# Society for the Protection and Care of Children Annual Report 2020







## **Dear Friends and Supporters,**

When I reflect on 2020 it is done with deep respect, gratitude, and appreciation for the staff of SPCC. Their daily and never-ending commitment to children and families as essential workers was profound.

SPCC programs were especially crucial during the pandemic, not only in providing critically important services but in providing hope during a time of great uncertainty. The definition of **"essential"** is "absolutely necessary; extremely important", I couldn't agree more. The creativity, passion, and tireless effort of SPCC's essential workers, made a significant difference in the lives of those most vulnerable: the children and families served by SPCC. Navigating the multiple complexities caused by the pandemic was overwhelming especially when added to the challenges of living in poverty and experiencing traumas. Throughout all the challenges of 2020, our staff worked tirelessly to ensure children and families were supported in so many ways. A few examples include:

- Children were able to **maintain relationships** with loved ones through our **Supervised Visitation** and **Therapeutic Visitation** Programs through creativity and technology.
- SPCC's WIC program continued providing much needed access to food in new ways with stores being supported by our Vendor Management Agency.
- Our Teen-Age Parent Support Services and Healthy Families Monroe programs provided families of young children with on-going counseling, parenting education and support as well as toys, books, diapers and formula to ensure their babies' development and basic needs continued to be met when it was no longer safe to attend daycare or preschool.
- The **Family Trauma Intervention Program** supported **child and family healing** as families faced the additional traumas of fatalities, separation, domestic violence, and other tragedies.
- SPCC's Mary Ellen Institute quickly transitioned to providing remote learning, consultation and support opportunities to continue supporting essential child serving professionals as we all adjust to the new challenges faced by child serving agencies.
- Increased isolation caused families to face increased hardships. SPCC programs provided consistent support to reduce isolation, connect families to much needed resources and nurture virtual connections with other families for peer support.
- Public transportation did not feel safe for many, so staff provided **transportation** to doctor's appointments, vaccines, and other critical appointments to **ensure children and families health and safety.**
- Our staff worked tirelessly to support families in getting what they needed to be **successful in school** with the new remote learning environments.

#### And so much more!

During the pandemic we all relied heavily on essential workers like SPCC's staff. It is my hope that we have a renewed respect and appreciation for all essential workers; they are the ones who are getting us through this pandemic through their dedication, genuine care, and skill. I was constantly in awe of how SPCC's staff stepped up, over and over again, even while balancing their own families' ever-changing needs. They truly epitomized the definition of essential.

**SPCC supporters** also stepped up and were **essential** to our success. In a time of significant financial hardship, our supporters still gave **generous donations** of money, diapers, gift cards to help those struggling with poverty and the growing fiscal impacts of the pandemic in our community. The generosity of people like you restores my hope.

Thank you,

him R. Butt

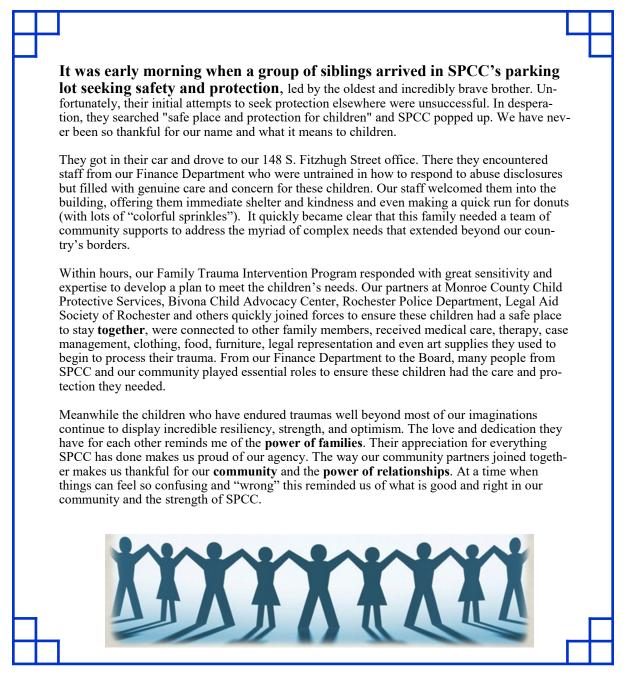
Lisa Butt, President & CEO



### Good and Right... during a time when everything feels wrong and hard

### During a year of challenges and hardship, it is often the stories of our collective work that bring me

**hope.** One such story reminded me of the incredible things we can accomplish when we work together, how each one of us plays an integral role in helping families and so clearly exemplifies why we do what we do. I wanted to share the story with you in hopes that we can all feel proud, inspired, and reminded of the goodness, strength, and connectedness within SPCC and our community.



