

A N N U A L R E P O R T  
2020


GIVING OURSELVES  
THE MANDATE  
TO BE SUPPORTERS

Idaho  
Children's  
Trust Fund



Preventing Child Abuse In Idaho





“What if we considered ourselves not just mandated *reporters*, but also mandated *supporters*? What if we got ahead of the problem of child abuse? What if we considered it our duty, as community members, to support families the best we can so that they can support children the best they can?”

And how do we, in whatever role we play, address abuse and neglect? We start with where we are, and who we are. We connect with the families in our community. We give ourselves the mandate to be supporters.”

**- CLAIRE LOUGE - PREVENT CHILD ABUSE ARIZONA**

**We are mandated SUPPORTERS who...**

# ...are forging new paths forward



Being a mandated supporter is the essence of prevention of child abuse and neglect. It is a recognition that parents and caregivers want what is best for their children but often do not have the tools to provide it. Our systems are set up to deal primarily with urgent situations after things have already fallen apart.

What if we focused instead on supporting families earlier in their parenting journey? What if all of our community institutions—local governments, local businesses, schools, recreation programs, houses of worship, health care providers, social services—and each of us saw their role as strengthening families, mentoring kids and creating other positive experiences?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides a blueprint for strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect:

- Strengthen economic supports to families
- Change social norms to support parents and positive parenting
- Provide quality care and education early in life
- Enhance parenting skills to promote healthy child development
- Intervene to lessen harms and prevent future risk

The Governor's and the Legislature's efforts at funding home visitation programs supporting the pre-school development grant and setting an example of providing paid parental leave for state employees keep us moving towards better outcomes for families.

Although the pandemic wreaked havoc on our original plans, we adapted and persevered. The Trust Fund has held over 40 online prevention oriented educational sessions for people working in the field throughout the state. We held a highly successful Strengthening Families Training Institute online in September with over 300 people registered—larger than our normal in-person count. Our coalitional efforts have helped to expand the work of the Idaho Resilience Project especially through the creation of 2C Kids Succeed, a place-based pilot project focused on bringing ACE-informed and resilience building strategies into all aspects of community life in Canyon County.

Kudos to everyone who has worked to make a difficult year tolerable.





# ...flourish in HOPE despite setbacks

## SFTI: FLOURISHING IN HOPE

The theme of this year's Strengthening Families Training Institute Online! was "Flourishing in HOPE". We wanted it to both reflect our keynote speaker, Dr. Robert Sege's work on HOPE or Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences and all of our work based in the hope that all children and families will thrive. Ours is a hopeful enterprise.

HOPE is a new way of seeing and talking about experiences that support children's growth and development into healthy, resilient adults. We now know that even in the face of adversity, key positive experiences help us heal. Although the effects of trauma can be serious, many adults have overcome their own trauma and now lead healthy productive lives because of those positive experiences.

We were incredibly fortunate to have had Dr. Bob Sege as our keynote speaker. Dr. Sege is on the cutting edge

of what many of us expect to be the next revolution in our field. For the past decade and more, it has been ACEs or Adverse Childhood Experiences that have shaken our world and increased our understanding of childhood adversity and trauma. This has helped to shape our response to child abuse and neglect. The next revolution is HOPE and the exploration of PCEs or Positive Childhood Experiences.

Our closing panel was proof that fresh starts are possible with the right help at the right time. Four courageous women told their stories of parenting while homeless and while burdened by adversities ranging from domestic violence to substance abuse. With the help of family, and Boise based agencies, CATCH and the WCA, these women have all created safe, stable and nurturing environments for their children and, even in struggle, provided positive experiences to keep them growing strong.



...never give up



WINNER OF THE  
**2020 ED VAN DUSEN LEGACY AWARD  
FOR EXEMPLARY PRACTICE IN PREVENTION  
OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT:  
PROTECT IDAHO KIDS**

Bruce Wingate started Protect Idaho Kids Foundation (PIK) over 10 years ago in the wake of the death of 8 year old Robert Manwell from unthinkable abuse. Hundreds of people came out to look for Robert before he was discovered dead in a canal near his home.

Bruce was so moved that he felt called to do something to make sure nothing like that would happen again. PIK came out of that.

PIK has raised awareness around abuse and neglect in a variety of ways—public service announcements, booths, bicycle give-aways. For the last five years, PIK has organized groups working to change the religious exemption to medical neglect in the community and at the legislature. He has been dogged in his determination to make this happen and has done



more than anyone in the state to raise awareness of this issue and how children are affected.

Medical neglect is one of the forms of child maltreatment listed in the Child Protection Act. This exemption to the law allows a small group to exercise faith healing even if it results in suffering or death of a child. Close to 200 children have died as a result of this law since it was passed in 1974.

Bruce and PIK have been champions for children's rights and protections. For that reason PIK was awarded this year's Ed Van Dusen Legacy Award. Like Ed Van Dusen, Bruce has a passion for protecting kids who need adults in their corner. He and the organization he heads deserve recognition for never giving up on these kids.

# ...support the organizations that strengthen families!

ICTF believes in a world where families have supports in the form of basic needs, positive relationships, and access to resources that pave the way for a thriving childhood and bright future for all children. To this end, we provide strategic funding and technical assistance to organizations working on the ground to support families through programming and resources. We have two grant cycles- an annual (one year) grant cycle and a multi-year (three year) grant cycle.

