

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST, INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS WITH
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Years Ended December 31, 2020 and 2019

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Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Directors of
Florida's Children First, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Florida's Children First, Inc. (Organization), (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Florida's Children First, Inc. as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Sullivan & Fengler

Sullivan & Fengler
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
July 26, 2021

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST, INC.
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31,

ASSETS

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Cash and cash equivalents (Note B)	\$134,040	\$ 34,469
Investments (Note B,H)	271,498	155,597
Accounts receivable (Note B)	1,000	-
Promise to give, less than one year (Note B)	5,000	9,146
Prepaid insurance	2,949	2,932
Security deposits	1,821	1,821
Property and equipment (less accumulated depreciation of \$13,644 and \$11,569 in 2020 and 2019 respectively)(Note G)	<u>699</u>	<u>2,774</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$417,007</u>	<u>\$206,739</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 16,054	\$ 35,812
Deferred revenue	-	10,800
Loan payable PPP (Note K)	655	-
Capital lease payable	-	2,952
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>16,709</u>	<u>49,564</u>
Net Assets		
Without donor restriction	<u>232,798</u>	<u>23,742</u>
With donor restriction (Note F)		
Purpose restrictions	105,000	105,000
Time restricted for future periods	<u>62,500</u>	<u>28,433</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>400,298</u>	<u>157,175</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$417,007</u>	<u>\$206,739</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST, INC.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31, 2020

	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>Total</u>
REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT			
Grants and awards	\$ 105,528	\$250,000	\$ 355,528
Contributions/events	495,286	-	495,286
Contributions in-kind (Note E)	477,615	-	477,615
COVID PPP (Note K)	73,145	-	73,145
Net assets released from restrictions satisfaction of restriction	<u>215,933</u>	<u><215,933></u>	<u>-</u>
Total revenues and support	<u>1,367,507</u>	<u>34,067</u>	<u>1,401,574</u>
EXPENSES			
Program expenses:			
Improving child welfare	541,592	-	541,592
Improving services/outcomes older youths	<u>471,735</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>471,735</u>
Total program expense	<u>1,013,327</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,013,327</u>
Supporting expenses:			
Management and general	86,078	-	86,078
Fund raising and development	<u>74,949</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,949</u>
Total supporting services	<u>161,027</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>161,027</u>
Total expenses	<u>1,174,354</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,174,354</u>
Change in net assets from operations	193,153	34,067	227,220
Investment return, net	<u>15,903</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,903</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	209,056	34,067	243,123
Net assets, beginning of the year	<u>23,742</u>	<u>133,433</u>	<u>157,175</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 232,798</u>	<u>\$167,500</u>	<u>\$ 400,298</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST, INC.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31, 2019

	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>Total</u>
REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT			
Grants and awards	\$ 83,100	\$113,750	\$ 196,850
Contributions/events	336,420	-	336,420
Contributions in-kind (Note E)	362,256	-	362,256
Net assets released from restrictions satisfaction of restriction	<u>171,545</u>	<u><171,545></u>	<u>-</u>
Total revenues and support	<u>953,321</u>	<u><57,795></u>	<u>895,526</u>
EXPENSES			
Program expenses:			
Improving child welfare	507,413	-	507,413
Improving services/outcomes older youths	<u>391,071</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>391,071</u>
Total program expense	<u>898,484</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>898,484</u>
Supporting expenses:			
Management and general	86,154	-	86,154
Fund raising and development	<u>64,911</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>64,911</u>
Total supporting services	<u>151,065</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151,065</u>
Total expenses	<u>1,049,549</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,049,549</u>
Change in net assets from operations	<u><96,228></u>	<u><57,795></u>	<u><154,023></u>
Investment return, net	<u>24,051</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,051</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	<u><72,177></u>	<u><57,795></u>	<u><129,972></u>
Net assets, beginning of the year	<u>95,919</u>	<u>191,228</u>	<u>287,147</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 23,742</u>	<u>\$133,433</u>	<u>\$ 157,175</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Florida's Children First, Inc.
Statement of Functional Expenses
Year Ended December 31, 2020

