Amara

A Report to Our Community in 2016
Dear Friends,

Thanks to you, 2016 was a year of new beginnings and soft landings for Amara and the children we serve! Your unwavering support and dedication to the most vulnerable children in our community inspires us to think big and to be bold in our efforts to ensure that all children have the love and support of a committed family — as quickly as possible, and for as long as each child needs.

Because of you, children in Pierce County now have a loving place to stay when they first enter foster care. In 2016, we added a second Emergency Sanctuary, this one in Pierce County, to give children entering foster care a “soft landing” by providing them with a temporary home, staffed with trauma-informed professionals focused on them and the upheaval their lives have experienced. Without this facility children can often wait in a social worker’s cubicle or stay overnight in a hotel room with state workers until a longer-term option can be found.

We are proud to work with all families, regardless of marital status, race, gender identity or sexual orientation. In 2016, your support allowed Amara to work with 258 foster families, from a range of diverse backgrounds, to provide the care and support children need until they can be reunited with their family, with relatives, or are adopted.

With your help, we deepened our commitment to adoptees and those who love them, creating our STAR (Strong Tough and Resilient) mentorship program matching older adoptees with those much younger who can benefit from their perspective.

You make a profound impact on the lives of children in crisis and we could not do this work without you. Thank you for walking this path with us on our journey to ensure that every child in our community grows up with a loving, supportive family.

With gratitude,
John Morse, Executive Director
Robin Rothe, Board President

Amara

We work to ensure that every child in foster care has the love and support of a committed family — as quickly as possible, and for as long as each child needs.

Foster & Adopt

We find and provide high-quality training, services, and ongoing support for families on their journey to parent children in foster care. We prepare families for reunification or adoption, to ensure the smoothest transitions possible for children.

Emergency Sanctuary

We offer a safe temporary home for children who have been removed from their families by Child Protective Services or law enforcement.

Post-Adoption

We recognize that adoption is a lifetime commitment and continue to be a resource post-adoption for adoptees and those who love them.
Volunteer Spotlight

Teresa Ciabattari, Professor of Sociology and Chair of Women’s and Gender Studies at Pacific Lutheran University, is one of our dedicated Emergency Sanctuary volunteers who shared her story with the Tacoma Weekly:

“I have been volunteering with Amara Pierce County since they opened in December 2016. When I heard about the new Emergency Sanctuary, I was called to get involved because I believe that we, as a community, have a collective responsibility to care for each other. Bedtime is especially meaningful. This can be a vulnerable time for children, and I focus on being present with them as they wind down from the day and settle into rest. Sometimes the kids are scared. Sometimes they are restless. Sometimes, like many kids, they just want a few more minutes of play before bedtime. I keep them company until they fall asleep. Many of the younger kids won’t remember the people and activities at Amara during their brief stay, but, as a friend put it, they will remember the feeling of being cared for. That feeling of safety and care is something that will stick with them, and I’m glad to be a small part of that.”

Opening New Doors

Amara has been devoted to meeting the needs of our community’s most vulnerable children since our doors opened close to a century ago. We believe in courageous leadership — and that means we must be prepared to take risks, and to be held accountable to the children we serve. We may be headquartered in Seattle, but children entering foster care throughout our region need the same thing, regardless of where they live: safety, stability, and comfort. And we need to be geographically closer to serve the families that will care for these children.

That’s why, in 2014, Amara opened our Pierce County office. We know that there are close to 1,300 children in the foster care system in Pierce County. Too often, children entering foster care in Pierce County wind up being placed temporarily in King County. Our Pierce County Emergency Sanctuary was established in 2016 both to meet a pressing need and to allow children in the South Sound area who have been pulled from their family for their safety to remain as connected and close to their community as possible. We don’t want children to have to leave their community, their school, all that they know during a crisis.
Looking Ahead

A PROMISE TO OUR KIDS: AMARA’S COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN

We have launched a multi-year comprehensive campaign to strengthen our position and to do more — much more — to help our community’s most vulnerable children. We cannot wait. Our children cannot wait. This campaign fuels Amara’s ambition to improve every child’s journey through foster care in Washington state. Our goal is to raise $26.5 million and we should be two-thirds of the way there by the end of 2017. Please contact our Development team to learn how you can help.

