

CHILDREN
AWAITING
PARENTS



DONALD J. CORBETT ADOPTION AGENCY



2019-2020 Annual Report





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Executive Director Message

Since establishing the Donald J. Corbett Adoption Agency at the end of 2017, CAP launched efforts to establish pre-adoption services that would begin to help achieve permanency for children, locally and nationally.



When I began as executive director for Children Awaiting Parents in October 2018, we began an incredible journey toward the ascent and restructuring of CAP. This past fiscal year has been one of expansion. With 440,000 children in foster care across the nation—and 25,000 of them in NYS—there is much work to be done to reduce the time children spend in foster care and move the needle to decrease the number of children waiting to be adopted. In light of such statistics, CAP added fee-for-services to begin positively impacting these numbers. Highlighting the adoption program services has resulted in eight children finding a permanent and forever family and home for our 2018-19 fiscal year. We contracted with two states and three NYS counties, a wonderful statistic to achieve in this first full year of adoption fee for services.

We are thrilled to be in process with newly-developed programs for children in foster care and—through our Project SSAFE—those who “age out” of the system without a resource. CAP has successfully engaged community partners Rochester Area Community Foundation and others to embark on a new effort targeting the older youth population locally and statewide.

With the assistance of Causewave, CAP initiated an effective, new strategic plan resulting in a new business plan with a team of staff and Board members.

Lastly, CAP wishes to thank the communities with whom we do business and the large number of great supporters who continue to help catapult CAP toward even greater success as we head into the new decade.

Lauri McKnight

Board Chair Message

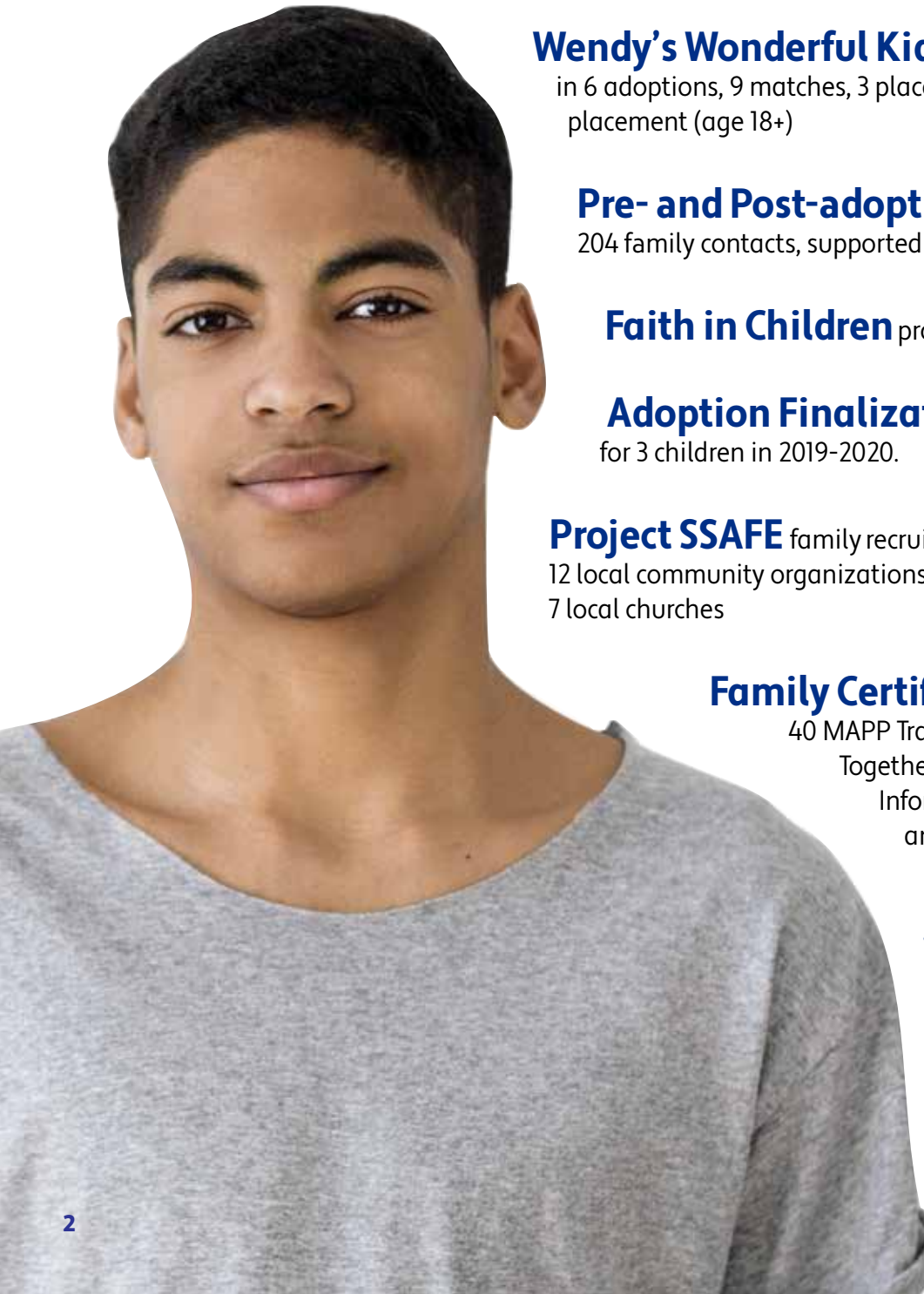
This has been a very exciting year for the CAP/ Corbett agency. Lauri has brought new energy and vision to our ongoing mission. The Board is very engaged and a wonderful combination of young and old, adoptive parents and community leaders. We have celebrated many special adoptions and look forward to many more. I have enjoyed leading this organization, having been involved since its inception, and know that our next year will be even better!



