

HONORING OUR PAST BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Safe and Healthy Children

Strong and Stable Families

Thriving and Prosperous Communities



INTRODUCTION

AS THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds (the Alliance) celebrates its 20th anniversary it seems appropriate to reflect on the Alliance's journey as a national voice for child abuse prevention and on some of the key milestones of the child abuse prevention movement.

The Alliance was built on the shoulders of many individuals who worked tirelessly to ensure that resources, programs and policies were in place to protect our youngest and most vulnerable citizens. It was their passion and commitment that ignited the spark that became a national movement to strengthen families and protect children through a network of statewide funds dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect.

As with many historical events, the creation of Children's Trust Funds (CTFs) begins with a story. There are several versions of the story but the one most

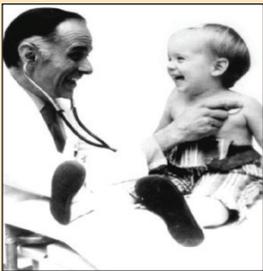
THE ALLIANCE THANKS Carolyn S. Abdullah, lead author, Alliance members and national partners (past and present) for their contributions to this paper.

fondly and most often recounted begins with a well respected pediatrician, Dr. Ray E. Helfer, taking some time off to do a little fishing. While renewing his fishing license he was surprised to discover that the fee had nearly doubled from the year before. When he inquired about the increase in the license fee he was told that the money was used to support the conservation of fish and wildlife so there would always be fish to catch. According to Alliance lore, this is when the concept of a designated, protected source of funding solely for the prevention of child abuse and neglect was formed.

David Mills, former Director of the Michigan Children's Trust Fund and the first Executive Director of the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds, was inspired by the stories told by Dr. Helfer. One such story contrasted producing a beautiful lawn by using pesticides to kill off the weeds versus growing the grass so thick, with the help of fertilizer, that there's no room for weeds to grow. This analogy reflects the vision of the Alliance and other organizations working to prevent child abuse before it ever occurs – to help grow families so rich with

confidence and parenting skills that child abuse and neglect cannot take root.

Dr. Helfer, who is credited with being the father of the Children's Trust Fund movement, was a pediatrician, a faculty member of the medical school at Michigan State University and an expert on child development and child abuse and neglect. Dr. Helfer's work built on that of his mentor Dr. C. Henry Kempe who co-authored an article on the battered-child syndrome in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in 1962. Dr. Kempe and his colleagues at the University of Colorado School of Medicine defined battered-child syndrome as a clinical condition in young children who have received serious physical abuse from their caregivers. Battered-child syndrome was described as a significant cause of childhood disability and death and was also considered an "unrecognized trauma" by social workers, pediatricians and other medical personnel. In 1968, Dr. Helfer authored *The Battered Child Syndrome* which was co-edited with Dr. C. Henry Kempe and is still used as a textbook in medical schools.



DR. RAY E. HELFER CREATES FUNDING FOR PREVENTION

DR. RAY E. HELFER, M.D., **BEGAN** using his influence to create a protected source of funding for prevention by persuading the state legislature in Michigan to increase funding to add 50 full-time "prevention

workers" to the protective services budget. After the "prevention worker" positions had been created and filled, all 50 had full-time protective service caseload and none of them was doing any prevention work. The needs and demands of children in crisis had compelled the decision makers to divert the money to treatment. This event helped shape the law that created Michigan's Children's Trust Fund and served as a model for all states.

One of the last studies that Dr. Helfer worked on involved research on infant mortality in non-human primates. It had become illegal to import these animals into the United States which created a market to sell the offspring of those already in the country. The infant mortality of those offspring was very high and researchers were hired to find out why. What they found was no surprise to Dr. Helfer. The primates were raised in captivity and never saw a mother caring for her young and therefore had no idea how to feed their young, keep it warm or protect it from danger. As a result, most of the young died in infancy. It became evident that bonding required more than birth and parenting is a learned skill. As a result of this study, laws were passed that required zoos to provide a series of support systems in order to breed non-human primates. A housing arrangement that provided privacy and safety for infants and mothers was required in addition to other conditions to decrease infant mortality.

