

CHILDUSA

THE NATIONAL THINK TANK FOR CHILD PROTECTION



We envision a world where children are safe and happy.



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER & CEO



I am so grateful to our generous supporters, sponsors, donors, and grantors who make our mission to make children safe and happy possible. We could not do this important work for children's civil rights without you.

2021 has been a busy and successful year for CHILD USA. We dramatically expanded our scope in 2021 as we added federal legislation for children to our agenda.

Thanks to the McIlmail Family's generous support, the Sean P. McIlmail Research Institute once again opened the door to justice for many victims of child sex abuse. For Congress and 16 states, our team of lawyers and social scientists provided the data and history to put pending SOL bills in context, drafted bill language, answered many questions, submitted testimony, and spoke to the media. In Congress, we are working on bills to incentivize the states to improve their child sex abuse SOLs and to eliminate the SOL for online exploitation. We are delighted to report that the bi-partisan S. 3103 Eliminating Limits to Justice for Child Sex Abuse Victims Act of 2021 is on a fast track to passage. As usual, we fought hard for SOL reform in the states with victories in 13 states and the Northern Mariana Islands, including six bills to revive expired civil claims. Working with the amazing Kathryn Robb, Executive Director of our sister organization, CHILD USA Advocacy, we made a big difference in 2021!

Thanks to the generosity of the sponsors and attendees of our 5th Anniversary Celebration, we hosted our most successful fundraiser yet, which in turn supported so many great projects in 2021:

- Our Legal Department, headed by Director Alice Bohn, filed 13 amicus briefs in important cases on SOL reform, child protection, the First Amendment, protecting victims' identities in court, limits on vaccine exemptions, rights of crime victims, civil damages, and the foster care system. Our staff attorneys also published a law review article on the crisis in Chapter 11 federal bankruptcy filings by the Boy Scouts of America, USA Gymnastics, and many Catholic dioceses, affecting thousands of child sex abuse victims.
- Our Social Science Department, led by Director Carter Timon, wrote 6 peer-reviewed articles on child protection policies in the Catholic Church, abuse in elite sports, and the effect of the bankruptcy system on clergy sex abuse survivors. They also provided the relevant scientific data needed to undergird our legal and policy recommendations.
- We initiated a Continuing Judicial Education series to educate judges dealing with children and adults who were abused as children in litigation, arbitration disputes, and bankruptcy filings.

Thanks to the support of the Center for Disease Control and Virginia Commonwealth University, and the leadership of our Social Science Director, Carter Timon, we developed rigorous research tools to support abuse prevention in schools and collaborated on a large survey of school employee beliefs about misconduct.

Thanks to the generous support of the Oak Foundation and the Foundation for Global Sports Development, CHILD USA led our Game Over Commission to complete its groundbreaking case study of the institutions that let hundreds of girls be sexually abused by Larry Nassar. Our Postgrad Fellows worked tirelessly to bring it to publication while every CHILD USA team member contributed to researching, drafting, and reviewing the document. It appeared January 2022 just before the Winter Olympics began with an exclusive by journalist Tim Evans of *IndyStar*, who broke the Nassar story first.

Thanks to all of you, children are now at the public policy table, and their voices are being heard!

Professor Marci A. Hamilton
Founder & CEO of CHILD USA

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



I have had the pleasure of serving as Chairman of the Board for CHILD USA since 2018. In the last four years, I have watched Marci and her team grow and work tirelessly to achieve justice for child sexual abuse survivors and to change laws to protect children. 2021 was another outstanding year.

Thanks to our grantors, sponsors, and donors, this amazing work will continue.

Survivors and their families, youth organizations, attorneys, judges, and so many others benefit from CHILD USA's insightful and groundbreaking work. In the past year, CHILD USA has broadened its mission, hired additional staff, and embarked on new and exciting projects thanks to supporters like you. Throughout the enduring pandemic, CHILD USA's dedicated staff has remained focused on preventing child abuse and exploitation, ending the medical neglect of children by ensuring the availability of quality health care and access to vaccinations, and obtaining equal educational opportunities for all children.

Join me in congratulating CHILD USA which in five short years has become the leading voice for children in the United States. CHILD USA steadfastly envisions a world where all children are safe and happy. With your help and continued support we will achieve that goal!