Maryjane Link

What We've Accomplished

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



Wendy's Wonderful Kids program success resulted in 6 adoptions, 9 matches, 3 placements, and 1 guardianship placement (age 18+)

Pre- and Post-adoption services made 204 family contacts, supported 7 children, and 5 families

Faith in Children program made 11 presentations

Adoption Finalization brought forever families for 3 children in 2019-2020.

Project SSAFE family recruitment engaged with 12 local community organizations, and connected with 7 local churches

Family Certification & Support

40 MAPP Training Classes, 17 Deciding Together classes, semi-monthly Information Meetings, and 8 Support Group Meetings

SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTS

November 2019 gala **raised** over \$80,000

Gala Founders' Award Presented to **Judy & Tony Malone**;
Community Partner Award to The Strong

Provided trauma **training** for 100% of staff and all MAPP certified families

New Hires of Stacie Dailey (Licensed Master Social Worker/
Certified Clinical Trauma Professional) and Jackie Rugg
(Office Operations Manager)

Participated in Monroe County National Adoption
Day Planning Committee

Hosted free community Family Fun Day

Chosen **participant** in Finger Lakes Gaming
& Racetrack Charity Cup

"Lift the Wait" fundraiser with local
gyms & fitness centers

CAP Day at the Red Wings **fundraiser**

Hosted fundraising performance of
A Christmas Carol

Frequent **articles** in *Empty Closet*,
Rochester Woman Online,
and *The Challenger*

Children Awaiting Parents by the Numbers

8 Support Group Meetings

17 Weeks of Deciding Together sessions

204 Family Support Contacts

16 Certified Families

7 Placements

3 Adoptions

40 MAPP Classes

8 Informational Meetings

Wendy's Wonderful Kids program

6 adoptions

9 matches

3 placements

1 guardianship
(18+) placement



PARTNERSHIPS

During 2019-2020, our new and continued partnerships greatly assisted our effectiveness and community visibility.

We recognize the following:

