



CHILD FIND of AMERICA

2021 ANNUAL REPORT





A message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We hope Child Find of America's 41st Annual Report finds you and your family safe and mostly "back to normal."

Here at Child Find our "family" is again together in the office after a year of remote work and Zoom meetings. Because our work has always been telephone-based, our staff adapted quite well and continued to provide outstanding services to families in need during the pandemic.

With the continuing financial support of friends like you, we were able to purchase and implement a new case management system which focuses on measuring the Protective Factors all children need for healthy development. It's given us a new perspective on our work and an ability to better report out to our friends and supporters how we spend donated dollars.

We chose to highlight in this report the story of Lily's search for her son Dominic because it highlights how we work together with parents, law enforcement, domestic violence professionals and counselors to bring missing children home.

Thank you for your continuing support —
we couldn't do this important work without you!

Sincerely,


Donna Linder
Executive Director



Looking back . . .

GOING OFF THE GRID

A mother's desperate search

Lily and Alan met in church and began dating when she was 17 and he was 24. This came at a point in Lily's life when she desperately wanted to escape abuse from her immediate family. She found Alan's spiritual convictions to be comforting, so it was not long after her 18th birthday that they married.

Unfortunately, Lily had only moved from one abusive environment to another. After the birth of their son, Dominic, Alan's behavior became increasingly controlling and threatening. Eventually Alan became physically and psychologically abusive, exhibiting conspiratorial and paranoid behavior while his religious beliefs developed into increasingly cultish convictions. Alan was joining internet groups and becoming increasingly savvy with the dark web in the months prior to their legal separation.

Alan and Lily went to family court and got an order for shared parenting time and decision-making authority. Alan's threats escalated over medical decisions regarding routine age-appropriate vaccinations for 5-year-old Dominic (polio, measles etc.). The police needed to be called to intervene at Dominic's pediatric appointment, where they had to remove Alan for making threats to Lily and the doctors.

Alan disappeared with Dominic during his parenting time one day before the child's next vaccination appointment.

Lily contacted the police and petitioned for emergency custody in family court, which she received. But by the time she contacted Child Find, Lily was



expressing frustration that it took over 4 weeks for a missing child alert to be posted and charges of custodial interference to be issued.

While reviewing Alan's internet activity after the abduction, Lily discovered that he had done research on how to remain in hiding. He had made plans to live "off the grid" as well as build his own religious community. In her discussions with Child Find, Lily emphasized that Alan had access to weapons and had become increasingly "anti-government," possibly posing a threat to police during a recovery operation. Lily's case worker discussed with her the importance of close coordination with law enforcement on this issue and she reached out to her assigned detective.

Child Find issued a missing child poster shortly after opening the case. Posters were shared in targeted areas where Alan might be hiding. Child Find also shared news stories related to the abduction on social media.

Meanwhile, Lily's case worker reviewed social media posts of friends, family and associates of Alan in order to assess possibilities of involvement and to refine areas targeted for poster distribution. The probability that Alan had crossed state lines necessitated a review of jurisdiction and enforcement,

continued on page 5

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Fiscal Year June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2021

BRINGING YOU MORE MEANINGFUL MEASURES: OUR NEW CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

“The single most important thing we can do is support families all year long in ways that promote and build upon their strengths and enable them to care for their children safely before maltreatment is even a possibility. When we commit to partnering with families to help them access resources that focus on child and family well-being, they are better able to cope with stress, mitigate risks before formal child welfare intervention is needed, and realize their full potential.” —Elaine Voces Stedt, M.S.W.

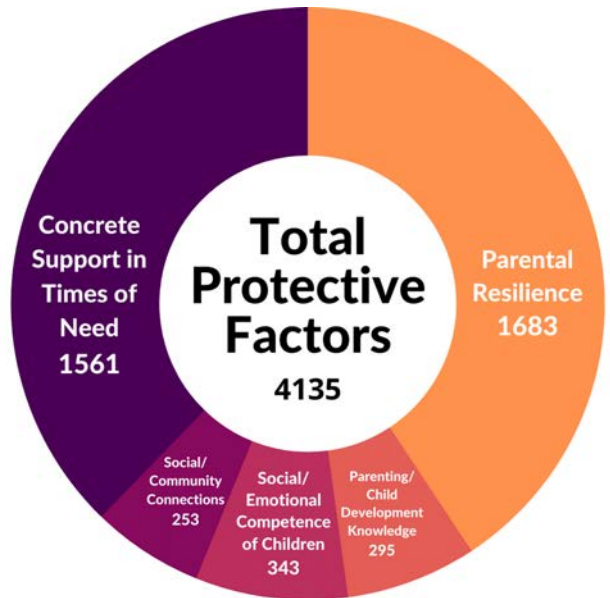
Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Prevention Resource Guide https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/guide_2021.pdf