James R. Marsh, Esq.
Chairman of the Board, CHILD USA

BOARD MEMBERS

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Richard Tollner
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Board Member, Endowment Committee

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Mike Rinder
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Elyse Stolpe, Esq.
Board Member



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2021 IN SUMMARY

1,213	Total hours spent on the groundbreaking Game Over Commission
35	Number of SOL reform bills introduced in the U.S. in 2021
13	Number of amicus briefs filed in 2021
532	Hours of Attorney and Judicial Training on best practices in sex abuse litigation through the CHILD USA CLE and CJE program
7	Number of scientific and legal articles written in 2021
46	Number of data drops and blog posts on our home page in 2021
6	Number of states and territories that banned or amended child marriage laws to protect children in 2021



FIVE YEARS AT CHILD USA



March

CHILD USA Ambassador Corey Feldman, Marci Hamilton, and Kathryn Robb, Esq. urge New York State Senators to pass the Child Victims Act.



2017



November

Marci Hamilton presents awards to honorees at CHILD USA's First Annual Awards Celebration. Thomas Doyle received The Sean P. McIlmail Hero Award, Rita Swan received The Child Protector Award, and Lynne Abraham received The Barbara Blaine Trailblazer Award.



2018



August

Kathryn Robb, Margaret Markey, Marci Hamilton, and New York State Senator Brad Hoylman stand on the Brooklyn Bridge, fighting for the Civil Rights Movement for Children.

January

Stephen Jimenez, Marci Hamilton, and Kathryn Robb, Esq. celebrate after the signing of the New York Child Victims Act.



2019



February

Deborah McIlmail, Michael McIlmail, Marci Hamilton, and survivor Sarah Klein, Esq. hold a press event to discuss progress on child sex abuse statutes of limitations reform.

March

Victims, advocates, and legislators pose while celebrating the passage of a window to justice for victims of child sex abuse in New Jersey.



October

Kathryn Robb, Esq., then-Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, and Marci Hamilton celebrate the New York Child Victims Act being signed into law. In total, 10,857 lawsuits for child sex abuse were filed under the NY CVA over a two-year period.



May

CHILD USA publishes its Child Marriage Report, which tracks laws in U.S. states and territories that permit children to enter into marriage and outlines our recommendations for legal safeguards against child marriage.



2020



June

CHILD USA adapts to COVID-19 by launching its virtual CLE series to train attorneys on litigating cases involving child sex abuse. CHILD USA taught 5 CLE courses in 2020, totaling over 500 hours of attorney training.



November

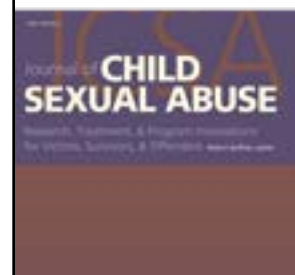
The Game Over Commission to Protect Youth Athletes listens to testimony from child sex abuse victims, academics, and elite athletes in its investigation of the Larry Nassar abuse case.

April

Marci Hamilton and allied organizations gather on the Capitol Steps in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to demand that legislators open a window to justice for victims of child sex abuse.



2021



July

The *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse* publishes CHILD USA's Survey of the Written Child Protection Policies of the 32 U.S. Archdioceses.

August

Legal Director Alice Bohn, Esq., along with others from CHILD USA, conducts a judicial training course on Child Sex Trafficking at the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania.



September

The *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse* publishes CHILD USA's Analysis of the Written Policies of the 32 U.S. Archdioceses on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse.



STATUTES OF LIMITATION REFORM

The Sean P. McIlmail Research Institute at CHILD USA was founded in 2018 with a generous donation from Deborah and Michael McIlmail, whose son Sean was a brave clergy sex abuse victim who passed away when the stress of prosecuting Fr. Robert Brennan triggered his struggle with opioids. Sean was the only victim in Philadelphia who could prosecute due to Pennsylvania’s exceedingly short criminal child sex abuse SOLs. The Institute, which will help preserve Sean’s legacy, is dedicated to studying and analyzing SOLs to fight for access to justice for all child sex abuse victims. Deborah and Michael have turned their tragedy into a mission for the greater good.

