

Annual Report 2022

BELIEVE



What does “believe” mean to you?

At the Coalition, we believe that every child deserves a champion who loves and supports them throughout their growing years and beyond.

We believe that all parents deserve to be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion.

We believe that informed, supported families have the power to impact positive change within our communities for generations to come.

Our daily work is dedicated to understanding and meeting the unique needs of parents and caregivers who believe the kids in their care can heal and thrive.

We strive to provide those people with a safe place to speak and, perhaps more importantly, to be heard. We create timely, relevant, and trusted resources. And we offer opportunities for ongoing learning and connection that is flexible and on demand.

We do all of this because we believe that, through our work and with the passionate support of others whose generosity fuels our mission, we will see a day when there is a family for every child and support for every family.



Oriana Carey
Chief Executive Officer



Blake Derr
Board President





The Power of Belief

If you have ever had an experience that left you feeling like no matter what you tried, nothing worked, or like every day was a repeat of the same struggles or frustrations, you can understand how many of the parents and caregivers who reach out to the Coalition feel. After connecting with the team at the Coalition, though, things begin to change; these parents and caregivers leave with renewed hope, believing once more that healing, confidence, strength, and resilience are possible.

“You really listened and offered me more help and resources than I thought were available.”

- More than 3,000 individuals receive our weekly email newsletter, Coalition Connection. Those signed up have access to a carefully crafted and curated list of tips, resources, training opportunities, and more.
- We created a new e-series on self-care in November 2022. 100 people signed up for the series initially, and more are joining weekly. We will be publishing more e-series in the future.
- The number of visitors finding helpful resources for relative caregivers on our Wisconsin Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center website nearly doubled, growing from 490 in 2021 to 867 in 2022.



"I was able to take action immediately after getting guidance from the Coalition. Before I called, I wasn't sure what direction to go."

- We welcomed more than 138,000 visitors to our family of websites in 2022.
- We recorded an incredible number of downloads from our sites, including:
 - 4,615 tip sheets (Tip sheets are short, reader-friendly articles about a variety of topics related to foster care, kinship care, adoption, trauma, and more. Tip sheets also include related resources that readers may find helpful.)
 - 3,000 information packets about getting started as a foster or adoptive parent
 - 500 Virtual Resource Kits (Virtual Resource Kits feature curated lists of resources including books, articles, newsletters, videos, training opportunities, and more on topics including dealing with challenging behaviors through a trauma-informed lens, transracial parenting, and self-care.)

“It was great to connect with someone who advocates for the kids and helped me navigate what steps to take.”

- We connected 2,400 website visitors to information and resources for birth parents
- Our Resource Team responded to 1,415 phone calls, emails, or in-person conversations and 962 inquiries about how to get started as a foster or adoptive parent

Overall, 97% of those who connect with the Coalition say the information they were provided was helpful.



Champion Classrooms: Creating Opportunities for Connection

The Champion Classrooms, our online, on-demand learning platform, launched in 2019. In 2022, thanks to donor-designated funds, we have been able to continue to build and grow the Classrooms. Here are some highlights that happened over the year thanks to our generous supporters:

- **Transracial Parenting Learning Path**—This series opened in 2020, and we have continued to add additional webinars for those who are raising a child of a different race. In 2022, we added three new webinars and hosted an in-person workshop. We continue to receive feedback with high levels of satisfaction from participants, especially those living in more rural areas, where there may be limited opportunities for or exposure to diverse communities.
- **Co-Parenting Through Connection**—This five-week interactive course was created based on research and with input from stakeholders with lived experience, including former youth in care. The course focuses on the Realities of Foster Care and Grief, Empathy, Communication, and Support and Reunification. It blends self-paced online modules with weekly discussion groups to explore practical strategies for developing cooperative, connected relationships between foster parents and biological parents. Feedback from participants has been outstanding, including this from one parent: “This is the best training I have ever taken as a foster parent.”
- **Navigating Difficult Conversations in Foster Parent Licensing: Race, Religion & LGBTQIA+ Issues**—In response to a specific request from a Milwaukee Licensing Agency, the Coalition designed, developed, and delivered this course in December. Licensing Specialists who attended were given an opportunity to:
 - Better understand how their own biases and beliefs impact interactions with licensing applicants.
 - Better understand how to establish an honest and open working relationship with licensing applicants.
 - Identify issues that could impact licensing or placement decisions.
 - Better initiate and navigate conversations, particularly those related to concerns regarding race, religion, and LGBTQIA+ issues.

