



SPRING HAS ARRIVED!

A NOTE FROM CRAIG GORDON, CEO



Craig, Gordon CEO

Hello friends,

As I write this during the Ides of March, here in New England, this month has come in like a lamb but is certainly going out like a lion. But, no matter where you live, we can celebrate March as National Women's History Month. We can celebrate the women in our lives as well as the many accomplishments women have pioneered in our society and our field. However, there is still much work to do to bring about equity. Change is coming...and we can make our own small footprints toward progress on women's equity, by remembering the women who came before us and supporting the ones who will come after. The strides they've made and those they continue to make deserve recognition. It wasn't

until February 1980 when President Carter put National Women's History month on calendar, so as a nation, we could recognize women's achievements, leadership, love, courage and strength. As a country, we've made some progress over four decades but we have a long road ahead of us to ensure an inclusive environment for women in our society and globally.

At CFP, I am proud to say that women are critical to the success of our organization. Women of all ages and races comprise essential roles on our board of directors, staff, management team, and as foster parents, foster youth, vendors and donors. We are steadfast in continuing to increase JEDI awareness (Justice, Equity Diversity and Inclusion) and put goals into action so that women and "all of our team members feel valued, included, and empowered to fully participate, bring their full selves to their work, and confidently bring great ideas to the table in service of our mission." (JEDI mission statement). Thank you, too, for your ongoing support of CFP and the valuable efforts of our staff who each day support some of the most vulnerable youth and families in our state.

-Craig

CHECK OUT OUR NEW FOSTER PARENT RECRUITMENT VIDEO SERIES



Click the video link to see the full interview with Michelle Garvey, CFP Foster Parent

DO YOU WONDER WHAT IT'S REALLY LIKE TO BE A FOSTER PARENT?

To increase awareness about the great need for foster parents, we thought, 'Wouldn't it be great to hear it straight from one of CFP's beloved foster parents?' Enter Michelle Garvey. Michelle and her husband have fostered about 6 foster children over a period of 17 years. She recently sat down for a Zoom interview with CFP board member and marketing consultant, Kelly Hynes McDermott, to fill us in on the challenges, joys, and unexpected surprises (in a good way!) that come with being a foster parent. (Hint: How Michelle's biological children have been impacted).

Michelle's honest account of being a foster parent is both as informative as it is moving. She is truly one of the unsung heroes among us. As serendipity would have it, Mike Leavey son of CFP's Founder Joe Leavey, is part of a band named "The Splendid Nobodies" and their song "Make A Chain" is our theme song. Our goal is to create a library of videos with compelling stories like Michelle's to help promote awareness around foster care and inspire more foster parents on our website and social media channels. We thank Michelle for her time, compassion and dedication in giving kids a chance in the world.

INTRODUCING 2 NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are thrilled to add two outstanding women to the CFP Board of Directors during National Women's History Month:



Susan Fink

Susan Fink is a lawyer who has practiced child welfare law in Rhode Island since 1989. Following a brief corporate stint, Susan joined the RI Court Appointed Special Advocate's office e serving as guardian ad litem for children in the care of the Department of Children, Youth and a families. She later served as Senior Legal Counsel for DCYF, and, as a hearing officer for the same agency. In 2001 Susan started her private practice representing juveniles, parents and foster parents in connection with their DCYF cases, as well as several adoption agencies. Having recently retired, Susan enjoys spending her time gardening, traveling, and walking her two golden retrievers.



Deanna Morales

Deanna Morales was born and raised in Providence, RI, and is 1 of 8 siblings. She lost her Mom to lung cancer at 10 years old, After living with her father for a year, he became addicted to narcotics then began selling drugs to support his kids as well as his habit. Their house was raided by the Providence Police Dept and the family was forever changed. They were taken from her Dad as he went to prison, then they entered DCYF care and the 5 younger siblings were split up between different aunts. Deanna eventually was placed in different group homes from the ages 14-17 due to issues she was having with her aunt. Once she turned 18, she went back to work for St. Mary's Home for Children in their Independent Living Program which was transformational. It was Deanna's way to give back to other kids in her same position.

Fast forward to her career at CFP, Deanna was able to start as a per diem Direct Care Staff while she finished the master's program at Johnson and Wales. Upon graduation, Deanna held several leadership positions at various programs at CFP in Rhode Island. Her favorite years of her foster residential career was the time she spent as Program Director because she felt that she was able to tailor the program from the eyes of a previous client.

Deanna holds a bachelor's and master's degree in criminal justice from Johnson and Wales University. She has two teen daughters, (Aaliyah and Laila), a 15-year-old dog (Blanco) whom she adores and recently married her husband Jose. She is a 6-year veteran with the Providence Police Department, and is currently serving in the Training Academy as an Instructor with her second class of recruits.

PATRIOTS' TIGHT END HUNTER HENRY CONTINUES HIS PARTNERSHIP WITH CFP

Hunter Henry will not only be returning as a Tight End for the N.E. Patriots but he will also continue to be a star player for CFP! Because Hunter believes that every child needs a healthy, good start in life, he has joined forces with CFP to hand out over 75 pair of sneakers, carve dozens of pumpkins, and give out about 80 holiday gifts to CFP youth and families over the past year. We could not be more grateful for Hunter's commitment and compassion.

We're in the midst of planning a kick off to summer with a foster family-friendly Field Day in late spring complete with outdoor games, special prizes, and a BBQ with Hunter as our appointed Ambassador. We'll announce the details soon!



Hunter Henry, New England Patriots Tight End

A YOUTH FROM CFP'S INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM SHARES HER STORY



Iiyland Ray is a youth in our Independent Living Program who has reached many important milestones in the short time she has been in our care. Iiyland demonstrates a high level of motivation to succeed and a strong degree of personal responsibility. She has successfully met all goals necessary to obtain her own apartment. Possessing a strong drive to work on improving services both for herself and her peers involved with DCYF,

She also joined the SPEAK youth advisory board through our Youth Development Services (YDS) program in Oct 2022. Since then, she has been one of the most engaging members of the group. Additionally,

Iiyland has also achieved the following in the last 6 months: assisted in the production of a fashion show, participated in DCYF training for new Social workers, and competed and won a cake decorating contest. In the spring, Iiyland will continue to add the following to her list of achievements including completing her GED and participating in a Beauty pageant.

CFP'S JEDI COUNCIL'S INAUGURAL MEETING IN MARCH



March is National Women's History Month. It is a great time to remember all the achievements of so many great women from the past and how we can all help and work to change the future for Women everywhere. Please consider how you can thank a woman who's been instrumental in your life, but also how you can support her and all the women in your life.

CFP's newly formed JEDI Council formally launched on March 27th with its inaugural meeting. The council has been growing as we have been hosting our staff trainings and we now have a council made up of 15 members from both RI and MA and from all levels of our organization. We look forward to keep the momentum going as we empower our JEDI council to take on all organizational matters related justice, diversity, equity, equality and inclusion.

YOU COULD BE THE NEXT MEMBER OF OUR TEAM...



If you are interested in making an impact in the communities of MA and RI at an executive level, and you have experience working in the child welfare nonprofit sector, you may be the right candidate for our Chief Operating Officer or Development Director position. To learn more about the qualifications for these positions and how to apply [click here](#).

Other available positions include: Clinical /Clinician positions, Direct Care Counselor, Case Managers, Outreach Workers and Treatment and Service Coordinators. All NEW FULL TIME direct care hires are eligible for a sign-on bonus.

YOU CAN FIND OUR MOST RECENT ANNUAL REPORT [HERE](#).

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