

Children First

February 2023 Newsletter

TABLE OF CONTENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

BLOG POST: HELLO
FEBRUARY

JOIN THE CF TEAM:
INTERN & JOB OPENING

BIRTHDAYS AND
ANNIVERSARIES

GIFT CARD CAMPAIGN

PICKLEBALL
FUNDRAISER

BOARD/STAFF
SPOTLIGHT

WHAT WE DID IN
FEBRUARY

THANKS TO OUR
DONORS

CHILDREN FIRST
WISHLIST



WE ARE HIRING

UPCOMING EVENTS

PICKLEBALL REGISTRATION

open now - early april

ARDEN'S BON-VOYAGE PARTY

feb. 28th 9-10:30am at the hyatt

CASA TRAINING



**MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUR SOCIAL
MEDIA AND WEBSITE FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND UPDATES ABOUT
THESE EVENTS!**

HELLO FEBRUARY

IN FEBRUARY...

February is a busy month! We celebrate Black History Month and Valentine's Day. Along with these events, we need a reminder to practice self care as we continue into the new year!

SAVE THE DATE



TIPS ON HOW TO IMPLEMENT SELF CARE IN FEBRUARY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month is celebrated throughout the month of February. It was created to honor the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout US history.

Some ways to celebrate Black History Month include: supporting Black- Owned businesses, purchase and read books by Black authors, learn about important Black figures and their contributions, attend Black History events, and more...

HOW ARE YOU HELPING CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH?

CELEBRATING VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day is just around the corner. It serves as a reminder to show friends and family that you love them. However, it is also a reminder that showing how you care for yourself is a way to care for your loved ones. So, this Valentine's Day, accept the challenge of putting yourself first and practicing self care!

1. Get regular exercise
2. Cross something off your to-do list
3. REST
4. Give back
5. Make a gratitude list
6. Treat yourself to something you love
7. Practice mindful breathing
8. See friends and family
9. Unplug! When you are not at work, really step

JOIN THE CF INTERN TEAM!

Children First is currently looking
for summer and fall 2023 interns!
Applications are being accepted
now!

Hear From a Current Intern:

I have been a Children First intern since fall of 2021, and I have loved every minute of it. Not only is the team welcoming, they also are always there for you, encouraging you to do your best. Susie, the Executive Director, has trusted me with tasks that have allowed me to grow my skills in all different categories like grant writing, marketing, social media, and research tasks! I have learned so many invaluable lessons while interning at Children First, made so many great relationships, and I cannot recommend this internship enough to students looking to gain experience with non-profits! - Molly Mari, Children First Intern

CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO BE
TAKEN TO THE APPLICATION, OR
CHECK OUT THE APPLICATION ON
THE CHILDREN FIRST WEBSITE

JOIN THE CF CASA TEAM!

Children First is currently looking
for a CASA Community Outreach
Coordinator!

More about this role:

The Community Outreach Coordinator conducts and leads volunteer training, recruitment activities, external community relationships, and public relations for the Athens-Oconee CASA Program. This role entails identifying, recruiting, screening, and training Volunteer Advocates to support the goal that every child in the Western Judicial Circuit that enters foster care and is experiencing abuse and/or neglect shall be appointed a CASA. The Community Outreach Coordinator is responsible for leading engagement activities for prospective and current volunteers including volunteer recruitment, screening, coordinating training, public education, and volunteer reporting requirements. The incumbent provides mentoring and supplemental supervisory support for Volunteer Advocates in collaboration with the Advocacy Team and Program Director. This individual manages recruitments and all aspects of training to ensure that the process is as smooth as possible for other CASA staff and the volunteers.

CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO BE TAKEN
TO THE APPLICATION

STAFF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Courtney Thurston
Birthday- Feb. 16th



Arden Bakarich
Birthday- Feb. 17th



GIFT CARD CAMPAIGN



Children First is beginning a Gift Card Campaign! If you have extra gift cards laying around that you don't think you will use, please consider donating them to Children First! Whether you were gifted a Starbucks Gift Card and don't drink coffee, received two of the same gift cards, or would like to go purchase a gift card to support our campaign, Children First would gladly accept them as donations. The gift cards will be used for our clients!

If you would like to donate any gift cards to Children First, please bring them to our office located at 693 North Pope St. Athens, GA 30601!

**Thank you for your generous
donations!**

We're so close to reaching our goal! Would you dig deep and help us get there?

As we continue our Dig Deep to Build Strong campaign, we thank all of you who have contributed so far. Our goal is \$150,000. We have raised \$111,679 so far.

Please join us in reaching our goal. You may donate by clicking the link below or scanning the bar code.

<https://givebutter.com/DDBS>

THANK YOU!!