Thank you for being a part of what is "good" and "right".

## **Equity Work in 2020**

In 2019, SPCC staff from all programs formed an internal Equity Team following agency-wide trainings on Structural Racism and identifying a need to build a team to maintain focus on this work. The opportunity to join the Racial Equity and Justice Initiative (REJI) alongside a number of other community organizations allowed us to deepen this work and provided access to resources and community level support.



Through agency-wide surveys and many conversations, SPCC began to strategically identify goals related to addressing person-

nel policies and procedures while also increasing staff and supervisor capacity to understand and self-reflect on biases, race, power, and privilege both interpersonally and institutionally. In 2020, we identified our "Hiring & Firing practices" as an area in need of focus and strategic work. Since that time, we have had staff from both our Equity and Trauma Informed Care teams review and offer input on a number of related policies. This feedback and suggested edits are being incorporated into new versions of these policies.

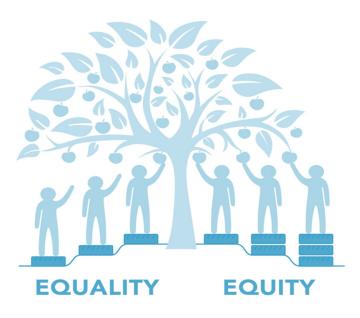


New mural of Rep. John Lewis located at 55 State St.

During the month of February, SPCC hosted a weekly Black History Month series for all staff featuring local experts, including Quajay Donnell, a local artist highlighting the public art of Rochester such as a recently completed mural of the late civil rights activist and long-time Representative. John Lewis. Staff were able to learn more about and celebrate many of the unique contributions of black men and women from the past and in our present.

Following the murder of George Floyd, on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2020, members of SPCC's Equity Team provided weekly processing groups to support our staff's ability to cope with this and similar social injustices and to reflect on how each of us can grow and learn to dismantle systems of oppression, inequities and injustices.

As an entire agency, SPCC staff also engaged in the United Way community wide 21-day Equity Challenge that included daily check-ins and prompts for further discussion. Throughout 2020, we continued to call attention to the fact that COVID-19 is disproportionally impacting Black and Brown families and offered education on health disparities and resources for community wide educational and advocacy opportunities. While we realize we have much farther to grow in our learning and in our anti-racist work, we are proud that in 2020 our attention to these areas became firmly embedded in the fabric of our agency will forever remain an on-going strategic priority.



# **Ongoing Support**

**During a Global Pandemic** 

Fundraising in 2020 was quite different than in previous years. Staff, volunteers and venues were patient and kind as planned event dates crept up and we still didn't know when we could gather in person. Everything in-person had to be cancelled, except for our annual golf tournament which we were able to eventually hold on 9/10/20. Even then, we were unsure if anyone would show up - but you did! Golfers showed in the usual numbers and with the same enthusiasm and passion as in previous years. The consistent phrase repeated throughout the day was "it's so good to finally see you!". Even with a smaller than usual dinner and auction, the same amount of dollars were raised as in previous years due to the generosity of our supporters. Thank you to all of you who supported us!

For several months throughout 2020 a group of volunteers dedicated tremendous time and energy to planning a highly anticipated 145<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for SPCC, only to have it postponed and then finally cancelled due to the pandemic. The great news is, that several sponsorships, ticket purchases and auction prizes were already secured before we cancelled and every donor welcomed us to keep their contribution to use towards providing services to our families!

### Thank you to the hard working team for the 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration that never was (yet)!

- Lisa Butt Sheila Antil-Arrajj Sarah Fitzgibbons Kristin Romell Heather Smith Clarice Lazary
- Paige Kelly Leah Cintineo David Pieters Kathy Cupo Mary Jo Quartella Carrie Falzone
- Catherine Fafone Tori Kelley Allie Nickel Kathleen Spies

Our annual Angel Party usually held at the beginning of December had to be postponed in 2019 and 2020. In response to the loss of this resource for families, an on-line event was held in April 2020 called **"Champions for Children"**. For a donation,



HONORING THOSE IN THE COMMUNITY WHO HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD



CHAMPION: THE STAFF OF SPCC NOMINATED BY: LISA BUTT

THANK YOU TO THE ENTIRE SPCC STAFF FOR BEING DEDICATED CHAMPIONS OF CHILDREN EACH AND EVERY DAY! IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR TO WORK WITH YOU OVER THE PAST THIRTY PLUS YEARS, AND I AM THANKFUL FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY'S MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN.



