

ONE MILLION BRIGHTER FUTURES



CENTER FOR THE RIGHTS
OF ABUSED CHILDREN



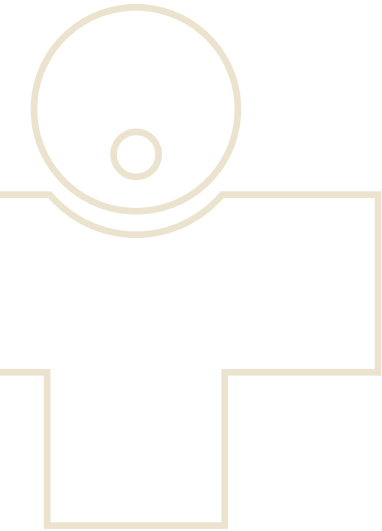
Our Mission

Our mission is to protect children, change laws and inspire people – to ensure every abused child has a bright future. We envision a day when all of America’s children have the opportunity to live in safe and loving homes.





Table of Contents



4	Letter from the CEO
5	Our Work
6	What We Fight for Every Day
7	2025 Vision
8	Strategic Priority: Turn No Child Away
10	Strategic Priority: Extend Common-Sense Protections Coast to Coast
12	Strategic Priority: Establish a Jurisprudence of Children's Rights
14	Financials
15	Leadership and Awards

“The Center for the Rights of Abused Children’s work in Arizona has become a blueprint for change across the country.”

– Frontdoors Magazine



Letter from the CEO

I wish you could meet the children we fight for every day in the Children's Law Clinic and across America. These innocent children have suffered unimaginable terrors. They may never know your name, but your generosity is changing their lives forever. With your support, we stand in their corner, fighting for their rights, safety, and futures day in and day out.

Since 2017, this work has helped more than 500,000 child victims of incest, starvation, trafficking, and other unspeakable acts. More than 25 of our common-sense reforms have taken root in the law. We envision a day when all of America's abandoned and abused children will have the opportunity to live in safe and loving homes.

To this end, we invite you to join us over the next three years with the goal of serving more than 1 million American children. Our ability to grow has never been more urgent.

The number of American children suffering abandonment, abuse, and trafficking is at an all-time high. Making matters worse, their lives are often in jeopardy in the one place where safety should be guaranteed: the American courtroom. Adults who abuse and traffic children have more rights and protections under the law than their child victims. Children need basic legal protections to ensure they can grow up in safe and loving homes.

Together, we're giving these children new beginnings. Thank you for being part of the Center for the Rights of Abused Children.

Sincerely,

Darcy Olsen
Founder & CEO





Our Work

The Center for the Rights of Abused Children fights for better futures for America's abandoned and abused children with a **pro bono Children's Law Clinic, common-sense reforms, and public interest litigation.**

Since 2017, the Center for Children's work has helped more than 500,000 American children. Our courtroom advocacy has rescued child victims of incest, starvation, trafficking, and other unspeakable acts. More than 25 of our common-sense reforms have taken root in state and federal law. We envision a day when all of America's abandoned and abused children have the opportunity to live in safe and loving homes.





What we fight for every day

Protecting the abandoned

Ensuring every child has a safe and loving family

Enforcing constitutional rights

Bringing transparency and limits to state action

Improving education

Preventing aging out

Making foster care safe, stable, and temporary



675,000




CHILDREN ARE ABUSED
EVERY YEAR IN AMERICA.



2025 Vision

With a proven record of success in courtrooms and capitols, the Center for the Rights of Abused Children is a national leader whose pro bono advocacy and initiatives are putting an end to violence against children across America.

Over the next three years:

-  The number of children impacted by the Center for Children's work will grow from 500,000 to over 1 million.
-  The Children's Law Clinic will expand to meet the needs of children and teens in care with the goal of never turning away a child in our home state of Arizona.
-  We will expand our common-sense reforms and court rulings nationwide to establish a robust state and federal jurisprudence that guarantees children safety, family, and justice.

To scale our work, the Center for Children will raise annual operating revenue from its current \$2.3 million to **\$5.1 million by December 31, 2025.**

Protecting Baby Jay.

Jay is thriving with his adoptive family, getting the medical care he needs to grow up healthy and strong. It's a world away from the gas station bathroom where his mother left him when he was just a few days old. Jay was born addicted to drugs, with severe medical issues that required specialized treatment to keep him alive. Yet just days after his birth, Jay's mother drove to the middle of nowhere and abandoned him. The Center for the Rights of Abused Children fought for Jay in court to make sure his medical needs were met during visits with his mother.





