

WE BUILD POSITIVE  
CHILDHOOD  
EXPERIENCES WHEN...

Idaho  
Children's  
Trust Fund

Preventing Child Abuse In Idaho



A N N U A L R E P O R T  
2023

# ...we help families build resilience

An oft used metaphor suggests that some of us are born dandelions and others, orchids. Like dandelions that can grow anywhere and without care, some people seem to be able to handle anything that comes at them. Orchids on the other hand (at least the ones in our homes) need a lot of care to bloom. Like those orchids, some people seem to wilt easily and are crushed by the stresses of life.

Fortunately what we have learned over the past few years is that the type of resilience that dandelions have, at least when it comes to people, is learned through positive experiences in childhood and beyond. The Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences, or HOPE, framework tells us that positive relationships, environments, opportunities for emotional growth and developing a sense of belonging through

social and civic engagement are the keys to building resilient children and the adults they will become.

Abuse and neglect disrupt relationships and safe home environments. It is critical that we prevent them from happening in the first place. Our work at the Idaho Children's Trust Fund is to do just that. Through funding community-based organizations, providing training through our signature programs--Stewards of Children and HOPE Conquers ACES -- our annual Strengthening Families Training Institute, and

through coordinating statewide awareness campaigns, ICTF leads prevention efforts in partnership with dozens of groups throughout Idaho. We have a small staff which does amazing work and an active and informed board of directors, but our work depends on partners. Prevention of child abuse and neglect is not the work of any one organization; it takes all of us working together to build those positive childhood experiences--to build HOPE.

**– ROGER SHERMAN,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



# ...we learn from each other



While the organizations throughout Idaho are our boots on the ground from Sandpoint to Salmon, the Trust Fund is the connective tissue linking organizations through training, convening and sharing of best practices. We all need to have opportunities to learn from each other and from experts from throughout the country.

ICTF is part of a 20-state national initiative called Thriving Families Safer Children. This work wraps around our on the ground work with a focus on moving efforts upstream. ICTF has been part of a funding collaborative that has funded the startup of 17 community schools. We joined forces with Idaho Parents Unlimited and Idaho Voices for Children to host a first of its kind Parent Voice Summit that brought over 60 parents together from throughout the state to learn from each other and to discuss what they need to support their children.

In the past year we have supported the development of two training corps focusing on ways of strengthening families to prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs. Certified HOPE trainers and a new group of HOPE Champions is fanning out across the state to help people understand how to build positive childhood experiences that can prevent, and mitigate the impacts, of ACEs or adverse childhood experiences. Another training group is now authorized to provide a new child sexual abuse curriculum from Darkness to Light, a group ICTF has been working with since 2005. Sexual abuse is more prevalent than is reported. It is important that we teach people how to recognize grooming behavior so it can be stopped before it starts.

# ...community wraps around the whole family

Our boots on the ground are the community-based organizations that the Idaho Children's Trust Fund has had the privilege to fund and support for the past 38 years. During this year we are supporting 14 organizations in all corners of the state from Coeur d'Alene in the north to Salmon in the far east. These organizations have served nearly 4,000 children and adults with a variety of educational and direct services. Some of the results of their work included:

- 27 at-risk youth at **Breaking Chains** in Nampa passed their high school equivalency exams and earned a GED.
- 99 adults, served by **Family Advocates** in Boise, strengthened their families by participating in parenting and resilience courses. Post surveys showed a 36% increase in Family Functioning.
- 159 adults learned how to recognize and prevent child sexual abuse through training with staff of **ICARE** in Coeur d'Alene.
- 122 parents on the Nez Perce Reservation in Lapwai gained an understanding of their cultural traditions and learned about parenting through **Culture is Prevention** parenting classes.
- 310 children learned important communication and relationship skills through The Mahoney House's **CORE** project in Salmon School District.

While numbers tell part of the story, we celebrate success through the changes families experience because of the work they do with local organizations.

Here's one success story: A family of 5, who'd been experiencing homelessness for the past 5 years, showed up at the Safe Families doorstep and announced that they "just couldn't do it anymore." The team at Lutheran Community Services (LCSNW) went to work developing resources to support the whole family. Volunteers scheduled appointments, transportation, identified developmental learning and child care options for the kids, who had a long list of needs. LCSNW worked with the parents too. Today the family is reunited, the parents have jobs and housing and for the first time in a long time, feel hope for the future.

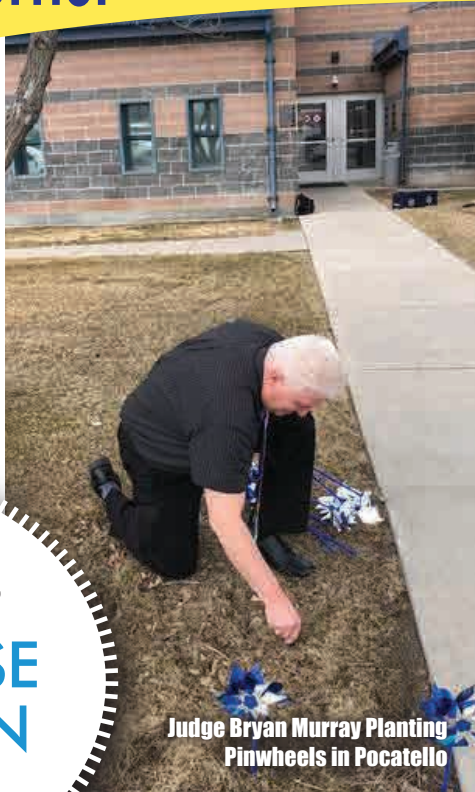
And that's really what it's all about.



