



At this time of year, as we reflect on the challenges of the past months, we are also filled with gratitude at what your commitment to children and your generosity makes possible. Twice every month, several hundred of you, now several thousand in the aggregate, gather to learn, share your expertise, support and sponsor professional education, giving up weekend time because you believe that children deserve our very best care. Your generosity keeps these events free for those caring for our youngest babies and children and anyone who wants to attend.

In 2021, we were thrilled to partner with Metro Health's Healthy Start program to provide training and coordination of ROSE—Reach Out Stay Strong Essentials, for mothers of newborns, with four organizations that serve expectant and new moms. ROSES is an education and support strategy shown to cut the incidence of post-partum depression in half. The response of all the partner agencies and their new moms was unanimously positive—and what a benefit for moms and babies!

The South Texas Trauma-Informed Care Consortium continues to grow. As now one of three components of the county-wide initiative, consortium participants and others in the community have had excellent training opportunities throughout the year sponsored by University Health, and the number and diversity of organizations applying for, in line for, and completing trauma-informed certification through The Ecumenical Center continues to grow.

Through the incredibly generous sponsorship of University Health, Voices' 23rd Congress on Children will feature Michael Oher, his story told in the movie *The Blind Side*, as keynote speaker. He will start a full day of information on how we as a community can address the continuing trauma for children and the ongoing consequences of the pandemic. COVID forced a postponement, but not a cancellation! Congress on Children will be both in-person and virtual on Saturday, February 26, 2022.

We need your help to continue to bring partners together, to collaborate, develop strategies, pilot and demonstrate new, evidence-based, or promising programs to support our community's children. Some thoughts:

- A donation of \$15.00 will pay for three to four hours of excellent training/ professional development for an early childhood educator
- \$20.00 will pay the small registration fee for a student, childcare provider, or youth who has aged out of foster care to attend Congress on Children
- A donation of any amount will go toward Voices' operating expenses, the most critical need, to research, train, coordinate, foster collaborations, and to participate in important strategic planning to design, re-design, and support early childhood care and education from birth, prevention of child maltreatment and need for entry into the child welfare system and foster care, and to address the losses and trauma experienced by children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can donate by scanning the QR code or by sending a check to Voices for Children, 3014 Rivas St., San Antonio, TX 78228.

Please join us in this important work. We are grateful for your continuing generosity and wish you and your loved ones the happiest of holidays!

Kathy, Miranda, Ellie, and the Board of Directors of Voices for Children of San Antonio

