

# *Programs & Opportunities*



Children's  
FRIEND

*The mission of Children's Friend is to promote the well-being and healthy development of Rhode Island's most vulnerable children by providing flexible, effective, and culturally relevant services that support and strengthen families and communities.*



## Meet Children's Friend...

Children's Friend was founded in 1834 in the India Point section of Providence to protect children and preserve families. Over 176 years later we are still doing that and much more.

We believe that providing comprehensive and effective services to vulnerable young children is not only a moral obligation but also a prudent financial investment for society to make.

Children's Friend is a statewide leader in serving vulnerable children and families. Through the development of innovative programs and collaboration with other public and private agencies, Children's Friend provides a comprehensive array of social services that strengthen families and support the healthy development of children. Across Rhode Island, our staff provides services that help over 31,000 individuals annually.

As a learning organization, Children's Friend provides on-going opportunities for staff, board members, interns, and volunteers to increase their awareness and understanding of current issues and best practices which are relevant to the agency's work. Children's Friend ensures that a spirit of boldness and innovation is maintained in all we do.

Our history and experience also provides us with a unique capacity to share our expertise with others. Children's Friend provides training and consultation to a wide array of service providers in order to enhance the professional development of those who work with children and their families.

At Children's Friend, we believe in constantly monitoring the effects of our work, to more effectively serve our children and families. To that end, our programs are regularly evaluated by independent experts in the appropriate fields to determine what works, and what doesn't.

We have many locations in the Providence and Blackstone Valley area. We hope that anyone who needs us can always find a Children's Friend location nearby.

**Family Support Center & Administrative Offices**

153 Summer Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
401.276.4300

**Family Support Center**

621 Dexter Street  
Central Falls, RI 02863  
401.721.9200

**Independence Square**

500 Prospect Street  
Pawtucket, RI 02860  
401.721.6400

**Cienci Center**

99 Berkshire Street  
Providence, RI 02908  
401.752.7500

**Dean Center**

13 Legion Drive  
Pawtucket, RI 02860  
401.752.7700

**Friendship Center**

350 Point Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
401.752.7600

**Manton Center**

31 Salmon Street  
Providence, RI 02909  
401.752.7900

**Pawtucket Day**

25 Thornley Street  
Pawtucket, RI 02860  
401.722.4820

**Varone Center**

483 Weeden Street  
Pawtucket, RI 02860  
401.752.7800





## Joining the Children's Friend Family.

Children's Friend is a very special place offering services that range from prenatal care for mother and child to Head Start services for preschoolers, family counseling for children and families, parenting education for mothers and fathers, and a wide range of assistance in between.

Families can access the services they need and get referrals for other services in a familiar environment with workers they trust. Becoming involved with Children's Friend means becoming a member of our family, and we take **very** good care of our family.

Are you interested in joining the Children's Friend family as an employee? Children's Friend is an equal opportunity employer, offering excellent benefits and competitive salaries for qualified professionals.

For information about careers at Children's Friend, please visit our website at [www.childrensfriendri.org](http://www.childrensfriendri.org).

“Our staff go on a journey with our clients that can be very emotional and difficult. I think it would be emotionally impossible for workers to go into homes day after day and be able to accomplish what we have been able to do, without feeling that emotional connection.”

- staff member of Children's Friend

“Adoption is a chance to get a good home. It’s cool to have two families in a way. If I didn’t get adopted, life would have been scary. It’s nice not to have to worry and have a good life.” - child adopted through Children’s Friend, age 10



## Adoption

As the oldest adoption agency in Rhode Island, Children’s Friend has been placing children in loving homes for more than a century. The goal of our program is to find safe and stable homes for children in need.

Many of the children we place in adoptive homes are born to families that are struggling with a variety of problems. Though they are unable to care for their children, these parents want their children to have safe, stable, and loving families.

For more information about adoption services at Children’s Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to an Adoption social worker. You may also email [Permanency@cfsri.org](mailto:Permanency@cfsri.org) for more information.



“The staff at Children’s Friend were extremely helpful, understanding, and patient. Thank you for everything. It’s nice to know we are not alone.”

