



CHILD FIND of AMERICA

BRINGING KIDS HOME • KEEPING THEM SAFE

Since 1980

Making the Connections



2017 ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM CHILD FIND'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We've all heard that it takes a village to raise a child...but we all *know* that it takes collaborative and cooperative networks of professionals, law enforcement, social service providers, educators and local, state and federal agencies to serve our most vulnerable, at risk children. *Making the Connections*, the cover theme of this annual report, was taken from our very successful conference which addressed the issue of New York's Trafficked Youth. (Read about it on page 3!)

There's an inter-connectedness among missing, exploited, runaway, homeless, and trafficked youth. We know who our missing children are:

Each year there are about 100 stereotypical kidnappings by strangers of children under the age of 18.

Each year there are more than 300,000 reported abductions of children by a parent in high-conflict family situations.

But most missing kids are runaways, with estimates as low as 1.5 million per year to almost 3 million per year. Many of them are running from those high-conflict families, abuse and foster families... and those are the kids who end up on the streets homeless, exploited and trafficked. The National Runaway Switchboard estimates that 1 in 6 runaways is a victim of sex trafficking. That's as many as 500,000 each year...probably more.



Child Find Executive Director, Donna Linder (left) connects with *Making the Connections'* Keynote Speaker, Afua Addo, MHC, of The Center for Court Innovation.

In addition to helping parents search for their missing children, Child Find's core programs work to prevent and resolve the family conflicts that can lead to child abuse, parental abduction, runaway youth and tragedy.

Our efforts would not be successful without our nationwide connections to allied professionals. Our work would not be possible without connections to the other members of our village...the caring individuals, family trusts, corporations and foundations nationwide who generously support Child Find of America.

Sincerely,

To help Child Find continue "Bringing Kids Home and Keeping Them Safe," please send your gift check to:

Child Find of America - PO Box 277 - New Paltz NY 12561-0277

For more giving options including Visa, MC, Discover, AmEx and PayPal please visit our website at childfindofamerica.org or connect with our Admin Office: 1-845-883-6060, weekdays 9am-5pm EST. We can quickly process your gift over the phone and answer any questions you might have about our programs and services. If you call after hours, please leave your name, number and the best time to get back to you.

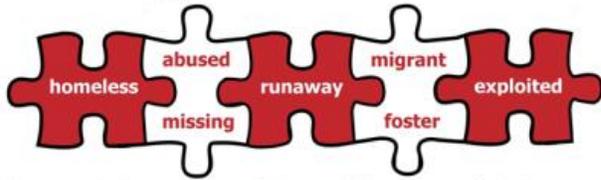
We always welcome the opportunity to speak with our donors!

Privacy Policy: Child Find does not sell or share donors names or personal information with any other entity.

Tax-deductible: Child Find is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization - EIN#22-2323338

Transparency: Child Find's most recent Annual Report, Form 990 & audited financial statements are always available online

Making the Connections



New York's Trafficked Youth



Afua Addoo delivers her Keynote address - ***A Gender Responsive Focus on Trauma Reactions in Victimized Youth***

Over 80 participants and presenters attended the “Making the Connections for New York’s Trafficked Youth” conference presented by Child Find on May 9th 2017, in Kingston, NY. The conference was designed to foster collaboration and cooperation among professionals, local and state law enforcement agencies, and social services providers who serve vulnerable children at risk of or already victims of sex trafficking. The day-long, multidisciplinary event of panel presentations and workshops was focused on the statewide inter-connectedness of New York’s missing, exploited, runaway, homeless, and trafficked youth.

In addition to organizing the event, Child Find also led a workshop on High Risk Family Dynamics and Corporal Punishment in the context of preventing runaways. In 2016, 1 in 6 of the 18,500 runaways reported nationally were likely victims of sex trafficking – with 86% of them already in social service programs when they went missing.

Featured Speakers and Workshops included: keynote speaker Afua Addo, MHC, Coordinator of Gender and Justice Initiatives, The Center for Court Innovation, who presented ***A Gender Responsive Focus on Trauma Reactions in Victimized Youth***, and Dr. Hanni Stoklosa, emergency medicine physician at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, co-founder of HEAL Trafficking in 2013, an independent, interdisciplinary network of health professionals working to combat human trafficking, who spoke on ***Human Trafficking is a Public Health Issue***. Other workshops included: ***Vulnerable Youth: Runaways and Transitioning From Care, What Educators and School Districts Need to Know, Risk Tolerance and Safety Planning***, and ***The Cybercrime Connection***.

