

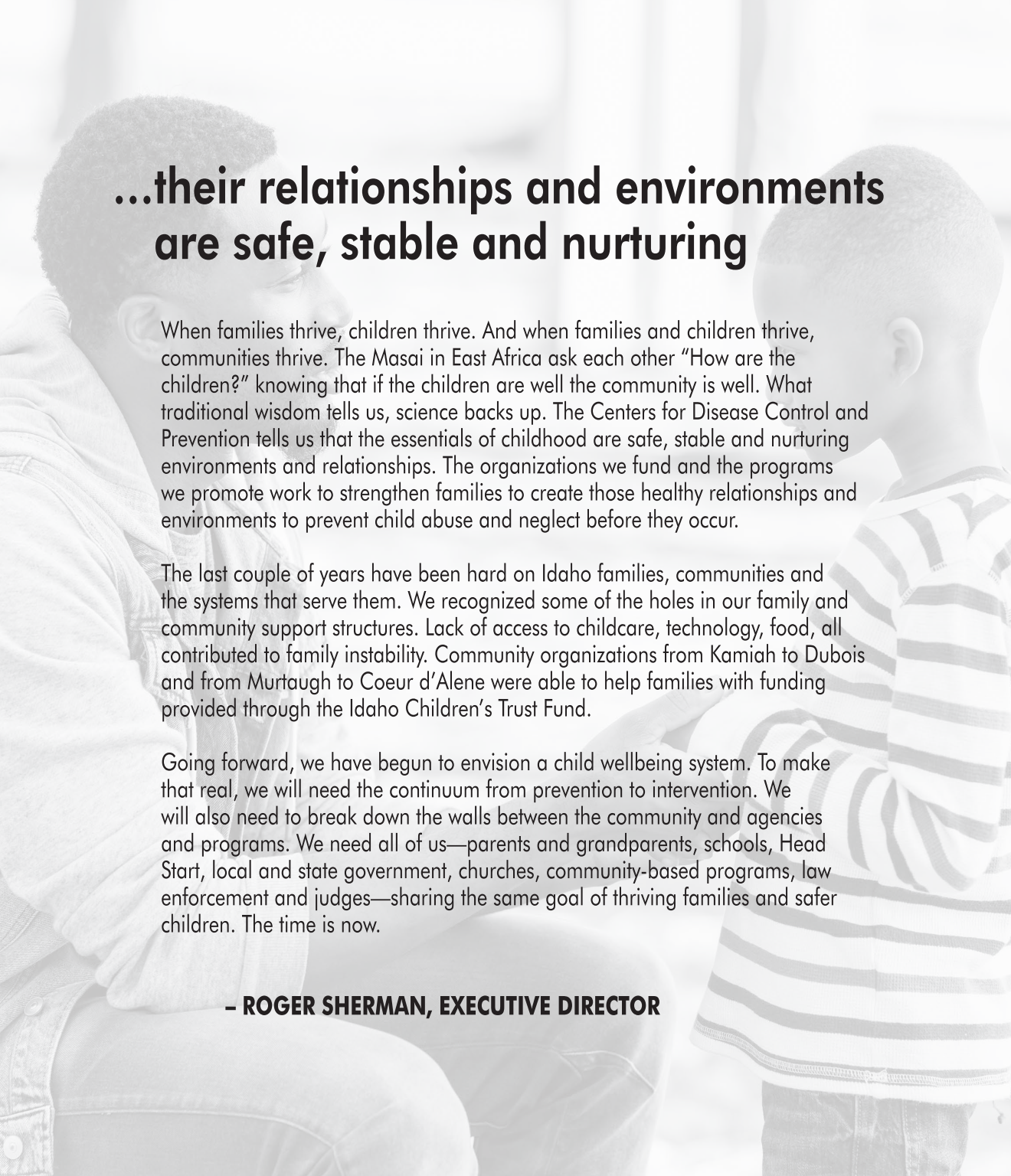
FAMILIES AND
CHILDREN THRIVE
WHEN...