	PROGRAM SERVICES			SUPPORTING SERVICES			
	Improving Child Welfare	Improving Services/ Outcomes Older Youth	Total	Management & General	Fund Raising Development	Total	Total
Payroll and related expenses	\$ 168,483	\$ 210,160	\$ 378,643	\$ 59,758	\$ 65,379	\$ 125,137	\$ 503,780
Professional fees/legal	230,050	203,816	433,866	-	-	-	433,866
Professional fees/accounting	1,925	1,925	3,850	14,400	1,000	15,400	19,250
Professional fees/other	17,500	17,500	35,000	-	-	-	35,000
Supplies/miscellaneous	6,910	1,566	8,476	6,755	1,440	8,195	16,671
Telephone	5,427	1,551	6,978	388	387	775	7,753
Website/comm/software/tech	5,502	1,573	7,075	392	392	784	7,859
Postage/delivery	1,252	358	1,610	90	90	180	1,790
Occupancy	16,477	4,709	21,186	1,176	1,176	2,352	23,538
Printing/publications	1,176	-	1,176	-	-	-	1,176
Training/education	57,060	-	57,060	-	-	-	57,060
Travel/meetings/events	216	-	216	235	-	235	451
Public awareness/education	28,162	28,162	56,324	990	4,981	5,971	62,295
Dues/fees/license	-	-	-	1,790	-	1,790	1,790
Total Expense Before Depreciation	540,140	471,320	1,011,460	85,974	74,845	160,819	1,172,279
Depreciation	1,452	415	1,867	104	104	208	2,075
Total Expenses	\$ 541,592	\$ 471,735	\$ 1,013,327	\$ 86,078	\$ 74,949	\$ 161,027	\$ 1,174,354
The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.							
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Florida's Children First
Statement of Functional Expenses
Year Ended December 31, 2019

	PROGRAM SERVICES			SUPPORTING SERVICES			
	Improving Child Welfare	Improving Services/ Outcomes Older Youth	Total	Management & General	Fund Raising Development	Total	Total
Payroll and related expenses	\$ 159,879	\$ 197,513	\$ 357,392	\$ 54,447	\$ 56,109	\$ 110,556	\$ 467,948
Professional fees/legal	168,382	128,804	297,186	-	-	-	297,186
Professional fees/accounting	1,925	1,925	3,850	14,400	1,000	15,400	19,250
Professional fees/other	30,251	30,252	60,503	-	-	-	60,503
Supplies/miscellaneous	8,484	1,923	10,407	8,294	1,768	10,062	20,469
Telephone	5,534	1,581	7,115	395	395	790	7,905
Website/comm/software/tech	3,124	893	4,017	223	223	446	4,463
Postage/delivery	1,827	521	2,348	131	131	262	2,610
Occupancy	17,239	4,926	22,165	1,231	1,231	2,462	24,627
Printing/publications	810	-	810	-	-	-	810
Training/education	84,366	-	84,366	-	-	-	84,366
Interest expense	-	-	-	617	-	617	617
Travel/meetings/events	1,762	-	1,762	1,869	-	1,869	3,631
Public awareness/education	22,294	22,294	44,588	784	3,944	4,728	49,316
Dues/fees/license	-	-	-	3,654	-	3,654	3,654
Total Expense Before Depreciation	505,877	390,632	896,509	86,045	64,801	150,846	1,047,355
Depreciation	1,536	439	1,975	109	110	219	2,194
Total Expenses	\$ 507,413	\$ 391,071	\$ 898,484	\$ 86,154	\$ 64,911	\$ 151,065	\$ 1,049,549
The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.							
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FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST, INC.

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

Years Ended December 31,

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Change in net assets	\$ 243,123	\$ <129,972>
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	2,075	2,194
Unrealized <gain> loss investments	<9,885>	<15,530>
<Increase> decrease in operating assets:		
Accounts receivable	<1,000>	8,853
Promise to give	4,146	<8,746>
Prepaid insurance	<17>	199
Prepaid expenses	-	3,428
Increase <decrease> in operating liabilities:		
Deferred revenue	<10,800>	<2,686>
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	<19,758>	<u>3,454</u>
 Net Assets <Used> Provided by Operating Activities	 <u>207,884</u>	 <u><138,806></u>
 Cash flows from <to> financing transactions:		
Proceeds PPP loan	73,800	-
Forgiveness PPP loan	<73,145>	-
Payments on lease	<2,952>	<u><1,624></u>
 Net Cash Provided to Financing Activities	 <u><2,297></u>	 <u><1,624></u>
 Cash flows from <to> investing activities		
Sale of investments	1,680	104,091
Investments purchased	<107,696>	<10,651>
Purchase of furniture and equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 Net Asset Provided by Investing Activities	 <u><106,016></u>	 <u>93,440</u>
 NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	 99,571	 <46,990>
 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	 <u>34,469</u>	 <u>81,459</u>
 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	 <u>\$134,040</u>	 <u>\$ 34,469</u>
 SUPPLEMENTAL DATA		
Interest/taxes paid	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>617</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2020 and 2019

