



We inspire communities to bring dignity and hope to youth in foster care through Comfort, Community, Character, and Compassion.



2022

Comfort Cases
Annual Report



2022 AT A GLANCE



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LETTER FROM THE FOUNDERS



Dear Comfort Cases' Bag Busters, Supporters, and Friends:

What a year 2022 was! While the country felt the loosening of the grasp of COVID-19, inflation was running rampant, charities and for-profits were folding, and too many innocent lives were lost to the war in Ukraine. Despite the struggles of 2022, Comfort Cases' board, staff, and volunteers dug in our heels and simply refused to give up on helping and advocating on behalf of children and youth in foster care. As we rounded the corner into 2023 we packed and distributed our 200,000th Comfort Case®!

Children who are abused, in extreme poverty, and have experienced institutional negligence, are entitled to hope, purpose, dignity, and love. As this Annual Report hopes to show you, it was a busy year. We were recognized for more than one dozen awards, hosted weekly podcasts, participated in hundreds of speaking engagements (an average of ten per month!), and held our second successful Backyard BBQ Benefit. We purchased a delivery truck, began packing for a move to our new headquarter location, and witnessed the strengthening of our corporate relationships.

In the final analysis, it was a good year. We greatly appreciate the invaluable support we have received. While none of us may ever see the full effect of our work together, we can promise you that you are changing the trajectory of a life with each Comfort Case® you help underwrite and/or assemble. Thank you for being on this journey with us and thank you for your unwavering support of Comfort Cases.

Sincerely,

ROB & REECE SCHEER

FOUNDERS, COMFORT CASES

FOSTERING CHANGE - ONE BACKPACK AT A TIME



OUR MISSION

We inspire communities to bring dignity and hope to youth in foster care through Comfort, Community, Character, and Compassion.

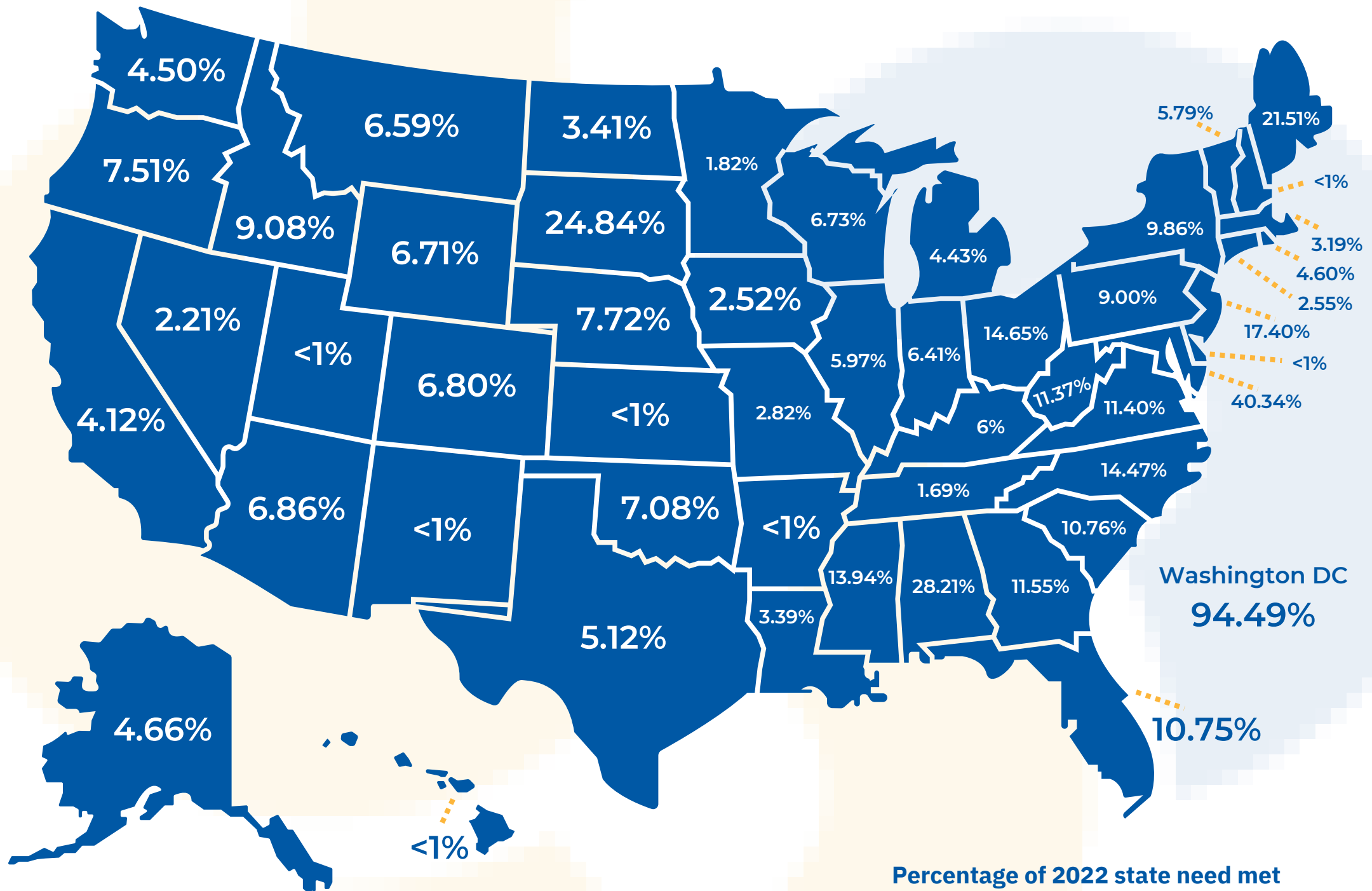
On any given day, there are approximately 437,500 children in foster care in the United States. Most of them are removed from their homes with little more than the clothes on their backs. If they do have any personal belongings, they are given a trash bag in which to carry them.

