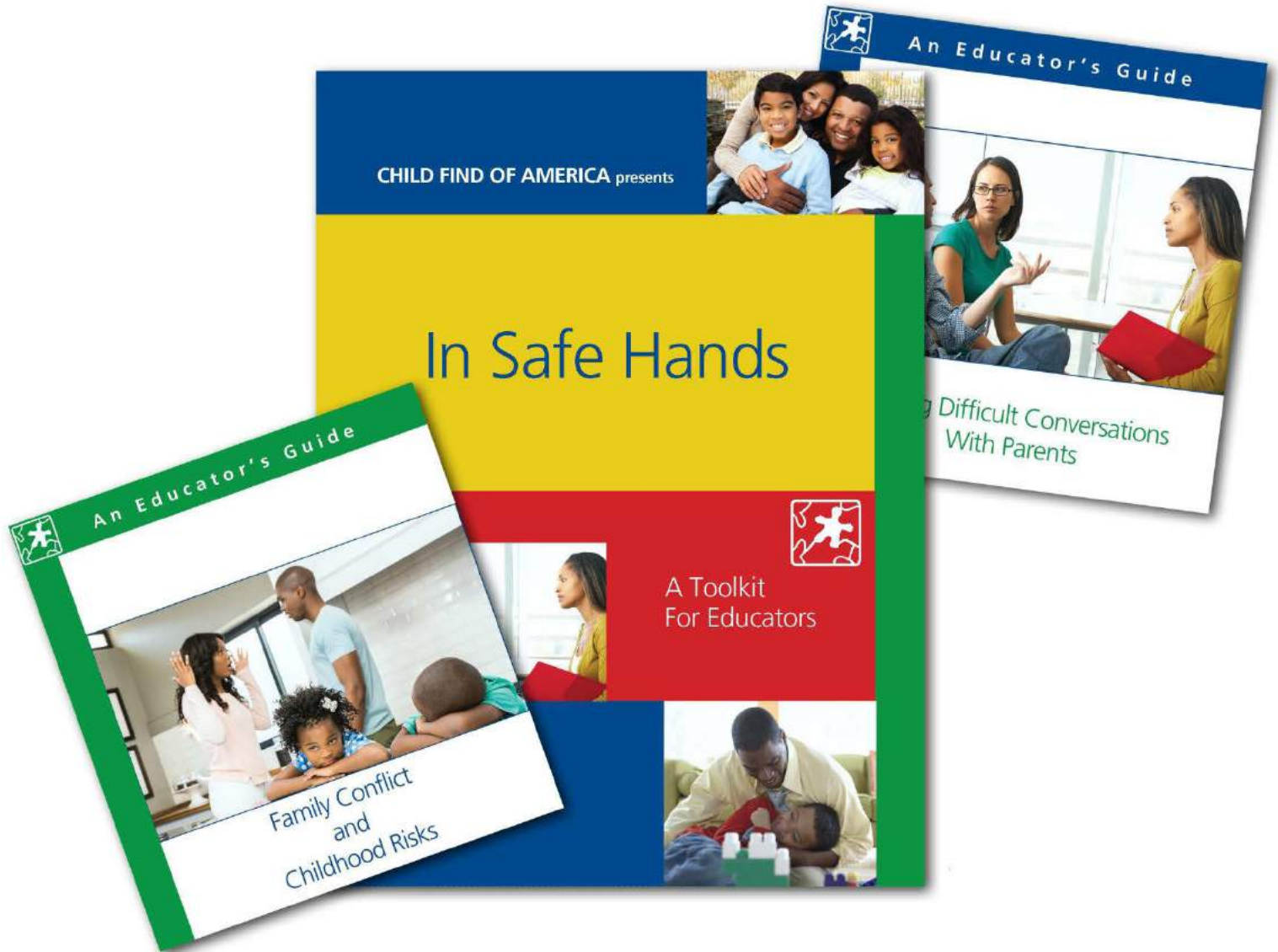




CHILD FIND of AMERICA

BRINGING KIDS HOME • KEEPING THEM SAFE

Since 1980



2018 Annual Report



A Message from Child Find's Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

What's the difference between a missing 4-year old and a missing 14-year old?

Chances are the 4-year old has been abducted by a parent and the 14-year old is a runaway.

What do they have in common?

Family Conflict.