OVERVIEW OF 2021 SOL REFORM BILLS:

13 States: New SOL Reform Laws Going into Effect

- 5 eliminated criminal SOL: Arizona, Hawaii, Iowa, Minnesota, Tennessee
- 3 extended criminal SOL: Arkansas, California, Kentucky
- 4 eliminated civil SOL: Arizona, Colorado, Louisiana, Nevada, Northern Mariana Islands
- 5 extended civil SOL: Arkansas, Iowa, Kentucky, Nevada, New York
- 6 enacted civil window or revival SOL: Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Nevada, Northern Mariana Islands

A total of 35 states, 1 territory, and the Federal Government considered SOL reform in 2021

AMICUS ADVOCACY

CHILD USA’s Amicus Advocacy Project targets state and federal cases whose outcomes will impact children in the United States. We share cutting-edge social science and legal research, as well as a national perspective on developing the rights of children so that courts are better equipped to make decisions that protect children and prevent harm. Our work is made possible by the generosity of our pro bono amicus partners who help us draft, review, and file briefing across the country.

COURTS WHERE WE FILED BRIEFS IN 2021:

- United States Supreme Court
- U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals
- District Court of Connecticut
- Georgia Supreme Court
- Ohio Supreme Court
- New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division
- New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division
- California Superior Court
- New Jersey Superior Court, Law Division
- North Carolina Superior Court



CHILD USA’S IMPACT



Left to Right: Mike & Deb McIlmail, 2021 Sean P. McIlmail Hero Award Recipient Cass Spoerl, Elaine & Arthur Baselice

“We have the same objectives of accountability, transparency, and civilized, legal retribution. I believe in what CHILD USA is saying: this is a crisis, and social & civil rights actions needs to be enforced.

- Arthur Baselice



MEET THE MCILMAILS

A pre-teen in the late 1990s, Sean P. McIlmail was abused by Father Robert L. Brennan in Philadelphia. He carried this weight in silence, all the while showing up each day as a loving son, brother, and friend. It wasn’t until 2012, when he heard about other reports of similar experiences coming to light across the nation, that Sean told his family what happened.

By this time, Sean was Brennan’s only public victim who could prosecute because of Pennsylvania’s short criminal Statute of Limitations window. Tragically, just days before testifying against Brennan in court, Sean died from an overdose; the immense pressure and psychological torment had caused him to relapse. Despite their immeasurable grief, his parents, Deborah and Michael McIlmail, dedicated themselves to Sean’s pursuit for justice.

Sean’s intrepidity should absolutely inspire us, but that inspiration isn’t complete unless we follow his footsteps and cultivate courage of our own.

The Sean P. McIlmail Research Institute at CHILD USA was founded in 2018 through Deborah and Michael’s generosity.

According to our CEO, Marci Hamilton, “CHILD USA is dedicated to studying and analyzing SOLs to fight for access to justice for all child sex abuse victims. We are fighting for SOL reform... because we can’t afford to have more loving, sweet men like Sean McIlmail pass away because they were forced into the role of being the only one that could press charges due to unfairly short statutes of limitations.”

Read the entire story at www.childusa.org/blog

THANK YOU

Michael and Deborah McIlmail for establishing The Sean P. McIlmail Statute of Limitations Research Institute and your ongoing generous support.



GAME OVER

Commission to Protect Youth Athletes

About the Game Over Commission

Chaired by Professor Marci A. Hamilton, Founder & CEO of CHILD USA and Fels Institute of Government Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania, the Commission was composed of 16 members, all of whom are experts in their field of child protection. Over the past 4 years, The Game Over Commission engaged in a fact-finding investigation of all responsible institutions and individuals who made it possible for Larry Nassar to abuse hundreds of children.



The Game Over Commission has released the only independent investigative case study of the institutions that let Larry Nassar abuse hundreds of girls.

The nationally recognized experts on the Commission contributed their time and expertise pro bono to serve the public interest in understanding how Nassar could harm so many girls and women and how so many institutions could let them down.

