



TEAM

FOR WEST VIRGINIA CHILDREN



Impact
Report

Fiscal Year
2023

Our Story So Far

OUR PURPOSE

Vision Statement:

TEAM for West Virginia Children envisions West Virginia as a state where all children can grow and thrive in safe, stable, nurturing relationships, free from abuse and neglect, so they will achieve their maximum potential as adults.

Mission Statement:

TEAM for West Virginia Children is a non-profit organization whose mission is to work with communities and families to promote and advance the well-being of children, making their needs and healthy development a priority.

Strategies:

We operate and partner with an integrated network of programs to:

- Advocate for children.
- Champion family-friendly communities.
- Educate the public.
- Prevent child abuse & neglect.
- Strengthen families.

WE BELIEVE

Safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments are essential to prevent child maltreatment and to assure children reach their full potential.

Child maltreatment in all its forms, including neglect, physical abuse, sexual exploitation, and emotional maltreatment, can be prevented.

Every child has the right to have a safe, nurturing, permanent and stable home.

Every parent should have access to parenting education and support.



Our FY 2023 Goals



1

To improve the well-being of West Virginia's children and families.

2

To prevent child abuse and neglect in all its forms.

3

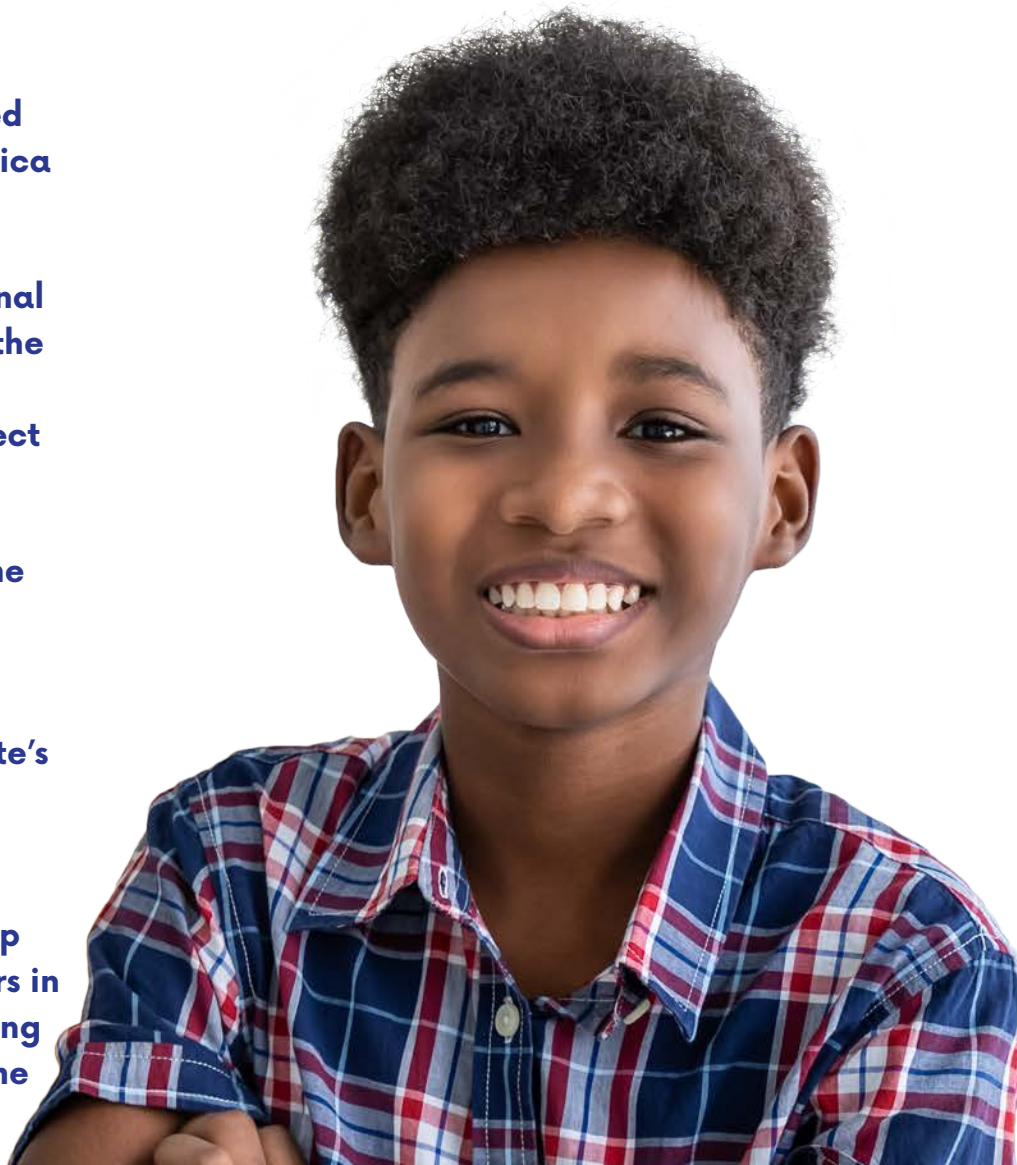
To build safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities.