At Comfort Cases, we believe that every child deserves to feel a sense of dignity. Every child deserves to pack their belongings in a special bag that they can call their very own. Every child deserves to have a cozy new pair of pajamas, a brand new warm blanket, and a new stuffed animal to hug during the traumatic transition into foster care.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE



Comfort Cases exists to serve children and youth in foster care in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.K. The organization has also responded to requests for children seeking refuge in the United States.



Percentage of 2022 state need met
through the distribution of Comfort Cases®.



"Because we are a therapeutic agency that often takes children in crisis or difficult-to-place children, **we often get children who do not have necessities upon arrival.** We have gotten comfort bags from other organizations in the past, however, the quality of the items and bookbags were not always suitable.

We are **immensely grateful to have found out about Comfort Cases®** and are able to **proudly give them to children in need** knowing that the children will not feel that they are being looked down upon due to receiving low-quality items. We have used most of the bags we ordered previously but found that more teenagers are entering our care. As a result, we are in need of bags with larger sizes.

We thank everyone at Comfort Cases and everyone who has donated to make this possible."

Ahleycha Gainey
Seeds That Grow Inc.
ALBANY, GA



PARTNERSHIPS

We would like to thank all companies who have taken their corporate responsibility helping to inspire their communities to bring dignity and hope to youth in foster care through **Comfort, Community, Character**, and **Compassion**!

We believe in a compassionate community that cares for the most vulnerable among us, and we can all do something to bring comfort to children in foster care.

Our partners help us to eliminate trash bags from the system and show children in foster care that they matter.



WHAT'S IN A COMFORT CASE®?

