



CHILDREN FIRST ADVOCACY FOUNDATION

“Live. Learn. Do.”

- Mrs. Crystal Jackson, Executive Director

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BIRTH OF A VISION



All of her life, Crystal Jackson has been working with children and families: bringing children of all ages into her home, raising them, mentoring young mothers and being a support to anyone

other Social Service entities to make informed decisions regarding the physical health and nutritional necessities of children.

- Foster and advocate for increased levels of interaction and resource management opportunities for parents and custodial guardians to promote improved quality of life for children.

who needed her. She has been a military spouse, helped launch a family business, and managed her own entrepreneurial endeavors all while raising two daughters. She is a woman with a plan, purpose, and drive.

Then in January 2015, life changed immediately when she and her family welcomed a newborn baby boy into their lives. Thrust into a new, albeit familiar role, Mrs. Jackson’s desire to aid children, through empowering parents, was renewed as she was reminded of the many complexities that individuals raising young children maneuver daily.

So, after taking some time to streamline her vision and assembling her “team”, in October 2016 **Children First Advocacy Foundation** was officially launched. The Foundation’s official mission is to:

- Provide valuable input for the educational success, sustainability and development of children at all school and academic levels by implementing our foundation’s key principles of “Live, Learn and Do.”
- Facilitate workshops, training seminars, and community outreach events to connect parents and custodial guardians with the necessary means for the empowerment and edification of children of all ages.

- Educate and empower parents and custodial guardians with the knowledge and resources available provided by the State of Maryland and



Along with her executive board members, Mrs. Jackson aims to help parents navigate their way through the joys and challenges of

parenthood. In doing so, she hopes to ensure children have access to their basic needs, as well as nurturing family systems.

clothing, sizes newborn to 5T.

CFAF was equally pleased with the toy drive. The goal was to provide Christmas presents for ten families, and with the aid of donors and foundation partners, we were able to successfully meet the goal of providing new toys to those families' children.

The final event of 2016 was our parenting class and Christmas party. This served as an opportunity to have our parents participate in a skill-building training, with childcare provided, and also enjoy holiday festivities. It was at this event that holiday drive clothing and toys were gifted to those participating families. CFAF was also pleased to have partnered with Topolino's Italian Buffet & Cuisine and Olive Garden, who graciously provided lunch for the event.



2016 HOLIDAY DRIVES

Since its official launch in October 2016, **Children First Advocacy Foundation (CFAF)** has been busy. Our case management division took on two clients for 2016. We were pleased to be able to assist one in transitioning into her own residence and maneuvering the Family Court System to facilitate shared custody of her children with their father. CFAF was able to intervene with another client, providing her job skills, clothing and grooming for her interview and with our assistance, she obtained full-time employment. We were also able to provide clothing and diapers to both parents.

For the Thanksgiving holiday, CFAF provided a meal basket to a family of five with all the fixing for a traditional Thanksgiving feast.

During the Christmas holiday, CFAF took on several tasks, to include a children's winter clothing drive, a toy drive, and a parenting class. The clothing drive, which was held two Sundays in December aimed to start a running clothing closet that will be available as needed to at-risk families in Prince George's County and surrounding areas. The drive was deemed a success as we collected several containers of



The topic for our parenting class was "Stress Management for Parents"; a timely topic as parents of young children try to manage the holiday season. A great time was had by all!

WORKING IN 2017

CFAF is very excited about 2017! In February 2017 we moved into our new headquarters at 5410 Indian Head Highway, Suite 213, Oxon Hill, MD 20745. Our new location will serve as the hub for CFAF's outreach and parenting skills courses. This location ensures that families have access to us via public transportation and puts us within reach of persons traveling from Prince George's County, the District of Columbia and Charles County.

In 2017 we are planning three drives to serve our community. Starting in March, we will kick off our Diaper Drive. CFAF will be collecting all size diapers, including open packages, at three locations: Oxon Hill Assembly of Jesus Christ, Waldorf Assembly of Jesus Christ, and CFAF Headquarter. Those interested in donating can contact our office for details.

Then in July we will begin our "Back to School" school supply drive. CFAF will be collecting school supplies throughout the month to fill our bookbags that will be

distributed to local families in August. Our final drive of 2017, will be our second annual Winter Clothing and Toy Drive. CFAF will accept donations of gently used clothing and new toys starting November 1. These items will be gifted to families our 2017 Holiday Party.

CFAF is maintaining our focus on empowering parents with the skills to meet their children's needs. We will be facilitating five parentings classes in 2017. Some of the topics will include Stress Management, Effective Discipline, Nurturing Parenting & Child Development, and Nutrition on a Budget. Classes have been scheduled for March, May, August, October and December. Contact our office for more information or if you are interested in having CFAF facilitate a workshop for your group.

To ensure we reach as many families as possible we will be fundraising in 2017! Be on the look-out for our **Skate Night** event this spring and other fun activities throughout the year.

Children First Advocacy Foundation's executive board and staff are looking forward to doing great things in 2017 and beyond as we aim to serve our community and enhance the lives of children and families. Partner with us as we help change lives and create bright and promising futures.