A TURNING POINT

A **TURNING POINT** in the child abuse prevention movement came in 1973 when the Senate Subcommittee on Children and Youth held open hearings in support of a bill introduced by Senator Walter Mondale of Minnesota. By all accounts the most riveting testimony came from a mother who shared her journey of violent outbursts with her child, unsuccessful attempts to get help from a variety of agencies and ultimately her role as co-founder of Parents Anonymous®, Inc., a national child abuse prevention organization. Jolly K's appearance was reported on national television and is credited with putting a human face on a national concern, helping the Senate Subcommittee and the general public understand that child abuse and neglect is a preventable issue. The legislation is believed to be the first to address child abuse and neglect on a national level and led to the creation of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).

When the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) was passed by Congress in 1974, it became the first legislation to address child abuse as a preventable issue, leading to a flurry of activities to better define child abuse

prevention and implement prevention strategies. CAPTA contained the first federal mandates for reporting suspected child abuse and neglect and encouraged states to create child welfare agencies to receive and respond to reports. CAPTA has been through numerous revisions and reauthorizations and today, child welfare services remain the responsibility of the states, with each state designing its own system of compliance with federal requirements.

In 1974, Dr. Helfer began developing a questionnaire to predict who was at risk for abusing a child. Ultimately the questionnaire had to be abandoned because it produced too many false positives to accurately predict potential abusers. The unpredictability of the questionnaire results led Dr. Helfer to conclude that universal programs would be needed to address child abuse and neglect. Prevention was a good approach for all parents because at some point all parents need support. This awareness provided the foundation for the creation of Children's Trust Funds.

Dr. Helfer used his influence and his travels to speak across the country and

promote legislation for a protected source of funding for child abuse prevention at the state level. In partnership with the Kansas Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse (the state chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America) and Debbie Stabenow, formerly a state senator and presently U.S. Senator from Michigan, the first Children's Trust Fund was created in Kansas in 1980 followed next by the Michigan Children's Trust fund.

Congress made a further commitment to support innovative programs to prevent child abuse and neglect by resolving that the week of June 6-12, 1982, should be designated as the first National Child Abuse Prevention Week. Congress requested that the President issue a proclamation asking Government agencies and the public to observe the week with programs, ceremonies and activities. The following year, April was proclaimed the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Since then, child abuse and neglect awareness activities have been promoted across the country during April of each year.

EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP

ONE OF THE GREATEST STRENGTHS of the Alliance is its dedicated board of directors. The exemplary leadership provided by the board presidents has been a key factor in the growth and development of the Alliance.

- ❖ Mary Anne Snyder, Wisconsin 2006–2009
- ❖ Deborah Strong, Michigan 2003–2006
- ❖ Sherri Jo McLemore, Arkansas 2001–2003
- ❖ Donna Pincavage, New Jersey 1998–2001
- ❖ Judy Harrison, Louisiana 1996–1998
- ❖ Janie Fields, Texas 1994–1996
- ❖ Patty Wolfe Hasselbring, Missouri 1992–1994
- ❖ David Mills, Michigan 1990–1992



Alliance Board Presidents

The Alliance has had eight presidents including (left to right) Mary Anne Snyder of Wisconsin, Deborah Strong of Michigan, Sherri Jo McLemore of Arkansas, Donna Pincavage of New Jersey and Judy Harrison of Louisiana.

FOCUSING ON PREVENTION

WHILE THERE WAS A NEW and exciting energy focused on prevention, it was still a challenge to create a protected source of funding focused on prevention before the occurrence of child abuse. States struggled with the concept of setting aside funds for something that hadn't happened while there were families in crisis and child protection systems were overwhelmed with cases where children needed treatment and immediate services. When state budgets were stretched and underfunded, decision-makers often saw prevention services as the most expendable strategy.