Causewave

City of Rochester Mobile Recreation Department

The Community Foundation

Fordham University

In-Control

Mailstar

Penfield/Perinton
Kiwanis Club

Roberts Wesleyan College

Rochester Red Wings

Rochester Woman Online

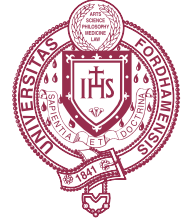
The Strong

Vows Video

Wendy's Wonderful Kids



City of Rochester, NY
Lovely A. Warren, Mayor
Rochester City Council



A Signature Program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption



ROBERTS
WESLEYAN COLLEGE



Financial Summary

| | 2020 | 2019 | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------|-----------|
| Support and Revenue | Gifts, Grants and Contributions | 175,426 | 374,827 |
| | In-Kind Services | 7,132 | 8,415 |
| | Special Events, Net of Direct Expenses | 69,195 | 52,513 |
| | Training Income | 10,150 | 12,550 |
| | Child Placement Fees | 68,555 | 7,000 |
| | Investment Income | 9,934 | 29,101 |
| | Other Income | 0 | 40 |
| | Total Support and Revenue without realized/unrealized gain(loss) on investments | 340,392 | 484,446 |
| | Realized/Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments | (1630) | (2,448) |
| | Change in Retirement Obligation | 0 | 0 |
| Miscellaneous Expense | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Support and Revenue | 338,762 | 481,998 | |
| Expenses | Program Services | 302,995 | 357,874 |
| | Management and General | 152,648 | 192,752 |
| | Fundraising | 66,461 | 63,832 |
| | Total Expenses | 522,104 | 614,458 |
| Balance Sheet | Excess (Deficit) of Support and Revenue over Expenses | (183,342) | (132,460) |
| | Fund Balance - Beginning of Year | 633,703 | 766,163 |
| | Fund Balance - End of Year | 450,631 | 633,703 |
| | Cash and Investments - End of Year | 422,264 | 566,279 |

Children Awaiting Parents Success Stories

Hoffman

After working with 16- and 17-year-old foreign exchange students for six years, Jason Hoffman felt he understood today's teenager and their modern challenges and could provide a good, permanent home for a teen. After hosting his last student, Jason received a postcard from CAP for the Heart Gallery at the Strong Museum of Play. His attendance at that panel event—where he saw Lee (then named Josh)—set the adoption process in motion.

Lee was not originally on Jason's list, but after a phone conversation with Lee's case worker, and reviewing Lee's information, Jason began the process and discussion with CAP. After several meetings at the residential facility where Lee was living at that time, Jason began the process for permanent placement.

In Jason's words, "the folks at CAP really understood my desire to become a single parent. We had our bumps in the road, but we moved forward through the process and everyone let me make my own decisions on how the process went. No one held things back, they put everything that they had regarding information out there,

provided me with training, and were available to just sit and talk. Everyone answered the questions that I asked, and were very upfront and honest. I am sure that everyone in the CAP office now knows when you ask me to do something, I do not waste time in getting things done."

Although many things have changed since Jason's own teen years, Jason says that what has not changed is that you have to love this child, no matter what, and even if. "I have to make sure that he has consistency and learns what it means to have a forever family, and have the respect and dedication to be part of that family. I am a problem solver. I do not get upset very often. He understands that part. We have a completely open door policy for talking. No matter the time, day, or issue, he knows he can talk to me about it. My biggest challenge is that I only have two more years until he is an adult and could theoretically be on his own. I have a lot of work to do to prepare him for the rest of his life, to make sure he is a contributor to society and not a statistic."



Dougherty Dozen (in the words of mom, Alicia Dougherty)

One day in early Spring 2019, I was at the the Children Awaiting Parents' office, meeting with our Adoption Specialist Veronica Black-Turner, when their Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter Toni Marrocco-Helwig, came in the room. She had paperwork on a sibling group of three on her case load. She was telling us that they were going to have to split up the siblings who had repeated failed adoptive placements, both together and separately. Two were living in a Residential Treatment Facility because no home could manage their explosive tantrums. I took one look at those kids and I said 'No no no. Do NOT split them up. We will take them all.' These kids had already lost so much of their childhood, I did not want them to lose each other on top of it. We already had eight children at home, but I could not bear the thought of a sibling group being split up. Toni inquired with their case worker if they would allow us to adopt them all together. Their case worker called Veronica and said, "Are you SURE The Doughertys can handle it??" and Veronica said: "ABSOLUTELY!"

It turns out the foster home decided to adopt the middle sister, leaving the other 2 siblings still needing a family. On March 26, 2019 we started to transition Bree and Patrick into our home. We would drive over an hour away to pick them up and drop them off for day visits. By late spring they were allowed to stay for the weekends. On July 12, 2019 they moved in. And on November 27, 2019 we finalized their adoptions, and they officially became Doughertys!

Bree and Patrick have endured a lot of trauma in their young lives. On top of experiencing every form of abuse, they moved in and out of different family members' homes, then in and out of foster homes, in and out of residential treatment facilities, and in and out of pre-adoptive homes that would unfortunately disrupt the placement due to their behaviors. We work hard every day to help them heal from their past, and move forward



in a positive direction. We have found the right combination of therapies, academic placements, medications and supplements to help them be happy and healthy, while they learn to trust us when we say that they are in our family forever, and they never have to move again.