NOTE A – NATURE OF ACTIVITIES

Florida's Children First, Inc. is a non-profit corporation established to represent and protect the legal rights of Florida's abused and neglected children, especially those in foster care, and to advance children's legal rights consistent with their medical, social, and educational needs, through awareness and advocacy projects. The corporation began operations in 2002. Florida's Children First, Inc.'s primary support comes from grants, fundraising, and contributions.

Organization's Mission

We are change-agents. We are Florida's child-caring systems' watchdogs. And we fill a critical needs-gap in the statewide child serving system.

Florida's Children First, Inc. (FCF) is the only organization in Florida that works to give the most vulnerable children a voice and a presence in determining their destiny, as well as to insure that each child in Florida's systems of care have adequate representation to make their lives enriched and full, like any other child. These vulnerable children are those who have been abused or neglected, have mental health problems, are disabled, or have a troubled life and problems with the law.

FCF is Florida's premiere, statewide child advocacy organization that makes substantial improvements in the lives of these children by using many means to change the systems of care. FCF also empowers individual children and youth to learn leadership, advocacy and life skills and to become the voice for all children in care through Florida Youth SHINE, its youth advocacy organization. Now 14 statewide Chapters strong, Florida Youth SHINE is comprised of approximately 350 current and former foster youth ages 13-24 who share their lived-experiences and use their platform to help improve the child welfare for hundreds of youth today, and thousands in the future

Most Significant Activities

There is no single, correct way, to change the system. Sometimes, all it takes is to sit at the table with the heads of the state agencies who deal in children's issues to share concerns and offer viable solutions. Or it can mean to work with agencies when they write their policies, procedures, or rules. Known for our expertise, Florida's Children's First plays an active role in this arena.

Changing the system of care for Florida's children also requires that we educate a variety of stakeholders. We make the general public aware of a problem concerning children, in order to mobilize their help and support in making improvements. Often, we achieve change by training professionals across the state on new procedures or law – or educating them on critical issues so they are aware of the need for change. Over the years we have provided more than 75,000 hours of free training to keep industry professionals informed on issues, rule changes and new best practices that impact vulnerable youth. Success in securing major systemic changes is further achieved by educating the state legislature on the challenges these children face on a daily basis, helping them understand the systems of care and the difficulties maneuvering through those systems – especially for children. We also educate by writing materials, brochures, and pamphlets that provide information on various topics in child welfare, delinquency, and disabilities, with more than 2 dozen publications to our credit. FCF also takes on the equally important role of educating children and youth about their rights, the processes that they are facing, and their supports. We work hard to help them understand the impact they can have over their own destiny when they learn to effectively advocate on behalf of themselves. Likewise, we empower them to use their voice and their lived experience to advocate for the needs of all other children in care, thereby changing the care trajectory and long-term outcomes for thousands of youth who will enter the system in the future.

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2020 and 2019

NOTE A – NATURE OF ACTIVITIES – continued

Most Significant Activities-continued

Paramount to all our efforts is diversity and inclusivity. Youth in care come from all backgrounds. They represent a range of ethnicity, cultural heritage, customs, and lifestyles. We work hard to ensure that all people and parts of the system of care that interact with these youth in some way are sensitive, supportive, respectful, and aware of these differences and disparities. Further, we take steps to monitor and highlight inequities in the system that adversely impact youth in care which must be addressed.

We engage in public education via media advocacy, when necessary. We give interviews on TV, Radio, Newspapers, live presentations in other forums – all effective tools when used in the right way to effectively get the message out quickly and to the largest audience.

Sometimes making the system better for our children requires us to argue in the appellate courts in “Amicus Briefs.” Designed to support or oppose a position taken in a case that affects the lives of children in care, we have filed three dozen amicus briefs through the years. Or, when all else fails, sometimes the only way to try to change the system means filing a lawsuit. Thankfully, Florida’s Children First has never had to resort to filing a suit, although it does have sufficient ability to do so if the need arose.

Florida’s Children First does all of these things and much more, to make major changes in the system to help our children have better long-term outcomes. FCF is operated, amazingly, by a small but mighty staff of 5, who, with the help of hundreds of volunteer attorneys and other professionals across the state, work tirelessly to make substantial, positive changes to better the lives of children.