TEAM Timeline

The TEAM for West Virginia Children is a charitable organization founded in 1986. Originally formed by the Junior League of Huntington as a task force on child abuse, TEAM has undertaken various responsibilities, including networking, community education, victim advocacy, family support, community team building, and public policy advocacy.

- In 2003, TEAM became the State Chapter with Prevent Child Abuse America - Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia.
- In 2003, TEAM launched Partners in Prevention, a network of 20 community teams using mini-grants to implement family support projects.

- In 1986, TEAM was incorporated as the Cabell County Child Protection Team.
- In 1987, TEAM became affiliated with Prevent Child Abuse America as a local chapter.
- In 1991, TEAM joined the National CASA Association and piloted the state's first Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) project in Cabell County courts.
- In 1993, TEAM changed its name to TEAM for West Virginia Children.
- In 1996, TEAM initiated the state's first Healthy Families America project in Cabell County.
- In 1999, TEAM took a leadership role in the formation of Partners in Community Outreach, supporting WV programs providing in-home family education services to families with young children.





- In 2007, the **Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework** came to West Virginia through the **Cabell Co. Partners in Prevention** team.
- In 2010, the educational campaign, **Our Babies: Safe and Sound**, was initiated to provide parents and other caregivers of infants with information on ways to keep babies safe while sleeping, and how to keep your cool when babies cry.
- In 2012, **Circle of Parents** was launched, providing parent-led support groups.
- In 2013, the **WV Infant/Toddler Mental Health Association** was formed to support the development of professionals to meet the needs of all West Virginia children and families.
- In 2023, **TEAM** operated with a budget of **\$3+ million**, up from **\$25,000** in 1986.

Research confirms that by providing children and families with information, support, and resources, and by building family-friendly communities, the rates of child maltreatment will substantially decrease.

Our work is partially funded by grants from public and private sources. In order to fully fund our programs, we rely on donations from individuals and businesses and fundraising activities.

Our Major Programs

PROGRAM	FOCUS	OUTCOME
Western Regional CASA	A child's voice in court.	Safe, permanent and loving homes where children will thrive.
Healthy Families Mountain State	Intensive in home family education from pregnancy to 5 years.	Physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy children ready for school.
Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia	Advocates for child well-being and supports community based programs.	Family-friendly public policies and strengthened families.
WV Infant/Toddler Mental Health Association	Training professionals and caregivers.	Endorsements.
Partners in Community Outreach	Network of In Home Family Education Programs.	Strengthen programs to deliver high quality services to children and families.

The TEAM for West Virginia Children has additional activities and initiatives in line with our mission and values.

102
Volunteers

913
CASA children
served

17
newly trained
volunteers

4404
hours donated
by CASA
volunteers

0
children back in
the court system
after permanency
was achieved



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

WESTERN REGIONAL CASA

Western Regional CASA is a court-based advocacy program using screened, trained, and supervised volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in out-of-home placements in 10 counties.

Tommy, age 5, had no legal parents after their parental rights were terminated by a Circuit Court Judge due to extensive drug use. Tommy's uncle requested custody of the young boy and went through the training and home study to be approved.