Conference planning committee members were: Ulster County Department of Social Services’ Safe Harbor program; the NY Office for Children and Family Services; the Stronger Families NY Coalition of the USDHHS, Region II, ACF; NYS Missing Persons Clearinghouse, and Give Way to Freedom.

Pictured right: Sandra Bennett-Pagan (l) of Women’s Health Team Lead, US Dept. Health and Human Services, and Dr. Hanni Stoklosa (r), co-founder of HEAL Trafficking (Health, Education, Advocacy Linkage), continue the conversation.



2016/17 PROGRAMS AND SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

- This past fiscal year Child Find's toll free lines received over 4,000 calls for assistance from all 50 states and internationally.
- Child Find staff worked 1,138 new and existing cases, recording over 2,700 casework sessions.



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Child Find's 1-800-I-AM-LOST line connects callers to our in-house location staff who coordinate efforts with a network of professional partners. Child Find searches for

missing, kidnapped, runaway, and parentally abducted children. When safe and appropriate, photos and posters of missing children are disseminated nationwide via social media and with the support of media outlets, businesses, and volunteers.

149 new calls came from parents reporting their child was missing. Of those:

- 137 parents reported the child was abducted by the other parent/family member
- 12 reported endangered runaways including 5 cases of suspected trafficking



Long-term Missing – Please visit www.childfindofamerica.org for updated composites and posters of these and other missing children.

Child Find's Parent Help at 1-800-716-3468 provides professional services designed to defuse family conflicts that can lead to abduction and abuse such as: crisis intervention, mediation, conflict management, safety planning, communication/parenting skill-building, and more.



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PARENT HELP

In addition to the location cases above, 626 new cases were enrolled in Child Find's programs.

An overview of co-occurring reasons for calling included:

- 80 concerns for child safety
- 120 reporting domestic violence
- 55 requiring assistance with co-parenting and 20 needed help with parenting skill-building
- 244 needing help negotiating legal systems
- 146 callers sought help with denied access issues and/or fear that abduction by the other parent was imminent.
- 372 of our callers received Information & Referral services regarding these and other issues related to child well-being.





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EDUCATION & TRAINING

In 2016, Child Find's staff conducted trainings and participated in 17 national and regional conferences with service professionals and agencies regarding safety,

missing children, domestic violence, child abuse/neglect, mediation, healthy families and more.

Child Find's educational materials are available to individuals, schools and community organizations. Press releases, articles and interviews with local and national media bring attention to the issues. In-service training of allied professionals increases understanding and develops safety skill sets, further strengthening Child Find's mission.



Child Find has developed a comprehensive information and referral network, and resources for parents, educators, human service workers, and law enforcement - to educate about missing children issues, the co-occurrence of abuse and abduction, crisis management and keeping kids safe.

Many of Child Find's free materials are available on our website: childfindofamerica.org. Information and Referral specialists are available by calling our toll-free numbers Monday - Friday, 9am-5pm EST.

WORKSHOP SPOTLIGHT: DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS WITH PARENTS

This year, Child Find developed and delivered a series of 3 interactive, skill-building workshops for family service professionals and educators. Our "Difficult Conversations with Parents" workshop series has received rave reviews from participants at conferences sponsored by National and State Head Start Associations, federal Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood programs, Prevent Child Abuse, and other child welfare agencies.

- **Session 1: Corporal Punishment and Other High Risk Parenting Choices** - Explores all forms of corporal punishment and their impact on a child's positive development
- **Session 2: The Impact of Family Conflict on Children**- Explores the difference between healthy/unhealthy conflict, how children are impacted by chronic exposure, and ways in which safe conflict can be addressed productively
- **Session 3: Speaking to Parents Respectfully and Effectively** - Explores how, when, and why to approach a parent and how to have those difficult conversations effectively so that trust and continued engagement are not jeopardized



Child Find's presenters are experienced case workers who have helped thousands of people facing family crisis situations, parenting disputes, and child safety issues. For more information on this and other workshops, please visit our website at childfindofamerica.org/services/education – or call us at 1-845-6060.



