



Child Life Disaster Relief





A Message from our Board President

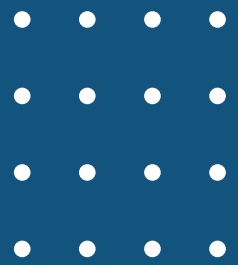
For the past year I have had the privilege of being the Board President of Child Life Disaster Relief. With all that is going on in the world right now, many of our volunteers are being called to “be the helpers”, not just to look for them. CLDR does not take lightly the privilege it is to be a conduit in connecting our amazing volunteer child life specialists to children around the world who are experiencing disasters of all types.

In 2022, we saw the urgent need to expand our capacity to respond to children affected by disasters at a much more rapid rate. In early May, CLDR had the opportunity to hold a virtual deployment to a government-run orphanage in Ukraine to provide coping support for children and staff impacted by the war with Russia. Most recently, we deployed 11 child life specialist volunteers to provide trauma-informed care to children and families in shelters who were impacted by Hurricane Ian in southwest Florida. We would not have been able to respond to these and other crises without your support.

Our board of directors, committee members, program coordinators, and professional child life specialist volunteers are enormously talented, hard-working, and caring. To our valued partners we express our profound gratitude for all of your support. On behalf of an appreciative board of directors, I want to thank everyone for sharing in our vision to ensure that children in disasters and crises have the tools and support needed to promote positive coping and resilience.

With gratitude,

Colleen Maguire



CLDR Mission-Centric Initiatives

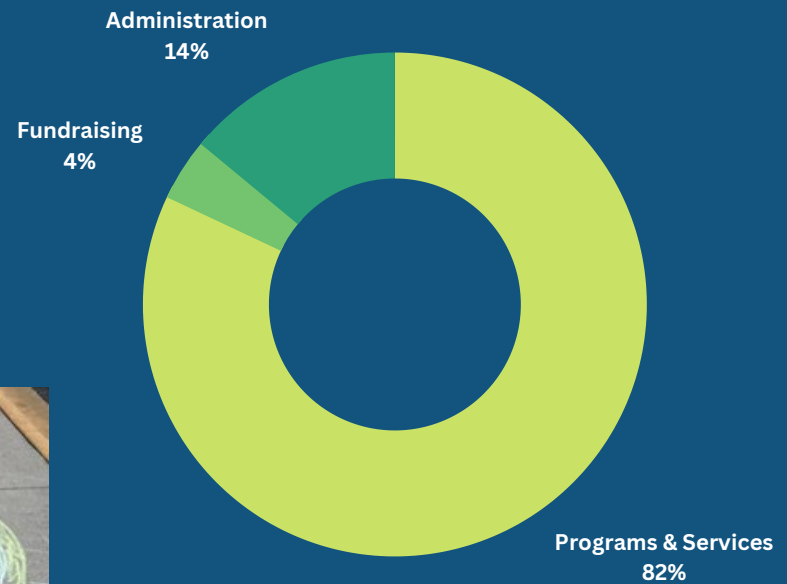
- First-Responder Trainings
 - Equip child life specialists, fire/police responders, and other community member across the country with essential resources and tools needed to serve children experiencing disasters
- Disaster Deployments
 - Provide trauma-informed care within 24 – 48 hours a disaster occurs
- Comprehensive Resources
 - Provide disaster-specific information to meet the needs of parents, first responders, and other support organizations



Year In Review

Financials

CLDR 2022 expenses as a percentage of our overall budget:



Funding Support

We are grateful for the grants and donations received this year that allow us to fulfill our commitment to promote positive coping and foster resilience in children impacted by disasters.