Read the report by scanning the QR code below:

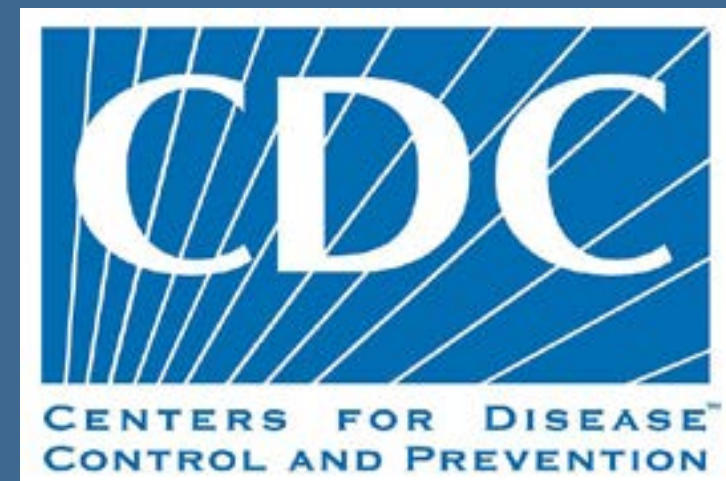


"The blistering report includes recommendations for changing the power dynamic in sports that facilitated Nassar's crimes but extends far beyond gymnastics. It also includes steps for state lawmakers, athletic organizations, and medical licensing boards to address systemic gaps and breakdowns that allow abusers to continue harming children."

Tim Evans, IndyStar Reporter

www.childusa.org

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR OUR MAJOR GRANTORS' GENEROUS SUPPORT





ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER

Honorees

The Sean P. McIlmail Hero Award
Catherine 'Cass' Spoerl

The Barbara Blaine Trailblazer Award
The Honorable Denise George, Attorney General of the United States Virgin Islands
Survivors Sabrina Ewart, Ann Jennifer Mastrogiovanni, Pralaya Cuomo

The Thomas P. Doyle Whistleblower Award
Anne Barrett Doyle, Terence McKiernan, Suzy Nauman
Founders of Bishop Accountability

The Voice of the Voiceless Award
Kai Zen Bickle
Brave Pioneer for the Victims of His Own Father

Sponsors

Champions for Change \$25,000

Cope Family
Corsiglia McMahon & Allard
Brad Edwards, Esq. & Brittany Henderson, Esq.
Herman Law
Marsh Law Firm
VIP Products Corporation
White Law PLLC

Advocates for Justice \$10,000

Jeffrey P. Fritz, Esq.
Kline & Specter, P.C.
Laffey Bucci & Kent LLC
Levy, Baldante, Finney & Rubenstein, P.C. with
Slater Slater Shulman LLP
McLaughlin & Lauricella PC with Stephen C.
Rubino, Esq.
Merson Law PLLC
Morgan Stanley
Pfau, Cochran, Vertetis, Amala Attorneys at law

Ally for Children's Rights \$5,000

AWKO Justice Foundation
Lowenstein Sandler LLP

CHILD USA'S IMPACT



Photo by Kevin Coughlin

"When I got to the Annual Event, I had no idea about this community of activists doing this work. Walking into that room... witnessing the honoring of survivors... was the first time in my life I didn't feel alone. I want to make sure this work happens; I love that this kind of space exists. It's a breath of fresh air."

"If something like CHILD USA was there for me," she says, "my entire life would have felt different."

MEET JENNIFER WYDRA

As a teenager, Jennifer Wydra endured unthinkable events at the hands of those she trusted in the church, whom she initially turned to for sanctuary. For years, she remained silent about things no child should ever experience. For Jennifer, the people who were charged with her wellbeing instead disregarded her physical and emotional boundaries.

"It happened to a lot of girls. They made us feel like we didn't matter at all," Jennifer says. "To [these] priests, this behavior was old hat. The level of trauma can feel beyond you. You might feel like you don't know how to process it. I quite literally pushed it out of my mind where I didn't even remember it. I didn't remember it until I was 49, because there was no other way I was going to survive. The emotional trauma is the hardest. You feel like you have no support systems. You are afraid of being – or you're just being – gaslit by [people around you]. That's the biggest fear for survivors: people not believing you."

The effects of this abuse can also extend far beyond the duration of the harm – for many, it fuels an ongoing difficulty to legitimize their own experiences. It also plays a role in creating the major delay in disclosure that is often seen in court. For Jennifer, this self-deception, this forgetting, was the only means of moving forward at the time – as is often the case to navigate such an immense pain.