“I WANT MY BABY BACK” – Cerissa’s Story

Young mom Cerissa called Child Find concerned that her sister, Wendy, was refusing to return her 2-year-old daughter to her. Cerissa had given her daughter, Jordan, into Wendy’s care a year previously due to an unstable living situation, but now that Cerissa had a safe, stable environment for Jordan to return to, Wendy - who was living over 500 miles away - wouldn’t agree to it. Wendy said that she remained concerned about Cerissa’s living situation and future plans. Other family members were getting involved and telling Cerissa she’d “lost custody”. At the same time, the advice lines Cerissa was calling were telling her this was a kidnapping situation and she had every right to law enforcement assistance in having her daughter returned. Unsure what to believe, she contacted Child Find.

Cerissa was given guidance on how authorities define and deal with kidnapping or custodial interference, as well as the possible police response to a family abduction – often this is simply to follow court orders and, where no orders exist, direct parties to take matters to civil court. Given the situation, it was entirely possible she could be left with no option but to file in family court.

Communication between the sisters had largely broken down by this point and we learned that Cerissa had moved without informing Wendy. We warned Cerissa that without an address for notification, Wendy could file something at court concerning Jordan and Cerissa may not hear about it. Additionally, Cerissa’s being out of contact could be used to support a claim that she had abandoned Jordan. We explained to Cerissa how she could access information from court. For instance to check if Wendy could have already filed for custody or formal guardianship.

Cerissa was facing several other obstacles. She discovered Wendy had moved as well, after getting the police to do a welfare check and finding no one home. Her lack of resources and transportation also limited her options, even if she had known her sister’s location.

Cerissa remained in contact with her partner, Jordan’s dad, Ricky, who was in the military stationed abroad. Though Ricky had never met his daughter or established legal rights, Cerissa remained in contact with him and kept him informed of the situation. They planned to be a family together once he returned

from overseas. This, in fact, turned out to be a point of contention between Cerissa and Wendy – Wendy apparently wanted Ricky to take a DNA test and wanted the two of them to show they were living in a “stable” situation before she would return Jordan.

After several weeks, Ricky returned and brought Cerissa to live with him and his mother and things began looking up. Cerissa could now draw on additional resources, financial and otherwise, in the attempt to recover her daughter. We provided legal referrals, as well as information about how they could establish Ricky’s paternity. With establishment of Ricky’s paternity, and their stable home life, Wendy realized she would have a difficult time should the situation play out in the courts, and was receptive to resuming productive communication with Cerissa – and consequently the return of Jordan to the care of her mom and dad.



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Diamond Bynum
Female, Age: 21
Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown
Height: 4'8"
Weight: 238 lbs

ENDANGERED MISSING
CHILD FIND CASE #6730-S
King Walker
DATE OF BIRTH: MAY 11, 2013
HAIR: BROWN EYES: BROWN
HEIGHT: 3' 0" (39CM) WEIGHT: 34lbs (15KG)
Both photos are of King. He may be in the company of Diamond Bynum, also missing. Diamond may be in need of medical attention.
LAST SEEN July 25, 2015 GARY, INDIANA

If you have any information or think you have seen King or Diamond
CALL 911
Gary Indiana Police Department: 1-219-881-1260
Child Find of America: 1-800-I-AM-LOST (1-800-426-5678)

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FAQs

THE FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM AN ONLINE INTERVIEW BETWEEN AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AND A CHILD FIND CASEWORKER ADDRESSES SOME OF THE QUESTIONS WE RECEIVE REGARDING MISSING CHILDREN AND THE AGENCIES DESIGNED TO HELP THEM.

Q: What is the most common reason for abduction?

A: Missing children fall into three basic categories: stranger abductions, parental abductions, and runaways/throwaways.

There are approximately 120 stranger abductions in the US annually. A child taken by a stranger, if not located within 48 hours, most likely is not going to be found alive. While the media puts great focus on stranger abductions, they are far rarer than other missing child scenarios. We seldom see outcomes where the child is returned.