FCF Impacts and Achievements

FCF’s accomplishments include working with volunteer professionals who help in a variety of ways and whose hard work has equaled more than \$7,400,000 in professional services. FCF has trained over 23,000 people across Florida on important issues concerning our children. Florida’s Children First has received over 14,000 hours of pro bono (free) hours from lawyers across the state dedicated to improving the lives of children and families. We have also provided over 75,000 hours of youth advocacy and training, created and distributed 24 educational publications on children’s rights statewide, and filed 36 amicus briefs. But the most successful and impactful work done by FCF is in its ability to educate the legislature as well as to empower the youth, by presenting children and youth to speak with legislators and share their stories to give a voice and put a face on the issues, resulting in the ability to help get 32 bills drafted, supported, or passed.

Even during the heart of the Covid-19 pandemic, we made a notable impact in the child-caring system. We created a series of Tip Sheets with vital Covid-related information that were distributed to thousands statewide and around the nation. We have done outreach to ensure youth who qualify for new federal COVID Relief funding receive the information. We engaged youth in over 3,618 hours of youth advocacy, leadership programs, empowerment training and peer connection events.

Perhaps the best benchmark for the impact we make is in the respect and admiration our Florida Youth SHINE members garner. This year FYS youth were invited to meet with Senate leadership to discuss topics for the new Child Welfare legislation. They also worked with leadership in the House, and served on a panel before the Children, Families, and Seniors subcommittee, where their input concerning siblings in care, transitions from placements and transitions between schools was included in various bills. And, FYS was one of only two groups of youth invited to meet with leaders of the Biden administration on issues of concern to youth in care on a national level.

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2020 and 2019

NOTE A – NATURE OF ACTIVITIES - continued

FCF Impacts and Achievements-continued

All of this has made positive changes in the lives of thousands of children in Florida. More importantly, these changes continue to have a ripple effect that impacts more and more youth each year and educates thousands of additional professionals and countless citizens about issues and solutions for children in care.

Examples of our most recent accomplishments include:

- **FCF engaged in multi-year advocacy to establish a statutory right to counsel for children in dependency proceedings.** In 2013 we were able to get a legislative appropriation and proviso language providing for counsel for dependent children in or facing placement in nursing homes. In 2014 we secured passage of HB 561, Counsel for Dependent Children with Special Needs which provides the right to appointment of counsel for dependent children in 5 categories. In 2016 we secured continued legislative funding. We continue our work on implementation of the law.

FCF created the Florida Dependency Law Center (www.FloridaDependencyLaw.org) and Children's Registry. This website is a one-stop resource for all attorneys and judges in the dependency system that provides a private communications tool, access to applicable case law, resources and much more. All lawyers who do high quality work need up-to-date access to information, resources, and the advice of colleagues. Only a small percent of the lawyers who currently represent children in Florida do that work full time in organizations that can provide them ongoing support. Most of the children's lawyers in Florida are solo practitioners, or pro bono lawyers whose primary practice is not children's law. We provide them the resources and support they need through our online center (www.F4CF.org). FCF invites all statewide legal professionals to join this resource, which also serves as a directory of pro bono legal services in the child welfare arena, and helps us match up pro bono counsel with children or families who need counsel

- **Medicaid to Age 26 for Former Foster Youth:** Florida's Children First partnered with another organization to advocate to the relevant state agencies to ensure that all young adults who became automatically eligible for Medicaid under the former foster youth provision of the Affordable Care Act were provided access to Medicaid. We worked to make sure the state would take the broadest possible view of eligibility, worked to ensure that the eligible population and the entities that serve them were aware of the new law, and prompted the state to undertake significant measures to enroll eligible young adults. Based on our efforts, Florida leads the nation in the number of former foster youth who have applied for Medicaid. We continue to monitor enrollment and outreach and report data back to agencies and decision makers to ensure an increasing number of young people receive this coverage, much as youth outside the system enjoy coverage through age 26 under their parent's health plans.
- **Statewide Council on Human Trafficking:** In 2019 Florida ranked third in U.S. human trafficking cases reported by states, behind only California and Texas. A large percentage of victims of sex and human trafficking are youth in the welfare system. Traffickers have a known pattern of preying on foster care group homes, where they know the youth are vulnerable and impressionable. In 2019 FCF sponsored HB 851. Upon its passage, this legislation created direct support for the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking. Council funding will support many preliminary steps in helping to abate this growing problem including development of a training program to detect human trafficking; requiring training to detect trafficking for specific license holders; and mandating that certain establishments post trafficking awareness notices.