Total:

\$6,000 Individual contributions

\$40,250 Grants

\$4,000 In-Kind



OUR IMPACT

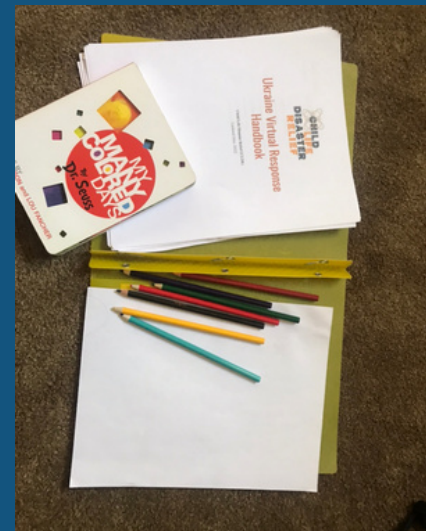
In May, CLDR had the opportunity to initiate a response to a government run orphanage in Ukraine in order to provide requested coping support for their residing children and teenagers. With valuable input from three cultural experts, CLDR developed resources and a virtual deployment plan.



Two highly experienced Certified Child Life Specialists (CCLs) facilitated a training for their center's staff that focused on providing information on children experiencing trauma and applicable techniques for working with children to mitigate the negative impact of that trauma. Meanwhile, two additional experienced CCLs worked as the CLDR Deployment Coordinators for this response, leading the logistics, operations, and planning while providing guidance to the responders through materials, a pre-briefing, and on-going support.

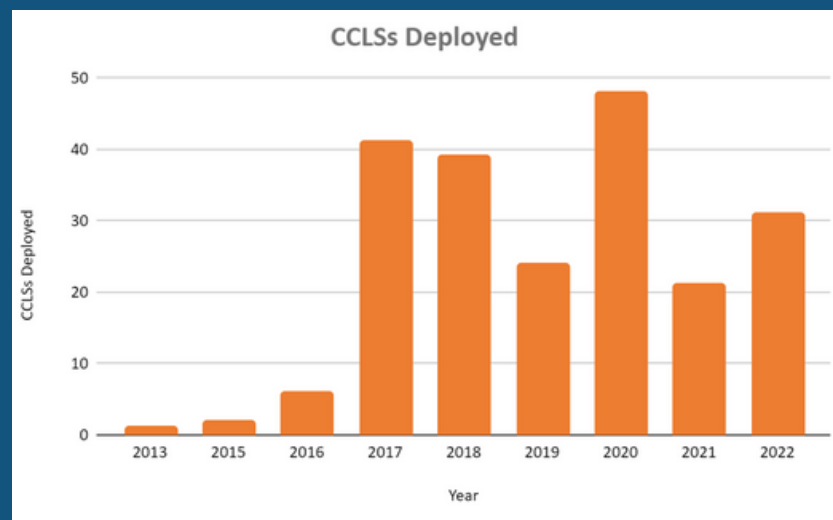
Three separate teams of child life specialists had the opportunity to work with a total of 27 children ages 4-17 years.

The children, grouped by age and developmental level, met weekly with the CLDR response team, aided by a live interpreter from Respond Crisis Translation via Zoom, for the duration of six weeks. The eight responders shared that they were able to build rapport and a trusting relationship rather quickly with the children despite the distance, language, and virtual limitations.

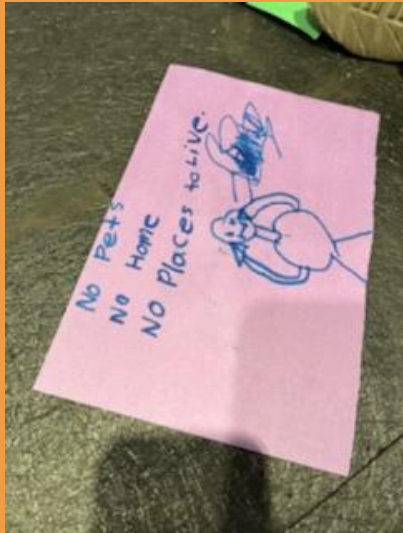


"The professionals of Child Life Disaster Relief were able to reach across 5,000 miles, cultural and language barriers, and into a war-torn country to provide meaningful help for orphaned children, many of whom were victims of the conflict...The staff reported they were better equipped to help the children cope with trauma and the children reported improvements in their ability to deal with their disruption and loss. It was a thrill to watch trained professionals, who care, make a difference in the lives of these most vulnerable children. From all of us who have been moved to help people, in the midst of conflict, and the children and staff who have received their assistance, gratitude and admiration are insufficient to express our thanks to CLDR and the professionals who have inspired us."