Jennifer dedicates herself to caring for others. She models the behavior she wants to see in her sons: "my job now is raising two young good men," she says. When asked what she wants

people to take from her story – especially others who are having or have had experiences in their lives like hers when she was 16, she is direct, earnest, encouraging, measured:

"There are people who care for you; people who have been through this, too. You might feel silent, or alone, but people are out there. You have to fake it 'til you make it, and find your people. Because they're out there, even if you don't know it yet. You set your boundaries, and you remove yourself from [the pain]. I am who I am day to day. I don't always know – the impact of what happened is so significant. I don't know how I'm going to wake up and feel. This doesn't go away, even if it comes and goes. I remember being a happy child. That gets buried, but it never goes away."

Jennifer's words underscore her belief in the future – no matter our pasts – as do her efforts to raise her sons to understand consent, harm, healing, and their own boundaries. For children, understanding boundaries can help keep them safe, and is often the difference between staying silent and speaking up when something harmful happens. We must make sure what happened to her, what has happened to so many other children, stops happening. It is on all of us to make the world a better place. Jennifer makes it clear, summarizing her rationale for fighting back with simple logic stemming from her first-hand knowledge: "Predators go where the children are."

Jennifer reminds us that power is determined by how we choose how to use it. Our actions make our voices heard, and this voice lets us call out and light the way together. For her, CHILD USA offers a community of these voices focused on fighting for, and uplifting, one another.

Read the entire story at www.childusa.org/blog





**The
Hamilton
Library**

A Curated Library of Information on Child Sex Abuse

Welcome to the Hamilton Library

The Hamilton Library is an expertly curated collection of materials on child sex abuse for everyone. The Library was stocked to inform and support victims, parents, teachers, clergy, researchers, attorneys, doctors, the media, and youth-serving organizations. We know you will find these materials informative and helpful. For survivors, there is a well-being section we encourage you to visit.

The Hamilton Library is continually updated and free and open to the public. Please enter from the comfort of your own home and browse away!

The Hamilton Library collection includes:

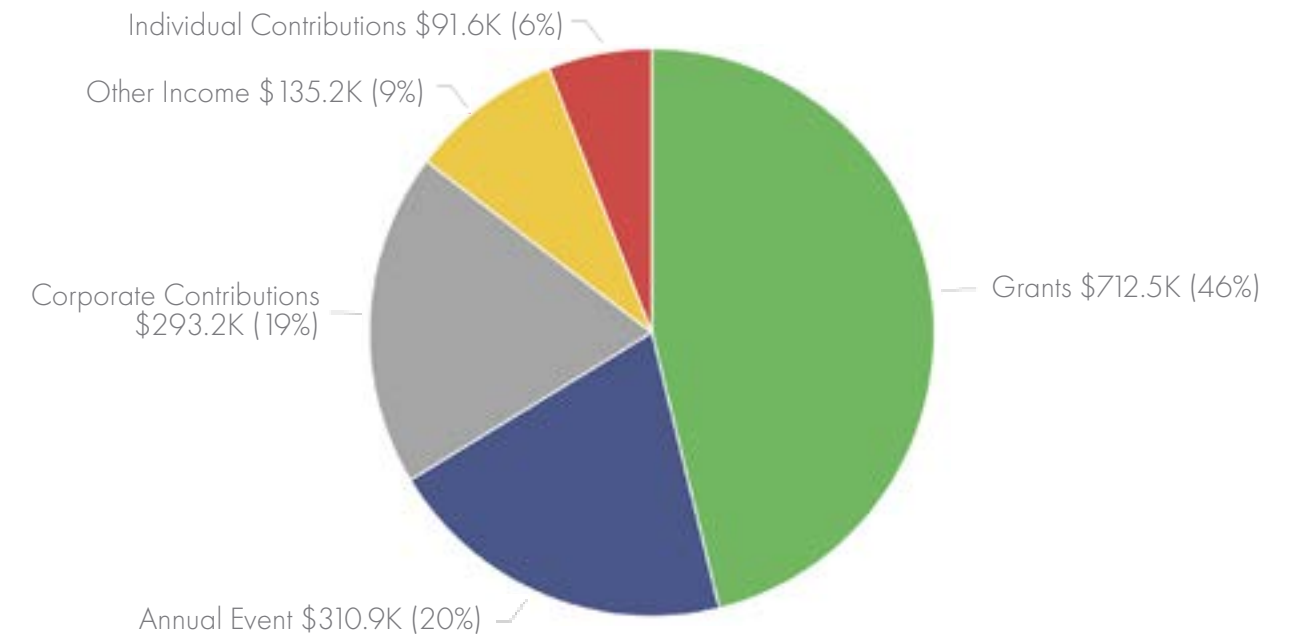
WELL-BEING | SURVIVORS & GENERAL INTEREST |
FAMILIES & CAREGIVERS | RELIGIOUS | SPORTS & THE
ARTS | SCHOOLS | LEGAL | SETTLEMENTS | HOTLINES



