

## 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. Whether we are fighting for a student's right to special education services, protecting a teen in the courtroom, advocating for a pair of siblings' best interest in an intense divorce case, or coming up with whole-child plans to ensure they have the resources they need to succeed—our team shows up for children every day, and we couldn't do it without you.

Thanks to you, we were able to serve more children than ever before this past fiscal year. **Council's four legal teams provided support to 2222 children in 4086 legal cases—that is a 10% increase in children since 2022.**

**Sadly, the need for our services has not stopped growing and children are facing new challenges every day.** North Carolina leads the nation in [suspending students with disabilities](#), children [visiting the ER for mental health concerns](#) has nearly doubled in the last decade, and schools are [struggling to retain specialized teachers](#). These are just some of the mounting problems children are facing—when coupled with other concerning trends like increased bullying and housing insecurity—it makes it clear these children need someone like Council in their corner.

The vast majority of our funding comes from individuals like yourself who are dedicated to speaking up for children's rights. **They say it takes a village to raise a child, and together we are creating that village for our community's children.**

We take action so every child has an opportunity to have a positive and safe childhood and provide critical support so they grow into a future in which they can thrive. Now, we need our community to take action so that we can serve even more children in 2024.

## Make Your Year-End Gift Today

Please contact our Advancement Director Amy Vavra at [amyv@cfcrights.org](mailto:amyv@cfcrights.org) for more information on ways to donate and to get involved.

*P.S. This weekend is your last chance to make a tax-deductible gift in 2023!*

## 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 \$19,990! That is a full 130% of our original \$15,000 goal. We cannot thank you enough for showing up for our community's children during this campaign.



# \$19,990 Raised

**Together, we exceeded our original  
\$15,000 goal in just five days!**



We would also like to thank our generous 5 Days of Giving Sponsors—[Bark Box](#), [Weathered Souls](#), [Good Bones Chiropractic](#), [Spunky Cleaning](#), and [Foxcroft Wine Co.](#)! And thank you to [Triple C Brewing](#) for hosting our happy hour—it was great to see everyone!



## BARK

GOOD  
BONES  
CHIROPRACTIC



## Council Changemakers

This month we'd like to highlight Alexandra Russell, our Donor Relations Coordinator!

# Alexandra Russell

Donor Relations  
Coordinator



**What led you to Council and how long have you been here?**

Prior to joining Council in June of this year, I worked in private practice for 13 years, specifically in litigation. The legal field led me to become a Mecklenburg County Guardian ad Litem volunteer, where I discovered my true passion was advocating for our community's kids and working to improve conditions for youth in foster care. I was fortunate enough to cross paths with an Education Law Program attorney on my first assigned case, and after realizing the vital impact Council has on these children, I knew I wanted to be a part of the important work they do for our community.

**Tell us about your role here**

As Donor Relations Coordinator, I manage Council's donor database and ensure our donors know how much they are appreciated by sending acknowledgments, thank you cards, making calls, and building relationships. I'm looking forward to shifting my focus toward obtaining grants in the new year because I enjoy writing and know this can make a greater financial impact for Council.

**What do you wish people knew about Council?**

Many people don't realize Council for Children's Rights is a nonprofit organization, and their giving makes a direct impact on supporting the children we serve.

**What is something coming up that you are excited about with Council?**

I am excited for our upcoming "A New Day for Children" annual luncheon on March 6th because I enjoy event planning and look forward to meeting a lot of our donors in person. This year we are hosting the luncheon at a beautiful new venue in Camp North End called The Revelry and we are hoping to partner with new sponsors!

**Outside of work, how do you like to spend your time?**

I truly love being a part of Race Matters for Juvenile Justice, where I can join like-hearted people in working toward equity and social justice. I also have recently overcommitted to too many book clubs, and I enjoy spending time outdoors, kayaking, and walking my dog, Jack.

**Where are you from and where did you grow up?**

I grew up in the snow belt of Cleveland, Ohio and moved South almost 10 years ago after one too many cold winters. I was welcomed by Charlotteans with open arms and am grateful to be a part of this caring community and beautiful city.

## Save The Date: Council's Spring Luncheon

*March 6th, 2024 @ The Revelry at Camp North End*

**We hope you'll join us for Council's second annual A New Day for Children spring luncheon!** You are an important part of our community and we hope you will join us to raise awareness of the unique challenges facing children and how we can address them together. We will highlight how our work has changed lives, share policy initiatives that benefit all children in our community, and celebrate people like you who help us make real and lasting change for children in the greater Charlotte area. Formal invite and more information to follow!

## 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@cfrights.org](mailto:advancement@cfrights.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@cfrights.org](mailto:advancement@cfrights.org) with any questions and to learn more.



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