According to the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty's National Network for Youth, "Each year an estimated 1.6 million children and youth (ages 12-17) experience homelessness without a parent or guardian. These youth leave home for a variety of reasons, including severe family conflict, parental abuse or neglect." The Federal Office of Juvenile Justice's National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMAART-3) reports that each year an estimated 230,000 children are abducted by a parent. Two-thirds of those children are under the age of 6. Their parents argue over lifestyles, child rearing, custody, visitation, values, beliefs, money and more - often under the threat of physical abuse and domestic violence.

Thirty-eight years ago, Child Find was founded to offer missing child location services by a searching mother, whose daughter had been abducted by the non-custodial parent. In the 1990's, Child Find's innovative mediation program introduced conflict resolution services to help families impacted by parental child abduction. Our Parent Help program, established in 2006, combined Child Find's location and mediation services, with an additional focus on preventing and addressing the problems that can lead to abducted and runaway children.

Current research, as well as our own experience, clearly indicate that *parental conflict has a lifelong, negative impact on kids.*

Child Find's newest addition to our Education and Training program, **In Safe Hands**, is introduced on the facing page. We designed the tool kit to educate, inform, and assist parents and professionals regarding the negative impact of family conflict, and provide support and prevention resources. With the ultimate goal to prevent conflict from leading to parental child abduction, our training team has "taken it on the road" (see page 5 of this report).

As always, we could accomplish none of this without your generous support. Thank you!



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 www.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

In Safe Hands - 3,750 tool kits distributed nationwide

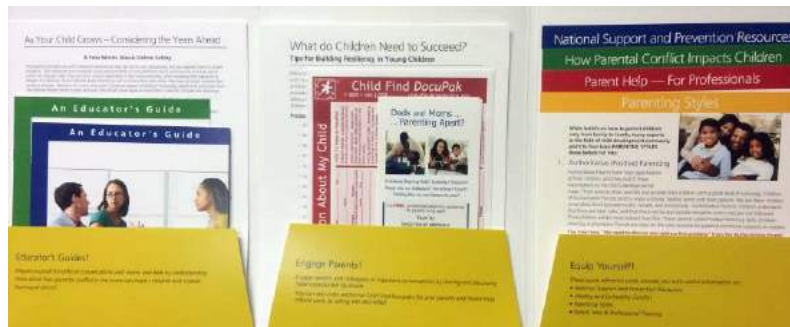
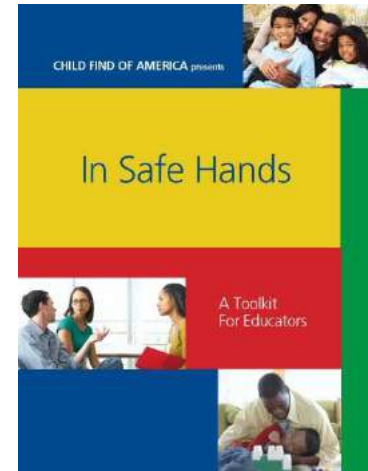
In May 2016, Child Find received a grant from the American Legion's Child Welfare Foundation to produce and distribute to Head Starts nationwide the ***In Safe Hands*** tool kit. The project was completed in September of 2017 at which time Head Start collaboration offices in all 50 states received a supply of kits, free of charge, to distribute to local Head Starts and Early Head Starts at annual conferences, meetings and trainings. The response to the kit was tremendous, with dozens of Head Start offices requesting additional kits – as well as trainings on its application and delivery in the field of early childhood education.

The ***In Safe Hands*** project goals are: to educate and inform parents and professionals about the negative impact of family conflict on a child's learning and emotional health; to provide support and prevention resources to early childhood educators and the families they serve, and to prevent conflict from leading to parental child abduction.

The ***In Safe Hands*** kit contains an array of materials for educators and parents, including guides to Parental Conflict, Having Difficult Conversations with Parents, Resources and Research Lists, reproducible tip sheets for parents*, and rack cards on topics like Parenting Styles and more.

- Many parents are unaware of the impact their conflict has on their children, but research shows early prevention interventions, especially the dissemination of educational materials, are impactful and lead to better outcomes for children and families. From a very early age, children who live in high conflict homes live with fear, anger, anxiety, sadness, disturbed sleep. And more health problems than their peers. They are more likely to be aggressive, depressed and antisocial, and to have poor interpersonal skills, cognitive abilities, and difficulty focusing and succeeding at school.
- Exposure to parental conflict teaches kids the wrong way to interact with others. Children do not get used to parental conflict -- they become more sensitive to it and more vulnerable to its effects. The situation is exacerbated by impoverished circumstances, parental depression and substance abuse.
- Early education professionals are in a prime position to identify families struggling with conflict. They can help raise awareness about the impact of conflict on children, reduce the stigma of seeking help, and provide support to children exposed to conflict. They are also well placed to disseminate to parents other sources of support, such as Child Find's Parent Help program.