Parental abductions, which happen about ¼ - ½ million times per year in the US, often involve a protective or an abusive parent but there are other reasons parents (or other family members) abduct. Often there's a new marriage, an attempt to avoid paying child support, dislike of the other parent's new partner, etc. A parental abduction is what led to the founding of Child Find of America. Back then, there were no laws on the issue of a parent taking a child from the other parent, but now – thanks a great deal to Child Find's early advocacy - we have clear legal statutes and a lot more understanding. While some may think that a child is okay if they are with a parent, many times there is abuse taking place by the abductor.. It's important that we understand the devastation that can take place if a child is taken away from a safe parent. Victims of parental abduction discuss just such experiences in a video at www.takeroot.org.

Finally, there are runaways/throwaways. A *runaway* is a child who leaves home before the age of majority (18), and a *throwaway* is a child who is abandoned or forced to leave home before the age of majority. There are over 2 million youth who run or are forced out of the home each year in the US. In the streets many are forced to trade sex for food, money, drugs, shelter, etc. The average life expectancy for a youth who is forced to have sex to survive is 7 years. Children tend to run from homes that are unsafe; often because they are being sexually, verbally or physically abused in the home. Also, there are high numbers of LGBTQ youth who leave because their sexuality is not accepted. There is a crisis in the US of historic proportions, but the federal government has begun to recognize that funding for services to these high risk youth is vital.

Q: How long does it typically take to find a child?

A: As noted, if a stranger abducted child is not found within the first 48 hours, it's unlikely that the child will ever be located alive. Parental abductions can take anywhere from a day to a decade or more. The problem with parental abductions is not just in locating the child. The problem of whether that child is safe with the left-behind parent is a challenging one. We have to be VERY careful; we can't put posters out there when it means we may be inadvertently putting a child in danger of being located by an abuser. We conduct searches and may often locate the abducting parent and child, but what we do with that information depends on the case and the specific risks. As for runaways/throwaways, we can check into the background/whereabouts... *(continued next page)*



FAQs (continued)

of people they have associated with and often help a parent send a message to the youth through his/her friends and social media, but physically locating them can be challenging. Runaways may return home within days, but often it may take weeks or longer if they don't want to be found – or if someone is hiding/sheltering them – for whatever reasons. Because there are often situations in the home that contribute to a child running, we offer parenting skill-building, resources and referrals to parents – and have helped several to recognize and address signs that their child may not be repeatedly running of his/her own accord, but could very well be the victim of trafficking.

Q: Where do most child abductions happen?

A: Abductions occur across the nation in both rural and urban settings.

Q: How much of a difference has Child Find of America made?

In the 37 years Child Find of America has existed, we've made quite a difference in the lives of thousands of children and their families through location services as well as thousands of others who were positively impacted by the changes we advocated for on the behalf of missing children. Child Find played a significant role in the creation of laws that make all forms of child abduction a crime, in the establishment of a national clearinghouse to assist law enforcement in their investigations, and in the establishment of National Missing Children's Day and subsequent media attention given to missing children issues. In 2002, the White House recognized Child Find's dedication by inviting our Executive Director to speak at the first White House Conference on Missing and Exploited Children.

Our caseworkers get a lot of feedback from parents we've helped. We've heard some high compliments, such as, "I couldn't have gotten through any of this without you," "No one helped me before you," "I would never have seen my child again without your help," "You're the only agency that cared about me," and so on. It's not every day, but it's often enough that it keeps the case managers coming back to work. The words of encouragement help. What could be worse than having your child taken from you?

Q: Are there any success stories that you personally like?

A: We love all our success stories. The caseworkers have some personal favorites though - where we felt we really connected with the family. I remember speaking with a young girl who was abducted by her mom and held from her safe, loving dad for years. Mom moved from place to place, was in violent relationships, and abused substances to the point where she was not a fit parent. During these years, the child never had clean clothes, had to squeeze her feet into old ill-fitting shoes, and her hair was matted and tangled to the point where it had to be cut off when she was finally recovered. After her dad finally picked her up, after years of conversations with Child Find, I was the first person he called. He asked me to hold on a sec, and put his daughter on the phone so that I could hear her voice with my own ears. That was really special. She's in high school now – and by all reports, thriving. We couldn't ask for more.



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ENDANGERED MISSING
CHILD FIND CASE 129668

LOCATED since publication

LAST SEEN: July 18, 2017 HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA

Child Find of America: 1-800-I-AM-LOST (1-800-426-5678)

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TO THE DARK SIDE AND BACK - Michelle's Story

Missing children's cases don't often end tidily like a movie. The impact of parental abduction can have lasting negative effects on a child, and a parent's effort to stabilize life is a messy affair. This story is no different, though its ending does offer us some hope and inspiration.