In 1981, a group of national organizations formed the National Child Abuse Coalition to coordinate their advocacy in opposition to the new Reagan Administration's pledge to repeal the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). This initial collaborative effort was successful. The Alliance has been and remains actively involved in the Coalition as a strong voice for prevention and increased resources to support community-based, family strengthening efforts.

The National Child Abuse Coalition has taken the lead in working with Congress each time CAPTA has been reauthorized and amended, spearheading successful efforts to stop attempts to repeal or block grant this important legislation. CAPTA funds have been and remain decidedly below the amount of funding required to fully support family strengthening and child abuse prevention strategies across the country. However, since 1981, these funds have increased by almost 400 percent – from \$23 million to \$113 million – largely due to the Coalition's advocacy efforts.

RAY E. HELFER, M.D., AWARD RECIPIENTS

THE ANNUAL RAY E. HELFER, M.D., AWARD was established in 1992 in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics to honor an esteemed pediatrician who has made significant contributions to local and national efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ✦ 1992 Dr. Robert ten Bensel | ✦ 2001 Dr. Carole Jenny |
| ✦ 1993 Dr. Bernard Cullen | ✦ 2002 No award given |
| ✦ 1994 Dr. David Chadwick | ✦ 2003 Dr. Glen Bartlett |
| ✦ 1995 Dr. Richard Krugman | ✦ 2004 Dr. Vincent Palusci |
| ✦ 1996 Dr. Astrid Heppenstall Hager | ✦ 2005 Dr. Mary M. Carrasco |
| ✦ 1997 Dr. Anna I.S. Binklewicz | ✦ 2006 Dr. Christopher Spencer Greeley |
| ✦ 1998 Dr. Ben G. Raimer | ✦ 2007 Dr. Richard Allan Aronson |
| ✦ 1999 Dr. Edward N. Bailey | ✦ 2008 Dr. J. Robert Beshear |
| ✦ 2000 No award given | ✦ 2009 Dr. George Brown |



Dr. Mary M. Carrasco received the prestigious award in 2005.

ALLIANCE HISTORY

1912	1926	1965	1968
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Children's Bureau created. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) founded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Start founded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ray E. Helfer, M.D., writes the landmark book, "The Battered Child Syndrome," which was co-edited with Dr. C. Henry Kempe.

NATIONAL MILESTONES

ESTABLISHING STATE CHILDREN'S TRUST FUNDS

THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

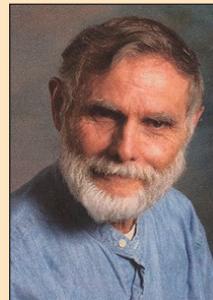
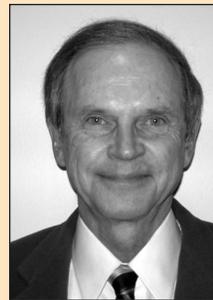
Challenge Grants were a part of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 and provided incentives for states to invest in prevention, recognizing the need for dedicated funding to prevent child abuse and neglect. Many states had already established CTFs as an important way to ensure funds for prevention and many used the Challenge Grants to support the work of CTFs. By 1984, Connecticut, Louisiana, Missouri, Wisconsin and Alabama had established Children's Trust

Funds, paving the way for the creation of CTFs in over 40 states by 1988.

A pivotal player in the child abuse prevention story and the Children's Trust Fund movement was the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse (NCPCA), now known as Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA), as well as their state chapters. Donna J. Stone founded NCPCA in 1972, establishing a strong national presence and advocacy voice for child abuse prevention. PCAA was instrumental in supporting the

development of many CTFs and offering Children's Trust Funds the opportunity to network with other prevention organizations by participating in PCAA's annual conferences. In fact, it was at the PCAA conference in 1988 that the idea for a national organization to specifically support Children's Trust Funds was born.