- client of Children’s Friend

## Adoption Support & Preservation

The Adoption Support Program at Children’s Friend provides confidential support and counseling to adopted children and their families. The goals of the program are to promote permanent homes for children, improve parenting skills, improve child behavior, and prevent adoption disruptions.

The program serves any family with adopted children that is experiencing a crisis. Some typical problems include child behavioral issues, aggression, mental health problems, family adjustment, school difficulties, attachment issues, and parental stress. The children may be in the home at the time of service or in an alternative placement. Services are also available for families prior to adoption finalization.

For more information about Adoption Support & Preservation services at Children’s Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to an Adoption Support & Preservation social worker. You may also email [Permanency@cfsri.org](mailto:Permanency@cfsri.org) for more information.

# Birth Parent Counseling

Facing an unplanned pregnancy can be overwhelming. Our sensitive, caring counselors provide individual help so that expecting parents can evaluate their options and choose what is best for them and their child.

The Children's Friend Birth Parent Counseling Program links expecting parents to community services and other resources, as well as providing them with assistance with parenting education if they choose to keep their child, or with adoption if they choose that option.

For more information about Birth Parent Counseling services at Children's Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to a Birth Parent Counseling social worker. You may also email [Permanency@cfsri.org](mailto:Permanency@cfsri.org) for more information.

*“I don't think of it as giving up my child, instead I gained a wonderful extended family.”*

*- client of Children's Friend*





## Child Care

The Children's Friend Child Care Program provides quality care and education to children eight weeks through five years of age.

Our goals are to encourage positive self-image, develop social skills, promote language and physical development, encourage creative expression and awareness, and foster respect for different cultures and values. The child care staff are bilingual and are always available to help support the children and families with which they work.

The Child Care Program provides a nutritious breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack, which have been approved by the Department of Education's Child and Adult Care Food Program.

For more information about Child Care services at Children's Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to the Child Care manager. You may also email [childcare@cfsri.org](mailto:childcare@cfsri.org) for more information.

“ *We must teach our children to dream with their eyes open.* ”

- Harry Edwards, United States Federal Judge

“ This program gave me a better understanding of how to raise my child, and made me more of a family man. ” - client of Children’s Friend

## Dads Making A Difference

The mission of Dads Making a Difference is to provide resources to help ensure that fathers and significant men involved in the life of a child are having a positive impact on their children.

This program incorporates home visits and get-togethers of involved fathers. All fathers, including teenage fathers, living in Providence, Pawtucket, or Central Falls are eligible for this program. Services are available in English and Spanish.

For more information about Dads Making A Difference at Children’s Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to a Dads Making A Difference social worker. You may also email [DMAD@cfsri.org](mailto:DMAD@cfsri.org) for more information.





## Early Head Start

Early Head Start is a unique early childhood program that works in partnership with parents to make sure young children have the best possible start in life.

