

Carina Martin CEO & Founder



A LETTER FROM OUR CEO & FOUNDER

There are more than 217,000 children living in poverty in Colorado; in the Denver Metro Area alone (Colorado Kids Count Survey, 2013). One in six children in Colorado received food stamps last year. Students who live in poverty consistently perform at a lower academic level than children from middle and upper class households because of income barriers, such as lack of access to essentials, which children in poverty face. Few of these children ever catch up with their peers, which can lead to disruptive behaviors, such as high dropout rates, poverty and even increased crime--some of the most pressing and costly issues cities face (US Chambers Foundation, 2012). These issues merge with the pressing concern of toxic stress. Harvard University defines toxic stress as the response that a child experiences when faced with strong, frequent, and/or prolonged adversity—such as physical or emotional abuse, chronic neglect, caregiver substance abuse or mental illness, exposure to violence, and/or the accumulated burdens of family economic hardship—without adequate adult support. Often poverty is the catalyst for many of these facets of toxic stress. A Precious Child works to remove these barriers and reduce toxic stress in our clients' lives by providing essentials that lessen economic hardships. A Precious Child continuously grows to meet this need in our communities. Fill A Backpack was created because A Precious Child recognized that as schools were cutting funding, teachers were purchasing expensive school supplies for students out of their personal funds. Moreover, the unmet need for school supplies serves as a barrier preventing children from succeeding academically.

A Precious Child's clients are referred by 261 Agency Partners across the Denver metro area. Examples of these Agency Partners include: Adams Five Star School District, Broomfield Health & Human Services, and Boys & Girls Club. A Precious Child's service delivery model is an example of an integrated service model, where agencies bundle and sequence services rather than burdening their clients with seeking out additional services. Evidence indicates that, over time, clients who receive bundled services are three to four times more likely to achieve a major economic outcome, such as staying employed, earning a vocational certification or associate's degree or buying a car, than clients receiving only one type of service (Jan. 2011, Center for Law and Social Policy). Using an integrated service delivery model allows A Precious Child to ensure it is reaching its intended audience with maximum efficacy while increasing positive outcomes for disadvantaged and displaced children. A Precious Child distributes backpacks to Agency Partners who distribute the backpacks to the children they serve. This model eliminates unnecessary duplicate paperwork, saves time for all parties involved, and ensures that each client is not getting duplicate services, but instead is served efficiently and timely.

A Precious Child's organizational model revolves around its partnerships with our aforementioned Agency Partners, including governmental agencies as well as nonprofit and private sector organizations. Our Advisory Board consists of more than 90 community liaisons, and 14 business professionals are on our Board of Directors. In addition, we receive funding from dozens of Foundations and have strong relationships with more than 100 Corporations, over 500 individuals, and with multiple churches, universities, and organizations. We aim to serve as experts on the issue of child poverty in Colorado and leaders in the efforts to address it. But, we cannot do any of this without you. Thank you for your continued assistance.

Sincerely,

Carina Martin CEO & Founder

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A Precious Child





Mission

A Precious Child, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization devoted to making a positive impact in the lives of disadvantaged and displaced children and families in Colorado by improving their quality of life.

Goals

- o Improve the quality of life for Colorado's most vulnerable children and adults by providing basic essentials.
- o Ensure children thrive academically.
- Place children and their families on the trajectory toward selfsufficiency.

Values

Ethics and Integrity | Honesty and Transparency | Accountability | Collaboration | Compassion | Inclusiveness and Diversity | Excellence and Commitment





Client Highlights

Stories of hope from the families we serve.



Hope For A Single Father

Chantz is a single father of three who loves his children very much, but who struggles to provide them with everything they need. A Precious Child is another opportunity for him to show how much he loves and cares for his children. He has been taking care of his children on his own since his oldest child was one and a half years old and his twins were six months old.

Chantz does his best to provide, care, and love his family. Every day is a challenge for this incredible single dad to fulfill his responsibilities as a father. He wakes up each morning with the pure intent to put his best effort into raising and teaching his kids great values such as to love, respect, and honesty.

Chantz acknowledges that while it is not always easy raising three children on his own, he loves every moment he gets to spend with them. This is one of the reasons why Chantz enjoys A Precious Child. He knows that he can come and receive the items his family needs all in one place. This allows Chantz more time and more opportunities to be a wonderful father to his kids. We have faith that all the sacrifices that this single dad is making for his children will help set them up for success in the future.

Hope In Light Of Illness

Cecilia and her family have been visiting A Precious Child for a couple of years now and their story is not only one of hope, but one that continues to inspire. Cecilia and Carlos do the best they can to help support their 3 children in the face of ever mounting challenges. Cecilia currently supports her family by cleaning houses and babysitting, while her husband, Carlos, works long hours doing hard manual labor in construction. A struggle such as this is common for many families, however, for Cecilia's family there is an additional challenge: health.