With the continued growth in the number of CTFs across the country, several CTF Directors began to explore the advantages of creating a central organization to support the unique needs of these diverse statewide prevention entities. Collectively CTFs distribute more than \$100 million annually to thousands of state and local programs. The varied organizational structures of CTFs include private non-profit organizations, and quasi-governmental agencies, with others being embedded in larger government systems such as public health, child welfare and education. Monies are raised using a variety of funding mechanisms including fees from birth certificates, marriage licenses and income tax check-offs. Many CTFs had also been designated as the State Lead Agency for the Child Abuse Challenge Grant Program which was reauthorized in 1989 and transferred to CAPTA. Grants to states, totaling \$5 million required a focus on education for professionals and the public as well as the development of community prevention programs.



Alliance President Mary Anne Snyder presents Dr. Richard Allan Aronson (above) with the Ray E. Helfer, M.D., Award at the 2007 Annual Membership Meeting in San Diego. Dr. J. Robert Beshear (above right) received the award in 2008 and Dr. George Brown (below left) in 2009.

- Dr. Ray E. Helfer, M.D., begins research on predictive behavior for child abuse and neglect which leads to legislation to create Children's Trust Funds.

1969	1972	1973	1974	1977
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents Anonymous®, Inc. founded to provide weekly support groups for parents and children to strengthen families nationwide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent Child Abuse America founded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jolly K (co-founder of Parents Anonymous®, Inc.) testified about child abuse and neglect in Congressional hearings for proposed Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) enacted to provide federal funding to states in support of prevention, assessment, investigation, prosecution and treatment activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZERO TO THREE founded.

THE ALLIANCE IS CREATED

IN 1989, THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds (the Alliance) was created to provide extensive support to Children's Trust Funds in all aspects of their work including providing collective and individual training and technical assistance, peer consulting, access to key data and research and serving as a national leader and voice on the importance of strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect.

The Alliance is the only national organization that provides direct support to Children's Trust Funds. Its establishment as a membership organization was intentional and the leadership of the Alliance has always felt strongly that the Alliance should focus strongly on creating opportunities for members to support each other and share expertise and

resources. The structure of the Alliance is unique for a national organization. The voluntary board of directors, comprised exclusively of CTF representatives, is active in supporting all aspects of the Alliance's work. A cadre of skilled consultants located across the country carries out the work of the Alliance in close collaboration with the board of directors, other national organizations, the federal government, foundations and, of course, state Children's Trust and Prevention Funds.

By the mid-1990s there was a Children's Trust Fund in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The DC CTF was established in 1993 and Puerto Rico in 1999. The Alliance had grown into a strong national voice for prevention with an office in Washington, DC and one on the campus of Michigan State University. As a national

leader in the field, the Alliance forged partnerships with other national organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics,

American Humane, Prevent Child Abuse America, Parents Anonymous®, Inc. and the Children's Bureau, Office of Child Abuse and Neglect at U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Alliance was annually holding a membership meeting where CTFs could learn, network, share successes and challenges and brag about what made their Children's Trust Fund special. The annual membership meeting was the birthplace of the Parade of States, a much beloved activity where members share a gift representative of their state while giving an update on their activities and accomplishments.

With the untimely passing of Dr. Helfer in 1992, the Alliance established the Annual Ray E. Helfer, MD Award in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics. The award is presented to highlight the valuable contributions of a pediatrician to local and national efforts to prevent child abuse. CTFs submit nominations and each year it is exciting to see how many pediatricians are following in Dr. Helfer's footsteps.



Dr. Ray E. Helfer, M.D., (right) congratulates the governor of Kansas on creating the first Children's Trust Fund in 1980.

- First Children's Trust Fund established in Kansas.

- Michigan Children's Trust Fund established.
- Washington Children's Trust Fund established.

- Connecticut Children's Trust Fund established.
- Louisiana Children's Trust Fund established.
- Missouri Children's Trust Fund established.
- Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund established.

- Alabama Children's Trust Fund established.

