

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



embrella®
Embracing & Empowering Families



change the future.

We are a New Jersey foster care nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. We provide services, support and training opportunities for foster, adoptive, and kinship families, and others having the responsibility for and/or the interest in the well-being of children. We help children who are, or were, in foster care by offering programs to support them from childhood to young adulthood.

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“

BECAUSE OF YOU, WE CAN
OFFER OUR FAMILIES AND YOUTH, THOSE
WE SERVE NOW AND THOSE WE WILL
MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE SUPPORT
THEY NEED TO THRIVE.

”

A Message From **Corinne LeBaron, CEO**

This past year was certainly the most challenging I've experienced in my time at embrella. When COVID-19 took hold in our communities, our management team sprang into action, efficiently and effectively transitioning our employees to a work-at-home model. Scholarships and grants were still awarded to our high school seniors, and educational supports, such as grocery gift cards, were sent to our college students experiencing homelessness and food insecurity when their dorms closed. Foster and kinship parent meetings and classes moved online. Overwhelmed parents who suddenly found themselves unemployed, or unprepared to home school their kids in care while holding down a full-time job, had our team to turn to.

As an agency, and as individuals, we understand how challenging our current climate is and know that it will only become more so in the year ahead. New Jersey is becoming more focused on preventing children from entering foster care by offering in-home services to help struggling parents. When children can't remain safely at home, kinship caregivers – relatives or other supportive adults who are already known to a child – are now the first ones approached to take them in. This shift is meant to minimize ACES (adverse childhood experiences) and lessen trauma for our children. It also means that the need for foster parents in New Jersey is diminishing, yet there are many caring people waiting to open their homes and hearts to children in need. Our families' and stakeholders' needs are growing and changing, and we must grow and change to meet them. While the ways we engage have evolved in the wake of the pandemic, our dedication to staying connected, strong, and supportive of our community has not, and will not, waver.

During good times and bad, we are there for our families. So many of them reach out to us for support, yet we know it is not as many as those who need us. This year, we commit to touching even more of their lives.

Of course, the more lives we affect, the more help we need to continue. I hope that you're inspired, as I've been, by the stories in this Annual Report. I hope you feel the gratitude of the children and families you've helped, and our gratitude, as well, for your generosity. Because of you, we can offer our families and youth, those we serve now and those we will meet for the first time, the support they need to thrive.



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide advocacy and enriching programs and services to empower families and youth to thrive.

OUR VISION

Our vision is a future where all youth and families thrive in safe, stable and nurturing homes.

OUR FINANCIALS

Revenue	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Government grants	\$3,882,297	-	\$3,882,297
Other grants	-	56,000	56,000
Contributions and other income	231,285	95,922	327,207
In-kind donations	420,339	-	420,339
Fundraising income	6,136	-	6,136
Interest and dividend income	6,009	-	6,009
	4,546,066	151,922	4,697,988
Net assets released from restriction	136,872	(136,872)	-
Total revenue and support	4,682,938	15,050	4,697,988
Expenses			
Program services	4,433,171	-	4,433,171
Management and general	103,397	-	103,397
Fundraising expenses	65,610	-	65,610
Total expenses	4,602,178	-	4,602,178
Changes in net assets	80,760	15,050	95,810
Net assets, beginning of year	631,564	300,650	932,214
Net assets, end of year	\$712,324	\$315,700	\$1,028,024

Revenue	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Government grants	\$3,901,815	-	\$3,901,815
Other grants	-	77,750	77,750
Contributions and other income	32,503	43,245	75,748
In-kind donations	225,880	-	225,880
Fundraising income	1,822	-	1,822
Interest and dividend income	36,990	-	36,990
	4,199,010	120,995	4,320,005
Net assets released from restriction	153,313	(153,313)	-
Total revenue and support	4,352,323	(32,318)	4,320,005
Expenses			
Program services	4,211,518	-	4,211,518
Management and general	99,813	-	99,813
Fundraising expenses	91,869	-	91,869
Total expenses	4,403,200	-	4,403,200
Changes in net assets	(50,877)	(32,318)	(83,195)
Net assets, beginning of year	712,324	315,700	1,028,024
Net assets, end of year	\$661,447	\$283,382	\$944,829

embrella's programs funded through government grants include the New Jersey Foster Care (NJFC) Scholars Program, the Pathways to Academic and Career Exploration to Success (PACES) program, and all support and educational programs for foster and kinship parents.

EMBRELLA MANAGEMENT TEAM

Corinne LeBaron
Chief Executive Officer

Megan Carugno
Community Education Manager

Corissa Kazar
Director of Community Education

Lenore Bonilla
Support Services Manager

Lynn Patmalnee
Director of Communication and Development

Jessica Hernandez
Support Services Manager

Marjorie Blicharz
Director of Scholarship Programs

Ebony Lenard
Scholarship Programs Manager

Marci Falk
Director of Finance

Lloyd Nelson
Digital Media Manager

EMBRELLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Member

David Umbria
Member

29

dreams realized including karate, gymnastics, and swimming lessons

dreamers and **believers**

Giving children and youth who are, or were, in foster care experiences that enrich their lives.