They keep us busy with their therapies, sports and music lessons. They are involved in individual counseling that incorporates art therapy. They are in yoga therapy and horseback riding therapy. They both take swim lessons and dance as well. Bree enjoys soccer and playing the piano. Patrick enjoys playing for the Challenger Baseball team and playing the drums. One of their favorite activities is to ride their new bikes they were given by Children Awaiting Parents. It is such a gift to watch them have the carefree childhood they deserve. Their hope, enthusiasm, and love for life in spite of all they've lived through is noteworthy. We should all learn—and be inspired by—their ceaseless resiliency and ambition.

While every other family had given up on these two, they are now thriving in our home. We never planned or expected to have 10 children, but Bree and Patrick were meant to find their way into our family, which is what made us: "The Dougherty Dozen."

Children Awaiting Parents Events





7



8



9



10



11



12



1. Enjoying the 2019 Home, Heart & Harmony Gala (L to R: Lauri McKnight, Toni Simmons, Lu Highsmith, CAP Board member Sandra Frankel and Star Simmons)

2. Volunteers helping out with the gala wine pull and auction items.

3. CAP Executive Director Lauri McKnight shares a laugh with 2019 Gala Emcee and Host Joe Lomonaco

4. Long-time CAP supporters and former board members, Tony & Judy Malone accept the 2019 Founders' Award

5. A full room of supporters for our Home, Heart & Harmony gala at the Joseph A. Floreano Riverside Convention Center

6. Roc Boxing—one of the gym participants in our "Lift the Wait" fundraising events—presents a check to CAP. (L to R: CAP Adoption Specialist/ Program Manager Veronica Black, RocBoxing Coach Dana Curcio, and CAP E.D. Lauri McKnight)

7. CAP's Family Fun Day in June brought out local families to enjoy activities set up in our parking lot, including getting up close to reptiles

8. Rochester's "In-Control" teen program came out to support CAP's Family Fun Day with their volunteers.

9. CAP friends, board members and families supporting the home team at "CAP Day" at the Red Wings

10. CAP was chosen to participate in the 13th Annual Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack's Charity Cup, where we competed for a share of \$30,000

11. Superheroes characters joined our own superheroes at the 2019 Heart Gallery at The Strong. (Pictured, not in costume): Kalysa, available for adoption, and Toni Marrocco-Helwig (far right), our Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter

12. CAP's Family Support Specialist Xerius ("Ny") Lewis (seated) shares volunteer information with student attendees at RIT's Community Service Fair

Children Awaiting Parents

Donors

As a small but mighty non-profit without government funding, CAP is indebted to our donors. You help change the life of children waiting the longest in foster care by supporting our work to find them permanent, loving families.

DIAMOND OVER 10K

Dave Thomas Foundation
for Adoption
Donald J Corbett Foundation

PLATINUM 5K-10K

Charles and Mary Crossed
Foundation
Barbara Corbett
Dick and Carol Crossed
Michele Ely

GOLD 1K-5K

Kelly Beauchamp
Ursula Burns
Cobblestone Capital
Andrew and Patricia Crossed
Amy Crossed-Rieck
Sandra and Neil Frankel
Hon. Patricia Gallaher
ELOGIC Group
Vince and Cindy Harper
IDE Honda
Kathleen LePage
Jesse Lucas
Maryjane Link
Anthony and Judy Malone
MGM Insurance
MRB Group
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RDI
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Jo Milam
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Lincoln and Susan Spaulding
Trinity Montessori School

BRONZE \$100-\$500

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Keaton Ackerman
America's Charities
Mary Arrow
Jennifer Banister
Susan Bayly
Nicole Bayly
Amy Blum
Betsy Bringewatt
Mary Burkwit
Neal Burns
Daniel Carter
Heather Carvill-Henry
Marisa Casa
Theresa Crecre
Compass Cycle & Flow
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Nanette Domanti
Susan Duke
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Lindsey Dutoit
Deborah Eastman
Felisa Erway
Susan Frederick
FM MBody
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Ian Hurlburt
Zachary Johnson
Adam Jones
Michael Kirschen
Nina B Klionsky
Ernest and Sarah Krug
Jeri Laskowski
Robert Lewis
Celeny Mohamed
Mark Muenzer
Lesley Niebel
Oddfellows, Independent Order
Gary Passero
Sara Poe
James Reed
Dick and Bea Rosenbloom
Ginny Ryan
Len and Debbie Saner
Lynne Scalzo
Michael and Suzanne
Schnittman
Susan Schoff
Bryce Schonberger
Silvia Sodhi
Nancy and Jeff Swain