1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant program initiated. • Family Resource Coalition founded (name later changed to Family Support America). • National Child Abuse Coalition founded. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Child Abuse Prevention Month established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Abuse Prevention Challenge Grants (part of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act) provided incentives for states to invest in prevention.

UNIVERSAL APPROACH BUILDS ON FAMILY STRENGTHS

BY THE LATE 1990S it became clear that a transition was needed from the historical silos and segmented way of working with families to a more universal approach that recognized and built on family strengths. The Alliance was poised to work with CTFs and with other organizations to advance this new strengths-based way of working.

The prevention field was beginning to recognize that messages regarding the importance of preventing child abuse and neglect were having the unintended consequence of distancing the public from the issue rather than building strong public will to resolve it. Efforts to generate awareness of child abuse and neglect were not having the desired effect of mobilizing strategies to end the problem.

The Frameworks Institute and its partners, Cultural Logic and Public Knowledge,

began conducting substantial research for PCCA on how to reframe the issue of child abuse and neglect, supported by funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF). PCAA's goal was to move beyond awareness and concern by developing strategies to change the perception of child abuse and to begin changing behavior. The premise of this work was based on the understanding that it's important to change how the story is told, taking into account the values and frames of reference associated with the issue. In April 2004, PCAA hosted a Summit on Building Public Will for Prevention in Washington, DC to share their research findings with a broader audience. Their findings included information on the lack of understanding about childhood development and child abuse and neglect as well as the public's perception that parenting exists inside the

family and outsiders have no role. Based on the findings, PCAA and Frameworks made recommendations about messaging, including using recent research in child development to give messages about what works. The research also suggests that beginning communications with the term child abuse causes the public to think about the stereotypes associated with child abuse and is less likely to increase public will for prevention strategies. A more useful approach is to provide solutions and calls to action early in the messaging.

The Alliance has enthusiastically taken a leadership role in reframing its own work and assisting CTFs in reframing their thinking and messaging by moving to a more strengths-based language that reflects the new ways of thinking about and supporting children and families.

- Oregon Children's Trust Fund established.
- Ohio Children's Trust Fund established.
- Vermont Children's Trust Fund established.
- Virginia Children's Trust Fund established.
- Children's Trust Funds (CTFs)
 - Texas exploratory meeting to discuss development of a national organization to support CTFs.
- Arkansas Children's Trust Fund established.
- Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund established.
- More than 40 states have developed CTFs.
- Utah and Chicago Organizing Meetings to discuss development of a national organization for CTFs.
- **National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds established** to assist state Children's Trust and Prevention Funds and promote and support a system of services, laws, practices and attitudes that strengthen families' capacity to provide their children with safe, healthy and nurturing childhoods.

1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicago Longitudinal Study begins and investigates the educational and social development of a same-age cohort of 1,539 low-income, minority children (93% African American) who grew up in high-poverty neighborhoods in central-city Chicago. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federally funded Child Abuse Prevention Challenge Grants reauthorized and transferred to CAPTA under the Children's Bureau – \$5 million in grants to states to fund the development and ongoing support for Children Trust Funds. • Blue Ribbon Campaign to Prevent Child Abuse begins in Virginia.

GROWTH AND PARTNERSHIPS

FROM THE DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE Foundation's initial steps in funding child abuse prevention strategies, beginning in 2000, they have made significant and coordinated contributions to the field of prevention by providing financial support and guidance to several key initiatives. In addition to the landmark work on reframing child abuse prevention, the foundation funded the development and expansion of the Strengthening Families Initiative, an approach created by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP).

In 2001, CSSP began exploring the role of early care and education centers in preventing child abuse and neglect. Early childhood settings had historically been known to play a critical role in promoting the social and emotional development of young children with additional evidence that programs that did intentional outreach to parents contributed to family strengthening and child abuse prevention.