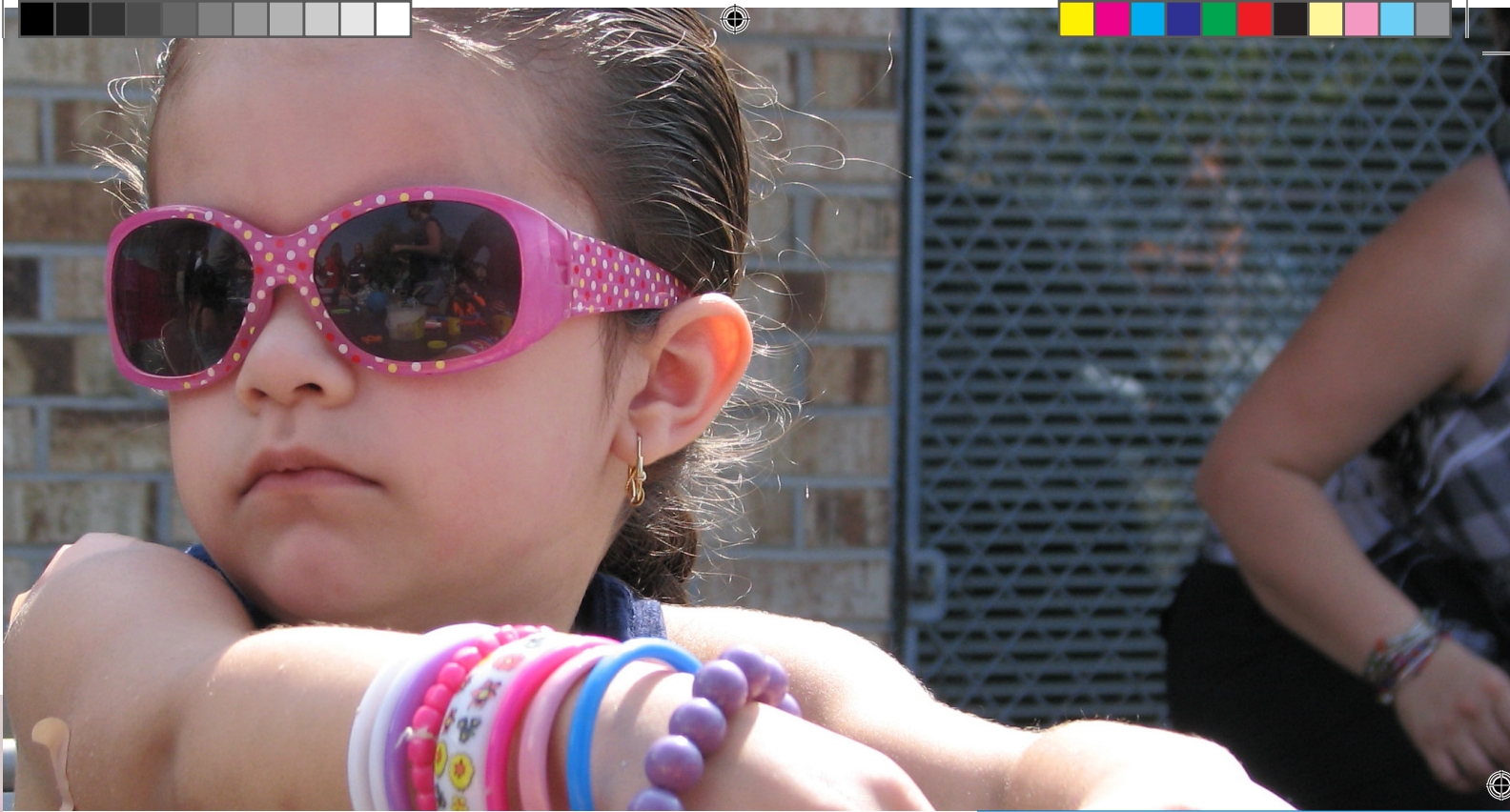
Families participate in regularly scheduled home visits that support parents in their role as their children's first teachers. The program also focuses on parents' goals for their own education, job skills, and overall family needs. Parents receive health and nutrition information and services to ensure optimal growth for their children and families.

For more information about Early Head Start at Children's Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to an Early Head Start social worker. You may also email [earlyheadstart@cfsri.org](mailto:earlyheadstart@cfsri.org) for more information.

“Talking with my  
worker always helped me  
to feel like I am a good  
parent.”

- client of Children's Friend





## Early Intervention

The Early Intervention program helps children from birth to three years of age who have or may have a disability, are experiencing developmental delay, or are at risk for significant developmental problems.

The Early Intervention program consists of a multidisciplinary team of professionals including early childhood educators, dietitians, occupational therapists, physical therapists, registered nurses, service coordinators, social workers, special educators, and speech and language pathologists.

For more information about Early Intervention at Children's Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to an Early Intervention service coordinator. You may also email [earlyintervention@cfsri.org](mailto:earlyintervention@cfsri.org) for more information.

*“Early intervention can include everything from an occupational therapist helping an infant learn to hold her bottle; a physical therapist helping her roll over; or a speech therapist helping her learn to eat.”*

*- Eve Smith, Associate Professor,  
Department of Biobehavioral Health  
Science, University of Illinois at  
Chicago*



## Family Care Community Partnership

The Family Care Community Partnership (FCCP) helps families at risk of abuse, neglect, or DCYF involvement, and families with a child who has been diagnosed with a mental health or developmental issue.