STRATEGIC PRIORITY: **Turn no child away**

The Children's Law Clinic provides pro bono, emergency legal services to children in Arizona that are not available anywhere else. The Clinic has been a lifeline for children in foster care. Our attorneys review cases detailing unspeakable acts of violence committed against children, including incest, child trafficking, and brain damage caused by physical abuse, and commit countless hours to representing these defenseless victims.

Bringing Kaitlyn to safety.

Kaitlyn's father saw her as nothing more than a way to get easy cash. Just after her 11th birthday, he delivered her to his friend who was a pimp. Kaitlyn often disappeared for days. When she returned, her father took the money she made, then locked her in her room until it was time to go out again. Thankfully for Kaitlyn, her aunt discovered the abuse and reached out to the Center for the Rights of Abused Children. Our pro bono Children's Law Clinic was able to protect Kaitlyn and facilitate her adoption to her loving aunt.

*Name changed and details modified for child's privacy.



In 2021, at the Center for Children's urging, our home state of Arizona unanimously adopted a new law that entitles all children in foster care to an attorney in their abuse proceedings. This historic advance provides abandoned and abused children with basic legal representation. While the law has vastly improved representation for children in care, the quality of representation is uneven. Our attorneys continue to be sought for legal counsel in the most urgent, complex, and challenging cases.

In 2022, the Children's Law Clinic received support to expand and establish a pro bono legal services division to serve older youth with a variety of challenging and unique legal issues. The Center for Children is the only provider of its kind in Arizona offering free legal support and guidance for thousands of teens on the verge of aging out of foster care.



Teens and older youth who age out of foster care are more likely to end up in prison than to attend college. Our pro bono legal aid and guidance dramatically alters life outcomes for these especially vulnerable teens.

The Children's Law Clinic informs teens of their legal rights, provides direct legal representation, and counsels them on opportunities in education and employment:

Reclaiming stolen identities and creating new ones for safety when needed.

Children in foster care frequently are the victims of identity theft. Our attorneys assist them in reclaiming their identities and rehabilitating their credit.

Expunging non-dangerous juvenile records.

All children have the right to have their non-dangerous juvenile delinquency records and criminal convictions expunged when they turn 18, but few children in foster care can clear their records without an advocate. The Clinic gives one-on-one assistance to youth to help them expunge their convictions.

Obtaining critical documents.

Many children in foster care do not have copies of their birth certificates or Social Security documentation. Others need help compiling their education credits, like one teen who had been moved 47 times during his childhood. Obtaining these records often requires extensive research and legal expertise. Our attorneys help find this information, opening the doors to obtaining a driver's license, going to college, getting employment, finding housing, voting, serving in the armed forces, and more.

Our 2025 strategic priority is to staff the clinic with enough qualified attorneys to meet the wide diversity of pro bono needs and the high number of children and teens in need – our aim is to never turn a child or teen away. The Clinic will help youth beat the odds and shape their futures toward stability, health and happiness.

Helping Sienna fight for her future.

After years in turmoil, Sienna graduated high school and plans to become a dental hygienist. But one misstep with the system nearly ended her progress. Sienna aged out of the system with no support and was arrested. She completed her diversion program but was late paying fines. We worked to dismiss the case, so Sienna won't enter adult life with a criminal record simply because she was a few weeks late paying court fines. Next week, she starts a new semester and celebrates her 19th birthday with prospects for a bright future.



**STRATEGIC PRIORITY:****Extend common-sense protection coast to coast**

Since 2017, the Center for the Rights of Abused Children has helped more than 500,000 American children through dozens of common-sense reforms that have taken root in state and federal law. Arizona will continue to be our proof-of-concept state, where we work on consensus reforms to make foster care safe, stable, and temporary. Our strategic priority is to extend key protections to more children coast to coast by launching multi-state and federal initiatives on key issues. Steps to help children include:

Give every child the right to an attorney.

Children should be guaranteed an attorney to fight for their rights during abuse and dependency proceedings. Criminals currently have more rights and protections under the law than the children they hurt.

Immediately search for family.

Our model family search act will be expanded to more states. This reform requires agencies to search for and notify relatives and kin within 30 days of a child being placed in foster care. This increases the chances that children can remain with their families and frees foster parents to stand in the gap when no family can be found.

Put an end to children sleeping in jails, cars, and office buildings while they wait for a safe placement.