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2020 and 2019

NOTE A – NATURE OF ACTIVITIES - continued

Examples of our most recent accomplishments include-continued:

- **Keys to Independence (SB 60)** FCF supported passage of this bill, which became law in 2017, which helps youth in state care get their driver's license and insurance, something that other children typically take for granted and which affords them the ease and reliability of travelling to and from work, school, childcare, shopping, and other essential activities. We supported the legislation making the pilot permanent and expanding coverage to all children in out-of-home care, not just those in licensed foster care.
- **Tuition and Fee Exemption** FCF fought and supported legislation, now passed, to provide youth from foster care to receive tuition exemption allowing them to attend any in-state college or university at no cost through age 28. FCF also worked to expand the scope of the exemption to permit students to apply it for graduate and professional degrees and remove other limitations on use of the exemption. Though less than 5% of all adults from care nationally earn a college diploma, this legislation has allowed many more youth from care in Florida to obtain a higher education, with many pursuing graduate level degrees.
- **Keeping Siblings Together** Key Language Incorporated into Law (SB 1666,2014). We helped secure language to improve the likelihood of siblings remaining together and improving communication if they are separated. The law also states a preference to place sibling groups in family homes rather than group care facilities. Florida Youth SHINE testified and advocated repeatedly before and during the Session on this topic.

Improving Outcomes for Older Youth by Empowering Youth

FCF is educated, informed, and inspired by the voice of the youth we serve. Youth, who are directly impacted by the child welfare system, teach us the way to make the system better. Through their input and lived experiences, we learn where the system failures are and develop ways to correct those breaches. Including the voice of the youth in that process is critical to successfully improving the system. In fact, teaching children in state care, or who have left care, to become the face for addressing many issues has become the most effective tool in improving outcomes for older youth. As such, FCF created the youth advocacy and mentorship organization Florida Youth Shine (FYS) to provide support, structure, guidance, and education that empowers children to become effective advocates by letting their voice be heard. Florida Youth SHINE (FYS), with 14 Chapters across the state, has become a strong, credible, and effective voice to represent the difficulties facing the older youth in the foster care system. As the youth work together with professional mentors and kids from around the state, they also gain invaluable life skills such as teamwork, discipline, self-confidence, patience, and public speaking.

FYS also provides a safe and nurturing space for emotional healing and utilizes a groundbreaking peer-to-peer model. After enduring severe trauma, youth from care are more trusting and receptive of fellow foster youth. Therefore, FYS mentors, educates, and enables youth to lead their peers and together, **they share their experiences with others to heal themselves and others. Using the voice of FYS youth to educate adults on life in care, major reforms HAVE been secured, leading to better outcomes for all foster kids.**

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2020 and 2019

NOTE A – NATURE OF ACTIVITIES - continued

Improving Outcomes for Older Youth by Empowering Youth- continued

- Florida Youth SHINE has succeeded in influencing positive change on a number of issues through its existence; including bills that require all children leaving care to obtain their own, personal records, and in improving educational stability.
- Landmark legislation was enacted in Florida that immediately became the basis for new national legislation to help children live more normal lives. Under the traditional system of foster care, children in care are very restricted in participating in normal childhood activities. Caregivers were concerned that a child might get injured, or administrators of state agencies were concerned about liability issues. These reactions caused many unfair procedures requiring foster parents to obtain court orders to allow the child to travel with the family on vacation, or to attend a school event in another county, or to travel with a church group to a sleep-away camp. Fingerprinting and background screening was required whenever a child wanted to sleep over at a class-mate's home, or a foster parent wanted to have their relative watch the children so the foster parent could go grocery shopping.

Florida Youth SHINE put a face on this issue as they spoke with the majority of Florida's legislators, and testified extensively at legislative committee meetings, to help lawmakers understand the need for our children to have normal childhood related activities. This caused a law change that allowed caregivers to make decisions like any reasonable and prudent parent, without state interference or approval. No longer do caregivers have to ask a judge to allow the child to attend band practice, a church outing or sporting event, or get neighbors fingerprinted and law enforcement background screenings to allow their children to have sleep-overs. Caregivers, like parents, can now decide what is in the best interests of the children in their care.