CSSP's exploration included reviewing research on child abuse and neglect and conferring with researchers, practitioners and parents to identify protective factors known to reduce child abuse and neglect. This process of data collection led CSSP to develop a conceptual framework that involved building evidence-based protective factors around young children.

The five Protective Factors are:

- ✦ Parental Resilience
- ✦ Social Connections
- ✦ Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- ✦ Concrete Support in Times of Need
- ✦ Social and Emotional Competence of Children

The identification of these protective factors and recognition that those working with families can help support development of protective factors sparked a change in the way practitioners approached their work with families and the way they addressed preventing child abuse and neglect. CSSP identified 21 exemplary early care and education programs across the country and developed tools and resources to support more programs in implementing the approach. They began exploring policy and practice changes that would be needed for large scale implementation.

The Alliance was also experiencing significant growth and strengthening its partnerships with other national organizations, resulting in increased capacity to implement new strategies and have an even greater impact on state and national efforts to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

In late 2004, the Alliance entered a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to implement a new initiative - BECAUSE Kids Count: Creating a National Plan to Strengthen Families and Prevent Child Maltreatment. The Alliance's goal for the BECAUSE Project was to expand the capacity of the Alliance and its CTFs to help prevent child maltreatment before it occurs, to conduct an inventory of local child abuse prevention programs and strategies supported by the CTFs, assess the Alliance's and the CTFs' current strengths and needs for assistance and develop and launch a national plan to help prevent child abuse and neglect in all its forms. Through the BECAUSE Kids Count Project, the Alliance strengthened its collaborations with the two other national organizations that were also grantees of CDC, Prevent Child Abuse America and Parents Anonymous® Inc.

- First official Alliance Membership Meeting – Chicago.
- David Mills elected president of the Alliance Board of Directors.

- Alliance Membership Meeting – Denver.

- Annual Ray E. Helfer, M.D., Award established by the Alliance and the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Dr. Robert ten Benschel, first Ray E. Helfer, M.D., Award recipient.
- Alliance Membership Meeting – Chicago.
- Patty Wolfe Hasselbring elected President of the Alliance Board of Directors.
- Michigan CTF and Bob Caldwell, Ph.D, professor from Michigan State University, create one of the first documents describing the tangible costs of NOT providing prevention strategies.

- Alliance Membership Meeting – Pittsburgh.
- Dr. Bernard Cullen, Ray E. Helfer, M.D., Award recipient.

- Alliance Membership Meeting – Atlanta.
- Dr. David Chadwick, Ray E. Helfer, M.D., Award recipient.
- Janie Fields (TX) elected president of the Alliance Board of Directors.
- Alliance begins two-year grant with the federal Office of Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN).

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect releases "Creating Caring Communities: A Community Response to Child Maltreatment." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ray E. Helfer, M.D., dies. • National Center for Injury Prevention and Control and Division of Violence Prevention established at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Preservation and Family Support Programs established as part of Omnibus Reconciliation Act to enable states to develop or expand family preservation and community-based family support services. • U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect releases "Understanding Child Maltreatment" (recommends universal home visiting as key prevention strategy). 	

BRIDGING ACROSS SYSTEMS

THE ALLIANCE BECAME a stronger partner in the Strengthening Families Initiative when it received a 3-year grant from DDCF in 2005 to launch its national Early Childhood Initiative. The grant was awarded to build the capacity of the Alliance and individual CTFs to promote the Strengthening Families Protective Factors framework, developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy, in early care and learning settings.

In May 2006, the Alliance awarded seed grants to nine CTFs, through an independent and competitive funding application process, to support innovative strategies that would help families build protective factors, in partnership with the early childhood leaders in their states.. Those nine CTFs received grant awards of up to \$50,000 each to implement their proposed projects and to serve as mentors for other CTFs. The recipients

of seed grants were Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Washington. The Alliance also created an Early Childhood Initiative Learning Community and invited participation from a total of 18 states, including those receiving funding. The Early Childhood Initiative Learning Community now includes 26 state CTFs, their early childhood partners and parent leaders.