Baby Up to 2 Years Old

- Small Duffel Bag or Backpack
- Pajamas (newborn to 24 months/2t)
- Baby Blankets up to 30"x40" or Receiving Blanket
- Baby Shampoo up to 5oz
- Baby Body Wash up to 5oz
- Baby Lotion up to 5oz
- Diaper Wipes (smaller soft packaging)
- Diaper Cream
- Baby Bibs
- Baby Washcloths
- Baby Safe Stuffed Animal
- (12" or smaller)
- Board Book



Child 3 to 10 Years Old

- Small Duffel Bag or Backpack
- Pajamas, 3T to 8/10 (no nightgowns)
- Blanket (no larger than 30"x40")
- Toothbrush (1 – 3 pack)
- Toothpaste (travel size)
- Shampoo & Conditioner (travel size)
- Lotion (travel size)
- Soap or Body Wash (travel size)
- Stuffed Animal (10" or smaller)
- Coloring Book & Crayons (8-36 pack)
- Book



Teen 11+ Years Old

- Small Duffel Bag or Backpack
- Pajamas, Child Size 10 to Adult 3XL
- Blanket (no larger than 30"x40")
- Adult Toothbrush (1 – 3 pack)
- Toothpaste (travel size)
- Shampoo & Conditioner (travel size)
- Lotion (travel size)
- Soap or Body Wash (travel size)
- Deodorant
- Stuffed Animal (10" or smaller)
- Journal
- Pens & Pencils
- Book

Comfort XL's

We offer Comfort XL duffel bags which truly replace the need for trash bags for children entering foster care. The Comfort XL is a 32-inch duffel bag that folds up to easily fit on an office shelf, in a desk drawer, or in the trunk of a car.

Our goal is for every social worker and police officer in the country to have a supply of Comfort XL duffel bags to give to children when they are removed from their homes.