At this time Child Find is actively pursuing funding for reprinting the tool kit – as well as dollars to fund Child Find's educational sessions nationwide. To learn more about our ***In Safe Hands*** project – or to discuss sponsoring trainings in your area – please contact Child Find's administration office weekdays, 9AM-5PM EST, at 845-883-6060, or by email at information@childfindofamerica.org.



For more information about Child Find's Professional Education and Training Program, visit:
<http://childfindofamerica.org/Professional-training-programming>

*Free Parenting Tip sheets are available on Child Find's website. Turn to page 9 for a sample!



2017/18 Programs & Services

- 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 774 new and existing cases, recording over 3,300 casework sessions.



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Child Find's 1-800-I-AM-LOST line connects callers to our 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, posters of missing children are disseminated nationwide via social media and with the support of media outlets, businesses, and volunteers.

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

- 96 parents reported the child was abducted by the other parent/family member
- 53 asked for help in locating children with whom they had lost contact (eg. due to former partner moving without notification).
- 22 reported their children had run away— including 2 instances where the child was being trafficked by someone they knew, and 1 lured by a person unknown to the family.

In fiscal year 2017/18, 93 children were located and 48 cases remain open.



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, 603 new cases were enrolled in Child Find's programs.

An overview of co-occurring reasons for calling included:

- 15% concerns for child safety
- 24% reported an ongoing custody dispute
- 26% requiring assistance with co-parenting and parenting issues
- 26% reported drug and alcohol abuse
- 27% reporting domestic violence
- 28% sought help with denied access issues and/or fear of abduction by the other parent

80% of callers to Child Find's help lines also received Information & Referral services for these and other issues related to child safety and well-being.



789 attended our training team's professional development sessions



CHILD FIND of AMERICA
EDUCATION & TRAINING

In the 2017/18 fiscal year, Child Find's staff presented at several national conferences including *Understanding Conflict* at Healthy Families NY, and *Alternatives to Spanking* at Prevent Child Abuse NY, both held in Albany, NY; *Difficult Conversations - A Mediator's Perspective* and *From Denied Access to Parental Abductions* at Gunderson Health in Orlando, FL; *Low Parenting Skills/ Good Conflict, Bad Conflict* at the NW Arizona Symposium on Infant and Toddler Mental Health held in Las Vegas, NV and *About Missing Children* at Safe Harbor in Orange County, NY. Additionally our training team conducted workshops based on our *In Safe Hands* tool kit (see page 3) to Head Starts and early educators in Massachusetts and Connecticut, and throughout New York.

Child Find's participation in a webcast for the NYS Office of Children and Family Services reached over 2000

On April 12, 2018, our senior case manager participated in a webcast presented by the NY Office of Children and Family Services entitled, *Building Healthy Relationships with Effective Communication*. The live on-camera panel discussion and resulting DVD covered topics such as conflict in adult relationships, communication pitfalls, and conflict skill-building. Child Find's *Difficult Conversations with Parents Series* informed the webcast's focus and the content used in participant activity workbooks. According to an OCFS Senior Education Specialist, the program ". . .received a tremendous amount of positive feedback from participants."

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 these and other workshops, visit our website at childfindofamerica.org/services/education - or call us at 845-883-6060.



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, prevention, crisis management, and keeping kids safe.

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



The Long Journey Back - Adele's Story

Adele, a South African national, contacted Child Find's Parent Help program from overseas. She had previously been living in North Carolina with her husband, a U.S. citizen, believing that he had applied for a marriage-based green card for her. By the time she realized this was not the case, she was already outside the country with no secure right to return to the U.S. – or to her 1-year-old daughter, Emma.

Adele met her husband, Lucas, in South Africa, where they resided during the first months of their marriage along with Adele's older daughter, Meera. Shortly after Emma's birth, however, they relocated to North Carolina where Lucas had family and friends, but Adele had none. Not long after the move, the relationship soured. Lucas wanted her to leave, threatening to harm himself. His family intervened, pressuring Adele to agree to a temporary separation. Adele agreed to a cooling off period during which she would go visit her father in Germany—leaving Emma behind with Lucas and her mother-in-law. Shortly before taking off for the airport, family members presented Adele with documents they insisted she sign. She complied without having the time to read them, feeling that the situation was escalating to the point where she and Meera might be in danger of being physically harmed.