CTFs in the Early Childhood Initiative Learning Community engaged in meaningful work with their early childhood partners to embed the Strengthening Families/Protective Factors framework throughout their early childhood systems (professional development systems, higher education systems, child welfare systems, child care licensing and quality rating and improvement systems). Children's trust

funds are ideally positioned to bridge across systems to support the SF/PF Framework as an enhancement to early childhood systems efforts. Many states participating in the Early Childhood Initiative Learning Community began to work with their early childhood partners to develop plans for Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS). QRIS are a way to improve and communicate about the level of quality in early care and education settings. With support from the DDCF and the A.L. Mailman Foundation, the Alliance implemented the Strengthening Families through QRIS Initiative. Through this Initiative, the Alliance is working intensively with three state CTFs and their partners (Idaho, Pennsylvania and Tennessee) to offer support and materials to any other state teams interested in using the state QRIS process to promote the Strengthening Families Protective Factors framework.



2000 Alliance Annual Meeting in Santa Fe, NM

- Alliance Membership Meeting – Santa Fe.
- Dr. Carole Jenny, Ray E. Helfer, M.D., Award recipient.
- Annual Membership Meeting – Washington, DC (cancelled).
- Sherri Jo McLemore (AR) elected president of the Alliance Board of Directors.
- Annual Membership Meeting – Washington, DC.
- Teresa Rafael hired as Alliance Interim Executive Director.
- Alliance Membership Meeting – St. Louis.
- Dr. Glen Bartlett, Ray E. Helfer, M.D., Award recipient.
- Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) Planning Grant to the Alliance.
- Deborah Strong (MI) elected president of the Alliance Board of Directors.
- Alliance Membership Meeting – Boston.
- Dr. Vincent Palusci, Ray E. Helfer, M.D., Award recipient
- Alliance receives BECAUSE Kids Count Grant from CDC.
- Alliance creates National Working Group with esteemed group of researchers, pediatricians, policymakers, parent leaders and others to advise and support the Alliance's development of a Five-Year Strategic Plan.
- Alliance becomes an organizational partner in the new five-year grant to the FRIENDS National Resource Center.
- Teresa Rafael appointed Alliance Executive Director.

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) begins awarding grants to prevent child abuse and neglect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) begins the Strengthening Families Initiative with funding from DDCF. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternal and Child Health Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) program launched to implement the Maternal and Child Health Board Strategic Plan for Early Childhood Health. • "From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development": Landmark report which urges the nation to re-examine policies that affect children and families and to increase its investment in their well-being. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reframing Summit held by PCA and funded by DDCF – shares research from Frameworks Institute related to reframing messages to build public will to prevent child abuse and neglect. • Circle of Parents established. • Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

TWENTY YEARS AFTER ITS INCEPTION, the National Alliance of Children’s Trust and Prevention Funds continues its journey as a national leader and a voice for safe and healthy children, strong and stable families and thriving and prosperous communities. The journey continues because of the individuals who remain committed to the vision of Dr. Ray Helfer and so many

others who believe that strengthening families is a powerful approach for eradicating child abuse and neglect.

As the Alliance reflects on its history and accomplishments, it is clear that both patience and urgency are required, that both innovation and rigor are necessary and that even with a single-minded goal,

collaboration is needed. Any successful strategy must acknowledge that parents have wisdom to offer and that all families have strengths to build on. Most importantly, it is more evident now than ever before that strengthening families and keeping children safe is everyone’s responsibility.

MISSION OF THE ALLIANCE

- ✧ Initiate and engage in national efforts that help State Children’s Trust and Prevention Funds in strengthening families to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- ✧ Promote and support a system of services, laws, practices and attitudes that supports families by enabling them to provide their children with safe, healthy and nurturing childhoods.