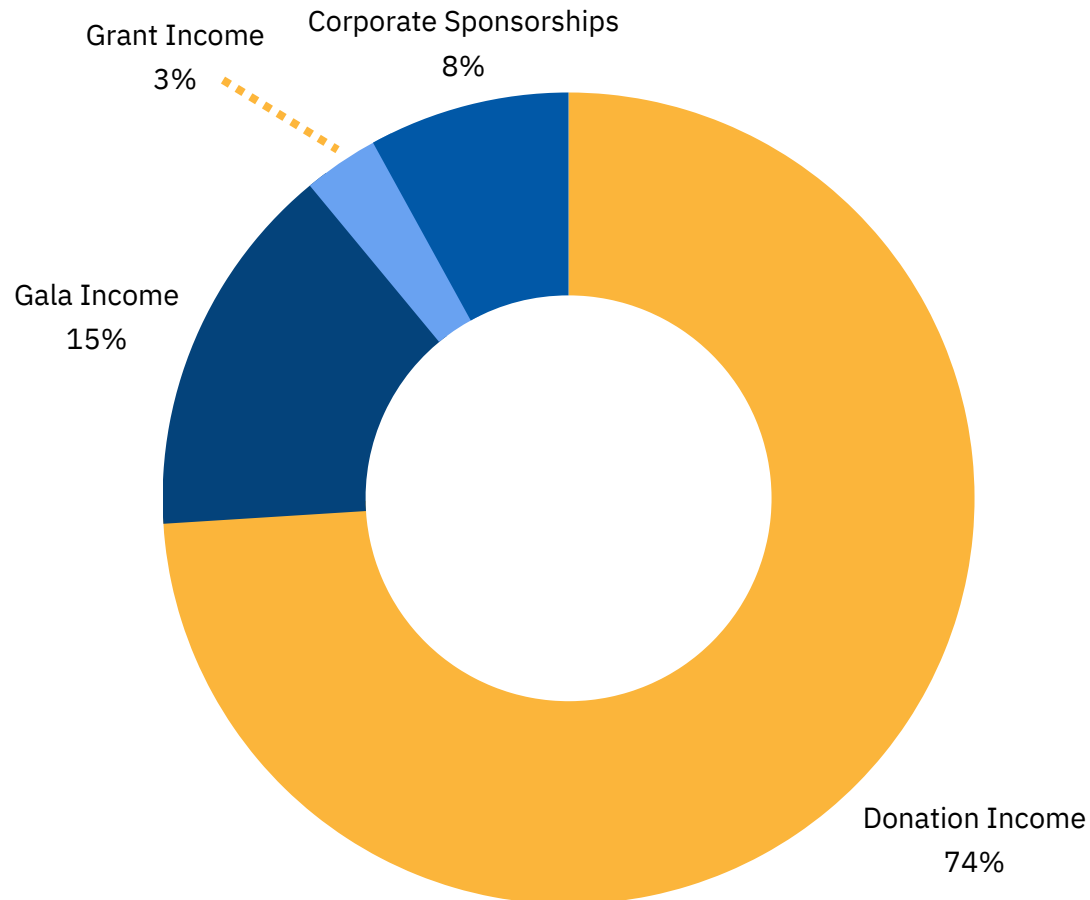


FINANCIAL REPORT

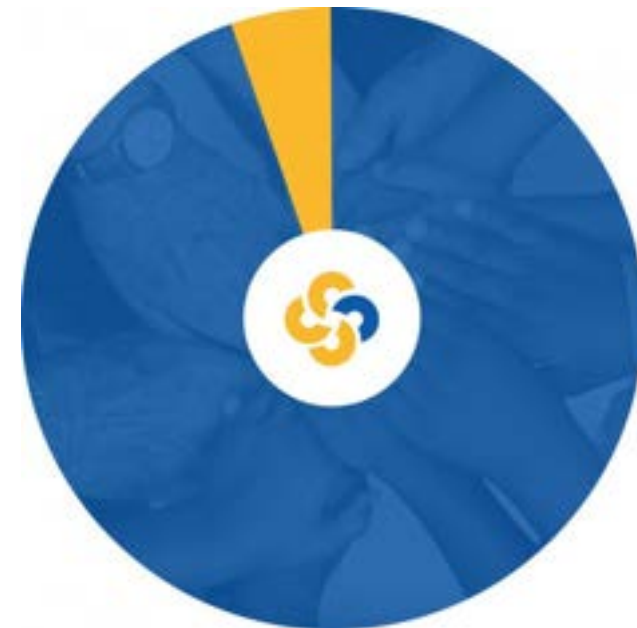
Only 4% of every Program dollar is spent on Operating Expenses.



96% of Program Expenses - from advocacy and education to supplies for Comfort Cases & Comfort XL's

2022 TOTAL CASH FUNDING* (*EXCLUDES VALUE OF IN KIND DONATIONS)



2022 PROGRAM EXPENSES



-  **4% Operation Expenses**
Funds spent on rent, electricity, Internet and other bills
-  **96% Distribution Expenses**
Funds spent on Comfort Cases & Comfort XL bags

VOLUNTEERS



Between our corporate and community volunteers, we had a total of:

69 events

1,000s of volunteer hours

30,000+ Comfort Cases®

At Comfort Cases, we not only love our volunteers (like you!) we need them! With only eight staff to manage its global operations, Comfort Cases relies on volunteers for administrative operations, fundraising, assembly, and distribution, they even sometimes help with shipping or picking up donations.

We rely on volunteer interns for special projects and the Board of Directors all volunteer their time, talent, and resources.

Fun Fact: Most of our packing parties are held at remote locations - from corporate offices and schools to churches and community centers and private homes!



“

Our volunteers are on the frontline with us every day. The first person I see when I am at the Center is a smiling volunteer greeting me in the morning distribution area and it never fails that a dozen or more volunteers show up throughout the day to help with packing and sorting Comfort Cases® items. It warms my heart every single day as if its the first time I'm seeing it.

- Barrie Carr,
Community Engagement &
Volunteer Coordinator



ADVOCACY

In 2022, Comfort Cases produced a total of **53 Fostering Change podcasts** featuring a variety of special guests with knowledge and experience in the foster care system. Now in its 4th Season, Comfort Cases founder Rob Scheer hosts this inspiring show about how communities can come together to bring dignity and hope to children in the foster care system. Guests include former youth in foster care, foster parents, celebrities touched by the foster care system, child welfare advocates, authors, and every day “Good Humans” working to improve the lives of kids in foster care.

2022 marks the second year Fostering Change has been voted the #1 podcast in the adoption category!

Comfort Cases also participates in an average of **10 speaking engagements per month (more than 120 per year!)** - from corporate groups and universities with hundreds of people in the audience to senior centers and school assemblies.