When circumstances present the highest risk, our case work at Child Find necessarily focuses on addressing, or attempting to prevent, worst-case scenarios such as child abuse or child abduction. These kinds of cases involve working directly to reduce risk of harm to children, in whatever form (abduction, direct abuse, exposure to domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health issues, etc.). But in an ever-increasing number of cases, our scope of services aims to *prevent* child abuse in all forms, and to defuse the

family conflicts that can lead to child abduction, abuse, and runaway or trafficked youth. This type of work entails working to support the “protective factors” that child welfare research has determined to be most critical in helping children get through adversity. Many of these factors Child Find has been addressing for years in its case management, and will continue to address: promoting positive parenting and knowledge of child development, promoting parental resilience and social connections, and, most importantly for us, providing concrete supports for parents in times of need. Discussions that include parenting education, child development education, connections to community support, and improving conflict resolution or conflict management skills are all examples of this. Efforts directly promoting protective factors occur in nearly every case at the Parent Help program, but until now we did not have an effective way of capturing all of this work in fine-grained detail.

Child Find's former case management system (CMS) did not adequately capture these efforts. That all changed in the 2020-2021 fiscal year – notably our 40th Anniversary. After years of preparation, with significant input from the case managers who deal directly with our callers, Child Find presented the blueprint for the new CMS to developers, working with them for over 7 months to create a tool that robustly captures measurable data showing how case worker efforts support Protective Factors that promote child well-being. We began recording those efforts in September 2020. Consequently, the figures below do not reflect an entire year, just those measurements collected 09/01/2020 - 05/31/2021.

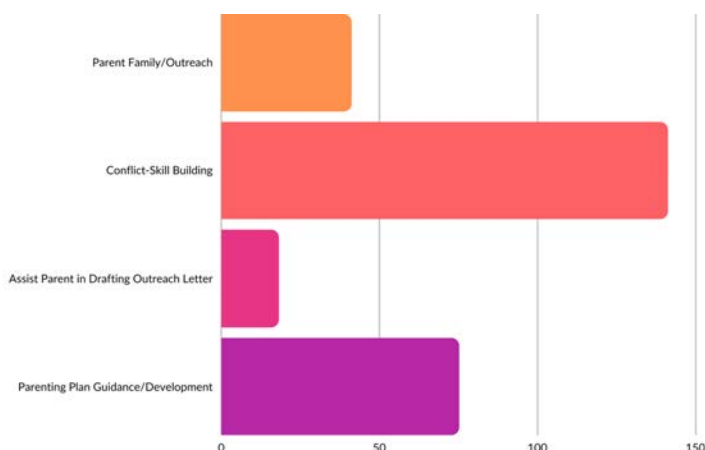
CASEWORKER EFFORTS



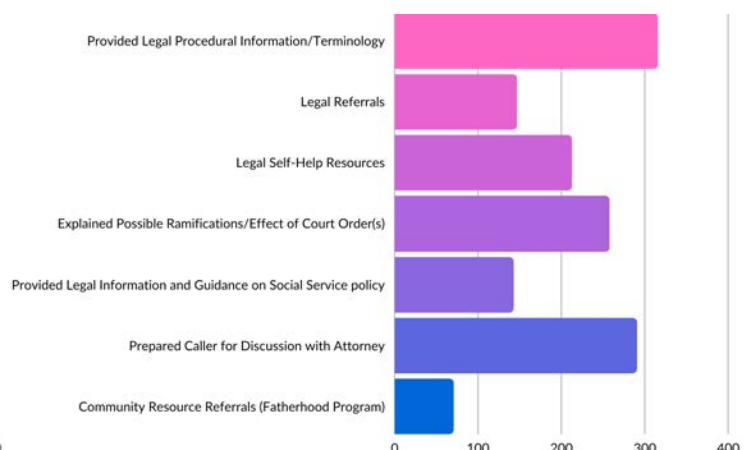
PARENT HELP
1-800-716-3468

Callers connect to our caseworkers who help defuse the family conflicts that can lead to child abduction & abuse.