Michelle's case opened in mid-July, at which point she had not seen her daughter for 2 weeks. Addison had stayed with her father, Derrick, for the July 4 weekend and did not return to home from North Carolina as planned. Michelle's ex-husband Derrick had suddenly blocked all methods of communication and access to Addison, including phone, email, and social media. Michelle, who lived in Maryland, had only received a single ominous text message from Derrick which read "The custody order has expired. There is nothing you can do about it. Leave me alone."

Michelle's concern grew to panic when, after she called the police to request a welfare check, she learned from the police that they were already aware of the residence. Police had received a recent complaint from a neighbor about a foul odor. Police had obtained a warrant to enter and not only was the apartment empty, they discovered that Derrick had abandoned the household pets, leaving them to die. What followed was a scrambled but unrelenting effort by Michelle to locate her daughter. She worked with Child Find too in this effort- discussing her options, gaining information, and finding support throughout the experience. Michelle knew that Derrick could have been anywhere. As someone who studied computer science and considered himself a "hacker", Derrick was good at covering his tracks. She knew he had a network of friends, made available through what she later learned was an illegal online music-sharing website. In addition to Derrick's computer skills, he was unpredictable and possibly dangerous, as not only had he been violent with Michelle in the past but had a history of stalking, mental illness, and substance abuse. Without his medication- which he had left at home- he would sometimes hallucinate. All this had been brought up in court, but the divorce decree ruled that visits were to occur.

Michelle worked with Child Find to navigate challenges with law enforcement, who ultimately issued a warrant for Derrick's arrest for custodial interference. After much deliberation, Michelle connected with a detective who learned Derrick had abandoned the car and stayed at a hotel, some 3 states away. Video surfaced from surveillance cameras at a local Walmart, then again at an animal shelter where Derrick abandoned the family dog. For some time, the trail went cold. Then Michelle received a random email from Derrick, stating that he would return Addison if she were to give him full custody and terminate child support. Law enforcement considered this to be extortion and increased efforts. However, they were not able to trace the source of the email as it had been sent through the "dark web", a part of the World Wide Web that is only accessible by means of special software, allowing users and website operators to remain anonymous or untraceable. *(Continued next page.)*



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Macin:
Please call
Child Find at
1-800-426-5678
Monday-Friday
8am-6pm (EST)
**We can help you
safely
work this out.**

MISSING
CHILD FIND CASE #6731-R
Macin Smith
DATE OF BIRTH: APRIL 7, 1998
HAIR: BLOND EYES: BLUE
HEIGHT: 6' 4" (193CM) WEIGHT: 200lbs (91KG)
Macin left for the school bus the morning of 09/01. He never arrived at school.
He may still be in the area. Possible sightings along Route I-15W may place him in
Las Vegas, NV.
LAST SEEN SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 ST. GEORGE, UTAH

If you have any information or think you have seen MACIN, please call
Child Find: **1-800-1-AM-LOST** (1-800-426-5678)
or
City of St. George Police Department: 1-435-627-4300

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TO THE DARK SIDE (continued)

Despite his efforts to remain underground, eventually Derrick was found with Addison in Oregon. US Marshalls arrested him and placed Addison in temporary care of Child Protective Services. Michelle immediately flew out to bring Addison home, who was reportedly healthy. In the aftermath, Michelle was been told by investigators that Derrick had been living in motels and was trying to make money by shipping drugs through the mail, possibly ordered through the dark web. Addison had been told by Derrick that they were on “vacation” and that her mom said “it was her plan”. Since the flight home, Michelle has been doing her best to stabilize life again and has connected Addison to counseling.

SPOTLIGHT ON A COUPLE OF CREATIVE FUNDRAISERS

Michael Colby’s birthday cabaret fundraiser for Child Find, “Quelle Fromage II,” held on October 30, 2016 at New York City’s Triad Theatre, raised \$4,681 to help bring kids home and keep them safe. It was a wonderful show – and a wonderful show of support for America’s endangered children. Our sincere thanks go out to Michael for his hard work and translating his passion for music into a creative way of giving. Thanks too to the incredibly talented cast, event attendees, and to the donors who made generous contributions in Michael’s honor. This link <http://theaterpizzazz.com/michael-colbys-quel-fromage-ii-big-crowd-pleaser/> connects to a review of the show on theaterpizzazz.com – which in turn provides a YouTube link to highlights from each performance. At the 11:48 minute mark, Child Find’s Executive Director, Donna Linder, takes the mic to thank Michael and cast for their support of the work we do. Happy Birthday, Michael – and many, many more!