FCCP assesses family needs and helps them to use natural supports, such as family members, neighbors, and community resources. FCCP helps to strengthen families and show them that they are not alone, but surrounded by people who can help.

For more information about the Family Care Community Partnership at Children's Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to a Family Care Community Partnership coordinator. You may also email [FCCP@cfsri.org](mailto:FCCP@cfsri.org) for more information.

“*Children are like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an impression.*”

- Dr. Haim Ginott, clinical psychologist, child therapist, educator, and author

# Family Counseling

The Family Counseling program provides culturally competent mental health services for children and families. Our counselors have special experience working with young children who have histories of trauma and loss.

Family Counseling provides support to parents in managing the care of their child. Licensed clinicians can provide individual counseling, family counseling, play therapy, and parenting support.

For more information about Family Counseling at Children's Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to the Family Counseling intake social worker. You may also email [Counseling@cfsri.org](mailto:Counseling@cfsri.org) for more information.

*“I've learned a lot of life-changing strategies. I liked that through all the rough times, exciting times, and all the other moments, Children's Friend was there for us.”*

*- client of Children's Friend*





## Family Support Centers

The Family Support Centers at Children's Friend are special places for people to get the help they need when they need it. Appointments are not required and services are not limited to existing clients of Children's Friend. Any person may walk in and receive services.

The Family Support Centers work with families to find the services they need. Legal help, housing assistance, emergency food or clothing, furniture, health care, translation, job training and education for parents and children are some of the things you can find at our Centers.

To find out more about the locations and hours of the Family Support Centers at Children's Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to a Family Advocate. You may also email [FamilySupport@cfsri.org](mailto:FamilySupport@cfsri.org) for more information.

*“When the economic crisis hit, our lobbies were filled with parents, with babies, with kids. People had no other place to go.”*

*- staff member of Children's Friend*



“Babies are always more trouble than you thought - and more wonderful.”

- Charles Osgood, American broadcaster

## First Connections

The First Connections Program is a home-based service intended to promote the health and well-being of mothers and their newborn children.

Information on at-risk children is sent to Children's Friend on a daily basis, and we arrange a home visit with their families. Ideally these visits take place within a few days of a mother's return home from the hospital. Our bilingual team of nurses and social workers is knowledgeable about infant growth and development, breast-feeding, and postpartum depression.

For more information about First Connections at Children's Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to the First Connections coordinator. You may also email [FirstConnections@cfsri.org](mailto:FirstConnections@cfsri.org) for more information.



## The Food Program

In 1987 Children's Friend joined the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program. This program promotes healthy nutrition among participating family child care homes and supplements the income of the enrolled providers.

Funded by the Department of Education, this program supports child care providers to enrich their knowledge of good nutrition and child development.

All child care home providers are assigned a case manager to provide nutrition education, information about training sessions, and to support them in becoming better caregivers and educators.

For more information about The Food Program at Children's Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to the Food Program Supervisor. You may also email [FoodProgram@cfsri.org](mailto:FoodProgram@cfsri.org) for more information.

*“You don't have to cook fancy or complicated masterpieces - just good food from fresh ingredients.”* - Julia Child, American chef, author, and television personality

“When I saw her smile for the first time, I knew we, as a family, had made the right decision.”

- Children's Friend foster parent

## Foster Care

When a crisis hits a family, it may not be safe for children and their parents to live together. The reasons vary - medical catastrophe, mental illness, substance abuse, and children's behavior problems are just a few.

To help the family through the crisis, temporary separation is sometimes necessary. Foster parents provide a safe, temporary place for children to live while their birth parents confront their problems.

For more information about Foster Care at Children's Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to a Foster Care recruiter. You may also email [fostercare@cfsri.org](mailto:fostercare@cfsri.org) for more information.



# Head Start

Head Start is a child and family development program that helps children develop skills in language, literacy, math, science, and other areas that will help to prepare them for kindergarten.