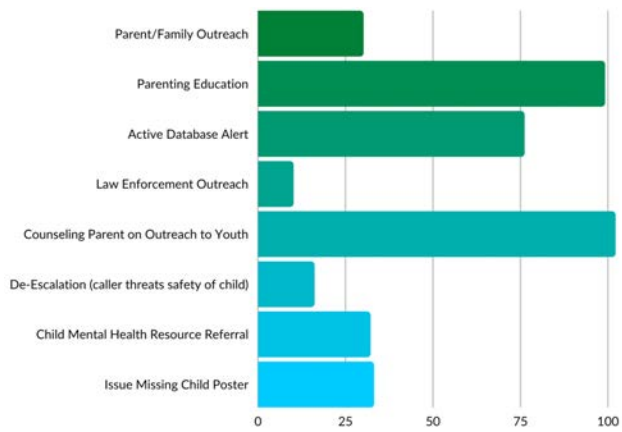
CO-PARENTING EFFORTS



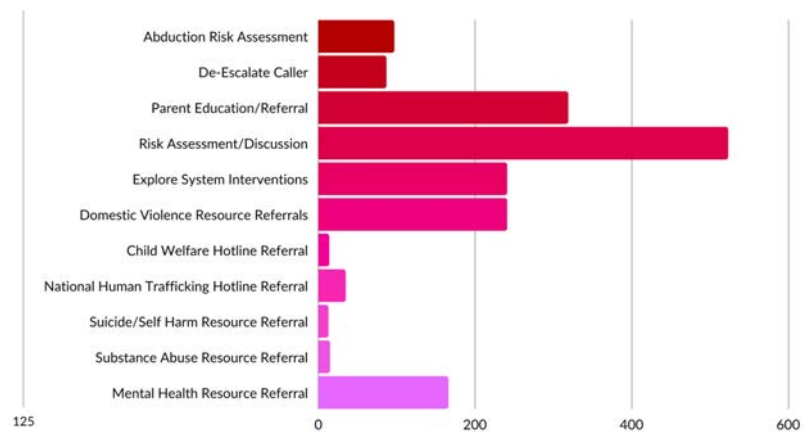
LEGAL EFFORTS



MISSING CHILD EFFORTS

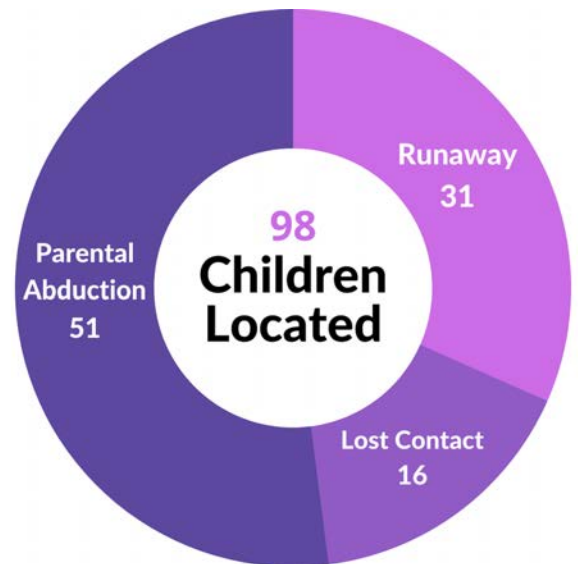


CHILD SAFETY EFFORTS

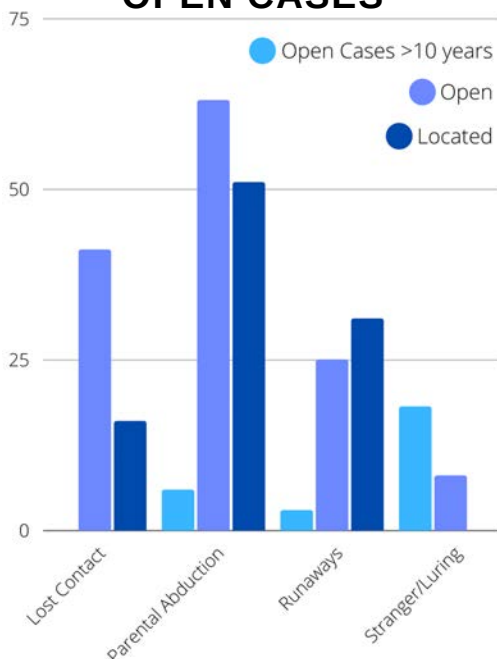


LOCATION 1-800-I-AM-LOST

Callers connect to our location staff, who coordinate search efforts to find missing, kidnapped, runaway, and parentally/non-stranger abducted children.



OPEN CASES



EDUCATION

Child Find's Education & Training program delivers workshops to human service professionals and educators to further our mission of preventing and resolving the impact of parental conflict on children. Our curriculum is informed by our casework as well as through the development of our staff, who routinely attend trainings concerning the latest research on educational techniques and Child Find's program issues. Due to the pandemic, Child Find was unable to deliver live services, and instead invested our resources in developing trainings that would translate well to a webinar platform. In all 16 interchangeable modules have been created and will be available in the 2022-23 fiscal year.