DREAM ►

LEARN TO RIDE A HORSE

“ Thank you so much for the experience of going to a wonderful camp. I truly appreciate your help and the scholarship. I would have never had the chance to do any of this without you. I have been looking forward to going to this camp for several months and you have made a dream come true. I’ve always wanted to ride a horse and now I will be able to do that. I can assure you that I won’t forget all the support coming from you. Thank you!

K.P. • AGE 15

DREAM ►

ATTEND GOLF CAMP

“ I want to play golf my whole life so I can play like a pro. I wonder if anyone can beat Ben Hogan – he was one good person and good golfer. He has encouraged me to play in these beautiful existing golf courses and tournaments (SIC) after reading all these inspiring books about Ben Hogan it is enough for me to play like a pro. Thank you for my dream!

S.A. • AGE 7

108

wishes granted

fostering **wishes**

Giving children and youth who are, or were, in foster care the “little extras” that all children deserve.

WISH ►

ART LESSONS

Art lessons for Kaylee, age 11, helped her focus and relieve stress after going into care.

WISH ►

SET OF TOOLS FOR BICYCLES

Tools for Ricky, age 17, helped him practice the mechanical skills he studied in high school and kept his bike in top riding condition.

57

applications were approved for food cards, bus/rail passes, textbooks, laptops, and more

educational supports

Helps students who are aging out of care and experiencing, or are at risk of, homelessness afford essentials so that they can complete their college education.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORTS ►

AFFORD FOOD WITHOUT A STRUGGLE

“ Because of this generous gift, I will be able to commute to and from school with ease and no worries, along with being able to purchase food while I attend school this semester without a struggle.
A.M.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORTS ►

FIRST IN FAMILY TO GO TO COLLEGE

“ Being able to go to college means a lot to me as I will be the first person in my family to go to college and start a career...I now have the capability to do any research papers, homework or assignments necessary to successfully pursue my educational goals.
P.R.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORTS ►

HELP WITH BOOKS

“ I come from a place with no real support so having help with my books makes me feel overwhelmingly grateful for the support. It is also another motivator to keep on my educational and life path.
K.P.

29

awards for a total of \$27,500

private scholarships and grants

Helps high school seniors who are, or were, in foster care move into the next phase of their lives, whether pursuing a college degree or living on their own.

PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS ►

A PUSH FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

“ I am currently a graduating senior...and due to the ongoing pandemic of Coronavirus, my financial situation was cut due to the inability of working. I plan on pursuing a major in Wildlife Conservation and Management... I feel grateful to receive this scholarship especially during this time, it gives me an even bigger push in having a successful future.
D.H.

PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS ►

GIVE BACK TO OTHERS

“ As a former foster child, I battled many challenges and hardships. But for me education was always my way out. Throughout my high school career, I have enjoyed doing community service. I've always wanted to give back to others that were less fortunate than me. And I intend to continue that in the future. I thank you for your confidence and willingness to help me achieve my goals.
G.T.

THANK YOU

TOP DONORS

Allegra Marketing
American Online Giving Foundation
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Artifex Soul Publishing
Barrett Industries Corp.
Best Buy
Fran Borgenicht
Borgenicht Foundation, Inc.
Candoris Technologies
Craig and Wendy Friedman
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Dreams R Us Foundation
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Falcon Group
Flames of Giving
Laura Giffin
Girl Scout Troop 4965
Goddard School
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Kathryn Kirsch

Thanks to our donors who helped
make the holidays **merry and bright**
for our children & youth!

HOLIDAY DONORS

Best Buy
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Flames of Giving
Junior League Montclair-Newark
Junior League of Short Hills
KushBotanix
Munich Re
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Party Vibe
PF Concepts
Saint Jude Parish
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Key International, Inc.
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Mortgage Now, Inc.
Munich Re
National Police Defense Foundation Inc, Operation Kids
New Jersey State Employees Charitable Campaign
NJSFWC of GFWC Junior Membership
John and Lynn Nowak
Parke Bank
Princeton Area Community Foundation
Pro Bono Partnership
Salesforce
Scirocco Group Insurance
St. George's-by-the-River Episcopal Church
Thomas Shea
Ticket To Dream Foundation
Tony Sanchez
Tyhesha and Martin White

MONTHLY SUPPORTERS

Kristi Adams
Lori Alvarez
Marjorie Blicharz
Michele Bloom
Lenore Bonilla
Shantell Cherry
Nicholas DiPasquale
Marysue Dondiego
Maryse Greenwald
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