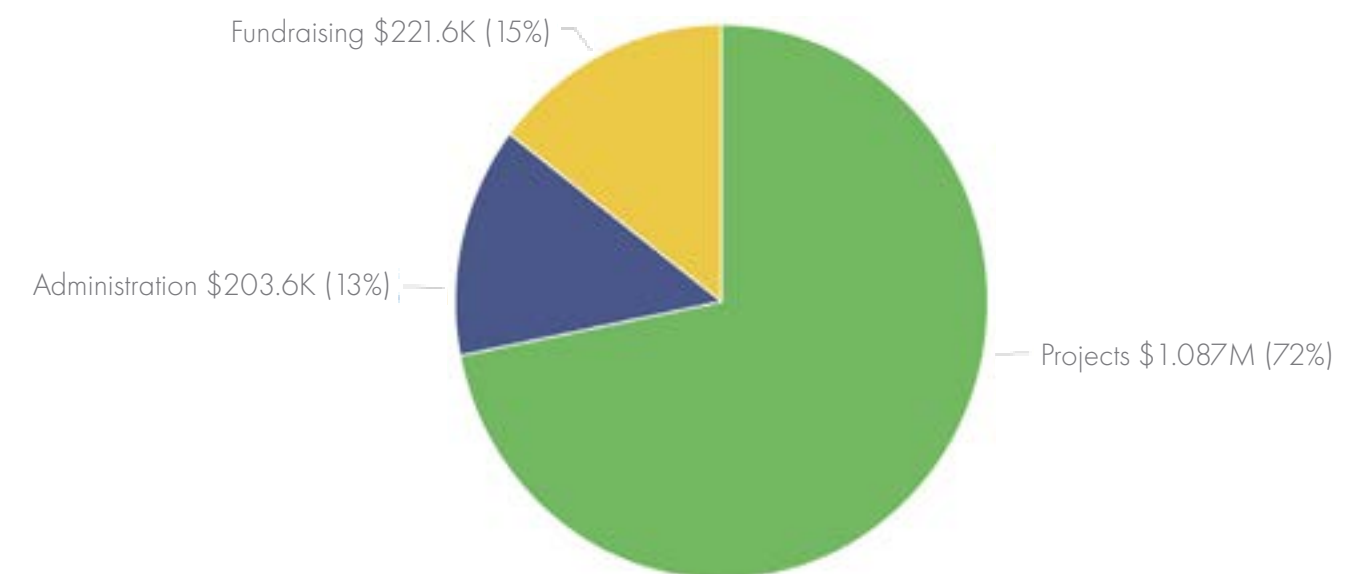
Scan QR code to visit www.childusa.org/library

FINANCIALS

Revenues: \$1,543,369



Expenses: \$1,511,630



WHAT WE DO

We are in the trenches of child protection!



And we will continue to:

- Fight for the rights of children to be free from child sex abuse through reforming statutes of limitation, federal bankruptcy law, online exploitation law, ending child marriage, and holding perpetrators and institutions accountable.
- Fight for the rights of children to medical care.
- Fight to ensure every child's right to a quality education.



CHILD USA'S TEAM



STAFF

Marci A. Hamilton, Esq.
Founder & CEO

Jim Plappert
Chief Financial Officer

Jillian Ruck
Executive Director

MaryClare Malady
Executive Assistant to the CEO

Diane Plappert
Marketing Director

Max Rosenfeld
Social Media & Website Manager

The Legal Department
Alice Bohn, Esq.
Legal Director

Bridget Brainard, Esq.
Staff Attorney

Alice Nasar Hanan, Esq.
Staff Attorney

Carina Nixon, Esq.
Staff Attorney

Jessica Schidlow, Esq. MA, NCC
Staff Attorney

The Social Science Department
Carter Timon, MBDS
Social Science Director

Stephanie Dallam, RN, MSN, PhD
Social Science Visiting Scholar

Deborah J. Diener, RN, BSN, CLNC
Social Science Researcher

Andrew J. Ortiz, MSSP
Social Science Researcher

Postgraduate Fellows
Nicole Brigstock
Janella Kang, MS

INTERNS & FELLOWS in 2021

Communications Intern
Emily Melnick

Legal Interns
Amanda Harding
Leigh Johnson
Nathanael Kegel
Patrick Lim

Research & Development Interns
McKenna Halverson
Shaindy Black

Robert A. Fox Fellows
University of Pennsylvania
Deika Albert
Cara Margolis
Lindsey Perelman
Alexandra Peterson
Klea Profka
Janelle Schneider