Those who participated reported 100% overall satisfaction with the course.





“Your webinars are lovely. Thank you for the encouragement to keep on keeping on. I felt seen and heard and ready for more.”

- The number of registered users in the Champion Classrooms increased from 2,780 in 2021 to 3,440 in 2022

“Thank you for this really great training. The webinar was full of useful resources and has given us a better understanding of [the issue] and how to be more compassionate in our approach.”

- 96% of surveyed learners said that they have gained increased knowledge
- 97.5% of surveyed learners said that they intend to use what they have learned in caring for children
- 96% of surveyed learners said they have an overall satisfaction with the training they received

“I really appreciated this webinar and the presenter’s frankness in sharing. It hit the right places in my head and in my heart.”

A Special Thanks for Their Belief

We are honored by the dedicated belief Celera Systems LLC holds in the mission and vision of the Coalition for Children, Youth & Families. The generous support from Celera has been instrumental to our kinship/relative caregiving program development.



Thanks to Celera's partnership, we have:

- Created and launched the Relative Caregiver Learning Path—This series includes seven webinars and over nine hours of training designed specifically to meet the needs of relative caregivers. It is available in the Champion Classrooms on demand and free of charge. Since June 2022, there have been 300 enrollments for the learning path.
- Created four Relative Caregiver Support Group Kits designed to help support group leaders and facilitators lead valuable connection events. The kits were created in 2022 on the topics of Asking for Help, Big Behaviors, Making Time to Recharge, and Unexpectedly Parenting Again. The kits will be released in 2023 and we look forward to sharing more about them in the future.

Thank you to Mike Giunta, Kevin Klein, and everyone at Celera Systems!





What Your Belief Can Do

We often talk about the importance of children needing champions and champions needing support. Very often, that creates a vision of children or youth who have an immediate need for a safe, stable, and secure home or place to stay.

But, what if you were already in a safe, stable, and nurturing home? What if, your parents decided to extend their love, care, and affection to more children? Would your needs be compromised as the time your parents give is stretched thin?

We know many families find an amazing way to balance it all. And many who foster today came from families with a long tradition and history of fostering or caring for others outside of the immediate family. And we also know and have heard of children who have felt that things changed when their parents went on the journey of caring for others.

This issue is just one of the many families grapple with and therefore, the Coalition does as well. We take on the responsibility of making sure we can find the information, resources, and support to help families adjust and work through these challenging questions.

In 2022, we hosted a webinar specifically addressing this issue. And families responded, telling us how thankful they are for this resource. Families like the one who wrote,

“My family has been fostering for 10 years and I honestly have never thought about how the kids who are already in my home need support and connection as much as the kids who come into our home through foster care. This training opened my eyes to ways I can make sure all of the kids in my home are having their needs met. I’m going to use some of the strategies from the training to create check-in moments with the family when we have foster kids in our home. Hopefully, this will help me stay in check with everyone’s feelings.”

It is because of donors and supporters of the Coalition—believers in our mission and vision—that we can create, craft, and present opportunities for families like this one to learn, grow, and thrive. Ultimately, it is because of your belief that children, young people, and families become strong, resilient, and confident.



Un-believe-ably Fun Events

2022 brought two fun-filled, exciting, and successful fundraising events. We welcomed 64 participants to the Legend at Merrill Hills in Waukesha for our 14th Annual Golf Outing on July 18. The sun was shining and, despite the high temperatures, there were smiles all around. This year we welcomed a Professional Golfer for a “Beat the Pro” opportunity thanks to Backswing Golf Events. All told, our generous supporters and participants raised \$25,000.

The 27th annual Champions’ gala on November 3rd traveled to a new venue: Saint Kate in downtown Milwaukee. The location lent a new energy to the 200+ guests in attendance. We were delighted to honor a wonderful slate of businesses and individuals, including:

- Akilah Adams, Community Champion for Children
- Denise & John Zachman, Outstanding Child & Family Advocates
- Danita Docka, Champion for Children & Families
- Celera Systems, Corporate Champion

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, guests, and supporters, we raised \$126,000 at the gala.

As part of our annual gala, our team created a believe-themed playlist. You can check it out by scanning the QR code here.



Financial Information

Revenue: \$1,598,309

% government funding: 59%

% private donations: 41%

Expenses: \$1,670,912

% program: 88%

% administrative: 8%

% development: 4%

Net Ending Assets: \$850,713



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Every child needs a champion.
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