Carlos suffers from diabetes and in their last visit to A Precious Child, Cecilia told us that she had been diagnosed with Lupus. For Cecilia every day is a struggle with her new and recurring symptoms, but she still finds the strength to help her family by coming to A Precious Child. Helping families like Cecilia and Carlos's is what A Precious Child is all about. We are proud to have created a place where Cecilia is always able to find the items her family needs. Cecilia says "The A Precious Child staff is very helpful in assisting me every time I visit and I always leave with a heart full of joy and gratitude." The challenges of life that Cecilia and Carlos must overcome every day to support their family requires great commitment and strength of spirit.



Precious Essentials provides clothing and other basic essentials in a dignified manner through its Resource Center to increase self-esteem for impoverished children and their families in Colorado. Precious Essentials served **8,714** individuals with a value of **\$644,836** of essentials in 2014.



Precious Boutiques are satellite resource centers that are located in schools and shelters and dedicated to providing basic essentials for children in need. Precious Boutiques served **1,052** children with a value of **\$33,664** of essentials in 2014.



Basics 4 Babies provides direct aid to mothers and families who might otherwise ration or go without basic necessities for their babies. Basics 4 Babies served over **1,357** individuals with a value of over **\$108,720** of essentials in 2014.



Precious Gift provides gifts to children who otherwise would not receive any during monumental times in their life such as birthdays and the holiday seasons. Precious Gift served **6,783** children with a value of **\$339,150** of gifts in 2014.







giveSPORTS provides new and gently-used sports equipment as well as participation fee scholarships so all children have the opportunity to participate in sports. The giveSPORTS Program served **3,815** children with a value of **\$197,450** in 2014.



Truancy Intervention provides incentive awards to students who have improved attendance in school as an early intervention initiative, to combat truancy. Truancy Intervention served **201** children with a value of **\$3,015** in courts across the Denver Metro Area in 2014.



The Learning Center ensures that every child who comes to the Resource Center is provided with a safe space that encourages STEM-based learning and compliments their academic studies. The Learning Center served **829** children in 2014.



Fill A Backpack provides backpacks filled with age-appropriate school supplies to maximize academic potential for disadvantaged and displaced children. Fill A Backpack served **7,585** children with a value of **\$379,250** of back to school essentials in 2014.



Corporate Support

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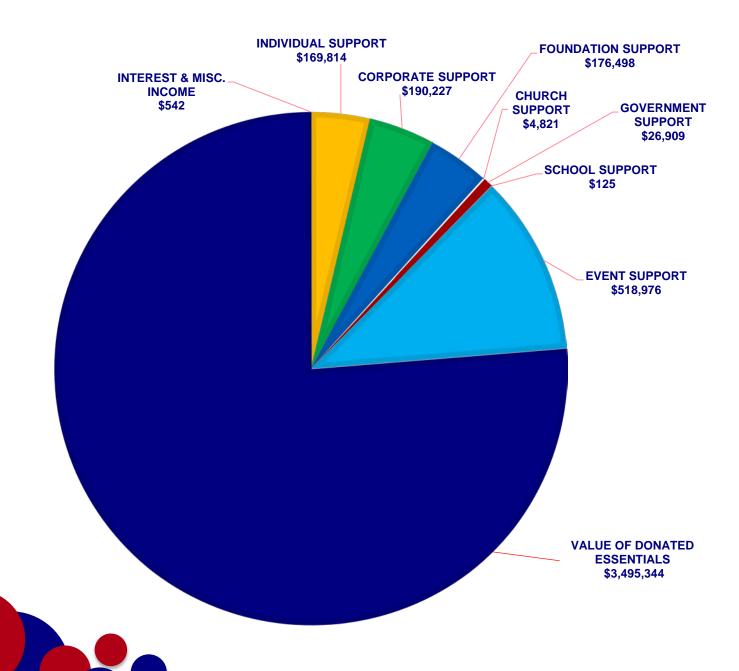
The April Fund
Wells Fargo Foundation
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Teammates for Kids Foundation