"Comfort Cases has **impacted the lives of almost every child that has entered into our care.** Most children **come to us with garbage bags** and are **able to leave with book bags and/or XL's.**

We are **so very thankful** for everything you have done for us and the children we serve."

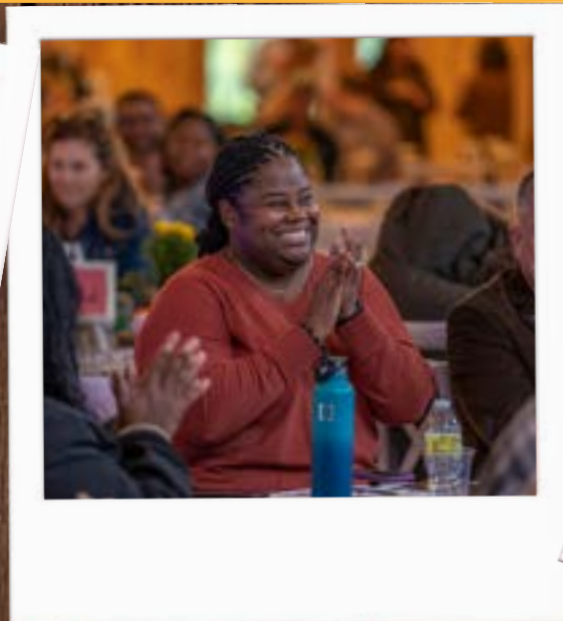
Mike Owens/Lisa
McGehee Safehouse Ministries
YOUNGSTOWN, OH

2022 BBQ BENEFIT

**This year, we raised hundreds of thousands of dollars
with close to 300 attendees.**

**With a \$25,000 match towards a special donation of \$25,000 from our
very own board members Bill Lynch and Laura Degnon, we completed
our fund to purchase a cargo van for Comfort Cases® delivery!**







 NC | Healthy **Blue**  **HYUNDAI**

 **THANK YOU SPONSORS!** 

 **ROSTRUM** 

 Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
Forever Families for Children in Foster Care

 **aronson**
ASSURANCE | RISK | CONSULTING

 **ALARM.COM**  **Constellation**  **INTEGRITY**
STAFFING SOLUTIONS

OUR BOARD



Laura Degnon

President and CEO of Degnon Associates

Laura Degnon, CAE, is President and CEO of Degnon Associates, an accredited association management company serving medical, health, and scientific professional associations. Laura resides in Rockville, MD with her fiancée, six of their seven children, and their Labradoodle.



I know I speak for all Board Members when I say that it is a true honor to serve the mission of Comfort Cases. Our role is to use our areas of expertise and relationships to have an even greater impact on ensuring we are doing all that we can to help provide dignity and hope to children and youth in foster care. Additionally, we are the checks and balances of a thriving organization whose purpose is incredibly meaningful. I am proud to lead the Comfort Cases' Board and value the experience and input of my colleagues. The effects of their generosity in time and resources will be felt for generations to come!



Andrew Lewis

Audit Partner at KPMG LLP

Andrew Lewis is an audit partner at KPMG LLP, one of the world's leading professional services firms providing audit, tax, and advisory firm to many of the world's largest organizations. He lives with his wife and three children in Maryland.



Elizabeth Luke

Communications Lead at Pinterest

Elizabeth Luke is a graduate from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. A true trailblazer in the public relations industry, in 2020 Business Insider highlighted her as one of the top, up and coming public relations professionals in technology communications. Currently the Communications Lead at Pinterest, she previously worked at Twitter. Elizabeth is committed to our Mission of eliminating trash bags throughout the foster care system.



Bill Lynch

Co-Founder of ProChain Solutions, Inc.,
Founding Member of The National Women's Soccer League

Bill Lynch is a proud Father, Husband, Grandfather, and U.S. Air Force Veteran. Bill has a passion for process improvements and has dedicated his life to improving the lives of others. As the Co-Founder of a Project Management Consultation Firm (ProChain Solutions, Inc.), Founding Member of The National Women's Soccer League, and co-Owner of Washington D.C.'s Women's Professional Soccer Team, The Washington Spirit, Bill has had a direct, positive impact on thousands of lives.