Some of our other amazing recent accomplishments in the area of improving outcomes for older children has been FCF and FYS's several years of work in educating the public and the legislature to finally extend foster care from age 18 to age 21. Florida Youth SHINE was the driving force behind this landmark policy change. And the public and the legislature listened. The law was passed, effective January 2014, that allows children to choose to remain in foster care until they are ready to be on their own. Getting these major changes does not end our work. In fact, the real work is about to begin. FCF and FYS must be involved in the rulemaking process, continue to carefully scrutinize the system to see that the law is properly implemented, train professionals across the state on the new law and policies and procedures, draft publications, make appearances, be the watchdog and drive the system to continue to do better for our children.

Improving General Child Welfare

Florida's Children First has become a national go-to organization when seeking solutions to problems in child welfare. FCF is actively involved in helping professionals across Florida to join together to review proposed agency rules and to draft comments and suggestions, with the ability to appeal if the rule doesn't comport with the law. FCF takes the lead in presenting training materials during each step of the process of change, making sure that the children and youth, public and professionals are aware of the issues and progress. This results in a wealth of published materials, most of which can be easily and freely accessed on our website for use by all.

Florida's Children First also makes the legal representation of children a top priority. Sadly, Florida is one of only 10 states that do not provide for paid counsel for children whose lives are being disrupted and decided in a court of law. To help rectify this problem, FCF works diligently to recruit and train lawyers across the state to provide free legal services for our children. FCF has provided live and videotaped training and training materials on the various aspects of dependency proceedings in Florida, mentors attorneys who handle individual cases and link lawyers together who have a common issue.

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2020 and 2019

NOTE A – NATURE OF ACTIVITIES – continued

Improving General Child Welfare-continued

FCF has helped train hundreds of lawyers who volunteer their time. We developed outstanding training videos and materials, with continuing legal credit given to the participant lawyers from the Florida Bar. The topics include, but are not limited to disability rights, the overuse of psychotropic medication on topics.

Most important is the ability of FCF to be extremely flexible – ready and able to tackle an immediate problem or issue by access to its hundreds of resources of people and materials. When the lives of children are at stake, a quick response and immediate action are necessary. Florida's Children First is the one and only organization in Florida that can motivate and mobilize many youth as well as knowledgeable professionals at a moment's notice, and has the ability to work within and outside the system to get the desired results, often in a very quick time with extensive, positive outcomes.

This work continues daily and the good results that help children continue to be achieved.

Examples of the training opportunities/presentations by Florida's Children First include:

- Dependency Training for Children's Attorneys
- How to be an Effective Advocate
- Arrest and Conviction of Dependent Youth
- Child on Child Sexual Abuse
- Human Trafficking and Children in Care
- Medical and Educational Rights of Foster Youth
- Making the Most out of Medicaid, Mid-Decade

Examples of training opportunities/presentations by Florida Youth SHINE:

- We Are Family - Even If I don't Have All My Brothers & Sisters with Me! (Sibling Separation)
- The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly - How Group Home Living Impacts Child Safety, Well-Being, and Normalcy.
- We Can Talk, But Will You Listen? How Youth Can Be Empowered to Advocate for Themselves and Others in Care.
- So, You Came to Take Us Away: Now What? Trauma of Removal from Family, Friends, School
- From Babysitting to Parenting: How to Recruit and Train the Next Generation of Foster Parents.
- We have the Right to NOT Remain Silent! Knowing our Rights is Important – You can Help.
- Whamm, Boom, Kapow! Florida Youth SHINE Shares How You Can Bring out the Superpower in Every Kid
- Nurturing Natural Relationships: Youth Share How You Can Help Them with Lifetime Relationships

NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2020 and 2019

NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – continued

Investments

Investment purchases are recorded at cost, or if donated, at fair value on the date of donation. Thereafter, investments are reported at fair values in the statement of financial position. Net investment return/loss is reported in the statements of activities and consists of interest and dividend income, realized and unrealized capital gains and losses, less external and direct internal investment expenses.

Accounts Receivable and Promises to Give

Accounts receivable are carried at face amounts less an allowance for doubtful accounts. On a periodic basis, they are evaluated and an allowance for doubtful accounts is established based on a combination of specific circumstances, credit conditions and our history of write-offs and collections. No allowance for the accounts receivable was deemed necessary.

Donated Services

Donated services (in-kind donations) are recognized as contributions if the services create or enhance non-financial assets, or require specialized skills, are performed by people with those skills, and would otherwise be purchased by the Organization.