Play in CF's Pickleball Fest

click the
link below
to register

ATHENS, GA AREA

SCORE FOR CHILDREN

PICKLEBALL

FEST FOR CHARITY

TO REGISTER AND/OR VOLUNTEER: [HTTPS://PICKLEBALLBRACKETS.COM?FEST](https://pickleballbrackets.com?FEST)

APRIL 29 2023

GAMES START: 9:00 AM
RAIN DATE: MAY 6



ALL PROCEEDS GO TO:
CHILDREN FIRST
ADVOCATE FOR FOSTER
CHILDREN

ROUND ROBIN
WITH MEDAL ROUNDS

MENS DOUBLES
WOMENS DOUBLES
MIXED DOUBLES

2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0+

JENNINGS MILL TENNIS CENTER

TO BECOME A SPONSOR, EMAIL
[KANDACASA15@GMAIL.COM](mailto:kandacasa15@gmail.com) OR VISIT:
[HTTPS://GIVEBUTTER.COM/PICKLEBALLFEST](https://givebutter.com/pickleballfest)
SPONSORS

Volunteer for CF's Pickleball Fest

click the link below to volunteer

ATHENS, GA AREA

SCORE FOR CHILDREN
PICKLEBALL
FEST FOR CHARITY

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO:
CHILDREN FIRST
LOCAL ADVOCATE FOR
FOSTER CHILDREN

Volunteers Needed

We are currently seeking volunteers who want to support a pickleball event that benefits Children First, a charity serving foster children in our local community.



AS A VOLUNTEER, YOU CAN STILL REGISTER TO PLAY!!!

WE NEED HELP WITH:

- Soliciting Sponsorships
- Soliciting Silent Auction Items
- Setting Up Silent Auction
- Registration Table
- Distributing Snack Bags
- Manning Beverage Stand
- Inviting Other Players to Participate

IF INTERESTED,
"CLICK TO VOLUNTEER" AT:
[HTTPS://PICKLEBALLBRACKETS.COM?FEST](https://pickleballbrackets.com?fest)
OR SEND AN EMAIL TO:
[KANDACASA15@GMAIL.COM](mailto:kandacasa15@gmail.com)

FOR CHARITY INFO, VISIT:
[WWW.CHILDRENFIRST-INC.ORG](http://www.childrenfirst-inc.org)

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Saturday, April 29, 2023
Rain Date: May 6, 2023
Time: Games Start at 9:00 AM
Where: Jennings Mill Tennis Center

WANT TO REGISTER TO PLAY??

VISIT:

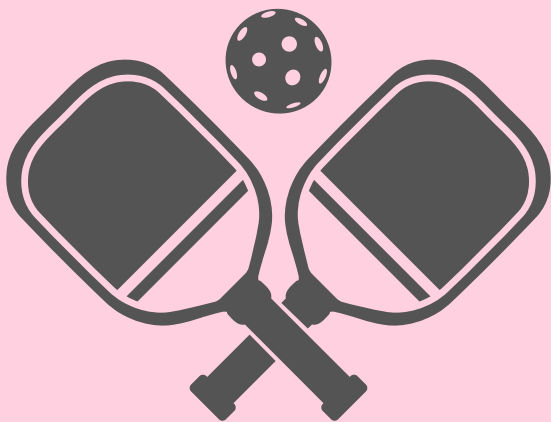
[HTTPS://PICKLEBALLBRACKETS.COM?FEST](https://pickleballbrackets.com?fest)



Sponsor Pickleball Fest for Charity

Athens Area Score for Children!

You are invited to officially sponsor the **SCORE FOR CHILDREN** Pickleball Fest benefiting Children First, our local area advocate for foster children, a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization based in Athens dedicated to promoting safe homes for children in times of family crisis. Children First administers three programs: Athens-Oconee CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), Safe Care, and SPARC (Supportive Parenting and Access Resource Center).



Jennings Mill Country Club















SAT APRIL 29, 2023

9:00 am

Rain date: MAY 6, 2023

Pickleball Fest Sponsorship

Athens Area Score
for Children!

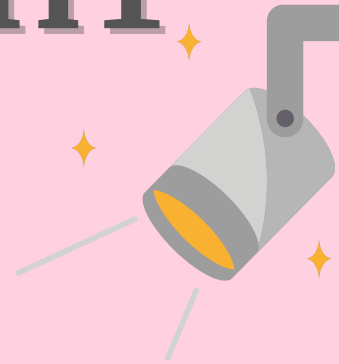
Benefits	Silent Auction	Bronze \$250	Silver \$500	Gold \$1000	Platinum \$1500
Logo/Name Posted on PickleballBrackets.com					
Logo/Name on Event Banner					
Popup Booth or Event Table Permitted					
Logo/Name on Social Media, Facebook and Event Emails					
Business Mentioned During Event Opening and Awards Ceremonies					
Business Mentioned During Silent Auction Awards					

Additional Information and Deadlines

- Sponsorship applications must be received by March 31 to receive all noted benefits
- Sponsorships may be accepted after March 31 with the understanding that not all benefits listed in this document may still be available
- Sponsorship Value: at least 50% of the sponsorship level must be donated in monetary funds or approved exchange of event services. The remaining value can consist of in-kind/item donations.
- Silent Auction items **MUST** be received **NO LATER** than **APRIL 15**. Please contact **KIM PLATT** at kandacasa15@gmail.com for drop-off/pick-up options

Follow the link below to register as a
sponsor!

