



News from Partners for Vulnerable Youth
Working together for vulnerable children

May 2022 edition

Foster Care Awareness Month

Greetings from NAPNAP Partners/The Alliance for Children in Foster Care (ACFC)

May is National Foster Care Awareness Month

In 1988, May was designated as National Foster Care Awareness Month to show gratitude and appreciation to foster parents. In May, we recognize the importance of children and youth in foster care as a vulnerable population and the critical role we play as advocates in protecting them and supporting families and professionals in the child welfare system.

Child and Adolescents in Foster Care

Annually, over 600,000 children and adolescents are served by the foster care and adoption system, with over 400,000 children and adolescents in care over the course of a calendar year (US Department of Health and Human Services, 2020).

Children in foster care are at increased likelihood for complex medical needs, suffer significant adverse childhood experiences, and are at high risk for inadequate access and disruption to routine healthcare. Research shows that this population of children and adolescents have complex social and health care needs. As advocates for children and adolescents and experts in pediatric healthcare, NAPNAP is committed to optimizing interprofessional partnerships and empowering pediatric focused APRNs through leadership, advocacy, education, and research to promote best health outcomes in this population of vulnerable youth.

The Alliance for Children in Foster Care

Our Vision

Our vision is for a world where all children in foster care receive continuous holistic healing to thrive in their home environment, school and beyond.

Our Mission

Our mission is to nurture a sense of belonging, connection, and safety for children in foster care by 1) empowering all pediatric-focused advanced practice nurses to incorporate trauma-informed health care as an essential set of services provided to all children in foster care and 2) promoting equitable and optimal growth and development.

Our Strategic Priorities – Two-Year Tiered Implementation

1. Education and Evidence-based Practice
2. Health Promotion and Early Intervention
3. Advocacy and Policy

Meet the Alliance for Children in Foster Care Champions

Champion Chair – Brigit VanGraafeiland, DNP, CRNP, CNE, FAAN
Champion Co-Chair – Tracy Halasz, MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC, PMHS
Champions –
Christina Quick, DNP, APRN, CPNPN-AC/PC, CHSE
Kelly Betts, EdD, APRN, CPNP-BC, CNE
Brittany Schnelle, MSN, APRN, CPNP-AC
Nancy Cavanaugh, MAT, MSN, CPNP-PC
Paula Barbel, PhD, CPNP-PC
Deborah Bretl, RN, MSN, PPCNP-BC
Shenoa Jamieson CRNP, SANE-A, SANE-P

If you are interested in volunteering, email Eileen Arnold-Ley at earnold@napnap.org.

Articles by Partners and Champions

Coming Soon! The Alliance for Children in Foster Care is working on its first position statement authored by Christina Quick, Tracy Halasz, Nancy Cavanaugh, Kelly Betts & Brigit VanGraafeiland on the Healthcare and Well-Being of Children and Adolescent in Foster Care. The statement is currently undergoing a review process. We will share a link when it is published.

Coming Soon! Manuscript in the Journal for Specialists in Pediatric Nursing by Karen Foli, Brigit VanGraafeiland, Julia Snethen & Cindy Greenberg. Caring for nontraditional families: Kinship, foster and adoptive children. This manuscript is currently in press, and we will share a link when it is published.

ACFC Co-chair Tracy Halasz led a session titled *Fostering Hope: Navigating the Care of Children in Foster Care* at NAPNAP's 43rd National Conference on Pediatric Health Care. For virtual conference attendees, the session is available on demand through NAPNAP's virtual conference platform through July 31.

Show Your Support

Donate

You can donate to our [GoFundMe](#) campaign to support our efforts. Proceeds will benefit the Alliance for Children in Foster Care, the Alliance for Children in Trafficking, and the Alliance to

Prevent Youth Suicide. Your donations go directly to help engage and equip advanced practice nurses across the country to effectively respond to these vulnerable populations!



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Are you an online shopper? Make your purchases go further by selecting NAPNAP Partners for Vulnerable Youth as your charity of choice on Amazon Smile! You shop, Amazon gives. Sign up at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/82-2709037>.

Facebook Fundraiser

Do you have a birthday or other special event coming up? Create a Facebook fundraiser and ask your friends to support NAPNAP Partners. Your generosity will be much appreciated!

Get Social with Us!



Follow us on Facebook!



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* Images hyperlinked to webpages.

NAPNAP Partners Founding Members—Thank You for Your Support!

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners	National Association of Hispanic Nurses-Illinois
Academic Pediatric Association	National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health
American Academy of Pediatrics	National Association of School Nurses
American Association of Nurse Practitioners	National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
American Nurses Association	National Student Nurses’ Association
American Organization of Nursing Leadership	Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association	Partnership for Male Youth
Asian American Pacific Islander Nurses Association	Pediatric Nursing Certification Board

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses	School-Based Health Alliance
Children's Hospital Association	Shared Hope International
Emergency Nurses Association	Society of Pediatric Nurses
HEAL Trafficking, Inc.	

National, state and local organizations focused on improving the health and safety of vulnerable children are welcome to become a [partner of NAPNAP Partners](#) or a [supporter of the Alliance](#). There are no fees or dues to become a partner.

* Founding Partners: Please send your organization's updates to info@napnappartners.org and we'll be happy to include them in future newsletters.

*NAPNAP Partners for Vulnerable Youth * 5 Hanover Square, Ste. 1401, New York, NY 10004. NAPNAPpartners.org * (917) 746-8305 * info@napnappartners.org*

Partners News is edited by Eileen Arnold-Ley, CAE