Revenue and Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognized when earned. Payments under cost-reimbursable contracts received in advance are deferred to the applicable period in which the related services are performed or expenditures incurred, respectively. Contributions including unconditional promises to give, are recognized as revenues in the period when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met. Conditional promises to give are not recognized until they become unconditional; that is, when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met. Unconditional promises to give were all payable in less than one year. Based on history and managements analysis no allowance was deemed necessary.

Net Assets

Net assets, revenues, gains and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor or grantor imposed restrictions. Accordingly, net assets and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions

Net assets without donor restrictions are available for use in general operating operations and are not subject to donor or grantor restrictions. There were no designations, by the board or management, of net assets without donor restrictions for December 31, 2020 or 2019.

Net Assets With Donor Restrictions

Net assets with donor restrictions consist of assets whose use is limited by donor/grantor imposed, time and/or purpose restrictions.

The Organization reports gifts of cash, grants, and other assets as revenue with donor restrictions if they are received with stipulations that limit the use of the donated asset. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, the net assets are reclassified as net asset without donor restriction and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2020 and 2019

NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – continued

Functional Allocation of Expenses

The costs of providing the various programs and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited. Expenses that are allocated include occupancy, depreciation, allocated on square footage of use, payroll and related expenses, professional, office expenses which are allocated on a basis of estimates of time and effort.

Fixed Assets

Acquisitions of property and equipment or repairs, maintenance, or betterments that materially prolong the useful lives of assets in excess of \$500 are capitalized. Property and equipment are stated at cost. Depreciation is charged to operations over the estimated useful lives of the respective assets using the straight line method. Property and equipment have an estimated useful live from three to seven years.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Although these estimates are based on management's knowledge of current events and actions it may undertake in the future, they may ultimately differ from actual results.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include interest bearing checking, savings, money markets, and certificates of deposit with an original maturity of three months or less.

Income Taxes

The Organization qualified as a tax-exempt organization under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and, therefore has no provision for federal income tax. In addition, the Organization qualifies for the charitable contribution deduction under Section 170(b)(1)(A) and has been classified as an organization that is not a private organization under Section 509(a)(2). Income from certain Organization activities not directly related to its tax-exempt purpose may be subject to income tax. The current and previous three years remain subject to examination by the IRS. There was no unrelated business income or deferred taxes for the year ended December 31, 2020 or 2019.

Evaluation of Subsequent Events

The Organization has evaluated subsequent events through July 26, 2021, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE C – CONTINGENCY

The Organization receives a substantial amount of support through a grant from the Florida Bar Foundation. A significant decrease in this grant, if it were to occur, would have an impact on the programs as they currently exist.

NOTE D – RELATED PARTY

Some of the donated services for program related matters were from Board members. These services were not related to their board member duties.

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2020 and 2019

NOTE E – DONATED SERVICES AND USE OF FACILITIES (IN-KIND DONATIONS)

Florida's Children First, Inc. received \$477,615 and \$362,256 in donated services for program related matters during the year ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 respectively.

This in-kind is recorded in the statement of functional expenses as listed.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Professional fees/legal	\$433,865	\$297,187
Professional fees/accounting	8,750	8,750
Events	-	14,494
Professional fees/other	35,000	35,000
Public awareness/education	-	6,825
	<u>\$477,615</u>	<u>\$362,256</u>

NOTE F – DONOR RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Florida's Children First, Inc. has received contributions restricted in use as follows:

	<u>12/31/2019</u>	<u>Contribution</u>	<u>Released</u>	<u>12/31/2020</u>
Litigation of children's rights	\$105,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$105,000
Florida Bar Foundation: legal assistance children	<u>28,433</u>	<u>250,000</u>	<u>215,933</u>	<u>62,500</u>
	<u>\$133,433</u>	<u>\$250,000</u>	<u>\$215,933</u>	<u>\$167,500</u>

NOTE G – PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment consist of the following at December 31:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Furniture and equipment	\$14,343	\$14,343
Accumulated depreciation	<u><13,644></u>	<u><11,569></u>
	<u>\$ 699</u>	<u>\$ 2,774</u>

The aggregate depreciation charged to operations was \$2,075 and \$2,194 in 2020 and 2019 respectively.

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2020 and 2019

NOTE H – FAIR VALUE MEASURES AND DISCLOSURES - INVESTMENTS

Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is defined as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between participants on the measurement date.