Head Start gives first priority to children and families who are homeless, have the lowest incomes, and/or developmental disabilities.

In addition to educating the children, the Children's Friend Head Start program helps the whole family. Every Head Start family is assigned a "family worker" to help identify goals, strengths, supports, and needs. Family members also have access to mental health and family support services at Children's Friend.

For more information about Head Start at Children's Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to the Head Start Director. You may also email [headstart@cfsri.org](mailto:headstart@cfsri.org) for more information.

*“ It's not just academics. It's a social development program. Parents who thought they'd never have a chance are given a chance. It [Head Start] benefits the whole family. ”*

*- Calvin Wright, Politician*





“There is a sense that the schools, day-care centers, and other institutions available to the child may do little to nurture his talents. Shrewder, then, to insulate him by an exercise of uncommon intrusion: building for him, inside his home, a better parent.”

- Katherine Boo, Author and winner of Pulitzer Prize for Public Service

## Nurse Family Partnership

The Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) is an exciting new home visiting program in Rhode Island. It is a voluntary, free program for low-income, first-time moms 24 years old and younger, under 28 weeks gestation. This program provides home visiting by a registered nurse from pregnancy until the child is two years old. This program also provides prenatal and parenting education, developmental screenings, social supports, as well as support for educational and professional goals for the client.

Although NFP is new to Rhode Island, the program has operated in other parts of the country for over 30 years. Through independent, long-term evaluations, NFP has been proven to reduce health problems for mother and baby. It has also been proven to reduce neglect, abuse, and postpartum depression. Improved developmental outcomes for the child, an increase in self sufficiency for mom due to improvements in educational and professional assistance, and longer times between pregnancies are just a few other benefits of this great program.

For more information about the Nurse Family Partnership at Children's Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to the NFP Nurse Supervisor. You may also email [NFP@cfsri.org](mailto:NFP@cfsri.org) for more information.



“ *I feel that Children’s Friend is wonderful because they are really there for the children.* ”  
- client of Children’s Friend

## Partners In Permanency

Partners In Permanency is a collaboration between Children’s Friend and the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) that provides services to children in DCYF care, along with their birth families and foster families.

The primary goal of the program is to find safe, permanent, stable homes for the children as quickly as possible. To do this, the Partners In Permanency staff works with the birth family, the foster family, and the child.

For more information about Partners In Permanency at Children’s Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to a Partners In Permanency social worker. You may also email [Permanency@cfsri.org](mailto:Permanency@cfsri.org) for more information.

# Professional Development

Children's Friend has made a commitment to the professional development of our staff and to our community partners. Such a commitment requires that we dedicate specific staff to assessing employee needs, gathering staff and community feedback, and designing and implementing a comprehensive set of programs. The staff of the Professional Development department focuses their efforts to provide meaningful, timely and relevant opportunities for all staff and many members of the early care and education community across the state.

- On-going, year round workshops, seminars, and lectures, that support employees' professional growth, including achieving or maintaining licensures/certifications.
- Week-long summer and winter training series for all staff and invited community partners.
- Specific support and training for managers and supervisors to be effective in their respective roles and to ensure high quality service delivery.
- A full calendar of workshops through out the year offered to our community partners and accessed by over 500 people annually.

For more information call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to someone in Professional Development. You may also email [ProfessionalDevelopment@cfsri.org](mailto:ProfessionalDevelopment@cfsri.org) for more information.

*“Learning  
is a treasure  
that will follow  
its owner  
everywhere.”*  
- Chinese Proverb





*“ We as addicts need to be taught more than just staying clean. We need to learn a new way of life for us and our children.*

*We need to be educated... we need powerful resources like Project Connect to help us.”*  
*- client of Project Connect*

## Project Connect

Through Project Connect, Children's Friend helps a) keep children safe and b) keep families together. Project Connect provides home-based services for families identified by the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF).

Project Connect is the only program in the state that works with DCYF to help parents achieve a drug and alcohol free lifestyle. The program is intensive, home-based, and provides services for an average of one year. The Project Connect staff is specially trained in substance abuse and child welfare risk assessment.