PROJECT GRATITUDE

Foster families provide life-changing care for vulnerable kids. Becoming a foster parent is a major commitment of time, responsibility, expense, and care — it is a labor of love. Yet these caregivers usually help children heal and thrive under the radar, with little or no recognition from our greater community. Amara will work to change that both through a new digital platform that will aggregate resources for these families and a communications campaign to engage our community in a different conversation about children in foster care and the families who care for them.
Leadership

AMARA 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Robin Rothe – President, Trustee, Thomas C. Wright Foundation
Leasa Mayer – Past President, President and CEO, CRG Events
Dorothy A. Graham – Secretary, President, The Graham Group Consulting Services
Walter Zabriskie – Treasurer, Partner, NextLevel
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Libuse Binder – Executive Director, Stand for Children Washington
Hillary Carey – Chief Business Officer, Rwanda Girls Initiative
Anne Bryson Doyle, Foster-Adoptive Mother and Mentor
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Nora Duffy – Owner, Optimum Business Consulting
Paul Goebel – Chief Operating Officer, Coordinated Care

Holly Johnson, Community Volunteer
Lori Langston, Community Volunteer
Staci Pendergess, Community Volunteer
Cathy Pew, MD, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, University of Washington
Ginny Trethewey, Community Volunteer
Jamal Whitehead – Attorney, Schroeter Goldmark & Bender

PIERCE COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Dan Absher – Chair, President, Absher Construction
Linda Chen – President, Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital
Frank Cuthbertson, Pierce County Superior Court Judge
Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Executive
Susan Hettinger, Amara Board President Emerita
Michael Mirra – Executive Director, Tacoma Housing Authority
Scott Selden – CEO, Selden’s Home Furnishings
Marilyn Strickland, Mayor of Tacoma

SEATTLE ADVISORY COUNCIL
Alan Frazier – Chair, Chairman and Founder, Frazier Healthcare Partners
Dean Allen – CEO, McKinstry
Joel Benoliel – Retired Senior Vice President, Administration & Chief Legal Officer, Costco Wholesale
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Brad Brown – Retired Senior Vice President of Digital Retail and Customer Support, REI
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Bob Day – MD, Co-Founder, SAMA Foundation
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Robert Moser – President and CEO, Laird Norton Wealth Management
J. Shan Mullin – Partner, Perkins Coie
Deanna Oppenheimer – CEO, CameoWorks
H. Stewart Parker – Principal, Parker BioConsulting
Representative Eric Pettigrew, Washington State House of Representatives
Paul L. Wyckoff, Tech Infrastructure Designer
Amara’s Impact in 2016

44 KIDS were adopted by an Amara family

29 KIDS were reunited with their family of origin

73 KIDS placed with Amara families achieved permanency

192 KIDS found love and support in committed Amara families

73 OF THOSE kids were placed in the same home as their brothers and sisters

236 KIDS received care at Emergency Sanctuaries

143 KIDS entered the Sanctuaries with their siblings

964 BEDTIMES at the Sanctuaries

276 AMARA VOLUNTEERS made a difference in the lives of kids in foster care

Thank you to our generous 2016 event sponsors!

LEADERSHIP
Anchor QEA    CRG Events

BENEFACTOR
Ferguson Construction    Coordinated Care    Nintendo    Perkins Coie    Pacific Medical Centers

COMMUNITY SPONSORS
Cozen O’Connor    Ethan Stowell Restaurants    Heritage Bank    PayNorthwest    Rudd Company, Inc.
Sheraton Seattle    Tutta Bella Neapolitan Pizzeria
2016 Financial Review

**ASSETS**
- Cash and Equivalents: $1,499,546
- Accounts Receivable: $72,936
- Prepaid and other: $2,743,882
- Pledges receivable, long term: $2,259,886
- Fixed Assets: $6,510,115
- **TOTAL ASSETS**: $13,086,365

**LIABILITIES**
- Current Liabilities: $493,112
- Long-term Liabilities: $5,015,250
- **TOTAL LIABILITIES**: $5,508,362

**NET ASSETS**
- Unrestricted: $1,644,635
- Temporarily Restricted: $5,933,368
- **TOTAL NET ASSETS**: $7,578,003

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**: $13,086,365

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**2016 REVENUE**
- Foundations: 72%
- Contributions: 16%
- In-Kind Contributions: 1%
- Program Fees: 3%
- Government Contracts: 8%
- Fundraising: 15%
- Management: 5%
- Programs: 80%
- **TOTAL REVENUE**: $7,592,506

**2016 EXPENSES**
- Programs: 80%
- Management: 5%
- Fundraising: 15%
- **TOTAL EXPENSES**: $3,565,146

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Amara
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