Government Support

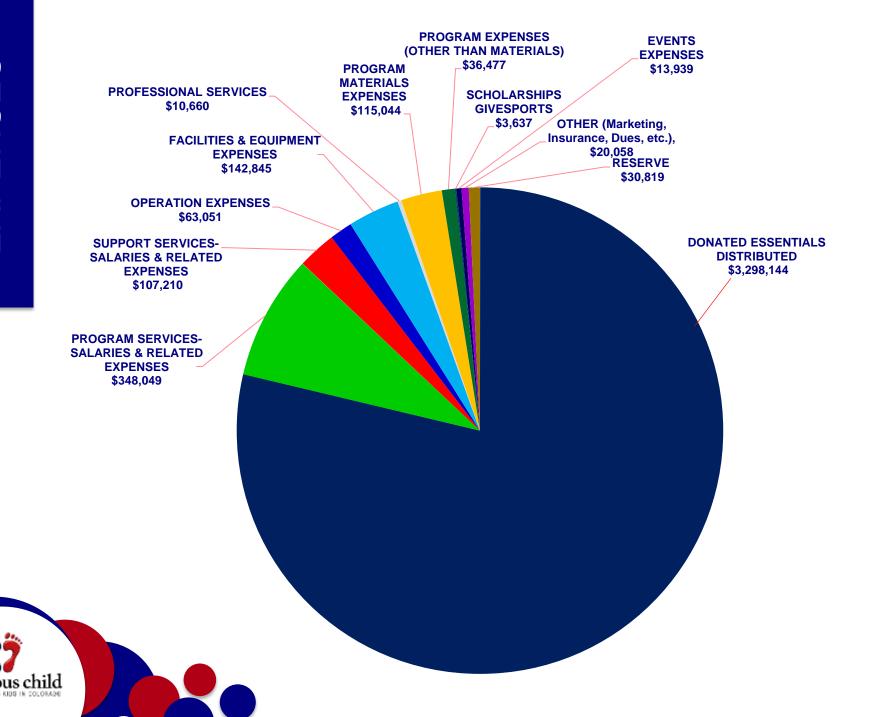
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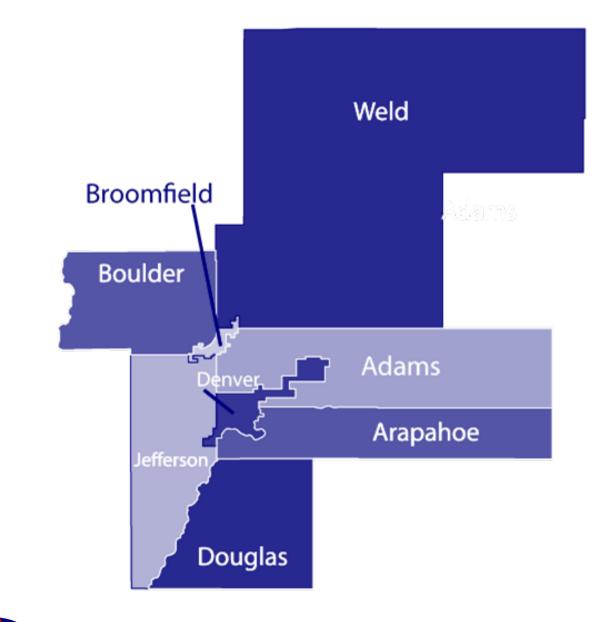
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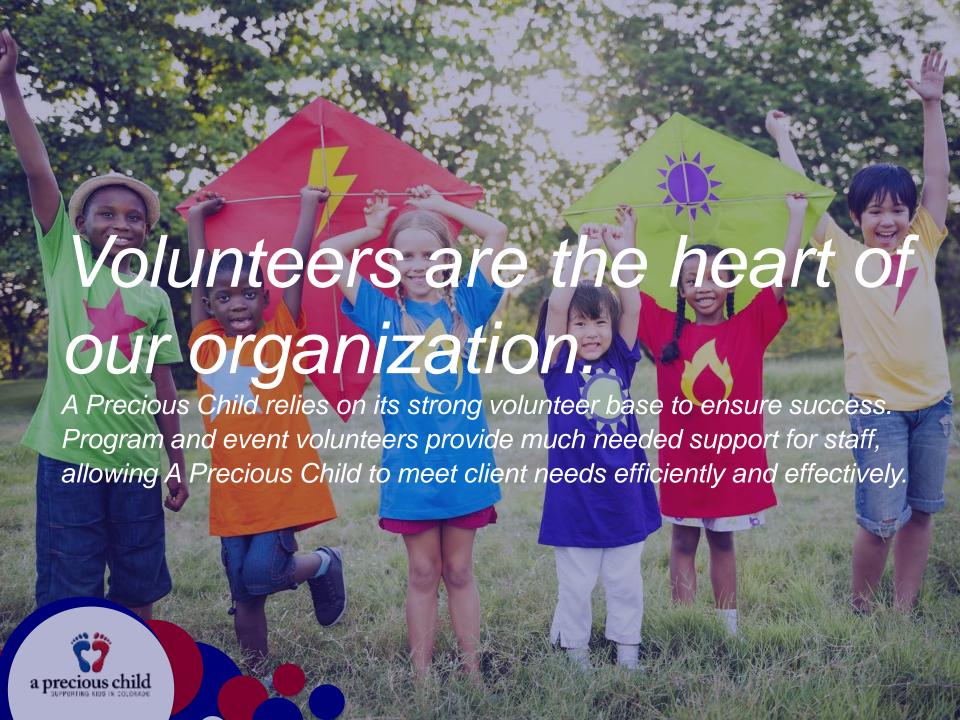












Number of Volunteers **3,287**



Total Value of Volunteer Hours \$376,405

Number of Hours Volunteered **16,693**



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