Tommy's uncle had multiple questions as the court proceedings continued, reaching out to the CASA volunteer each time. The CASA was able to promptly get answers from others in the case. Tommy's uncle felt discouraged at times due to the length of time it took for Tommy to be placed with him. When the uncle was finally awarded custody of Tommy, the uncle expressed his appreciation to the CASA for being so responsive to him during the very long process. [Identifying information changed to protect confidentiality.]

Change a Child's Story!



Partners in Community Outreach

Education Begins at Home

Partners in Community Outreach (PiCO) is the coalition of West Virginia evidence-based In-Home Family Education programs using one of 3 models: Healthy Families America, Maternal Infant Health Outreach Workers (MIHOW), and Parents as Teachers. PiCO provides trainings, public awareness materials, advocacy, and technical assistance stipends to programs.

Thanks to a mini-grant from the WV Oral Health Coalition, PiCO members participated in a training on Oral Health Best Practices.

Trainer Gina Sharps, MPH, RDH, shared information on the importance of good oral health in relation to overall physical, mental, and emotional health throughout the lifespan. 21 participants estimated they could reach over 1,000 families with this information through home visits and group activities.

One of the home visitors said,
*"I really enjoyed the oral health training &
I loved Gina's energy.
Thank you for organizing such
a wonderful meeting."*

445

people trained

26

"The Art of Home
Visiting"
trainings

1018

families to receive
oral health info



119

new families enrolled

3281

home visits



Healthy Families Mountain State™

288

families served

99%

of families enrolled with a pediatrician and completing at least one well baby visit

Healthy Families provides voluntary in-home family education for parents during pregnancy and for up to 5 years to help their children get off to a good start in life. Research has consistently confirmed that providing support services to parents around the time of a baby's birth – and continuing for months or years afterward – significantly contributes to positive, healthy child-rearing practices, thereby reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect.

Caroline, a teenager who had been in foster care and group homes, attended an alternative high school and was able to pass her tests to obtain her GED before she gave birth.

Caroline had been missing a lot of the classes before enrolling in Healthy Families and was encouraged to attend school so that she could have visits with her home visitor. [Identifying information changed to protect confidentiality.]





Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia™

Prevent Child Abuse WV (PCAWV) works to give children good beginnings by strengthening families and communities through innovative strategies in effective programs; public engagement; and sound public policy. PCAWV is a chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, a national leader in building awareness, providing education, and inspiring hope in everyone involved in the effort to keep children free from abuse and neglect.

Partners in Prevention accomplishments:

- 621 parents served at community baby showers.
- 5660 parents served at baby/diaper pantries.
- 215 people enjoyed playdates, family social and support groups.
- 743 individuals served at clothing drives.
- 1732 served at food drives, mobile pantries, meal boxes.
- 725 parents provided with Safe Sleep information with Pack n Plays distributed.

In April, PCAWV launched LEAN on Me WV, built on the understanding that parenting can be hard and imperfect. People want to help, but don't always know how.

We are educating those who work with children and families how to support families through **Listening, Empathy, Affirmation and Non-Judgment (LEAN)** – and to decrease unnecessary, inaccurate reports to the CPS hotline.

Check out leanonmewv.org for more information.



While maintaining a membership of nearly 150 people, the Association works to promote the importance of healthy, nurturing relationships in the beginning years of life. There are three components to the Association's work – promotion and outreach of infant mental health, delivery of professional development opportunities, and facilitation of a national certification.



700

early childhood
professionals trained



46%

increase in the number
of endorsed
professionals

The Association created and shared resources for families and professionals, including two publications responding to new research regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on language development.

Funders

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund
Justice and Community Services
West Virginia Department of
Health and Human Resources
Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation
West Virginia Children's Trust Fund
Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA)
United Way of Central West Virginia
River Valley Child Development Services
West Virginia Perinatal Partnership
Alliance for Early Success
Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation
West Virginia Center of Budget and Policy
Huntington Foundation
Sisters of St. Joseph
Health & Wellness Foundation
David and Laura Merage Foundation
Oral Health Foundation



We thank you for your
continued support of
our programs.



<https://teamwv.org>

PO BOX 1653
Huntington WV 25717
(304) 523-9587