Social Work Intern
University of Pennsylvania
Karim Sharif

Social Science Fellows
University of Pennsylvania
Yue "April" Qiao
Maisy Helen Sylvan
Zijin Yu
Jiayi Zhao
Christina Zheng

AMBASSADORS in 2021

Corey Feldman
National Ambassador for SOL
Reform

Lyndsy Gamet
Ambassador

Vinka Jackson
International Ambassador

Maralee McLean
Ambassador

Stephen Mills
National Ambassador

Leah Remini
National Ambassador for Child and
Family Protection



CHILD USA'S COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR VOLUNTEERS



Kim Bergman Shawnee, KS	Kamryn Kutzner Seattle, WA	Rue Scazafabo-Ryan Lumberton, NJ
Elizabeth DeRose Washington, D.C.	Hillary Nappi, Esq. New York, NY	Samantha Sullivan Milwaukee, WI
Dr. Nicole Gross Merion Station, PA	Lemetrius Nolan Wilmington, NC	Katharine Wenocur Wynnewood, PA
Dawn Harter Chicago, IL	Brian Rule Ridley Township, PA	Kristin Winn Whichita, KS
Terin Humphrey Blue Springs, MO	Shannon Ruth Las Vegas, NV	Stacey Thurmont, MD

CHILD USA'S IMPACT



“CHILD USA is the only organization that I would share my story with”

-Andrew Benson

MEET ANDREW BENSON

If an unstoppable force had an encounter with an immovable object, the pair would only ever reach a resolution if Andrew was called in to make it happen.

The man is something of a Swiss Army knife of stories and ideas, observations and insights. His experiences are far-reaching into countless realms of life, while his spirited demeanor in describing them is the only reason an audience could ever digest them all at once.

Andrew’s vigor has slowly renewed itself through years of reflection, of trial and error. Akin to turning coal into diamonds – or an idea into reality – this combination has given Andrew the rare ability to make things clear both in brief and thorough story. Were it not so genuinely expressed, his at once disarming and expansive self-summary, “2 dogs, 2 cats, 3 marriages, and a 9 handicap in golf,” would feel like it was deliberately obfuscating a wealth of details. Instead, it’s just how Andrew sees his world.

In one moment, we’re talking about his hand in developing the technology behind early versions of privatized live-feed video systems. In the next, his experience as a Private Investi-

gator. In the next, his past experiences working as a freelance agent with the DEA. In the next, the trials and tribulations of raising two sons and a daughter. This trend of fascinating points quickly becomes a constellation – a story all too vast to ever capture in full, but whatever information you can glean from it you appreciate nonetheless.

“I’m good at making things happen,” Andy says, direct nature clear, grin obvious even through the phone; a “self-described questioner.” Andrew’s story is one of tough questions, tough decisions, and tough love; he doesn’t hide that it wasn’t all easy. What you’ll likely find quickly apparent, however, is that his questioning nature has frequently given him the answers to keep going.

As a child, Andrew was subjected to cruelty and violence at the hands of his father. A local attorney, sometime politician, and a non-drinker, Andrew’s father would inflict his stress on Andrew along with his mother and 6 siblings, 4 of them being girls. While all in the house were subjected to various forms of abuse, it was Andrew and his mother who primarily “got the beatings.” When Andrew recalls his abuse, he also recalls the instincts he relied on to keep himself safe. He describes the sixth sense he had for his father getting home, and how he would sneak out through a crawlspace, shimmy down a post from the second story deck to hide in the bushes until his father fell asleep. Avoiding beatings was an answer, though doing so by hiding wasn’t a permanent fix.