Nationwide, there is one licensed family for every two children in care. With common-sense reforms, we can ensure that every child in need has a safe place to stay.

Stop the disappearances of children in foster care.

20,000 children disappear from the foster care system each year, constituting the majority of America's trafficked children. Our work will build on our accomplishments to date – preventing disappearances from care, guaranteeing immediate searches if a child goes missing, and enforcing stiffer penalties on traffickers.

Stop teens from aging out.

We'll pursue multiple initiatives aimed at preventing aging out: guaranteeing due process upon entering foster care, enforcing time in care limits, improving education services during time-in-care, finding more foster and adoptive families and improving opportunities for education and employment.



Daniel and Darla find a forever family.

Daniel and Darla have a strong bond that's common among siblings who've survived abuse. Unfortunately, when siblings are removed from their home, they're often sent to different foster families. That's what happened to Daniel and Darla. Daniel struggled so much that his new family reluctantly relocated him to a therapeutic foster home. Though it was supposed to be a temporary move to get him the help he needed, Daniel was still there a year later. Our pro bono Children's Law Clinic worked to reunite Daniel and Darla. Now, Daniel is at home with his sister and his forever family, ready to be adopted this summer.



*Names changed and details modified for children's privacy.

Every child deserves a family.

President Ronald Reagan issued a call to action to help America's abandoned and abused children in 1988 by creating National Foster Care Month. It is a reminder for all of us to reflect on the pressures families face today and the need for increased efforts to ensure that abandoned or abused children get to live in healthy, loving homes.

"The family is the indispensable foundation of society; at its best, it performs tasks that no other entity can hope to duplicate. The family has the primary responsibility for nurturing children, transmitting our culture, and building the character traits that make for healthy adults and good citizens. Upon the strength of the family rests the future of our Nation.

For a variety of reasons, however, some parents are unable to provide a minimally acceptable level of care for their children, and temporary or permanent alternative placement is necessary...

The emphasis in foster care must be on the well-being of the child, and public policy must serve to promote alternative placement that represents actual care and not mere custody. Because the tasks facing foster parents often include special challenges, such as care of a child who is physically or mentally handicapped or who has been emotionally or physically abused, the mothers and fathers whom society qualifies to accept this added responsibility must be held to a high standard. To accomplish this goal, many more happy and successful families must be willing to step forward and to offer to share heart and home with children desperately longing for both. The aim of all foster care must be the establishment for the child of a sense of permanence and belonging."

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY:****Establish a jurisprudence of children's rights**

The Center for the Rights of Abused Children will establish a jurisprudence of children's rights, where the U.S. Supreme Court recognizes that the federal Constitution protects children's interests in procedural and substantive due process; their interests in family association, including the right to search for a new family if they cannot return home; and their right to safety while in state care. These interests include:

Right to family association.

This right includes the ability to search for and to form a new family when a child cannot return home.

Right to exit foster care in a timely manner.

This protection includes the right to a speedy trial and proceedings.

Right to due process.

This constitutional protection includes the right to an attorney and to equal protection of the laws.

Right to be heard and to participate.

Children deserve the right to be heard and to participate in court proceedings.

Right to fair, impartial, and open court proceedings.

This protection includes access to court calendars, dependency petitions, court dockets, hearings, and trials.

The Center for the Rights of Abused Children will strategically file cases in federal and state courts asserting constitutional arguments designed to drive these important constitutional questions to state supreme courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. We will present courts with the opportunity to issue favorable rulings strengthening the basic rights of America's most vulnerable children.

"For children in foster care to live happy lives, we need the help of others."

– Maya, a child served in the Children's Law Clinic



IN AMERICA EVERY YEAR:

117,000

CHILDREN ARE WAITING TO BE ADOPTED

22,000

AGE OUT WITH NO FAMILY

10,000

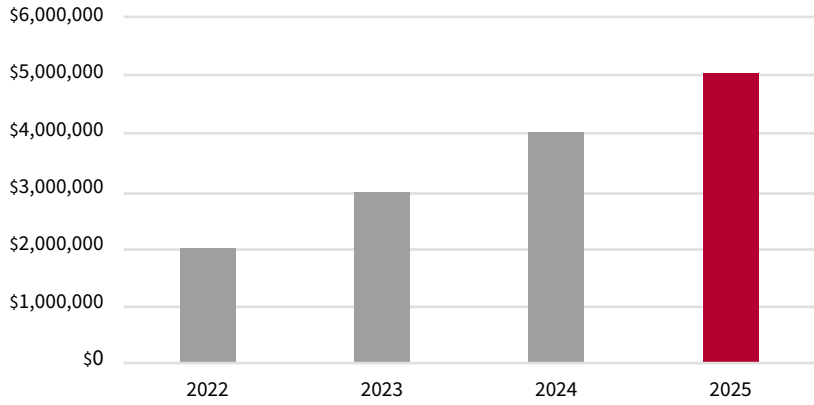
CHILDREN ARE ABANDONED



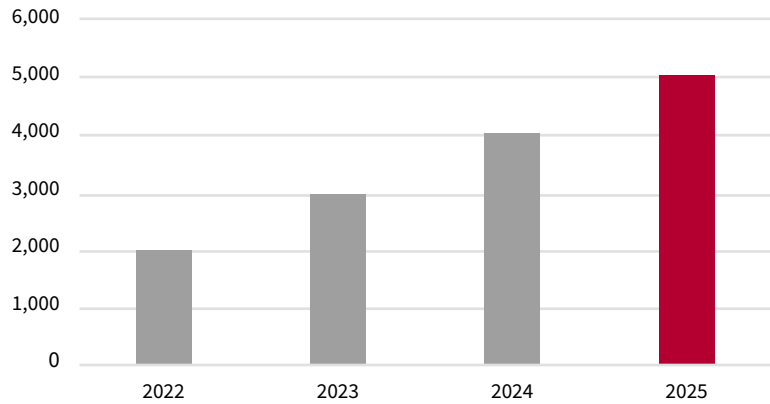


Financials

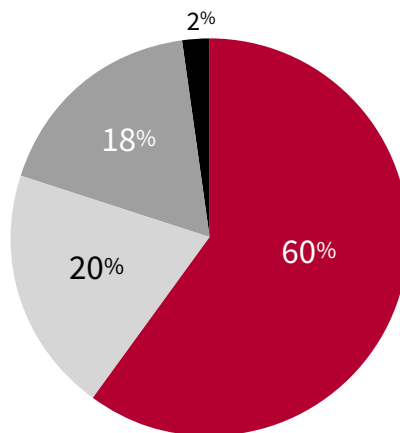
GROWTH IN REVENUE



GROWTH IN DONORS



2025 SOURCES OF REVENUE



■ GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS ■ FOUNDATION GRANTS ■ RESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS ■ CORPORATIONS



Leadership and Awards

LEADERSHIP TEAM

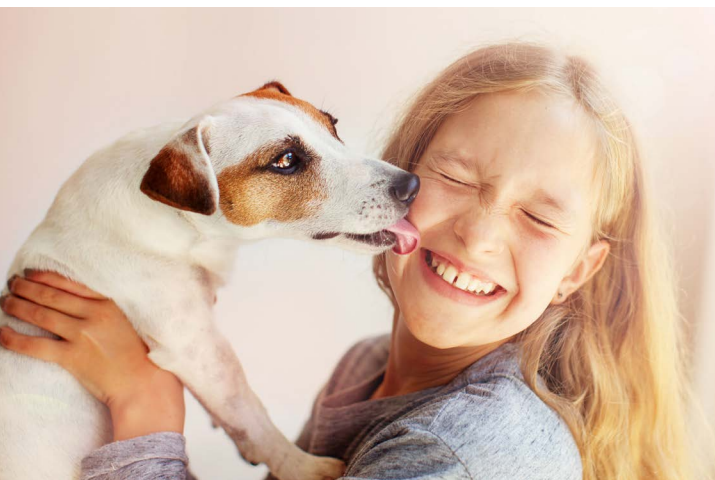
Darcy Olsen, CEO & Founder
Ann Tredway, Executive Director
Tim Keller, Senior Vice President, Legal Director
Kendall Seal, Vice President of Policy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Celia McClelland, Chairman
William Coats, Ph.D., Vice Chairman
Renee V. Giltner, Treasurer
Alan P. Dye, Esq.
Darcy Olsen, CEO
F. Phillips Giltner
Mike Haller
Sandy Leong
Carrie Tynan
John White

AWARD-WINNING ADVOCACY

Arizona Capitol Times Leader of the Year in Public Policy Award 2022
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Adoption Excellence Award 2020
Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute Angel in Adoption 2020





CENTER FOR THE RIGHTS
OF ABUSED CHILDREN

They can't fight abuse. We can.

thecenterforchildren.org