Lisa Dallos

Founder and CEO OF High10

Lisa is a public relations veteran with decades of experience providing media strategy, production, reputation management, crisis communications and consulting to some of the world's best brands and most respected companies. Since 2010, Lisa has been High10's founder and CEO, bringing her keen networking sense and strategic decision making to provide high-level service to the executive teams of the agency's clients, focusing on their global industry positioning and long-term goals. Lisa is a graduate of Boston University. Her dog, Bae, is High10's mascot.



"These cases have made a positive impact. When children enter foster care, it is very nice to be able to have a bag with items for their first night readily available for them.

Comfort Cases® are a lifesaver for the middle of the night foster home placements. Also **the children love receiving Comfort Cases® to carry with them as their own."**

Catherine Arnold
Henry County Department
of Human Resources
ABBEVILLE, AL



AWARDS

Anchor Award / Best Foot Forward Foundation, Boca Raton, FL

Anthem Award for Human & Civil Rights - Leader of the Year / Anthem

Best Features Host / Communicator Award for Podcasts

Best Individual Podcast Episode - Non-Profit / Communicator Award for Podcasts

Best Host - Gold Award / Davey Awards for Podcasts

General Interview/Talk Show - Silver Award / Davey Awards for Podcasts

Casey Excellence for Children Award / Casey Family Programs

RAISE Award – Storytellers of the Year / One Cause

Top-Rated NonProfit / Great NonProfits

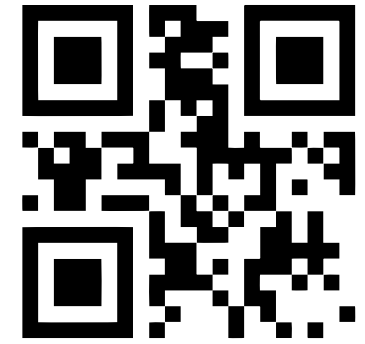


OUR PLAN FOR 2023

Each year, we like to aim even higher in our pursuit to help the population of youth in foster care around the world.

With the support of our donors and partnerships, we have a goal to raise:

\$10,000,000



OUR NEW VAN!

At the 2022 Annual BBQ Benefit, we raised the funds needed to purchase a much-needed cargo van to aid in the delivery of Comfort Cases® which helps to significantly lower the cost we spend each year on shipping out Comfort Cases® to agencies around the world.

The van build was completed in March and we can't wait to put it to good use!



BAG BUSTERS PROGRAM

Grab your used plastic bag, fill it with air, tie it, and then "bust" it (pop it with your hand, or just rip it up). Capture the whole thing on film and post on social media, letting your audience know: "I became a Bag Buster today to bring dignity and hope to children entering foster care today". Then, log on to our website and truly become a Bag Buster by registering to donate just \$10 per month! **Can you imagine the change we can make if 100,000 people registered to be Bag Busters?** Tag your friends and families and be a part of the change! <https://bit.ly/42OdSCc>

Be kind to the environment:
We encourage you to take your busted bag to Safeway or another location that recycles plastic bags.



STATE-BY-STATE

Comfort Cases is working with State Officials in multiple states throughout the country. We want what we've always wanted:

For the practice of handing a child a trash bag to go away and be replaced with the distribution of Comfort Cases®.

Have advocacy and/or fundraising experience and want to volunteer to help make this a reality in your state? Reach out to us today: info@comfortcases.org.





"Very positively - these cases give **comfort and dignity to children when they are at one of the most vulnerable moments of their lives** - a transition into another home."

Christina Kaiser

Communities Connected for Kids
FORT PIERCE, FL

**THERE IS NO COMFORT
CASES WITHOUT YOU!
THANK YOU FOR
HELPING US PROVIDE:**

- **Comfort**
- **Compassion**
- **Character**
- **Community**



www.comfortcases.org



Comfort Cases has proven transparency and program success, receiving top ratings from GreatNonprofits.