



Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

Time spent caring for children doesn't add to a mother or father's bank account, to academic achievements or career milestones. Yet humanity's future depends on families' nurturing care of children. Harvard's Dr. Jack Shonkoff advises policymakers: "reduce the stressors on families, so families can do what families are best capable of doing."

Family and Home Network's focus is on at-home mothers and fathers, and parents who want to spend more time with their children. We offer parents affirmation, information and advocacy, centering our work on parents' experiences and feelings as they meet their children's needs for warm, nurturing relationships. If you haven't yet seen it, please take a look at our latest publication - [The Power of Parents](#).



Working alongside other nonprofits and professionals, we aim for changes in the way our culture and public policies support families.

Nurturing parent/child relationships shape a child's life-long physical and mental health, for better or for worse. The significance in terms of personal, family, community and national well-being is staggering. Our nation's leading developmental scientists have been proclaiming this truth for decades.

In their book *The Irreducible Needs of Children*, renowned doctors Stanley I. Greenspan and T.Berry Brazelton wrote: "Providing for the irreducible needs of infants and young children and their families is the first step in producing citizens of the world who can broaden their sense of humanity sufficiently to cope with the new interdependency of the world.... **In order to protect the future for one child, we must protect it for all.**"

Greenspan and Brazelton noted that spending time together benefitted not only infants, but parents too. Parents need time to learn about their infants, and as they learn they gain confidence in their own abilities.

In the U.S., it's difficult to talk about parents' time and children's needs. The pursuit of capitalism's short-term goals is not compatible with parent/child time together. Just look at the headlines about the pandemic and parents stepping out of the workforce in order to care for their children. Feminist scholar Lisa Brush explains that decades of time and energy focused on the subject of working mothers has had serious consequences, pushing aside issues more central to women's fate—including violence and poverty.

We know that families are diverse; and we know that many parents move in and out of the paid workforce as their families grow and change. People's thoughts and feelings, their values and circumstances vary widely. When considering how to help families living in poverty, many people want "those parents" to do a good job raising their children and also want to see them in the waged workforce. This conflict is central to the current political fight over the [refundable Child Tax Credit](#), which can significantly reduce child poverty, with long-term benefits and cost savings for individuals and communities, as well as local, state and national governments.

We continue our search for foundation funding that would help build our organization's capacity and strength. For now, we persist in doing what we can from our kitchen tables, operating on a shoestring budget. Modest donations from individuals have sustained our work for decades. If you can, please support our efforts with a generous year-end donation.

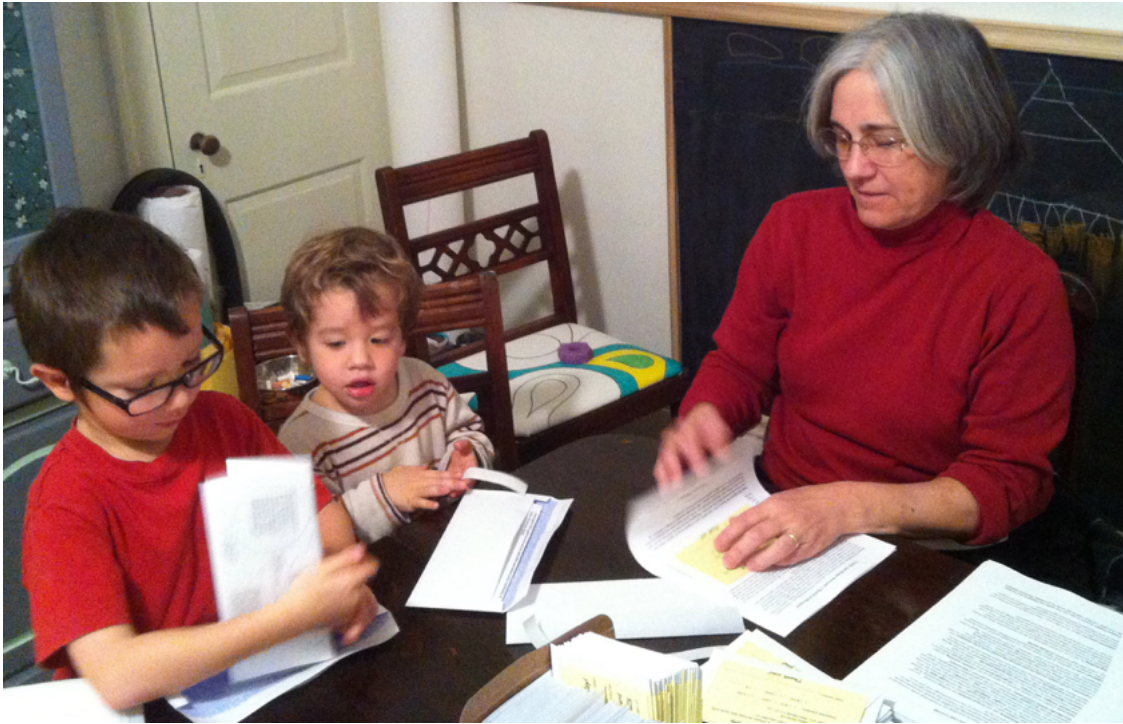
*Thank you to all who have donated in response to our recent appeals!*

Happy New Year to you and your families!

Catherine Myers  
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P.S. In the photo below, I am preparing a mailing with the help of my grandsons (we welcome volunteers of all ages!)

*Donate now!*



{{Disclaimer}}

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