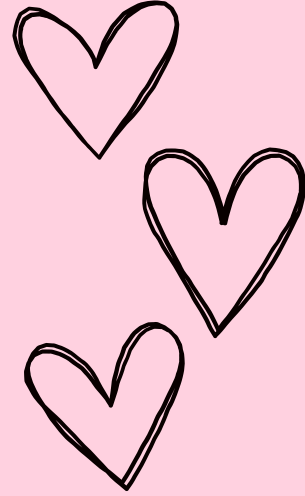
BOARD SPOTLIGHT



JED DEWS

Jed serves as the current treasurer for our board! As a part of the team at Voices for Georgia's Children, Jed is part of the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network division and oversees the BOOST grants initiative, managing the American Rescue Plan investments in Georgia's afterschool and summer learning programs. In collaboration with his colleagues and Voices' statewide partners, Jed provides oversight of these critical federal funds and supports grantees in their efforts to expand access to services, reduce barriers to success, and increase programmatic quality. Jed holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Alabama in education with a focus on policy and youth advocacy. He also holds graduate certifications in project management (University of Texas) and social work (University of South Carolina Upstate). When not working, Jed's favorite things include being an uncle, dueling pianos, ATV parks, deer stands, and lake life.

BON-VOYAGE, ARDEN



February 28th from 9-10:30am, we are celebrating Arden at the Hyatt before she moves on to her future endeavors. Arden started with Children First in 2017 as a CASA volunteer and moved to a full time staff member in 2018. She served as the CASA Community Outreach Coordinator for Children First. We are sad to see Arden go, but we thank her for her hard work and commitment to CASA and Children First.

Susie Weller

"Arden has been an enthusiastic and energetic team member that cares deeply for her team and the mission, vision, and values of Children First. Through out her time with us, she showed interest in marketing and community outreach. With that, we were able to create a Community Outreach Coordinator position and move Arden into that role. She is a natural in the community and spreading the word about CASA. We will miss her, but can't wait to see what she jumps into next. "

Arden's Future Plans

"I am taking a position with The Fanning Institute as their Program Operations Coordinator with the Educational Training Voucher (ETV) program. I'm excited to continue working with those impacted by foster care and know the skills and knowledge I've learned while with Children First will be essential to success in my new job. I'm hoping to go back to school and take advantage of the tuition assistance that is provided by working at UGA. " - Arden

In February

Children First raised...



\$2,962.42

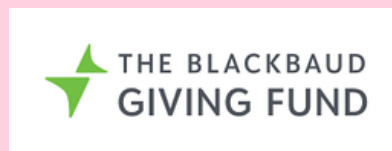
Thank You

To all of our amazing donors!

Click the button below to donate

TODAY!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



KOONS ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN inc.
Landscape Architecture + Site Engineering



TURNER WOOD & SMITH
— I N S U R A N C E —



ATHENS AREA
NEWCOMERS
CLUB

MARY ALLEN
LINDSEY BRANAN
FOUNDATION

NEWLAND
FOUNDATION

SHANE DEKLE AND
ASSOCIATES

PERNO INSURANCE

CHI ZETA SERVICE
SOCIETY

LAUREN GERMANY
FOX FAMILY TRUST

TURNER
FAMILY
FOUNDATION

What was Children First up to this February?

CASA Day at the Capitol 2/2



CASA Orientation 2/15



Training

2/17 Attended by Cassandra



In-Service Training for CASA with DFCS 2/17



Communication Training 2/6 and 2/14

CHILDREN FIRST 2023 WISHLIST



- Architectural services for our expansion
- Baby wipes
- Individuals with marketing experience to capitalize on our brand
- Van for transporting clients, donations, and staff
- Volunteer handy person
- Volunteer gardener
- Volunteer for office assistance
- Visa cards in the amount of \$25 or more for clients
- Board committee volunteers (you do not need to be a full member of the board to volunteer for a committee)
 - External board committee
 - Expansion board committee

BELOW IS THE LINK TO
OUR AMAZON WISHLIST

DIAPERS & WIPES

**Know someone in
need of diapers?
Click the link
below!!**



YOUR OPINION MATTERS

**Please click on the
button below to
share your thoughts
on what is working
and ways we can
improve!**

