

CHILDREN  
AWAITING  
PARENTS



DONALD J. CORBETT ADOPTION AGENCY

# 2020–2021 Annual Report





**CONTENTS**

What We've Accomplished 2-3  
 Remembering David Carsel 2  
 Partnerships 4  
 Financials 5  
 Allen Family 6  
 Inquiries & Responses 7  
 Events 8-9  
 Donors 10-11  
 Staff & Volunteers **back cover**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Lorisa LaRocca, Chair  
 Catherine Wilson, Co-chair  
 Lynne M. Scalzo, Secretary  
 Vince Harper, Treasurer

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 Joelle Dupont  
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 Megan Kist  
 Robert Lewis  
 Maryjane Link, Past-chair  
 Jesse Lucas  
 Russell Olson  
 Ruth Turner  
 Marquis Wright

**IT HAS BEEN A YEAR!**

In many ways, we at Children Awaiting Parents have learned so much throughout this challenging year of 2020 in a pandemic. So many challenges, so many sad moments, yet many positive occurrences arose throughout that time. For a period of time, we could not place waiting children, furthering their uncertainty. We also lost our beloved finance manager, David Carsel, whom we miss dearly.

Yet, we saw a community come together for the good of its residents. We saw families gain awareness and interest in our waiting children. We learned how to navigate a virtual world to meet the needs of families and children. We developed a method to certify those interested families through virtual MAPP training for more families. We created new ways of doing old tasks, and found the way to keep the agency alive with the help of the community. In the midst of it all in 2020, we completed our application process for a state license to begin new programming. And still conducted four children's finalizations to permanent loving families.

It was a year! A tough year! Yet coming out of crisis with a new outlook and new developments has been our driving force to learn how to journey through growing pains with great hope and goals. On behalf of CAP, I would like to thank all our friends, supporters, families, readers, board, staff, and community partners for sticking with us in 2020. We look forward to 2021 with great anticipation.

Lauri McKnight



**IN A WORD, 2020 WAS CERTAINLY UNFORGETTABLE.**

As we look back to March of last year, no one could have imagined that we would still be struggling through a global pandemic more than 15 months later. While COVID brought many hardships—including to CAP and the families we serve—it also showed us what a strong and vibrant agency we truly are.

Under the unwavering vision and leadership of our Executive Director, Lauri McKnight, CAP has emerged from the pandemic with a renewed vigor. We look ahead to an exciting 2021-2022 program year with the addition of the SSAFE Project and foster care, as well as the expansion of our adoption programs. We thank you for your continuing commitment to CAP and the incredible work of our dedicated staff and volunteers.

Lorisa LaRocca



# What We've Accomplished (despite the pandemic)



## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Wendy's Wonderful Kids program resulted in **4** adoptions, **5** matches, and **1** guardianship placement (age 18+)

Faith in Children program made **5** engagements

Adoption Finalization created forever families for **4** children











Project SSAFE family recruitment engaged with **6** local families plus churches, organizations, and local community members

GPS II/MAPP Training Classes: four sessions, **17** families

**5** Deciding Together (online) families resulted in **2** adoptions and **3** foster care placements

Hosted **11** Informational Meetings with **23** families (in-person and online)

## SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTS

-  Hybrid November fundraising gala and auction raised \$35,000. Featured Emcee Sandy Waters and musical groups Prime Time Funk, Paradigm Shift, and jazz guitarist Bob Sneider
-  Gala Founders' Award to Maryjane Link, Community Partner Award to Karen Ver Steeg
-  Virtual Heart Gallery event at The Strong
-  Launched our CAP Chats with adoption and foster specialists, families, and community members, moved from in-person to online
-  Moved our offices around the corner to 176 Anderson for more family-friendly space
-  Participated in the international "Giving Tuesday Now" initiative and "Giving Tuesday"
-  Media coverage on 13-WHAM TV, Spectrum News, WHEC-TV, WROC-TV, Rochester Woman Online (multiple stories), Rochester Business Journal, Rochester Beacon, and The Challenger.
-  Launched the three-month movement challenge "Foster to Forever: CAP Challenge for the 125 Thousand"
-  Received donations through Amazon Smile
-  Created "On Our Way" series on social media

## WENDY'S WONDERFUL KIDS PROGRAM



**4** adoptions  
**5** matches  
**1** guardianship (18+ placement)

## CHILDREN AWAITING PARENTS BY THE NUMBERS

5

Deciding Together families

93

Family Support Contacts

17

Certified Families

4

Adoptions

4

GPS II/MAPP Training class sessions

11

Informational Meetings

406

inquiries

651

responses

## Remembering David Carsel

David Carsel, CAP's Finance and HR Operational Manager, passed away suddenly on Thursday, July 16, 2020. He was a light and a joy, a steady presence behind the scenes at Children Awaiting Parents, keeping us all going. David was a man of many talents and passions, and his dedication to CAP was second to none. He ran the office like a well-oiled machine, never missing a beat when it came to events and organization. Even the plants thrived under his care. David's love for CAP was evident, and it was clear we were part of his family! He will forever be in our hearts as a CAP icon.