~ Rick Hodges, Former Director, Ohio Department of Health



OUR IMPACT (cont'd)



When Hurricane Ian landed in Florida in October, we were able to deploy 11 volunteers to impacted areas within four days. We were the first organization focused on the coping needs of children to actively provide services as other organizations were delayed from active service-delivery due to logistical complications.

Our CCLS volunteers were immediately welcomed in by shelter leaders and began working with the children. They provided child-led opportunities for the children to process their feelings that involved options of art, physical expression, imaginative play, and writing activities. Children were able to verbally and non-verbally process their fears and experiences with the hurricane unprompted throughout their play. Children chose to write or draw pictures of how they were feeling.

Our responders had a QR code on their name badges to connect parents and other volunteers seeking information to our resources page on our website for invaluable information on how they can best help children through this experience. These resources provided guidance and practical techniques for parents feeling the magnitude of attending to their children's emotional needs on top of finding shelter, food, and necessities.

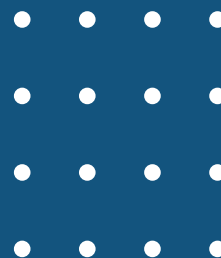


CLDR Local Program Manager Danielle Eaves-Hernandez was able to share these backpacks with the Florida Highway Patrol. They shared with us heartwarming feedback from parents seeing the impact of play through these backpacks. What an honor to serve our communities together in this way!



Thank you to the Northeast Florida Healthcare Coalition for their generous grant that helped us provide backpacks to promote positive coping for children after life-altering events.

These are just a few of the many impacts we have been able to make this year. In 2023, CLDR plans to develop additional training and resources for first responders and continue to ensure we empower and support children and families in crisis.



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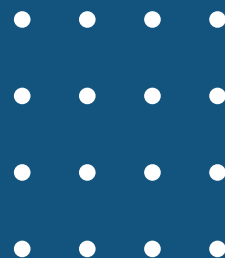
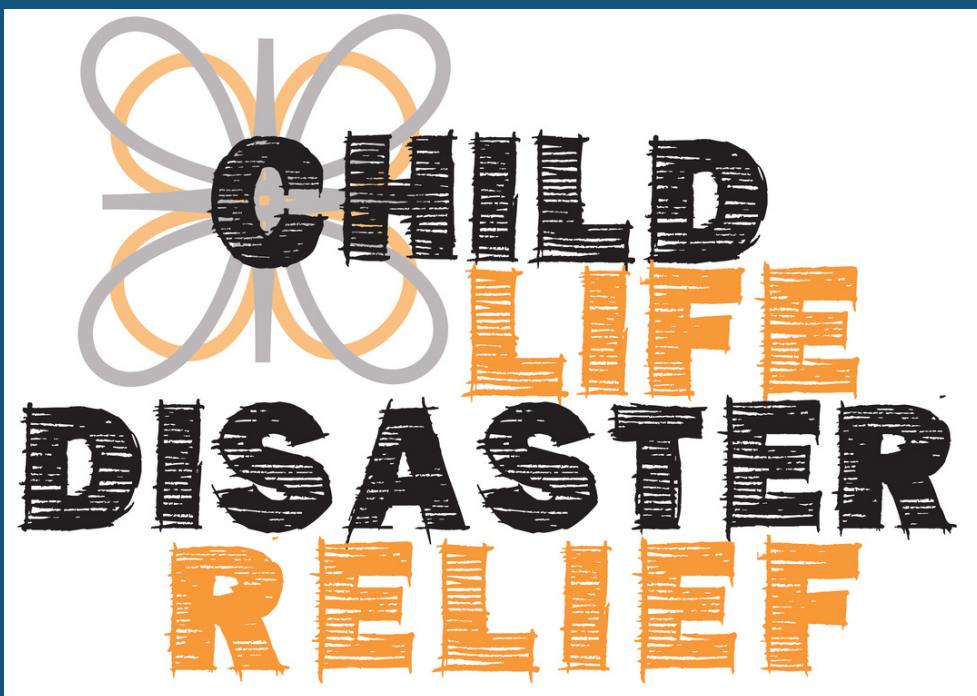
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Child Life Disaster Relief is a registered non profit with 501(C) (3) designation.

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