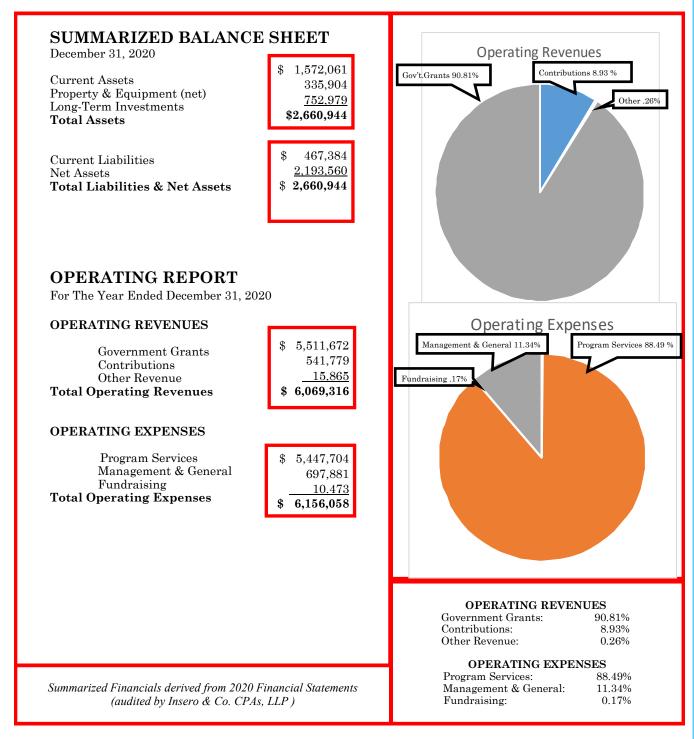
The community was invited to nominate a "Champion for Children" and make a donation in their honor, which was posted on SPCC's website. There were so many wonderful champions recognized!

# Thank you to EVERYONE who supported SPCC children and families throughout 2020!



Thank you to the Theta Omega Sigma Alumnae Chapter of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority & Project Cradle Care for providing diaper bags & supplies for new moms in our programs!

## **2020 Summarized Financials**



# Thank you to all of our supporters and sponsors for your generous support!

### 2020 Grants, Contracts and Charitable Contributions

SPCC benefits significantly from the financial support we receive from individuals, foundations, businesses, corporations and government agencies. It is with this support that we are able to accomplish our important work. The following list acknowledges contributions made and monies received during the 2020 year.

#### **Individuals**

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#### Society for the Protection

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Armando Santiago **Diane Santo** Brendon Saylor Kevin Schiltz Steve Schmidt Abbie Schonfeld Abbie Schonfeld Brian Sciera Val Sesso Jackie Shaffer Ed Shill Tim Shortsleeve Heather Hunter Smith Jeff Smith Scott Smith Bonnie Snider Brittany Soper Stephanie Spain Jase Stahlecker Rvan Stahlecker paul Stanzione Dave Stenson Stacey Szabo Debra Tandoi Georgeann Tarantino Mark & Lois Taubman Patty & Mike Teddy Terry Tehan Michael & Beverly Tomaino Chris Villa Justin Villa Robert Volkmar Judy & Erik von Bucher Douglas & Mary Ellen Weins anet Welch Arthur & Kathleen Whitfield Jay Woychick Mr. & Mrs. Victor Yawman Lisa Yockel John Zimmer

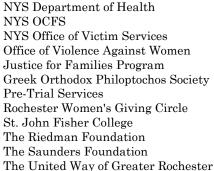
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Children's Institute City of Rochester Greater Rochester Health Foundation Healthy Families NY Last Man Standing Club Legal Aid Society Maternity & Early Childhood Foundation, Inc. Monroe County Department of Human Services NYS Child Support Enforcement



NYS DASNY Infrastructure Grant

University of Rochester

If you want to go fast,

go alone.

If you want to go far,

go together.

- African Proverb -

### **Connect with us!**

#### 148 South Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14608

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