# Partnerships

Although the pandemic affected everyone’s ability to work together, we still were able to continue our important partnerships. We recognize the following:

- Comedy @ the Carlson
- Friends of Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield
- kidsoutandabout.com
- Mothers in Need of Others
- Office of Children & Family Services
- Penfield-Perinton Kiwanis Club
- Restoration Rochester
- Roberts Wesleyan College
- Rochester Woman Online
- The Strong
- SUNY Brockport
- United Way
- Voice for Adoption
- Vows Video
- Wegmans
- Wendy’s Wonderful Kids
- Worth More Nation



# Financial Summary

## Support and Revenue

	2021	2020
Gifts, Grants and Contributions	237,091	175,426
In-Kind Services	0	7,132
Special Events, Net of Direct Expenses	26,255	69,195
Training Income	12,855	10,150
Child Placement Fees	92,440	68,555
Investment Income	6,183	9,934
Other Income	4,191	0
<b>Total Support and Revenue without realized/unrealized gain(loss) on investments</b>	<b>379,015</b>	<b>340,392</b>
Realized/Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	7,651	(1630)
Change in Retirement Obligation	0	0
Miscellaneous Expense	0	0
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>386,666</b>	<b>338,762</b>

## Expenses

Program Services	333,774	302,995
Management and General	161,587	152,648
Fundraising	64,888	66,461
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>560,249</b>	<b>522,104</b>

## Balance Sheet

Excess (Deficit) of Support and Revenue over Expenses	(173,583)	(183,342)
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	450,361	633,703
Fund Balance - End of Year	276,778	450,361
Cash and Investments - End of Year	368,561	422,264



# Allen Family

*After being together as a couple for 20 years, Jeff and Rob were starting to think that maybe there was something missing. Throughout the years, they had talked about adoption. They had seen the joy in families of friends or relatives as they grew, and they decided that adoption would be the best thing in their lives.*



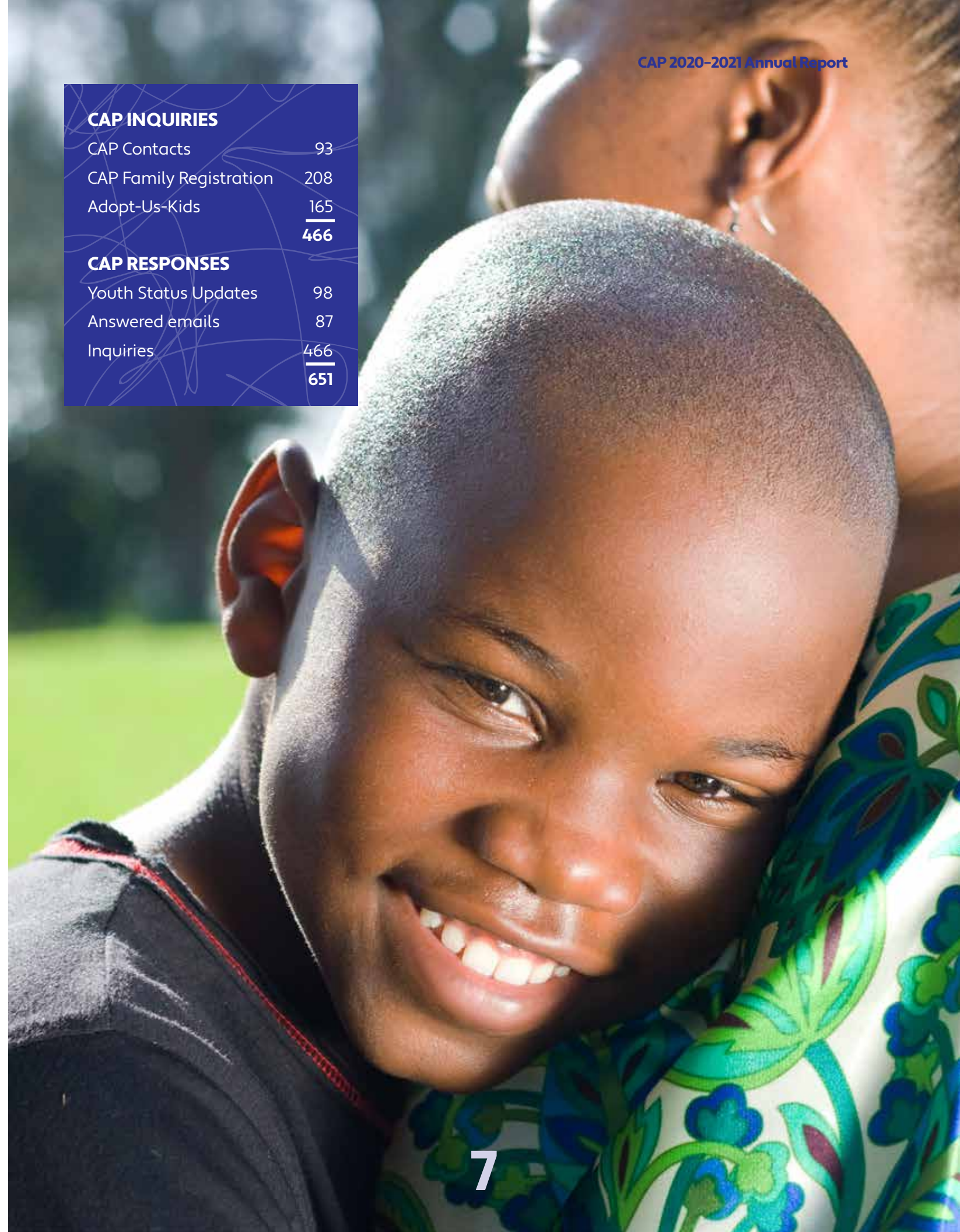
That’s how 10-year-old Charlie came into their lives. The Allens began the adoption process in the spring of 2018. CAP worked closely with Jeff and Rob, and as Rob says, “CAP wanted it to work as badly as we did. And it felt like a real partnership.”