...we reach families in every corner of the state



Pinwheels for Prevention in the Magic Valley



Judge Bryan Murray Planting Pinwheels in Pocatello

APRIL IS  
CHILD ABUSE  
PREVENTION  
MONTH



Celebrating Prevention Month in Rigby



Community Resource Event in Lewiston



Governor Brad Little Signs Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

...trusted professionals support  
positive parenting

# Full Circle Health

Winner of the 2022 Ed Van Dusen Legacy Award

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The Ed Van Dusen Award for Exemplary Practice in Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, or The Ed! for short, is presented each year to a program selected by the Idaho Children's Trust Fund's Board of Directors, which exemplifies deep commitment to and successful practice in preventing child abuse and neglect. This year we celebrated the work of **Full Circle Health**.



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## Full Circle Health

Full Circle Health, formerly the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho, trains pediatricians and family medicine practitioners to work in Idaho with emphasis on underserved and rural areas. Members of this teaching faculty have committed to screening for parental ACEs and PCEs and developing the skills to assist parents who may be parenting with their own ACEs to find support or interventions to strengthen their parenting. By starting

early in parents' parenting journeys with early well baby checks, physicians can play a powerful role in the trajectory of that journey. Screening for both positive and adverse childhood experiences provide the starting point for a conversation with the parent that builds on strengths, rather than deficits, to build resilience. This work will impact generations of new parents.

...we listen, learn  
and act

# SFTI



## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES TRAINING INSTITUTE

This year's Strengthening Families Training Institute began and ended on the same note: A call to action to recognize strengths and support families. Pediatrician and national leader in the promotion of Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE), Dr. Robert Sege with Tufts University School of Medicine, opened the Training Institute.

Dr. Sege emphasized the importance of focusing on family strengths and building families up through the development of the "Building Blocks of HOPE". These building blocks, healthy relationships, safe and equitable environments, opportunities for emotional growth and developing a sense of belonging through social and civic engagement, are key to preventing and mitigating the impacts of abuse, neglect and serious family challenges that constitute the ACEs. When we

understand the importance of positive childhood experiences, we can build them intentionally.

Dr. Sege then led participants through several scenarios to help these practitioners understand how they can integrate the HOPE framework into their daily work.

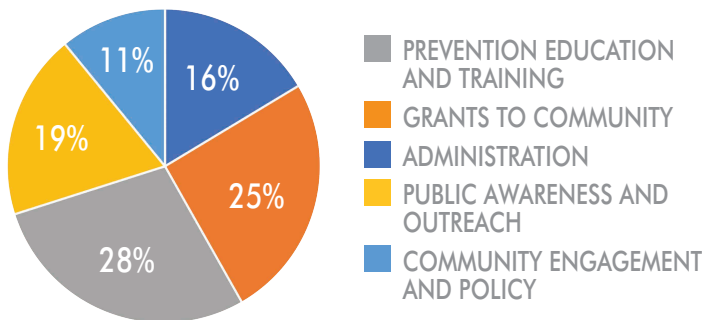
We ended with a powerful presentation by a group of teens focusing on the pressures they feel from cyber bullying, academic expectations, social pressure and the impact on their mental wellbeing. Titled "What I Wish You Knew", the teens expressed their hope that their voices would be heard. Mainly they asked that their parents and other key adults would show up for them, be open to their concerns and be role models they can look up to. That's not asking too much!

At the end of each year, we often reflect on the past twelve months and their impact on our lives. As a board member, this year was significant for me because we had the opportunity to gain a better awareness and understanding of the numerous organizations and programs we support. We did this by having some of those organizations come to our meetings and also by going out on “field trips” to some of our partner organizations. It was an incredible experience to see the innovative and successful projects up close. We already knew of their outstanding work in prevention through the grant process, SFTI conference, and other interactions, but seeing firsthand the work was uplifting.

After these meetings, I felt like instead of driving, I was floating back to my home in Blackfoot. I’ve always felt an immense appreciation for what these community-based organizations do in the prevention of child abuse and neglect, and this year was even more impactful. I know we still have much to do to ensure all children have safe, nurturing, and loving environments, but with their continued commitment to this mission, I feel overwhelmed with hope. Thank you to all of those people and groups working day to day to strengthen families. Have a hope-filled 2024.

– 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.



The Idaho Children’s Trust Fund is the state affiliate of Prevent Child Abuse America

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

### revenues:

Grants and Donations .....	\$537,402
Earned Revenue and Interest ...	\$148,706
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$686,108</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, 2023. Details available upon request.

## THANK YOU

to all who made donations to the Idaho Children’s Trust Fund in 2023!