Despite her strong connection to the U.S. through Emma, Adele was having great difficulty getting free help from U.S.-based aid agencies, because she was no longer in the country. Her Parent Help case worker was able to fill in this gap for her. Our research revealed her situation was perhaps more precarious than even she thought: the documents she had signed included a “post-nuptial agreement” that gave Lucas full custody of Emma, and he'd already sped through a divorce proceeding, for which she received no notice. Adele didn't know how she could challenge any of this in court if she couldn't physically get here. Her case worker intervened at one point by reaching out to her former mother-in-law, in an attempt to assist Adele in establishing regular telephone contact with her daughter.



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BRINGING KIDS HOME - KEEPING THEM SAFE



Age progressed by NCAIEC

MISSING CHILD
CHILD FIND CASE #6678-P
BROOKLINN MILLER
DATE OF BIRTH: DECEMBER 14, 2002
HAIR: LIGHT BROWN
EYES: BROWN

Brooklinn may be in the company of her father and may have traveled to Mexico
LAST SEEN: OCTOBER 24, 2007
SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NEBRASKA

If you have any information or think you have seen BROOKLINN,
please call Child Find at:
1-800-I-AM-LOST

Adele's case worker told her about the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), a federal law that includes protections for victims of domestic violence who are also vulnerable in their immigration status. It gives victims an ability to claim legal status to enter or remain in the U.S. without relying on their abusive spouse to do so for them. We guided Adele through the process of gathering and preparing the relevant supporting documents to make this petition, as well as in choosing a reputable legal service provider to prepare the petition.

The big break in Adele's case came when she was granted a visitor visa to return to the US. Determined, she booked a flight back to North Carolina for herself and Meera, making no advance arrangements and with very limited

(continued on page 7)



The Long Journey Back *(continued)*

funds, hoping to be able to access shelter and legal services upon arrival. This led to a frightening 48-hour period with Adele and Meera living out of a rental car. Once notified, Child Find scrambled to find services and was able to quickly identify a wraparound service that was able to provide her with shelter, and ultimately, an attorney to help her challenge the existing divorce and custody arrangements.

Adele has now been able obtain a time-sharing with arrangement Emma while her case winds its way through court. She tells us the time she is getting with her daughter has been going very well, and Meera is delighted to see her little sister again. On the basis of her pending VAWA petition Adele has been able to adjust her immigration status and obtain a work authorization in the U.S.



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MISSING CHILDREN
CHILD FIND CASE #6645-P
TAMMY AND DIEGO FLORES

Tammy Flores Date of Birth: 3/30/2004 HAIR: LIGHT BROWN EYES: BROWN	Diego Flores Date of Birth: 7/28/2005 HAIR: LIGHT BROWN EYES: BROWN	Francisco Flores (abductor) Date of Birth: 4/23/1974 HAIR: BLACK EYES: BROWN HEIGHT: 6'0" (183 cm) WEIGHT: 210 lbs (95 kg) Wale under nose and on each cheek
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LAST SEEN: OCTOBER 23, 2000 VICTORVILLE, CA
Tammy & Diego were abducted by their non-custodial father, Francisco Flores.
A felony warrant for kidnapping was issued for the abductor on 01/18/2008.
They may still be in the area or may travel to Mexico

If you have any information or think you have seen these children or their abductor, please call:
911
Ontario, CA Police Department: (909) 986-6711
Child Find of America: (845) 883-6060

Summer Break - *Ted's Story*

Ted, age 20, was excited to be connected with his Parent Help case manager the same day he called the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse's toll free number (877-4DAD411) requesting assistance in seeing his one-month-old son. He had been struggling to create a satisfactory co-parenting plan with his ex-girlfriend, Janette, the mother of their only child, Danny. Ted, home on summer break, is a full-time college student several hours away from his child. He is frustrated that Janette is uncomfortable with him having time alone with their son.

There are no challenges regarding paternity, as Ted was present for the birth and is on Danny's birth certificate. Ted checked with several attorneys and was told that court-ordered overnight visits - given the distance of his college and the baby's age - were unlikely. He now fears that his son won't know him because he will be returning to school shortly. Ted's Parent Help caseworker discussed his short- and long-term goals at length, helping him understand the benefits and possible ramifications of each choice before him. Relationship counseling and information on his legal options were given as well. Ted's caseworker followed up with an email containing Child Find's Parenting Apart Tool Kit and links to information about mediation and navigating the appropriate court.

