michele Hill Maria Bekakis in memory of Michele Hill Mark and Vita Sarginson in memory of Michele Hill Mary Briggs in memory of Monica Briggs Matt Hill in memory of Michele Hill

Mike and Karen Bell in memory of Michele Hill Nancy Salmon in memory of Michele Hill Naomi Arana-Middendorf in memory of Michele Hill Naomi Chamberlain in memory of Paul Harris Norma Louie in memory of Michele Hill Pamela Newacheck in memory of Michele Hill Parley Anderson in honor of Carolyn Levitt Paul Chelstowski in memory of Michele Hill Paul and Cathie Staley in honor of Bob Sachs Rick Kaplan in memory of Myrtle Winters Rita Coyne in honor of Fred Piazza Robert Miller in honor of Barbara Langsdale Rosanna Chan in memory of Michele Hill Sally Chan in memory of Michele Hill Sandra Holland in honor of Fred Piazza Sandy and William Tse in memory of Michele Hill Scott Zimmermann in honor of Barbara Bentley and Rex Johnston

Sheri Hostetler in honor of Fred Piazza Steven Cavagnolo in honor of Paula Tippery Susan Hollingshead in honor of Bob Sachs Susan Ko in memory of Michele Hill Szu-Ying Chen in memory of Michele Hill Tom and Debi Branich in memory of Michele Hill Tracy Duberman and the TLD Group in honor of Bob Sachs

Winny Wong in memory of Michele Hill Yorlenin Toala in honor of Joshua Herring