Idaho
Children's
Trust Fund



Preventing Child Abuse In Idaho

A N N U A L R E P O R T
2021



...their relationships and environments are safe, stable and nurturing

When families thrive, children thrive. And when families and children thrive, communities thrive. The Masai in East Africa ask each other “How are the children?” knowing that if the children are well the community is well. What traditional wisdom tells us, science backs up. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tells us that the essentials of childhood are safe, stable and nurturing environments and relationships. The organizations we fund and the programs we promote work to strengthen families to create those healthy relationships and environments to prevent child abuse and neglect before they occur.

The last couple of years have been hard on Idaho families, communities and the systems that serve them. We recognized some of the holes in our family and community support structures. Lack of access to childcare, technology, food, all contributed to family instability. Community organizations from Kamiah to Dubois and from Murtaugh to Coeur d’Alene were able to help families with funding provided through the Idaho Children’s Trust Fund.

Going forward, we have begun to envision a child wellbeing system. To make that real, we will need the continuum from prevention to intervention. We will also need to break down the walls between the community and agencies and programs. We need all of us—parents and grandparents, schools, Head Start, local and state government, churches, community-based programs, law enforcement and judges—sharing the same goal of thriving families and safer children. The time is now.

– ROGER SHERMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

...parents know how to overcome their own childhood trauma



With a grant provided through the Maternal and Child Health section of the Idaho Division of Health, the Idaho Children's Trust Fund organized a learning collaborative to educate pediatricians and family physicians on how to screen parents for adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) they may have faced in their lives that could have an impact on their parenting. This would occur during routine well baby visits early in a person's parenting journey.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), pediatricians and family physicians are ideally placed to help parents improve their health and break the intergenerational cycle of ACEs, which include abuse, neglect and serious family dysfunction. The screening and follow-up discussion with the pediatrician can have immediate benefits, and targeted clinical interventions can improve the health of the parent and child. Despite the growing recognition that ACEs screening is valuable,

only a small number of pediatricians routinely screen. While the research has

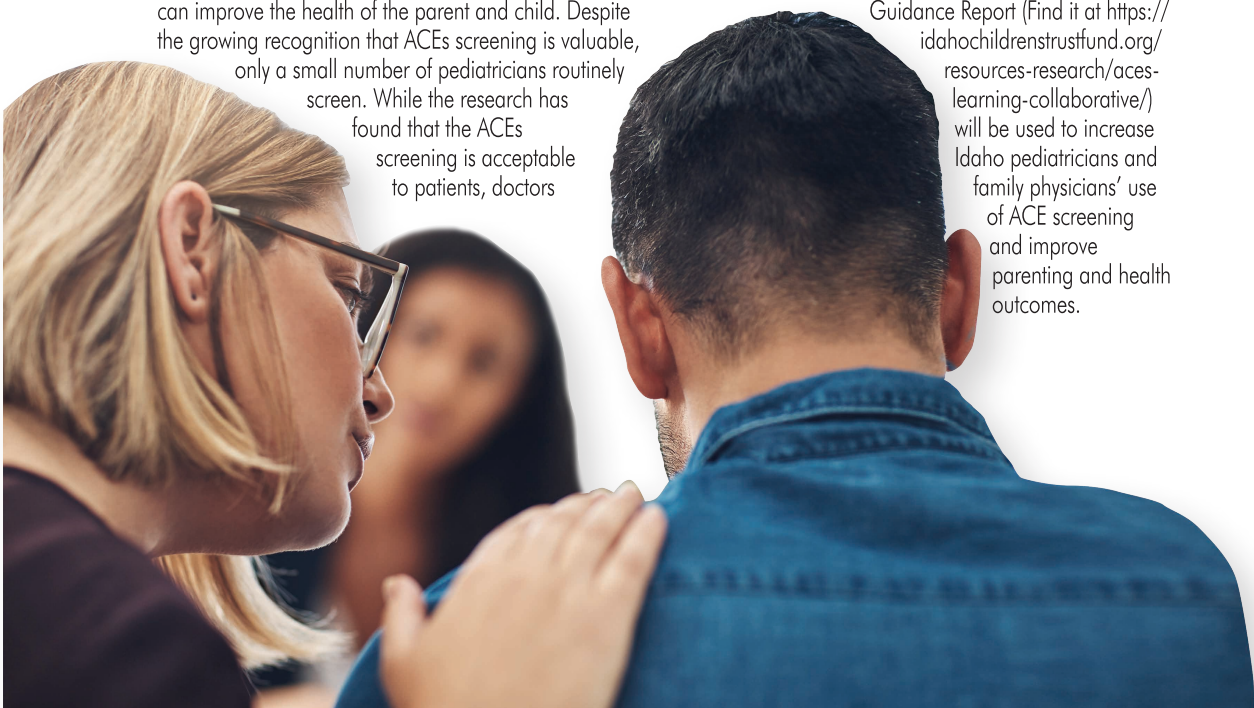
found that the ACEs screening is acceptable to patients, doctors

continue to worry that their patients' parents don't want to talk about their childhoods.

