



WHAT'S INSIDE:



Uncertain Times.
Page 2



More Than a
Lifeline. Page 3



Helping Families
Thrive. Page 4

we care news

Summer 2025

In Uncertain Times, Your Support Keeps Us Strong

At a time when many nonprofits are feeling the pressure of government budget uncertainty, we want you – our incredible community – to know that We Care remains strong and focused on our mission. For more than six decades, we have provided essential mental health and developmental services to young children and their families, and we continue to do so with confidence and determination.

Across the state and the country, children's services are being reduced or eliminated altogether. That's why we're so grateful for the strong foundation we've built together – with you.

Our strength comes from the generosity of a broad network of support that includes our donors, family foundations, community-based organizations, local businesses, and our amazing staff. Your trust and partnership make it possible for us to deliver critical services like perinatal mental health support, autism intervention, developmental playgroups, preschool mental health consultation, foster care therapeutic services, and clinical support for families – all at no cost to the vulnerable children and families we serve.

Every dollar donated and every hour volunteered helps create real, lasting change.

We're also committed to being smart, responsible stewards of our resources. We diversify our funding, maintain reserves, and actively pursue new opportunities to strengthen our programs and our message to the community. The families we help are deeply thankful for the life-changing support you provide.



Continues on page 2

Simi Gupta
Chair

Marc Greenberg
Vice Chair

Bob Sachs
Secretary

Iona Da Costa Pereira
Treasurer

Jeff Butler

Linsey Dicks

Mike D'Orazi

Dirk Fitzgerald

Glenn Garabedian

Kazuo "K" Gray

join

the We Care Community:

Email: ewilliamson@wecarechildren.org
to be added to our email or mailing lists

[we.care.services.for.children](https://www.facebook.com/we.care.services.for.children)

[@wecare_servicesforchildren](https://www.instagram.com/wecare_servicesforchildren)

[we-care-services-for-children](https://www.linkedin.com/company/we-care-services-for-children)

YouTube Search
We Care Services for Children

In Uncertain Times, Your Support Keeps Us Strong

Continued from page 1

Your voice can help shape policy and protect the future of vital programs.

We would be so grateful if you could please reach out to your local and state representatives to let them know that children's mental health and developmental services are essential, not optional. In the whirlwind of headlines, trending topics, and viral opinions, your voice – grounded in compassion – matters.

So thank you for standing with us through the successes and the challenges. Together, we are not only weathering whatever is thrown at us, we're building something strong enough to last another 65 years!



Please join us

FOR AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION WE CARE'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

WE CARE'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Saturday, October 18, 2025

5:30 PM – 11:00 PM

BLACKHAWK AUTO MUSEUM

Register online at

<https://wecarechildren.ejoinme.org/65thAnniversaryGala>



We look forward to seeing you!

More Than a Lifeline: James' Story

When James came to his foster family at just eight days old, the plan was short-term. He was fragile, fresh from the NICU, and in need of a safe place to land. But it soon became very clear that his birth parents weren't equipped to care for him, and that short-term stay turned into an adoption.

By age two, James was full of energy and curiosity – but also struggling. Separation from familiar adults could unravel a whole day, and transitions were especially hard. His adoptive mom, Kate, was doing all she could, but she often went to bed in tears, wondering if she were failing him.

That's when she connected with We Care – and everything began to shift.

James was diagnosed with ADHD, emotional dysregulation and separation anxiety. Through a coordinated effort that included case managers, behavioral specialist Melissa, family partner Marcela, and child and family therapist Patty, James' family received support that adjusted as their needs changed.

From the early days of navigating the maze of Regional Center services before James aged out at three, to working through school challenges, the team stayed with them.

Patty became the anchor – helping with preschool transitions, and offering steady, consistent support through every high and low. She was more than a therapist; she became part of the family. She supported not just James, but his older sister, too – making space for her when attention had to be elsewhere, giving Kate a hand when everything felt like too much.

James and his sister would ask, “When's Patty coming?” She'd jump on the trampoline with them, schedule assessments, join IEP meetings, flag new resources, and be available between visits when things got overwhelming. As Kate put it, “It felt like we were wrapped in hugs.” She added, “And Patty helped me realize I wasn't failing – I was doing a good job. I just needed someone to reflect that back to me.”

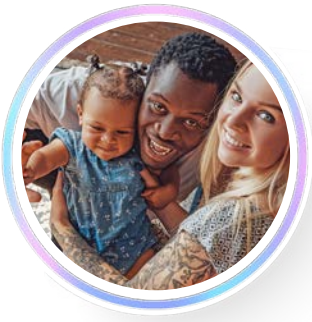
And with We Care's support, James' world began to open up. Patty helped get him enrolled in a new preschool Kate hadn't known existed and it was a place that really felt right.

Patty remembers that her favorite moment was seeing James' empathy for others. One time playing ‘Duck, Duck, Goose,’ she was always tagged as the goose that ran around. James saw she was a little tired and whispered to his sister, “Why don't we let Ms. Patty take a break to rest and she won't be goose this time?” For this 5-year-old child to consider the feelings and needs of others truly warmed Patty's heart.

What started as a fragile beginning became a permanent family. Now six, James is bursting with life. He builds, dances, questions everything, and throws himself into the world with full-body joy. The family has what they need to keep James moving forward. We Care was the steady presence at their side, helping this family not just stay afloat, but build a future that felt stable, real, and finally within reach.

**Names and photos have been changed for privacy.*





Helping Families Thrive: One Visit at a Time

In a recent issue, we introduced **Thrive: Parents as Teachers**, one of the newest additions to We Care's evidence-based and individualized services. Today, we're excited to share more about how this program is already making a powerful difference in the lives of families.

At its core, *Thrive* is built on a simple but profound belief: parents are their child's first and most important teacher. Through regular home visits from trained parent educators, families receive personalized support from pregnancy through kindergarten. The goal isn't to prescribe a perfect way to parent – it's to meet caregivers where they are, offer tools that actually work, and build trust in their own instincts.

Thrive is part of Parents as Teachers, a nationally recognized, research-based model that's been proven to strengthen families and improve outcomes long-term. We Care is one of the few Northern California providers selected to offer this program through a competitive, state-awarded training grant – an opportunity that reflects both the quality of our work and the deep need for expanded access to early parenting support.

Shelly Kwak, who oversees the program, explains that it reflects everything We Care stands for: meeting families early, walking alongside them, and centering care around their strengths. "It's about helping parents build confidence, reflect on what they want for their child, and access resources they didn't even know existed," she shared.

For many, that support is transformational. It can be as simple as a first-time parent saying, "I didn't know I could ask for this," or as powerful as watching a parent soften toward themselves – realizing they're not failing, they're just learning.

As Family Partner Marcela Ribeiro explains, the true power of *Thrive* is in how it empowers parents to trust themselves – and each other. "We're not here to fix anyone. We're here to build on what families already have."

As we continue working with new families, we're reminded daily that no one should have to go it alone. Through *Thrive*, We Care continues doing what it does best: strengthening families from the inside out, creating ripples of confidence, connection, and growth when it matters most and for years to come.

Thrive is built on a simple but profound belief: parents are their child's first and most important teacher.