Several weeks later, Parent Help checked in with Ted who stated he was grateful for the all the info he received. He shared that things have gotten better, and he is able to see his son more and under much improved circumstances. Ted was very happy to be reassured that he could call back at any time he felt the need.



A Sampling of Casework Challenges

- It's never "simply" a case of location

- Our caller is requesting location services for her 3-month old son who was abducted by their father, reported to be a sex offender. Caller also reports she overdosed when the child was 6 months old and that her mother has made 8 recent reports to the police with concerns for "suicidal behavior".
- Our caller is requesting location services for the purpose of ensuring safety of his children and re-establishing parenting time. He reports that the children's mother was recently sexually assaulted by her stepfather and had to flee to an ex-partner's house. Meanwhile, her ex-partner is dying from lymphoma - and the last time she saw him he threatened to kill her and the children.
- Mom calls from a confidentially located shelter, requesting location services for her abducted son. She reports a history of severe physical violence and a previous abduction by the father. She states she has full custody and that there is an arrest warrant out for the father, who is likely working off the books, using an alias, with his partner who has a criminal history of identity theft and fraud.
- After 20+ years of marriage, our caller believes her husband is planning to abduct their 3 year old daughter to Uganda. He is a dual citizen and intends to move there to pursue a business opportunity, but our caller doesn't want to relocate for safety reasons.

- Our caller states her marriage ended after repeated incidents of domestic violence. A protective order stipulated that marriage counseling would be allowed, however the therapist privately told mom to plan to leave the marriage - and have a safety plan. She called because she just learned the dad would be taking their 5 year old daughter on a plane later that day, and was refusing to share information about his plans. She wanted to know what she might do to ensure her daughter's location is disclosed to her and to discuss her fears of parental abduction.



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PO BOX 277, NEW PALTZ, NY, 12561
Email: information@childfindofamerica.org

FAX: 845.883.6614
Website: childfindofamerica.org



MISSING CHILD

CHILD FIND CASE #6570-P

BRANDON MEMA

DATE OF BIRTH: MARCH 7, 1998

HAIR: BLOND EYES: GREEN

Brandon may be in the company of his mother.

It is possible that they are still in the region.

LAST SEEN: OCTOBER 27, 2000 BROOKLYN, NY

If you have any information or think you have seen BRANDON,
please call Child Find at:

1-800-I-AM-LOST (1-800-426-5678)

- Our caller's 16 year old son is missing. He's been in a relationship with a girl from school who was just relocated back to the care of her biological mother - in another state - after her adoptive parents and bio aunt couldn't manage her. Caller has reached out to the girlfriend's mom who claims to have no knowledge of the son's whereabouts, though his cellphone has been located in that other state. Caller is also dealing with her son's revelation that he was abused by his father.



Teaching Your Child Good Conflict Skills

Conflict is a part of life, from our early days through adulthood. It exists in every relationship because of differences, and knowing healthy ways to handle conflict is essential to productively navigating relationships at school, home, with peers and later in the workplace. This tip sheet discusses some ways to teach your child good resolution skills as he or she encounters conflict in his or her life.

Role Model. Role Model. Role Model. Children learn much behavior by observing those closest to them. Simply put, use behavior you want to see in your child.

Timing is everything. Working with your child on a conflict when emotions are heated will likely not result in productive results. If possible, allow time for “cooling off” before offering any guidance.

Use clarifying questions to understand the problem.

Example: *Are you saying that you want _____?*



Coach emotional intelligence. Asking questions about your child’s feelings during and after a conflict helps to them express and handle emotions in future conflict. Importantly in conflict, helping them think about the needs/feelings of everyone involved will help them see another point of view and develop empathy.

Example: *How do you feel right now? How do you think he feels?*

Teach how to “use your words”. Help your child to verbalize his or her thoughts by calmly offering them words to use in your own conflicts with him or her.

Example: *“You may have a turn after I’m done spinning.” “I don’t like it when you take my toy without asking.”*

Use “I” Statements. It is important to show that you can express your own needs instead of attacking or judging other people.

