

CFCR's Mission Moments Newsletter



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Over the past year our small team has helped thousands of children in extraordinary circumstances. We go above and beyond every day to holistically address the unique needs of each child we work with. We couldn't do it without your generous and steadfast support. Thank you so much for another meaningful year of protecting and advancing childrens' rights.

Make Your Year-End Gift Today

Nola's Journey



There was mom's story. And there was dad's story. But what 10-year-old Nola* needed was a voice for her own story. That's why we became her advocates.

Together with you, we showed up for Nola and helped rebuild her family.

Nola's mom had a restraining order against her dad due to abuse throughout their marriage as well as being overly harsh with Nola. When we were appointed as Nola's advocates, she hadn't seen her dad in over a year.

When we came on board little was known of Nola's mom's mental health challenges. When she was stable, she was charming and persuasive, but also quite adept at guarding her privacy. We immediately requested her mental health records and uncovered a long history of psychotic behaviors. She had also been hospitalized three times in the prior year and often refused to take medication for her now diagnosed psychotic disorder.

During one psychotic episode Nola was taken out of school for no reason, forced into a car, and recklessly driven throughout the city. Nola wrestled the steering wheel from her mom, steered into a parking lot, grabbed the keys, and locked her mother in the car while dialing 911 for help.

Council for Children's Rights attorneys and advocates sprang into action on Nola's behalf, calling an emergency hearing to develop a plan for Nola's care and safety. At our recommendation, the Court placed Nola with her dad during the school week and with mom on the weekends. Nola's dad had remarried and was in the process of moving into a two-bedroom apartment. Her mom was ordered to take all the medications she needed to be stable.

Then COVID-19 hit.

Within a week of moving in with her dad, virus precautions went into effect. Nola went from not seeing her father for over a year to now living with her father and his new wife 24/7 in a one-bedroom apartment with no school or social interactions.

The stress levels in the home was unbearable. Nola had gone from a home with little structure to one with strict rules on phone usage and computer games. Coupled with a lack of privacy, Nola was acting out.

Nola and her father's first call was to the Council. We advised him to take Nola to the hospital to be assessed. The next day, we contacted a therapist, who agreed to see Nola at once. The therapist also worked with her dad to help them set some agreed upon rules in the home.

We also counseled Nola's mother and asked her to enforce the same rules when Nola was with her. She agreed— an important first step to Nola's parents working together.

It's more than just children's rights. We are a lifeline. Together we jump in and address the unique stressors that extraordinary circumstances like COVID-19 brings on families.

We couldn't do it without your support. As a result of your generosity, parents like Nola's are taking important steps towards building healthy, safe environments for children. Please consider a donation this holiday season so that we can start the New Year off strong for our community's children.

Donate Today

Please contact our Advancement Director Amy Vavra at amyv@cfcrights.org for more information on ways to donate and to get involved.

**Name and some details changed to protect the child's identity.*

Council Changemakers

At the end of another challenging but inspiring year, we wanted to honor some of our most impactful changemakers at Council— YOU and our remarkable community of supporters who make what we do possible!

YOU!

You are one of the most important Council Changemakers because you support our team every day

THANK YOU so much for your extraordinary support this year! We are so grateful to have you as part of our community. Whether you volunteer, give what you can, or help spread the word about us, you make a positive difference in childrens' lives by supporting our work and our team. We look forward to another year of working together to ensure every child experiences equitable opportunity.

Giving Campaign Update

Thank you to everyone who gave as part of our 5 Days of Giving Campaign! **The final results are in and we were blown away by your support— together, we raised over \$18,700!** We not only exceeded our original goal of \$10,000, but you helped us beat our \$15,000 stretch goal in five short days! We cannot thank you enough for showing up for our community's children during this campaign.



5 DAYS OF GIVING

\$18,769 Raised

Together, we exceeded both our original \$10,000 goal AND our \$15,000 stretch goal in just five days!



We would also like to thank our 5 Days of Giving sponsors— [Divine Barrel Brewing](#), [Mere's Curated Gourmet](#), [704 Shop](#), and [Charlotte Running Company in Dilworth](#) for their generous contributions to the campaign!



MERE'S

Curated Gourmet

divine barrel
brewing.

How You Can Help

Volunteer: We have [multiple opportunities to volunteer](#), most notably with our Custody Advocacy Program (CAP). We are also looking for community members and philanthropists to help accelerate our fundraising efforts. If you're interested in learning how you can get involved, email advancement@cfcrights.org.

Spread the Word: We need your help to grow our network and let more people in Charlotte know about us and our work. You can support us by forwarding this email to your friends and family who may not have heard about us yet!

Give: You can [donate online](#) or by sending a check to: ATTN: Council for Children's Rights, 601 East 5th Street, Suite 510, Charlotte, NC 28202. Email advancement@cfcrights.org with any questions and to learn more.

Give to the Council



Council for Children's Rights | 601 East 5th Street, Suite 510, Charlotte, NC 28202
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