For more information about Project Connect at Children's Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to the Director of Family Preservation. You may also email [Projectconnect@cfsri.org](mailto:Projectconnect@cfsri.org) for more information.

# Therapeutic Child Care

In 2009, Children's Friend launched a Therapeutic Child Care program. An increasing number of young children are excluded from regular child care centers because of behavioral issues. Often when these children are excluded from child care, a parent is forced to either amend their work schedule or stop working and a very vulnerable child's needs go unmet. Therapeutic Child Care caters to the needs of these children.

High-quality, early care and education experiences are critical to a child's development. Research has demonstrated that children's early learning experiences determine their foundation for future learning and success. Therapeutic Child Care ensures that even a child with complex needs will receive the education and foundation they need.

For more information about Therapeutic Child Care services at Children's Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to the Child Care manager. You may also email [childcare@cfsri.org](mailto:childcare@cfsri.org) for more information.

“Free  
the child's  
potential,  
and you will  
transform  
him into the  
world.”

- Maria Montessori,  
Italian physician and  
educator





## Women, Infants & Children - WIC

WIC is a nutrition program that provides healthy foods such as milk, juice, cereal, cheese, eggs, infant formula, tuna, and carrots to parents who qualify. WIC offers nutritional education to improve family health, breastfeeding advice and support, and referrals to doctors, dentists, and other community services.

WIC helps pregnant women, breastfeeding moms, new moms with babies under six months old, babies, and children younger than five years old. Fathers, grandparents, and foster parents can also apply for WIC for children in their care.

For more information about WIC at Children's Friend, call 401.276.4300 and ask to speak to the WIC coordinator. You may also email [WIC@cfsri.org](mailto:WIC@cfsri.org) for more information.

*“It’s hard to make healthy choices on a low income. You may be wary of foods that spoil. You worry they’ll go bad before you eat them, so you don’t buy fresh fruits and vegetables. Now WIC recipients will at least have vegetables in their homes.”*

*- Marie Dalme, Dietician*



## Donations

A donation made to Children's Friend is a very special gift. All donations are used specifically to fund our programs. Your gift could pay for art supplies in a classroom, emergency assistance for a family left homeless because of a house fire, much needed therapy for a family in trouble, formula for an infant, and many other services that we provide.

There are many ways to give. One time contributions of money, recurring gifts, and donations of goods or services are all welcome. Or you may choose to utilize one of the many options for planned giving. Your donation can be made to all of our programs, or to a specific program or event that speaks to you personally.

To learn more about options for giving to Children's Friend, visit our website for more information or contact us at 401.276.4300 or [info@cfsri.org](mailto:info@cfsri.org).

*Your support makes our work possible.*

“*The measure of life is not its duration, but its donation.*”

*- Peter Marshall, former chaplain of the United States Senate*



## Events at Children's Friend

### ***The Children's Friend Walk & Run sponsored by Panera Bread***

This spring event includes live entertainment, carousel rides, face painting, and other family activities.

### ***Investing In Our Children Luncheon***

Each Autumn, our annual luncheon brings together leaders in business, philanthropy, and child welfare to raise money for Children's Friend.

### ***The Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive***

This event is everyone's favorite. It's a chance to sponsor a child or children to help their families give them the wonderful holiday they deserve.

Children's Friend also hosts a variety of smaller events throughout the year.

To learn more about events at Children's Friend, visit our website for more information or contact us directly at 401.276.4300 or [info@cfsri.org](mailto:info@cfsri.org).

*“Only where children gather is there any real chance of fun.”*

*- Mignon McLaughlin, American journalist and author*

# Volunteering

There are countless ways to help Children's Friend make a difference in the lives of Rhode Island's most vulnerable children.

You can volunteer to read to children in our classrooms, help with community clean ups, and assist our support staff with clerical, office, and accounting tasks.

We are always delighted to find tasks for groups of people from corporations, schools, churches, and organizations.

To learn more about options for volunteering at Children's Friend, visit our website for more information or contact us directly at 401.276.4300 or [info@cfsri.org](mailto:info@cfsri.org).

*“I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can give to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”*

*- Mahatma Gandhi*





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