



Fairfield County Leadership Council 2019 Year in Review

Dear Council Friends,

As we approached the 100th anniversary of Save the Children this year, we knew we had a monumental task in front of us - to raise \$100 million in additional revenues to meet certain milestones in bringing health, education and protection to the most marginalized children around the world. Thanks to dedicated and passionate supporters like you, we are proud to say we exceeded our goal, and by year end we will be able to report over \$110 million in Centennial Campaign Funds! This achievement has set us firmly on the path to give every last child the chance for a brighter future for the next 100 years and beyond!

It was fitting that the Fairfield County Leadership Council, our local ambassadors and champions, kicked this important year off with the first Centennial Celebration at Studio 54. We thank you for everything **you've done** all year long to help us celebrate our 100th birthday **and we'd like to take** a moment to salute your own 3rd anniversary as our partners. We have not even reached year end yet, and already together you have raised close to \$148,000 for **Save the Children's mission. That's 148,000** ways you are protecting and educating child refugees, feeding the malnourished, leveling the playing field for girls, rescuing and relieving children whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters and helping poor children in rural United States start school ready to learn. Your time, generous support and voices are changing lives every day.

Let's enjoy a trip down memory lane, celebrating another wonderful year for children.

A Night at Studio 54, February 9th – Thanks again for **kicking off Save the Children's** Centennial year in **70's-style** with *A Night at Studio 54* at Suzuki Music Hall in Westport. This was the result of several team planning sessions hosted by Bernie, featuring great discussions, creative ideas and even cocktail samplings! You completely reshaped Suzuki Music Hall into a flashy and fun disco scene, with delicious pizza, fancy desserts **and those signature cocktails. Great 70's** tunes from our friends Band Together topped off a night that was the talk of the town. And you raised over \$38,000 that night for refugee children!



Spring Workshop at Save the Children, March 29th – Your friends at Save the Children welcome opportunities to invite you to our headquarters to meet more of our amazing staff who are out in the field reaching kids every day. In March, Julie Allen was pleased to tell you about our Early Childhood Education work around the globe. She was joined by Seung Lee who enjoyed sharing her work in Health and Nutrition. Thanks for your attention and great questions!

Greenwich Leadership Council Annual Book Review, May 9th – Some of you were able to attend our Greenwich Leadership Council’s annual book talk, featuring distinguished author, Melissa Fleming, who spoke about her best-selling novel, *A Hope More Powerful than the Sea*. Marcia Biggs from PBS NewsHour and Carolyn Miles joined Melissa in an insightful and emotional discussion of the many challenges facing the world’s refugee children and what we can do to help.

Forced From Home, May 17th – Members also had the opportunity to participate in a community dinner at Grace Farms in New Canaan followed by a speaker panel about the global refugee crisis. Visionary and inspiring panelists included Anne Richards, Assistant Secretary of State of Population, Refugees and Migration, Claudia Connor, CEO of the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigration and Casey Harrity, Senior Director of Humanitarian Response from Save the Children.

Celebrating Women in Philanthropy with Gabriela Hearst, May 22nd – Our board member Gabi Hearst is an incredible champion for Save the Children. A renowned designer, she somehow finds the time to visit - and generously support - the kids we serve all around the world. In May, we were glad that many of you were able to attend a private cocktail reception in her Madison Avenue boutique to celebrate other women who support Save the Children. We love this shot of her in her Save the Children red gown!



End of School Year Dinner, May 31st – We celebrated the end of the school year with a festive dinner hosted by Bernie at the Aspetuck Valley Country Club. Thanks to all of you who took the time to fill out the surveys we shared, to help improve your council experience. We welcomed our Fairfield County Youth Council members to join us as well, and shared reflections about all the ways we are helping children through our partnerships with Save the Children. It was great to see the



next generation of Save the Children champions so passionate about our mission!



Advocating for Kids, September 4th – The new school year started off on a strong note with an informative and insightful meeting with Congressman Jim Himes at his office in Bridgeport. Jim expressed his own commitment to early education, expressing appreciation that his views align with Save the Children’s program focus in the U.S., and we discussed how we can work together to invest in kids in our community and **across the country. We’re lucky to have such an engaged** Congressman who co-sponsored the Child Care Workforce and Facilities Act!

Centennial Gala, September 12th – Thank you for joining us for a spectacular night under the stars at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City. We hope you enjoyed the theme of the streets of London 100 years ago, where Save the Children began. This truly historic night honored award-winning singer Camila Cabello and fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger, and our own Trustee Jennifer Garner joined us to inspire and engage. One of the highlights was the tribute to Carolyn Miles, introduced by a young, passionate woman from Zambia who was educated in a Save the Children camp and is now a vocal advocate for empowering girls. And what fun to walk outside at the end of the night to see the Empire State Building lit up in red for Save the Children! The event raised over \$3 million for our mission, and for the millions of kids we serve.



Welcome Reception for our new CEO, September 21st – On January 1, 2020, our beloved Carolyn Miles will be stepping down as CEO and our current COO and President, Janti Soeripto, will be taking her place. In September, Bernie graciously hosted a cocktail reception at Aspetuck to bid farewell to Carolyn and to welcome Janti and her family to Save the Children - and to the community of Weston where she is a new resident. It was a wonderful evening with current and former Board Members, as well as old and new friends, to **celebrate Carolyn's 20 years with Save the Children** and to **hear Janti's vision** for taking us into a new decade.

Fall Workshop at Save the Children, October 18th – We were so pleased to invite many of you back to our offices for another educational session about our work, and we were thrilled to include our newest members, Jen, Jill, Sandra and Trish! For this session, Jennifer Malichio shared an update on our work in rural communities around the U.S. - and Yolanda Minor joined from Mississippi by videoconference to tell us about **how we're helping children** in her state, bringing reading, math and social emotional learning to the youngest children and their moms so they can start school ready to learn. Once again, we welcomed all of your thoughtful questions. We look forward to meeting Yolanda in person when we visit Mississippi in January!

Shopping Days at Vintage Garden, September 5th and November 21st – We are so grateful to Barbara Kleban for offering her lovely Fairfield store, Vintage Garden, for not one, but TWO days of shopping for Save the Children. Located right in the Brick Walk, Vintage Garden is the perfect place to find that special gift for someone, or unique home décor, or fun items for entertaining. In September, visitors chose from unique back to school items and fall seasonal gifts - and in November, the store was beautifully decorated for the holiday season with hostess gifts, holiday accessories and decorations on display!



Holiday Dinner at Jessup Hall, December 10th – Our generous hostess Bernie was at it again, gathering many of us to kick off the holidays with a scrumptious dinner at Jessup Hall. It was a great way to close out our successful year and build excitement for another enriching and rewarding year ahead.

...and a Preview of **What's to Come in 2020**

January 27-28 – We look forward to taking eight of you to visit our programs in Mississippi to see first-hand what Yolanda told us about in November - the life-changing **impact we're** having on marginalized children in our rural communities. We will have an exclusive guided tour of our early education work – meeting children, families, teachers and communities whose **lives we're touching with your generous support.**

April 28th – We will hold our annual spring fundraiser **at Mitchell's in Westport.** Guests will be able to shop and socialize during a luncheon or cocktail reception (TBD) while enjoying a runway exhibit of new spring fashions. We will share highlights of our field visit to Mississippi and all funds raised from the evening will go towards the children we serve in Mississippi.

So much to celebrate, so much to be thankful for! **Here's to a fourth** year of change for children, thanks to our wonderful partners in the Fairfield County Leadership Council.

Happy New Year!