In July 2019, Charlie moved in with Jeff and Rob. They had a timeline for adoption, but then the pandemic hit. Although there were some delays, fortunately they were far enough along in the adoption process that the pandemic impacted them more or less the same way that it impacted any other family.

Jeff Allen said the adoption process can be complex, but it’s worth it in the long run. On August 19, 2020—via a virtual hearing with a judge—Charlie’s adoption was finalized: the day the Allen Family became complete.

Rob noted that the finalization just put that stamp of legitimacy. Ultimately, it’s something that is permanent. It can never be changed. “So we are family forever, and that means a heck of a lot.”

CAP INQUIRIES	
CAP Contacts	93
CAP Family Registration	208
Adopt-Us-Kids	165
	<b>466</b>
CAP RESPONSES	
Youth Status Updates	98
Answered emails	87
Inquiries	466
	<b>651</b>



# Events



1



2



3



10



11



5



4



12



13



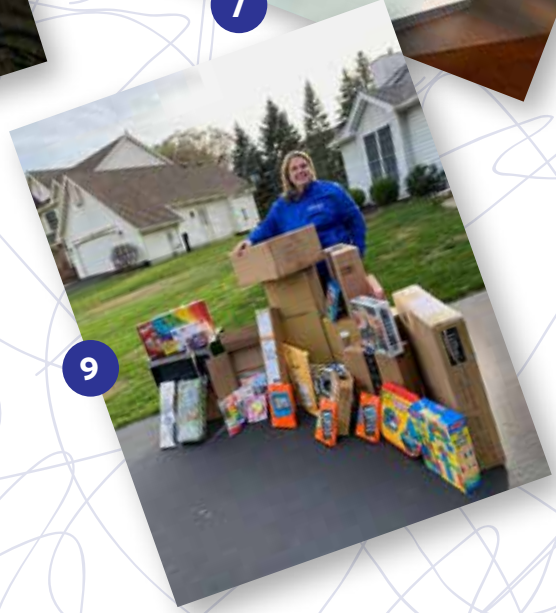
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6



14



9



15



8

**CAP CHATS**  
Hear from experts on foster care, adoption, trauma

Join us on Facebook  
[facebook.com/ChildrenAwaitingParents](https://facebook.com/ChildrenAwaitingParents)

