

## A Message From Our Executive Director

Sitting with parents in a Zoom meeting recently, we each shared our greatest hopes for children – the blue sky we aspire towards. As we took turns, a shared hope was that every child in our care would have unwavering experiences of full acceptance and love – every place they are. We quickly realized that we shared this same hope for the adults who care for children. Experiencing such acceptance – sensing moments where one's complete humanity is embraced – transforms futures as we learn then how to catalyze nurturing and growth potentials around us. [Read more.](#)



## Our New Strategic Framework

Children's Institute spent considerable time over the past year developing a new mission statement as part of our strategic planning. A mission statement is the core purpose of an organization. It was time for us to reflect on how our efforts contribute meaningfully to children's experiences in communities, today. We also carefully reviewed and revised our list of core values to emphasize important principles we bring to all of Children's Institute's efforts.

We continue to sustain and develop existing offerings and foster new opportunities to advance our mission. Managing growth and change includes focused attention on our staff's wellbeing and engagement – in a context of the broader pandemic, racial equity, and community crises.

Our new strategic framework responds to many partners' input – who generously shared their views on what we should focus on to grow and thrive. We emphasize:

- Working with the community rather than for the community – and being family-centered
- To be a diverse and inclusive organization – with lived experiences and staff reflective of all the people and issues we serve

Staff are now leading the development of key action plans. We look forward to sharing more about this strategic plan journey to raise every child's wellbeing.

### Our Mission & Vision



**OUR MISSION**

Joining together to raise every child's complete wellbeing



**OUR VISION**

Supportive communities where every family can raise children who thrive as they live, learn, & play.

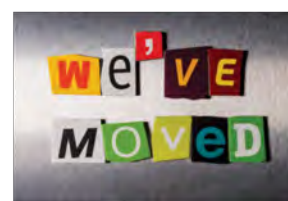
### Our Core Values

*These principles guide our work and define what matters most as we fulfill our mission:*

- Racial and Social Justice
- Children and Families First
- Transformation with an Engaged Presence
- Partnerships Are Essential
- Interdependence of Research and Practice
- Ethical and Responsible Use of Resources

## Recent Highlights

ROC the Future transitioned to Children's Institute as their host agency in April 2021 with a goal to partner on systems-level change efforts. Children's Institute greatly values ROC the Future's unique effort and capacities to drive collective



impact solutions with parents, practitioners, and other child-serving organizations. We are poised to expand support in practical ways as a backbone organization of ROC the Future, while we continue to lean in together as a body of conveners to obtain greater equity in educational outcomes for every young person. ROC the Future brings demonstrated expertise and value in the area of community engagement, with parents and community members as co-developers of solutions and decision-makers. This is embedded in our core values and strategic direction, and a necessary element of systems change work. [Welcome ROC the Future!](#)

[Click here for more highlights.](#)

## Caring Connections Underway



We're so excited about the Caring Connections underway as part of our Digital Uniting efforts! Starting last spring, Children's Institute has been working to close the digital divide among families with Pre-K aged children. Together with the Rochester City School District and several community-based organizations that provide Pre-K and childcare services, 'Caring Connectors' at these organizations promote distribution, use, trust and relationship building, and connection to digital and other pandemic-related resources that families seek. A 'Caring Connector' weekly supports families in transitioning to using

tablets, accessing free internet connectivity, and supporting children's early learning and development through connections to Pre-K, online and other services.

Check out these videos as families at the Rochester Early Childhood Education Center (RECEC) Northeast receive Chromebook tablets to find helpful and healthy community information! Watch RCSD's Eva Thomas and RECEC Director Lisa Traficante-Loncao connect with families and share via Facebook Live: [Video1](#), [Video2](#).



## Highlighting the Voice of Our Young Leaders

Join us for "Youth Voices Aren't Too Little: We Are Today's Tomorrow" hosted by Whole Child Connection of Children's Institute and America's Promise Alliance, Community States of Young People on May 20, 2021 from 5:00-7:00 pm EDT. Youth leaders from across Monroe County will focus on the importance of elevating youth voice and the need for adults to create spaces where youth perspectives are honored, activated, and valued. [Visit our webpage](#) for a series of videos from local youth. [Click here to register](#).



## A Tribute to Johnathan Trost

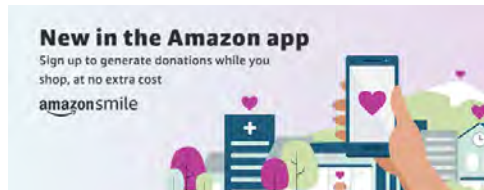
We'd like to pay tribute to Johnathan Trost, a former board member who passed away on December 22, 2020, by requesting to honor his memory with a [contribution to Children's Institute](#). Jonathan was recently a Children's Institute 2020 Coterie Inductee which is a group of special friends whose contributions to Children's Institute is ongoing and significant; whether it be intellectual property, financial property, volunteerism, or a combination of the above. [Read more](#).

## Ways to Support Children's Institute

Please consider supporting our efforts to assist teachers as they help students return to the classroom. We know that children's social-emotional health is greatly impacted by times of anxiety and the unsettling COVID-19 environment. There is no doubt that the coming days will bring even more change! [Make an online donation](#).

Visit [Rochester community wishbook](#) for a list of items to donate to support our programs and services.

### Shop with AmazonSmile



Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select Children's Institute as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.

#### How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select *Children's Institute Inc* as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app

## Stay Connected! Subscribe to News & Views and Receive the Latest Updates from Children's Institute.

[Subscribe](#)

CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE | [www.childrensinstitute.net](http://www.childrensinstitute.net)



Children's Institute | Affiliated with the University of Rochester | 274 N. Goodman Street, Suite D103, Rochester, NY 14607

[Unsubscribe](#) {recipient's email}

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [info@childrensinstitute.net](mailto:info@childrensinstitute.net) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!