Through a series of focus groups with parents from throughout Idaho we learned that they are happy to talk about their childhoods—even difficult ones-- if it will help their children. If interviews are conducted respectfully and without judgment, parents invariably said that they would feel cared for rather than intruded upon. Both physicians and parents we spoke with told us that they wanted to know what resources they could access to deal with any issues that might arise from the screening.

The ACEs/Strengthening Families Learning Collaborative was conducted to provide guidance to Idaho pediatricians on how to respectfully conduct an ACE screening and provide supportive follow-up. The

Guidance Report (Find it at <https://idahochildrenstrustfund.org/resources-research/aces-learning-collaborative/>) will be used to increase Idaho pediatricians and family physicians' use of ACE screening and improve parenting and health outcomes.



...they have the resources they need



Idaho Children's Trust Fund's approach to prevention of child abuse and neglect is to promote five research based protective factors that strengthen families: parental resilience, healthy social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, helping children develop social and emotional competency and having concrete supports in times of need. As children and adults are transitioning back into school and life as the country adjusts to the pandemic, the Trust Fund's board offered a grant cycle to respond to the need for concrete supports.

With supplementary funds available through the American Rescue Plan, we were able to offer an Urgent Needs Grant cycle focused on learning loss and addressing some of the immediate needs of families. This grant opportunity allowed ICTF to partner with 28 organizations, many new to us, and to broaden our scope in how we strengthen families and promote child wellbeing. Here are some highlights from around the state:

The Imagination Initiative in Coeur d'Alene

was created by a pair of high school boys who are using their skills with computers to rehab laptops to be used by students from families with low incomes in northern Idaho. The availability of free laptops reduces parental stress, bridges the gap of learning loss, and positively impacts the economic lives of families.

Girls on the Run in Boise,

a project to empower young girls, funded 33 full scholarships for programming that builds resilience and social emotional learning.

Valley Mission based in Pocatello

serves 150 food insecure families a week. The financial instability that generally causes food insecurity is a leading cause of family struggle. Providing food helps relieve one of the stressors that can lead to child maltreatment.

Clark County Schools in Dubois

is promoting family stability by assisting families who need help paying bills such as power, heat, and childcare. Pandemic caused job loss has hit rural communities, including Dubois, hard.





...when communities get involved



From Sandpoint to Salmon and from the Governor to kids in rural and urban classrooms, Idahoans helped raise awareness during Child Abuse Prevention Month in April and on HOPE Day in May that emphasized the importance of positive childhood experiences in countering adversity.



...when parents are supported

ICTF's commitment to children and families concentrates efforts to build resiliency and break harmful intergenerational cycles of trauma and poverty. We provide funding, technical assistance, and education to organizations that provide direct service and support to families. We offer statewide grant opportunities- an annual (one year) grant, and a multi-year (three year) grant.

Four multiyear grantees have answered the call to help families thrive. Highlights from their work this year include:

Bannock Youth Foundation based in Pocatello and serving surrounding counties, served 135 families, presented at the 2021 Idaho Juvenile Justice Association Conference, coordinated coalition efforts in 10 communities to host Pinwheel Gardens /Ribbons of Hope, and trained 300 people in HOPE Conquers ACEs.

ICARE in Coeur d'Alene focused on a target population of youth/teens using the research-based program Youth THRIVE and the Nurturing Program to help them develop a sense of social and emotional competence. These youth became more confident in sharing in a large group when supported by peers.

The Mahoney House in Salmon served 77 adults

and 106 children in person through parenting classes. They also found that Zoom provided easier access to courses and removed transportation barriers in that rural community. Mahoney House staff worked with Salmon School District to provide education on healthy relationships. During Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, they provided 400 meals at a community dinner.