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David Turner
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George VanArsdale
James VanDemark
Tracey Van Vleck
William Valenti
Bridget Watts
Marion Weaver
Wegmans Food Markets
Catherine Wilson
Lynn Yeaw and Barbara Baer

PEWTER UNDER \$100

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Michael Acquilano
Clare Acquilano
Miriam Adams
Corby and John Broadwell
Susan Burggraf
Mary Burkwit
David Carsel
Cheryl L Carvill
William & Carol Coons
Donald and Judith Cornwell
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Nicole Eichline
Courtney Fay
Sheila Foley
Carol/George Glaess
Joanna Grosodonia
Chris Hohman
Robert and Mary Jenkins
Nicholas Jenkins
Judy Kroon
Michele Lennox
Brian Lindquist
Christine Lombardi
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Diane and Betty McLane
Linda Meyers
Richard and Helen Moore
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Francine Scott
Beatrice Sheridan
Janet Shipman
Rita Sorbera
Corinne Stork
Faythe Swanson
Susan Tramosch
Doua Xiong
Katie Yatteau
Tali Zito

In-kind Donations

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Breathe Yoga
California Rollin'
Century Liquor
Compass Cycle
Driphouse
East Avenue Barbell
East Avenue Dental
Mary-Therese and Kent Friel
G&G Fitness Equipment
GEVA Theatre
Get Caked
Georgetown Liquor
Jimmy Highsmith
Jazz & Soul Cafe
Legends Radio
M/Body
Maryjane Link
Joe Lomonaco
Jesse Lucas
Memorial Art Gallery
Nox
Onondaga School of Massage
Penfield Sport & Fitness
Pure Barre
Ramada Inn
ROC Boxing & Fitness
Rochester Museum & Science
Center
Rochester Public Market
Rochester Riverside Convention
Center
Thai Fusion
The Gatehouse Restaurant
The Strong
Together We Rise
Via Girasole
Wegmans
WAYO
WGMC
WHAM-TV 13
WROC-TV 8
WXIR





Children Awaiting Parents

Staff

We recognize our diligent and hardworking staff who make our successes happen. Thank you to each of them for their role in Children Awaiting Parents' achievements.

Lauri McKnight
Executive Director

Veronica Black
Adoption Program Manager

David Carsel
Finance Manager

Jaclyn Rugg
Office Operations Manager

Toni Marrocco-Helwig
Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter

Stacie Dailey
Foster Care Program Manager

Xerius Lewis
Family Support Specialist

Amy Blum
Public Relations Consultant

Laura Poole
Resource Support Specialist

Volunteers

We are so thankful for every one of our volunteers who give generously of their time and talents. You inspire us every day and are always in our hearts.

Keaton Ackerman
Michele Ashlee

Photography

Barbara Baer

Megan Bass

Amy Blum

Elizabeth "Betsy"

Bringewatt

David Carsel

Michael Cicero

Megan Cleveringa

Amy Crossed

Anna DeRosa

Alicia Dougherty

Felisa Erway

Honorable Sandra L.

Frankel

Honorable Trish Gallaher

Damon Garfield, Jr.

Damon Garfield, Sr.

Shar Goins

Sheyandra Goins

Eileen Grandel

Caitlin Graney

Margaret Hackert-Kroot

Cindy Harper

Vince Harper

Ian Hurlburt

Joshua Hurlburt

Brittany Jenkins

Megan Kist

Jenna Kittle

Robert Lewis

Xerius Lewis

Sharon Loving

Jesse Lucas

James Maddison

Angie Majors

Tony Malone

Lisa Maynard

Jessica Nhail

Mary Ellen O'Connor

Russell Olson

Laura Poole

The Prima Group

The Reptile Guy

Matt Reynell

Moses Robinson

Rochester Mobile Rec

on the Move

Ilona Russell

Lucas Santana

Lynne Scalzo

Tony Simmons

Donald Starver

Jordan Turner

Karen Ver Steeg

Catherine Wilson

Marquis Wright