The FASB issued guidance that establishes a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy give the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1 measurement) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3 measurements). The three levels of fair value hierarchy are described as follows:

Level 1: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the plan has the ability to access.

Level 2: Inputs to the valuation methodology include 1) quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets, 2) quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets, 3) inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, and 4) inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

Level 3: Inputs in the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2020 or 2019.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Organization believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other markets, the use of different methodologies to determine fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

Investments in marketable securities with readily determinable fair values and all investments in debt securities are reported at their fair values in the statement of financial position. Unrealized gains and losses are included in the change in net assets. The Organization's assets were short term Level 1 assets as of December 2020 and 2019.

The Organization investments are summarized below:

2020

	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Investment Return net</u>	
Mutual Funds	<u>\$271,598</u>	Interest/dividends	\$ 7,697
		Gains/losses market	9,885
		Fees on investments	<1,679>
			<u>\$ 15,903</u>

2019

	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Investment Return net</u>	
Mutual Funds	<u>\$155,597</u>	Interest/dividends	\$ 10,715
		Gains/losses market	15,530
		Fees on investments	<2,194>
			<u>\$ 24,051</u>

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2020 and 2019

NOTE I – COMMITMENTS

Effective August 1, 2018, Florida's Children First, Inc. entered into a three-year employment contract with the Executive Director. This contract can be terminated prior to expiration with \$25,000 severance pay, except if terminated for cause.

In June 2019, Florida's Children First, Inc. extended its office lease originally enter into November 2015 until November of 2021. Future minimum commitments under this lease for the year ended December 31, 2021 are \$21,120.

NOTE J – LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES

Florida's Children First, Inc. maintains a policy of operating within a prudent range of financial soundness and stability, structuring its financial assets to be available as its general expenditures, liabilities, and other obligations come due and operating within the annual approved budget. The Organization also received significant contributions restricted by donors, and considers contribution restricted for programs which are ongoing, major and central to its annual operations to be available to meet cash needs for general expenditures. The financial assets available within one year of the statement of financial position date for general expenditure are as follows:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$134,040	\$ 34,469
Investments	271,498	155,597
Other receivables/pledges	<u>6,000</u>	<u>9,146</u>
Total financial assets available within one year	411,538	199,212
Less:		
Amount unavailable for general expenditures within one year:		
Restricted by donors with purpose restrictions	<u>167,500</u>	<u>133,433</u>
Total financial assets available to management within one year	<u>\$244,038</u>	<u>\$ 65,779</u>

NOTE K – PAYROLL PROTECTION PROGRAM

Through a local financial institution, the Organization received \$73,800 from the U.S. Small Business Administration ("SBA") as part of the Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP"), which is designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. The Organization has elected to account for the PPP funds in accordance with FASB's ASC 958-605, *Not-for-Profit Entities - Revenue Recognition*. Under this method the PPP funds were recorded as a refundable advance in the statement of financial position when it was received in April 2020. During the fiscal year, the Organization recognized \$73,145 in revenue as the related conditions were deemed substantially met by management.

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2020 and 2019

NOTE L – EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN

The Organization has a matching retirement plan covering all employees meeting age and service requirements. Participants may contribute a percentage of their salary on a pre-tax basis subject to limitations determined by the Internal Revenue Code. The Organization contribution was \$8,732 and \$8,548 for December 31, 2020, and 2019, respectively. Amounts are remitted at the same frequency as payroll is paid.

NOTE M – JOINT COST THAT INCLUDE FUNDRAISING APPEAL

The Organization holds regional events in Florida to promote awareness, education, and a call to action by those in attendance to address the problems faced by these dependent children. Attendance is broad and includes the legal community, children in the system and others. The events call for recruits, training and support of lawyers for dependent children and public education and advocacy. Children and youth share their stories and give a voice and put a face on their issues. For the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 the cost of these events was allocated among the following functional expense categories.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Improving Child welfare	\$ 28,162	\$ 22,294
Improving services outcomes older youth	28,162	22,294
Management and General	990	784
Fundraising	<u>4,981</u>	<u>3,944</u>
	<u>\$ 62,295</u>	<u>\$ 49,316</u>

NOTE N – CONTINGENCY

The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has caused disruption in international and U.S. economies and markets. The coronavirus and fear of further spread has caused quarantines, cancellation of events, and overall reduction in business and economic activity. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the coronavirus outbreak as a pandemic. Management and the Board of Directors continue to evaluate and monitor the potential adverse effect that this event may have on the Organization's financial position, operations and cash flows.