Family Advocates in the Treasure Valley- Family Advocates staff delivered resources including food, diapers and learning materials, to 131 families, served 51 adults through parenting courses, partnered with Cooking Matters to teach families about nutrition and eating together, and sponsored a Read-a-Book event that delivered 96 books to children. During the year staff built community partnerships with Cardinal Academy, Community Transition Center, and the Juvenile Correction Center in Caldwell.

Our annual grantees include Community Resilience Builders, Children's Village, Safe Families, Upper Valley CAC, AAFV, and 3rd District CASA. There is a reciprocal nature between thriving families and thriving communities. The need for social connections is greater than ever. These coordinated efforts to strengthen families throughout the state highlight the resiliency of children and families as we work to improve child wellbeing.



This year our annual **Strengthening Families Training Institute (SFTI)** was held in collaboration with the Governor's Children at Risk Task Force whose task is to look at what happens when we don't prevent abuse or neglect in the first place. The theme for this SFTI was **Becoming Mandated Supporters** with a subtitle of **Creating a 21st Century Child Wellbeing System**. **Becoming Mandated Supporters** means that we need to reach out to families before there is a need to report. We all need help sometimes! The subtitle comes from an invitation from the Children's Bureau at the federal level to rethink the idea of child welfare and to start thinking of a child well-being system.

To kick off this conversation we invited Dr. Melissa Merrick, the President and CEO of Prevent Child

Abuse America (PCAA) to provide the keynote speech for the conference. The Trust Fund is the Idaho affiliate of PCAA. Dr. Merrick served as the lead scientist for the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for 8 years before joining the PCAA staff and has nearly 20 years of experience in the child abuse and neglect prevention field.

On day 2 we brought in Dr. Sarah Enos Watamura, Professor and Chair of the Psychology Department at the University of Denver where she directs the Child Health & Development Lab and co-directs the Stress, Early Experience and Development (SEED) Research Center. Her work and talk focused on the unique stressors and buffers in families experiencing poverty. Dr. Watamura's recent research projects test and develop interventions to support families facing adversity, including those that target the wellbeing of the adults in children's lives who themselves may have histories of adversity.

Over 300 people from around the state attended the keynotes, two of twelve workshop offerings and a closing panel via Zoom and thoroughly enjoyed the learning opportunities, according to evaluations.

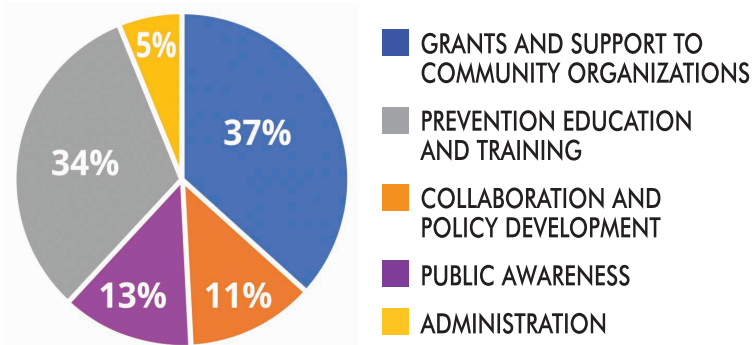


As the year 2021 comes to a close, you may be facing the new year with feelings of hope but also of skepticism and concern. Will the coming year bring us back to normalcy, or will we continue to face the challenges we've experienced over the past two years? Even as a child and in such dire circumstances, Anne Frank was wise beyond her years. She wrote, "Look at how a single candle can both defy and define the darkness." The Idaho Children's Trust Fund's board and staff are determined to continue the mission of

strengthening families and protecting children. We see your commitment and passion as partners and allies in this work. During some of the darkest times of this pandemic, we found your stories of dedication and success gave us hope and allowed us to see the light. Seeing and hearing of these triumphs helps us enter the new year with a bright outlook and a renewed desire to make a difference in the lives of Idaho's children. Thank you for your unwavering 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 | \$349,928 |
| Earned Revenue and Interest | \$42,648 |
| Total | \$392,576 |

(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, 2021. Details available upon request.

THANK YOU

to all who made donations to the Idaho Children's Trust Fund in 2021!