16

1. Hybrid CAP Gala with emcee Sandy Waters
2. Maryjane Link receives Founders' Award at CAP Gala
3. The Dukes family with adopted son Miles, participating from Florida in our "Foster to Forever: CAP Challenge for the 125 Thousand"
4. CAP Skillbuilder Xerius (Ny) Lewis "seeing double" at a community event in which CAP participated
5. Finance Manager David Carsel making a neighborhood delivery on behalf of CAP during the pandemic
6. CAP friends at a Black Heritage Dinner in support of Black History Month
7. Heart Gallery photo display of waiting children at The Strong
8. Representatives of the Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foster Care Team dropping off donations for our Excellus Family Room
9. Generous donations of toys and games from Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foster Care Team for our Family Room
10. Lauri McKnight and Rochester Police Department's Moses Robinson with CAP's SSAFE brochure, at the Armory's City youth event
11. CAP's new office at 176 Anderson Avenue, providing more space for CAP families and children
12. CAP supported Xerius (Ny) Lewis's School of the Arts basketball team
13. Appreciative girls from The Godly Divas receiving donated items from CAP
14. Lauri McKnight with The Godly Divas Executive Director Cheryl Snead
15. When the pandemic prevented CAP from in-person training, we pivoted to continue training and supporting parents on zoom
16. CAP Chats brought experts on foster care, adoption, and trauma for a one-hour lunchtime chat on Facebook Live

# Donors

## **DIAMOND: OVER \$10K**

Charles and Mary Crossed Foundation  
Corbett Family Charitable Foundation  
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

## **PLATINUM: \$5K-10K**

Cobblestone Capital Advisors, LLC  
Barbara Corbett  
Michele Ely  
Feminists Choosing Life of NY  
Genesee Co-Op Federal Credit Union  
Chris Rahmlow  
Leo Ramos

## **GOLD - \$1K-\$499K**

Jane August  
Cobblestone Capital Advisors  
Amy Crossed  
Gramm Family Foundation  
John and Bonnie Hood  
Keybank  
Lewis Tree Service Inc.  
Maryjane Link  
Jesse Lucas  
Anthony and Judith Malone  
MGM Associates Insurance  
MRB Group  
Park Grove Realty  
Russell and Jeanette Olson  
Jacquelyn Roarke  
Sassano Donor Fund - Savannah Community Foundation  
Schwartz Family Foundation  
David and Peggy Soule  
Tolga Soyata  
David Verde  
The Victoria Inn  
Wegmans Food Markets

## **SILVER: \$500 - \$999**

Keaton Ackerman  
Ann Brayfield and Joe Emerson  
Kyle Duthoy  
Sandra Ericson  
Vince and Cindy Harper  
Britt Jencik  
Bryan Pasquale  
Edwin and Roberta Przybylowicz  
Payson and Wiley Fund  
Raise a Glass Foundation  
Eric and Elizabeth Rennert  
Ramada Inn on Seneca Lake  
ROAM Café  
Rochester Area Community Foundation  
Lynne Scalzo /Lynne Scalzo Consulting  
Sarah Viggiani and Benjamin Werzinger

## **BRONZE: \$100-\$499**

Aleeza Nail Salon  
Robin Allstadt  
America's Charities  
Ryan Arthurton  
Barbara Baer  
Burl Bagley-Bright  
John and Lynda Bailey  
Annie Banton  
Nicole Bayly  
Amy Blum Public Relations  
Stephen Brewster  
Betsy Bringewatt  
Kathleen Carney  
Cheryl L. Carvill-Henry  
Joanne Chada Chada  
Joe Chesbro and Jennifer Erin Collins  
Complete Training Canine Obedience  
Constellation Brands  
Lauren Croop  
Archana Devasia

Raymond Dreher  
Joelle Dupont  
Lowell Edwards and Patricia Holly Evans  
Sandra and Neil Frankel  
Patricia Gallaher  
Getting it Daily Personal Training  
Meredith Goodhew  
Charles Goodykoontz and Cathy Greater Rochester Committee For Single Adoptive Parents  
Michael Grossman  
Allen and Lianne Heath  
Helendale Medical Spa  
Henrietta Animal Hospital  
Karen Hockenberry  
Charles Johnson  
Zachary Johnson  
Denise Kendricks  
Michael Kirschen  
Lisa Kist  
Megan Kist  
Nina B. Klionsky  
Ernest and Sarah Krug  
Louis Langie  
Lorisa LaRocca  
Susan Lawrence  
Kathleen LePage  
Robert Lewis  
Angie Major  
Toni Marrocco-Helwig  
Howard Markus  
Catherine Mayne  
Adam Mizzi  
Thomas and Carolyn Mulligan  
Nadia Padilla-Rodriguez  
Steven Paiement  
Penfield-Perinton Kiwanis Club  
Theodore Perkins  
Donald and Judith Peters  
Pet Supplies, Plus  
Paula Popper  
Alice Raymond  
Matthew Reynell  
Rochester Museum & Science Center