Michael Colby (left) is the librettist/lyricist of the musicals *Charlotte Sweet* (Drama Desk Award nomination), *Tales of Tinseltown*, *North Atlantic* (Show Business Award), *Slay It With Music* (off-Broadway & London), among others, as well as being the chief writer for the Drama Desk Award-winning New Amsterdam Theatre Company. Michael has written for The NY Festival of Song as well as the Theatre By the Blind. Michael has written the autobiography *The Algonquin Kid: Adventures Growing Up at New York's Legendary Hotel*, and *Dangerous*, a musical he co-wrote, has recently been optioned for Broadway.

Keith Duby (right) sells concessions through *SKATE* – an agency whose members raise funds by working at sports and entertainment venues that exclusively use 501(c)(3) organizations in vending areas. Keith moonlights some nights after his regular day job as an engineer at General Motors. Since August 2016, Keith has gifted all of his earnings and tips to Child Find – amounting to over \$3000.00. “I’m very glad I am able to help . . . I continue to spread the good news that is the good works of Child Find of America.” Keith says that when people offer him a tip he tells them their money is going to Child Find. He also delivers business card sized handouts advertising Child Find’s toll free number and web address. Consequently, he reports, “it makes people happy to know that they are doing good works too. Many times people will offer more money to help out.”



FINANCIAL REPORT

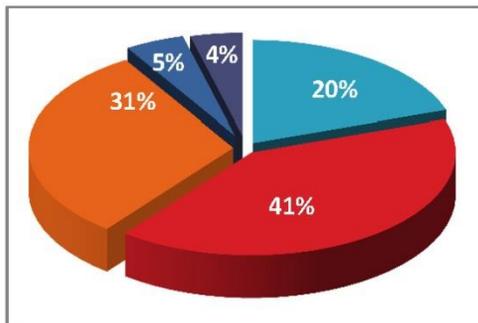
STATEMENT OF AUDITED REVENUES & EXPENSES
 Fiscal Year June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016
 Fiscal Year June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017
 EIN: 22-2323336

	2017	2016
	AUDITED	AUDITED
REVENUE		
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$316,863	\$252,160
INTEREST & DIVIDENDS	\$ 119	\$ 98
GRANTS/CONTRACTS	\$227,333	\$173,964
PROGRAM SERVICE REVENUE	\$ 22,441	\$ 12,552
UNREALIZED GAIN ON SECURITIES	\$ 1,065	\$ 330
TOTAL REVENUE GAINS & OTHER SUPPORT	\$567,821	\$446,328
EXPENSES		
PROGRAM SERVICES	\$391,403	\$428,638
SUPPORTING SERVICES	\$ 38,095	\$ 36,931
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$429,498	\$465,569
NET ASSETS		
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$138,323	\$(19,241)
NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 59,973	\$ 79,214
NET ASSETS END OF YEAR	\$198,296	\$ 59,973

91% OF EXPENSES WERE ALLOCATED TO PROGRAMMING

EXPENSES DISTRIBUTION

LOCATION	\$ 85,019
PARENT HELP	\$174,899
PUBLIC EDUCATION	\$131,485
MANAGEMENT	\$ 20,330
FUNDRAISING	\$ 17,765
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$429,498



Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

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 consistently rated A+ by Charity
 Watch: charitywatch.org

Child Find of America's annual fiscal report,
 IRS Form 990, and audited financial statements
 are posted online: childfindofamerica.org



STILL MISSING

If you have any information or think you have seen any of these children, please call Child Find,
toll-free: 1-800-I-AM-LOST

*Age progressions/composites courtesy of NCMEC



Kimberly Arrington*
Montgomery, AL



Natasha Corley*
Scottsdale, AZ



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Willow, AK



Brittany Williams*
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Parent Help: 1-800-716-3468
1-800-A-WAY-OUT

Email: information@childfindofamerica.org
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37 years
1980 2017

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