

CFCR's Mission Moments Newsletter



From Council for Children's Rights <advancement@cfcrights.org>
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Earlier this month, we had the pleasure of hosting Council's *A New Day for Children* Spring Luncheon where we [honored legendary volunteer Sis Kaplan with our inaugural H.O.P.E. award](#) for her decades of dedication to Charlotte's children. We also got to hear first-hand how Council has changed lives from one of our former child-clients, Luke Drago. We were so grateful to bring a small part of our community back together in-person, and we look forward to seeing all of you hopefully someday soon!



*Image: Incoming Board President Sabrina Clark (far left) and Past Board President Brian Bonaviri (at podium) thank Luke Drago (far right) and his family for joining us.**

Luke's Story



We were humbled to have our former client, Luke, courageously share his story of how Council changed his life. Luke was a client of Council's Custody Advocacy Program from 2010-2011, and credits who he is today to the tireless work Council put into his case. Luke is a lifelong Charlotte resident, an Ardrey Kell High School alum, and a senior at the University of Oxford studying History & Politics. Luke has worked on multiple campaigns in Charlotte and throughout North Carolina, interned for Congress and businesses in Washington, D.C., and participated in and held leadership positions at Charlotte-focused and national non-profit organizations.

"I don't know who I would be if it weren't for the work the Council for Children's Rights put into this case."

-Luke Drago

We are so proud of him and all he has accomplished, and thank him for sharing his story. You can watch Luke describe how Council changed his life in his own words [here on YouTube](#) and below:



A New Day for Children



It was a beautiful day to bring our community together to honor the children we serve and those that make it possible. **Together, we were able to raise over \$176,458 for our children!** Our work is not done, however, and there are still thousands of children that need our help. Our vision is to build a community that treats all of our

children with fairness, compassion, and respect. A community where all children, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or background, experience equitable opportunity.

*Image above: Board President Deb Hanna; Image Below: Executive Director Heather Johnson**



Our Executive Director Heather Johnson shared: *"We stand beside our children when custody disputes turn ugly, when educational rights are threatened, when children in foster care are forgotten, when mental health treatment has been long awaited for but never received, during times of poverty and homelessness, when silenced by exclusion and discrimination, when abused and neglected, and when separated from their families. **Our goal is to set a new path, a new day, where the most intimate moments of their lives are no longer being decided inside of a courtroom.**"*

Your support makes it possible for Council to deliver an extensive array of child-centered services— services that change the lives of children and set a new day where they can finally imagine a future that is filled with opportunity and well-being. We invite you to help make our vision a reality and usher in a *New Day for Children* by making a contribution today:

Donate Today

Thank You!

Thank you to the Council Team that makes it all possible! In the last year alone, our small staff handled over 3,848 cases. **That's more than 10 cases a day!** Each and every one of our team members is dedicated to improving the lives of children in our community and beyond. They are brilliant, innovative, and fierce advocates for children. We are so grateful for the work they do in the courtroom and behind the scenes. Thank you, team!



Image: Council for Children's Rights Staff*

Thank you also to our event sponsors, who have made generous commitments to help make our vision a reality for all children. They include Katten Muchin Rosenman, Bank of America, McGuire Woods, Moore & Van Allen, Robinson Bradshaw, Bradley, Mayer Brown, Hunton Andrews Kurth, Grant Thornton, Godley, Glazer, & Funk, Alston & Bird, Troutman Pepper, James McElroy & Diehl, and Coca-Cola Consolidated.

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How You Can Help

Volunteer: We have [multiple opportunities to volunteer](#), most notably with our Custody Advocacy Program (CAP). We are also looking for community members and philanthropists to help accelerate our fundraising efforts. If you're interested in learning how you can get involved, email advancement@cfcrights.org.

Spread the Word: We need your help to grow our network and let more people in Charlotte know about us and our work. You can support us by forwarding this email to your friends and family who may not have heard about us yet!

Give: You can [donate online](#) or by sending a check to: ATTN: Council for Children's Rights, 601 East 5th Street, Suite 510, Charlotte, NC 28202. Email advancement@cfcrights.org with any questions and to learn more.

Donate to Council

*All photos courtesy of [Cravotta Photography](#)



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