Andrew’s father’s abuse culminated in his high school years. Around 16, Andrew stood up to his father and said he’d had enough. The literal whipping he promptly received in the front yard from his father only strengthened his resolve: that exact moment, he left home. From then on Andrew stayed with friends, and was taken in by a kind family nearby familiar with Andrew’s abuse; many knew, and many wanted to help.

And then what happened?

After leaving home, Andrew’s life took on a course of his design. He started at Dartmouth College after high school, and started to accrue a combination of business ventures and life experiences as he started a family. The truth of the tale is as succinct as it is layered: Andrew was able to remove himself. He walked away, and slowly built a life for himself, with all the joys and trials that come with it. Some jobs are worked for twenty years, some marriages blossom then wilt, some experiences shape everything in their wake.

Don’t be deceived, though: Andrew’s decision is not one every child can make, on legal, logistical, or emotional grounds. The environment he was fortunate enough to escape was one he never forgot about, and the same is true for the reality

of leaving home. Leaving might promise physical safety, but it doesn’t promise closure – a dilemma Andrew would face more than once in his lifetime.

“Trying to protect yourself in the moment is the simple part. Early on, it might be day-to-day. But that isn’t forever. And when there’s no longer immediate danger – when it’s no longer day-to-day, and you aren’t protecting yourself in that way anymore – how do you deal? How do you grow older? That same threat isn’t there, but... the feelings it instills in you don’t go away. These feelings are always there.”

Pondering the impact of painful experiences on our lives can be overwhelming. Andrew’s words underscore how bumpy the road can be. Just as our bodies and brains can protect us from traumatic experiences and memories, they can also be seriously injured by trauma. Andrew was harmed at the hands of his father, and all of the perseverance, success, insight, and growth in the world wouldn’t erase this. For him, it’s not that the past has to define the present; rather, we must accept what has happened in order to work on moving away from it.

Andrew’s relationship to his past has had its fluctuations, but he’s gained more comprehension of day-to-day impacts. Still a questioner at heart, years of searching have given him the solace many of us aspire to find, though not without significant effort. “I’ve worked all my life to accept it.”

And accepting it, he notes, isn’t static. Some days you do, some days you don’t. Some days, you see it right in front of you, shaping your day, and without the right tools, you may feel overwhelmed.

The physical abuse Andrew faced as a child has repercussions that can permeate other parts of one’s life if healthy supports aren’t in place. For one, Andrew points out, it meant that he didn’t have a reliable blueprint for being a father.

But that uncertainty doesn’t have to carry into every part of life. Andrew, for example, knows he could never inflict the harm he received on another person, especially his own child. Far too often, the arc is presumed by onlookers – “the abused will eventually abuse.” But, as Andrew points out, abusing another is a choice. People that are abused don’t just abuse.

“If my dad did what he did to me back then, now... he’d be in jail.” Again, Andrew aptly sums it up: “Why would you beat up a kid? It’s because you’re a coward. I will never be like my father was.”

Read the entire story at www.childusa.org/blog



Join us!



CHILD USA's Annual Awards Celebration

November 3, 2022, 7 - 10 pm

The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia

Celebrating the Civil Rights Movement for Children

Sponsorship opportunities:

THE ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Your generous donation of \$50,000 includes:

- A table at The National Constitution Center to include 12 guests
- Your name or firm branding will appear prominently on the CHILD USA website, "Step and Repeat", and on promotional signage at The National Constitution Center
- Special recognition during the awards presentation
- Full-page ad will be prominently displayed in the program

THE JAMES MADISON

Your generous donation of \$25,000 includes:

- A table at The National Constitution Center to include 10 guests
- Your name or firm branding will appear on the CHILD USA website, "Step and Repeat", and on promotional signage at The National Constitution Center
- Special recognition during the awards presentation
- Full-page ad will appear in the program

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON

Your generous donation of \$10,000 includes:

- A table at The National Constitution Center to include 8 guests
- Your name or firm branding will appear on the CHILD USA website, "Step and Repeat", and promotional signage at The National Constitution Center
- Half-page ad will appear in the program

2021 IN PICTURES



#CivilRightsforChildren

Children cannot vote so we must be their voice. Join the fight for children's civil rights by donating to CHILD USA today. Let's stop child abuse and neglect.



Scan this QR code to donate to CHILD USA

CHILD USA

THE NATIONAL THINK TANK FOR CHILD PROTECTION

We envision a world where children are safe and happy