Dick and Bea Rosenbloom  
Jaclyn Rugg  
Salon BLU  
Lynne Scalzo  
Margot Schuler  
Matt Sitler  
Strong Museum Of Play  
David Turner  
United Way of Buffalo & Erie County  
William Valenti  
Bryan Vangorder  
Tracy VanVleck  
Lisa Wilcox  
Catherine Wilson  
Audrey Wolcott

## **PEWTER : UNDER \$100**

John Alessi  
Don Alhart  
Mustafa Alnuaimy  
Bob Ames  
Jordynn Barnhart  
Monica Bell  
Stephanie Borellis  
Judy Browne  
Josephine Carra  
David Carsel  
Maryann Catallo  
Cynthia Clay  
Michele Conte  
Grace Costich-Schlageter  
Cindi Crowley  
Craig Demling  
Sara Dixon  
James Dorsey  
Rosemary Eichenlaub  
Peggy Gomlua  
Dane and Judith Gordon  
Marty Grizzanti  
Elizabeth Hanley  
Wendy Hemlock  
Janet Heyen  
Carol Hondorf  
Barbara Hufsmith

Peter Iglinski  
The Jenkins Family  
Dan Kunz  
Suzanne Lasher  
Carole Leak-Jamison  
Xerius Lewis  
Valerie Lunger  
Michael Marciuliano  
Matt Marino  
Margaret Mason  
Brian McCarthy  
Lauri McKnight  
John Mietus  
Andrea Miller  
John Mulligan  
Charles and Geri Mulligan  
Christie Mustico  
Mary Ann Nardone-Bello  
Ryan Ockenden  
Jean Oswald  
John and Diane Parrinello  
Pledgleing Foundation  
Jennifer Radosevich  
Laura Randall  
Lindsay Randall  
Matthew Rieck  
Williamson and Mary Robin  
Magaly Rosario  
Susan Rupp  
Marvin and Sora Sachs  
Siera Sadowski  
Rita Sorbera  
Lynn Sullivan  
John Treahy  
Adam Turnbull  
Steven Turner  
James VanDemark  
Maria Wehrle  
Francis West  
Paul White  
Latasha Wilson  
Kathryn Wise  
Gretchen Wood

## **IN-KIND DONATIONS**

Aleeza's Nail Salon  
Don Alhart  
Amy Blum  
Cafe Lucano  
Complete Canine Obedience Training  
Constellation Brands  
Amy Crossed  
Linden Dukes Personal Training  
Joelle Dupont  
Kyle Duthoy  
Sandy Frankel  
Friends of Ganondagan  
Vince & Cindy Harper  
Helendale Medical Spa  
Henrietta Animal Hospital  
Peter Iglinski Speech Repair  
kidsoutandabout.com  
Lorisa LaRocca  
Leo's Bakery  
Lombardi's  
Lucano's Restaurant  
Toni Marrocco-Helwig  
Pet Supplies Plus  
Raise a Glass Foundation  
Ramada Inn on Seneca Lake  
Rochester Brainery  
Rochester Museum & Science Center  
Royal Canin  
Jackie Rugg  
Salon Blu  
Lynne Scalzo Consulting  
The Strong  
The Victoria Inn, Ocean City, NJ  
Wegmans  
Workplace Interiors

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# Staff

We are extraordinarily thankful for our diligent and hardworking staff. During the pandemic, they demonstrated the will and ability to pivot from in-person to online work. 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  
Toni Marrocco-Helwig, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter  
Stacie Dailey, Foster Care Program Manager  
Jackie Rugg, Office Operations 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	Honorable	Angie Majors
Michele Ashlee	Trish Gallaher	Tony Malone
Photography	Damon Garfield, Jr.	Lisa Maynard
Barbara Baer	Damon Garfield, Sr.	Jessica Nhail
Melanie Barnas-Simmons	Sheyandra Goins	Mary Ellen O'Connor
Jordynn Barnhart	Caitlin Graney	Russell Olson
Megan Bass	Margaret Hackert-Kroot	Laura Poole
Amy Blum	Cindy Harper	Annette Ramos
Elizabeth "Betsy" Bringewatt	Vince Harper	Matt Reynell
David Carsel	Ian Hurlburt	Liliana Ruiz
Michael Cicero	Joshua Hurlburt	Ilona Russell
Megan Cleveringa	Brittany Jenkins	Lucas Santana
Amy Crossed	Megan Kist	Lynne Scalzo
Alicia Dougherty	Jenna Kittle	Tony Simmons
Felisa Erway	Charlene Lewis	Donald Starver
Honorable	Robert Lewis	Jordan Turner
Sandra L. Frankel	Xerius Lewis	Karen Ver Steeg
	Sharon Loving	Catherine Wilson
	Jesse Lucas	Marquis Wright
	James Maddison	