Example: *“I feel frustrated because I have asked three times for help picking toys up, but the toys are still on the floor. Please come in with me now to help put toys away.”*

Promote Solution-Finding: Brainstorm solutions and give your child a voice in decision making. Ask open-ended questions to promote creative thinking about ways to address the conflict.

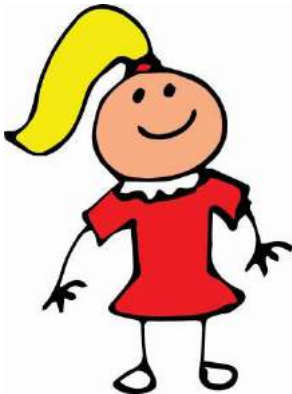
Example: *What could have happened differently? What are some other ways to fix this problem? Good, what else? What would that look like?*



Teaching Your Child Good Conflict Skills *(continued)*

What does an Orange have to do with Conflict Resolution?

A mom sees her two children fighting over an orange. They were pushing and shoving each other and trying to grab the orange from the other's hands. They were upset and yelling:



"It's mine!"

"You can't have it!"

"I want it!"

"But I saw it first!"



To address the issue, the mom took the orange from the children, cut it in half and gave one piece to each child. For the moment things were calm, but then she noticed one child peeling off the rind and eating the fruit while the other peeled the rind and threw away the fruit. She continued to watch as this child then brought out a cook book and cut the rind into pieces for recipe she was using. It was at this point that the mom realized that she could have done things differently and created a better outcome.

What could this mom have done to teach her children conflict resolution skills in this situation? What would it have looked like?

Mom might have taken the orange and provided some time for the children to cool down. Then she might have asked the question, "Why do each of you want the orange?". This would have allowed an opportunity for the children to clarify what they wanted or needed the orange for. Though this is a simple story, it can be helpful to think about the orange when talking about conflict resolution and "win-win" solutions.

This resource was created by
a generous grant of

American Legion
Child Welfare Foundation



Educators and Parents! Download all 10 of Child Find's free, reproducible Parenting Tip Sheets from our *In Safe Hands Tool Kit* on our website at:
<http://childfindofamerica.org/insafehands-tipsforparents/>

www.childfindofamerica.org
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FINANCIAL REPORT

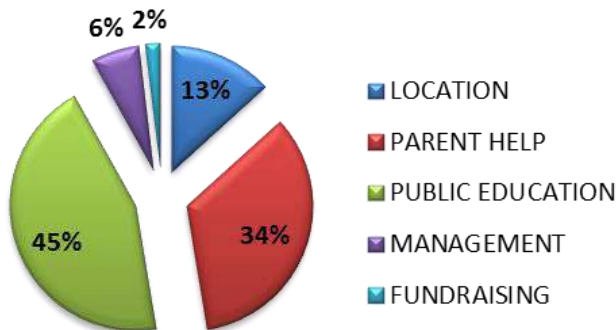
Fiscal Year June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017
 Fiscal Year June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018
 EIN: 22-2323336

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
	AUDITED	AUDITED
REVENUE		
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$316,863	\$330,242
INTEREST & DIVIDENDS	\$ 119	\$ 2,226
GRANTS/CONTRACTS	\$227,333	\$236,457
PROGRAM SERVICE REVENUE	\$ 22,441	\$ 17,045
UNREALIZED GAIN ON SECURITIES	\$ 1,065	\$ 1,929
TOTAL REVENUE GAINS & OTHER SUPPORT	\$567,821	\$587,899
EXPENSES		
PROGRAM SERVICES	\$391,403	\$445,027
SUPPORTING SERVICES	\$ 38,095	\$ 39,139
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$429,498	\$484,166
NET ASSETS		
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$138,323	\$103,733
NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 59,973	\$198,296
NET ASSETS END OF YEAR	\$198,296	\$302,029

91% OF EXPENSES WERE ALLOCATED TO PROGRAMMING

EXPENSES DISTRIBUTION

LOCATION	\$ 64,122
PARENT HELP	\$165,302
PUBLIC EDUCATION	\$215,603
MANAGEMENT	\$ 30,116
FUNDRAISING	\$ 9,023
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$484,166



Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

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Since 1997 Child Find has been
 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 at 1-800-I-AM-LOST

*Age progressions/composites courtesy of NCMEC



Desiree Carroll*
Kosse, TX



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Parent Help: 1-800-716-3468
1-800-A-WAY-OUT

Email: information@childfindofamerica.org
Website: childfindofamerica.org



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38 years
38 years

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