In May, Child Find distributed 1,300 *In Safe Hands* tool kits to Headstart Collaboration Offices in all 50 states, DC, and Puerto Rico. We estimate that each tool kit used by two educators helps an average ten households prevent and resolve family conflicts.

NOTES FROM THE PANDEMIC

Child Find's Parent Help case workers reflect on how Covid affected the families that called for help over the past year

"Case workers saw an uptick in runaways once Covid shelter-in-place restrictions had been in force for several months. Youth struggled to adjust to the disconnect from their peers and the increased conflicts in the homes. We also experienced Covid-specific co-parenting issues, where parenting time was being denied due to concerns about exposure. Family courts across the country struggled to balance concerns for child and adult health risks with the benefits of ongoing involvement by both parents. Most worrisome, however, was the Covid-related decrease in adequate protective factors for both child and adult victims of abuse. Without mandated reporters in the lives of children throughout the week and without other eyes on the family, opportunities for abusers escalated throughout the pandemic. To date, we continue to speak with parents who differ on vaccines, masks and exposure, however domestic relations courts and child welfare appear to have a firmer handle on returning to pre-Covid practices." —Shari D.



"Everybody was struggling to balance rapidly shifting health-related information with lack of access to conventional resources, like family court or day care. (Or a well stocked grocery store for that matter!) It felt (and still feels) like presenting issues were amplified, both at home and at work. If there was anxiety in our callers beforehand, it became panic or paralysis. If there was depression, it became a substance abuse issue. The emotional impact is still being sorted out and we're all pretty certain there is a ton of unrecognized trauma out there in the kids." —Aaron I.

GOING OFF THE GRID

continued from page 2

both in terms of the criminal charges and the court order. Further complicating the recovery, there was also the possibility that Alan had gone to live on a relative's property situated on tribal lands, which necessitated outreach to tribal leaders. Child Find researched tribal contacts and resources and shared them with Lily. A US Marshal was assigned to the case, specifically for the purpose of coordinating with tribal authorities.

A month after the abduction, Lily began receiving a series of disturbing calls from Alan on an anonymous number. He did not reveal his location, but he shared that he was leading a group of people—including children—in a place where he intended to stay until "the end of days." He said that he had gathered weapons and he no longer had a need for money. He wanted the family to reunite and for Lily to join the group. But in order for her to see her son, she was told she would need to drop the parental kidnapping charges. Lily did her best to engage Alan, then shared what information she could with the detective. Child Find worked through these difficult times with her, providing guidance and resources, including connections to domestic violence counseling. Child Find also reviewed the situation in terms of management of risks, encouraging Lily to keep law enforcement in the loop. With Lily's permission, Child Find reached out to the detective to help ensure coordination.

Efforts to locate the father and son were increased in all areas via social media ads. Finally, two months after the abduction, Child Find was contacted by a man who had recognized Alan and Dominic from one of those ads. The man also contacted the state police, who in turn coordinated an intervention within 24 hours. Lily received a call in the middle of the night from the police, informing her that her son was safe in their care. Immediately, she made the four-hour drive to pick up Dominic, and in a very emotional moment Lily was able to recover her son.

In the days that followed, Dominic was very confused and emotionally affected by the ordeal. Lily's case worker discussed the ways in which a child may be impacted by abduction and trauma, and how Lily could engage her son at this stage in his healing. She was encouraged to connect with counseling as soon as she could. Her case worker also reached out to local mental health resources in an effort to connect her son to trauma-informed services.

During Lily's last call, her case worker explained how Child Find's services would remain available to her through our Parent Help program. While still challenged by the emotional impact, Lily was very grateful for the support she received throughout the crisis.

"Thanks again so much for everything that you did for us! The contact you provided on a regular basis, the brainstorming, and emotional support did so much to help keep me focused on what I could do and what information I could provide the detective that might assist in his recovery . . . I am so glad that your organization exists!"