During the 2019 to 2020 funding cycles, ICTF funded 9 organizations. Four were part of our multiyear cohort on their first year of the grant: **Bannock Youth Foundation** out of Pocatello, working on coalition-building and training around child sexual abuse prevention; **Family Advocates of Boise**, on bringing intensive family support through case management and coaching to the Treasure Valley; **ICARE** of Coeur d'Alene working on strengthening youth and their parents through training and support; and the **Mahoney House** in Salmon, providing community education and social and emotional competence skills for youth.

The other six organizations were part of our annual grant cycle. Highlights from their work include:

- 25 Spanish-speaking parents receiving parent training designed for Latinx parents of young children.
- 22 formerly incarcerated parents receiving the training, support, and resources needed to reintegrate into their communities and connect with their children.
- 1,068 people participating in family-centered community events for the Nez Perce tribe.
- 31 parents in two rural areas received parenting classes and resources in order to bond with their children and practice positive discipline techniques.

As 2020 comes to a close under difficult circumstances, organizations that serve families need more support than ever. We are encouraged at how well these organizations have risen to the challenge by showing ingenuity, flexibility, and commitment to continue to provide that support. We feel honored to be supporting such amazing organizations and will continue to do so well into a brighter future.





# ...reach out to stressed out parents

Three infant deaths in a three-month period this summer gave rise to a coalitional effort to provide support to overwhelmed parents and caregivers. The two largest health systems, St. Luke's and Saint Alphonsus, the Idaho Children's Trust Fund, public health districts, non-profit service providers and state agencies joined together to create a multi-media campaign launched in December to help parents know that they are not alone and that there is help when they feel overwhelmed. The campaign is being circulated primarily via social media and PBS Kids on public television. It invites listeners to call the COVID HelpNow line that is staffed by crisis counselors or to go to the website, [idahofamilysupport.org](http://idahofamilysupport.org).

## ...just keep going

In a normal year the Trust Fund provides trainings for organizations throughout Idaho on how to prevent child abuse and neglect and how to respond to children who have experienced maltreatment. 2020 has been anything but a normal year.

Normally we present our two major training initiatives, Stewards of Children sexual abuse prevention training and HOPE Conquers ACEs training dozens of times at conferences, professional development workshops and the like. All of those events were cancelled or put on hold last spring as we all figured out how to present virtually. In April we began a series of online workshops promoting aspects of the HOPE Conquers ACEs trainings in short bytes. We have had over 40 trainings on parenting, various trauma informed practices, working with gang-involved youth throughout the year. We had trainers who could participate virtually from around the state—from Coeur d'Alene to Salmon. That

SOME DAYS IT CAN ALL FEEL OVERWHELMING.



THAT'S WHY WE ARE HERE.

was a bright spot from our pandemic caused isolation. (Most of the trainings can be accessed through our HOPE Conquers ACEs YouTube Channel.)

Trust Fund Staff and training partners have also had some unusual and rewarding training opportunities. Over 300 early learning professionals joined us on a Saturday morning to learn about the impacts of trauma on child development. We presented a similar training a couple of weeks later to a smaller group of child care providers from the refugee community which was provided in five different languages! We've presented to foster parents, young professionals, health care providers, and juvenile justice staff but it has definitely been a different year as we have picked ourselves up and adapted to the new reality.

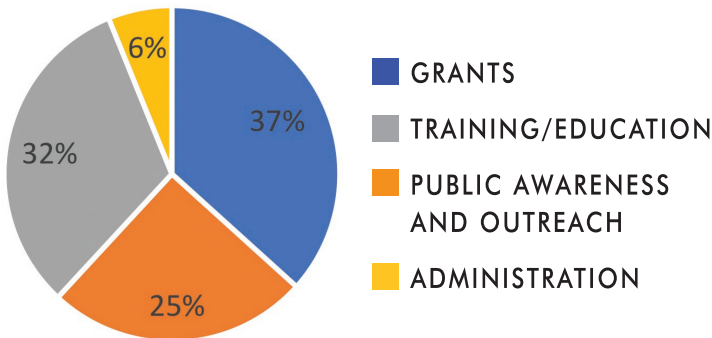
We've all spent a lot of time this year watching life go by and not being able to actually touch or be a part of our communities the way we used to. But the challenge of the pandemic has also given us time to reflect on ourselves and the world we live in. As we go forward as stewards for children, think

about this quote from Steve Maraboli: "It's not about what I SEE for our future, or humanity; it's about what I DO for our future and humanity." As the New Year begins, I hope to keep these words in mind and rather than just seeing what needs to be done, go further and do what is needed. I'm

inspired by the continued commitment of the Idaho Children's Trust Fund and the dozens of partner organizations throughout the state who work daily to strengthen families and prevent child abuse. I appreciate your vigilant efforts to support Idaho families. May you have a happy and safe New Year.

– Brenda Stanley, Board President

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



Created by the Idaho Legislature in 1985, the Idaho Children's Trust Fund is governed by a ten member board of directors appointed by the Governor and representing every region of the state as well as the offices of the State Department of Education, the Attorney General and the Department of Health and Welfare.

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

Grants and Donations .....	\$375,109
Earned Revenue and Interest .....	\$59,922
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$435,031</b>

(50% of donations received through the state income tax form are used for prevention work; 50% goes to an interest bearing trust fund. Interest earned on the trust also supports prevention.)

\*as of July, 2020. Details available upon request.

## THANK YOU

to all who made donations to the Idaho Children's Trust Fund in 2020!