TO ACHIEVE ITS GOALS, THE ALLIANCE IS IMPLEMENTING THE FOLLOWING KEY STRATEGIES:

- ✧ Providing national leadership for systemic change
- ✧ Supporting a robust national network of Children Trust Funds
- ✧ Modeling and promoting effective parent partnerships
- ✧ Embracing and shifting messages from prevention to promotion
- ✧ Expanding the view of evidence-based practice to reflect a continuum of evaluation approaches
- ✧ Building cross-systems partnerships and strategies

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliance Membership Meeting - Boston. • Dr. Mary M. Carrasco, Ray E. Helfer, M.D., Award recipient. • DDCF Early Childhood Grant Award supports the Alliance’s work to help CTFs engage in national expansion of the Strengthening Families Movement. • Alliance expands its collaboration with the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) to promote the Strengthening Families Initiative. • Alliance Board and National Working Group Meeting – Chicago. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliance Membership Meeting – San Diego. • Dr. Christopher Spencer Greeley, Ray E. Helfer, M.D., Award recipient. • Mary Anne Snyder (WI) elected president of the Alliance Board of Directors. • Alliance trainings for CTFs on the Strengthening Families Initiative – Seattle and Atlanta. • Alliance distributes seed grants totaling \$450,000 to nine states. • Alliance creates ECI Learning Community with 18 states. • Alliance develops Five-Year Strategic Plan. • Alliance contracts with a parent leader consultant bringing a parent voice to all aspects of the work of the Alliance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliance Membership Meeting – Washington, DC. • Dr. Richard Allan Aronson, Ray E. Helfer, M.D., Award recipient. • Alliance ECI Meeting – San Diego. • National Alliance Parent Partnership Council (NAPPC) begins with one charter member to include the parent voice in the Alliance’s work. • Community Café approach expands parent partnerships in the Alliance’s work. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliance Membership Meeting – Washington, DC. • Dr. J. Robert Beshear, Ray E. Helfer, M.D., Award recipient. • Alliance ECI Meeting – Seattle. • National Alliance Parent Partnership Council fully established (6 members) and working in partnership with the Alliance. • Alliance’s Strengthening Families through Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) Project begins – funded by DDCF and the A.L. Mailman Foundation. • The Children’s Bureau funds the Alliance, the Center for the Study of Social Policy (the lead agency) and ZERO TO THREE, to create the National Quality Improvement Center on Early Childhood. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliance Membership Meeting – Atlanta. • Alliance ECI Meeting – Atlanta. • Dr. George Brown, Ray E. Helfer, M.D., Award recipient. • ECI Theory of Change completed. • Alliance begins the “Making the Case for Prevention” initiative, funded by DDCF. • Alliance celebrates its 20th Anniversary. |
|---|---|--|--|---|

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006 passed to assist family caregivers with affordable, high quality respite care. • Child maltreatment prevention identified as a priority at CDC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC identifies the promotion of Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships (SSNRs) as a strategic direction for child maltreatment prevention. • Prevention Subcommittee of Federal Interagency Workgroup on Child Abuse and Neglect established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) establishes Strengthening Families National Network (SFNN). • CDC establishes the Knowledge to Action (K2A) Consortium with the Alliance, the other BECAUSE Kids Count grantees and OCAN serving as the Leadership Group joining with CDC in planning and implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Lifespan Respite Initiative provides 12 awards totaling more than \$2 million to provide temporary relief to caregivers of individuals of any age with special needs. • First Knowledge to Action Consortium Think Tank meeting held at CDC – Atlanta.

STATE CHILDREN'S TRUST and Prevention Funds comprise the nation's largest funders of community-based family strengthening and child abuse prevention programs and other strategies. Collectively, they distribute more than \$100 million annually to thousands of state and local programs. They also build capacity in local programs, facilitate broad collaborations with state partners and help incubate new and promising practices.



The National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds is the only national organization that provides support to all aspects of the work of state CTFs. The Alliance represents CTFs in national policy and practice discussions and joins in dynamic partnerships with CTFs, federal agencies, foundations, state governments, other national organizations and parent leaders.



www.ctfalliance.org