FINANCIAL REPORT

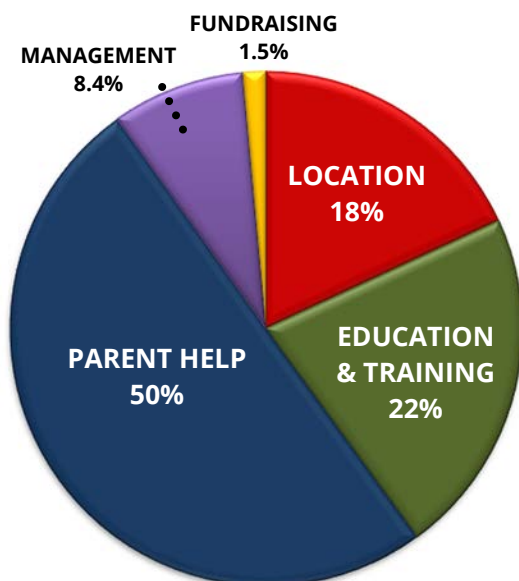
AUDITED REVENUES & EXPENSES

FISCAL YEAR 06/01/2020 - 05/31/2021

FISCAL YEAR 06/01/2019 - 05/31/2020

Revenue	2020	2021
Contributions - Cash	\$293,104	\$ 418,740
Contributions - Non-Cash	50,239	\$ 6,480
Estate Bequests	-	\$ 863,290
Grants/Contracts	\$188,242	\$ 212,999
Program Service Revenue	\$ 2,575	\$ -
Interest & Dividends	\$ 8,663	\$ 19,296
Unrealized Gain on Securities	\$ 8,797	\$ 25,927
Total Revenue Gains & Other Support	\$551,620	\$1,546,732
Expenses		
Program Services	\$454,223	\$ 456,279
Supporting Services	\$ 35,241	\$ 42,398
Fundraising	\$ 7,078	\$ 7,387
Total Expenses	\$496,542	\$ 506,064
Net Assets		
Change in Net Assets	\$ 55,078	\$1,040,668
Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$630,606	\$ 685,684
Net Assets End of Year	\$685,684	\$1,726,352

90% OF EXPENSES WERE ALLOCATED TO PROGRAMMING IN FISCAL YEAR 2021



Child Find has received an A+ rating
from Charity Watch since 1997
EIN 22-2323336



Child Find's IRS-990 and audited Financial Statements
are posted on our website: www.childfindofamerica.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eric S. Malter
President

President, Vizion Advertising LLC
Woodbury, NY

Karen Kozac Reiter
Vice President

Chief Administrative Officer, NYS
Commission on Judicial Conduct (ret.)
New York, NY

Arthur H. Finnel
Treasurer

Co-Founder, Horizon Partners Ventures LLC
Philadelphia, PA

Donna Linder
Secretary

Executive Director, Child Find of America
New Paltz, NY

Michael C. Titens

Partner, Holland & Knight LLP
Dallas, TX

Dr. Lena Green

Executive Director, HOPE Center Harlem
DSW, LCSW, CLC
New York, NY

Elizabeth M. Baker

Vice President, Global Head of Supply Chain
and Monitoring Analytics, Phillips
Johns Island, SC

STAFF

Executive Director
Donna Linder

Assistant Director
Mark S. Delluomo

Education & Outreach Assistant
Stephanie A. Lopez

Program Director
Shari D.

Senior Case Manager
Aaron I.

Case Manager
Brian G.

Intake Specialist
Erica G.

Spanish Intake
Graciela T.

STILL MISSING...

...AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

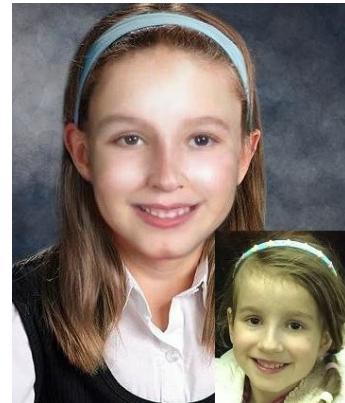
The chances of recovering the missing greatly increase when their photos and stories are shared. Please post on social media and consider contacting local news outlets on the anniversary of a missing child's disappearance or on their birthday — particularly if the child is from your area.



King Walker
Gary, IN



Alicia Navarro
Glendale, AZ



Julia Potter
Seattle, WA



Kimberly Arrington
Montgomery, AL



Monique Santiago
Albany, NY



Gina Brooks
Fredericktown, MO



Brianna Maitland
East Franklin, VT



Brittany Williams
Richmond, VA



Mark Himebaugh
Del Haven, NJ



CHILD FIND of AMERICA

BRINGING KIDS HOME • KEEPING THEM SAFE



information@childfindofamerica.org
www.childfindofamerica.org

PO Box 277, New Paltz NY 12561-0277
(845) 883-6060
EIN 22-2323336

© 2021 Child Find of America, Inc.
Cover, pp. 2 and 5 images licensed by Canva
Inside cover detail by Luis Loro/Shutterstock