

ILLINOIS NONPROFIT WANTS TO END THE NEED FOR THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM AS WE KNOW IT

140-year-old organization rebrands with mission to address root causes of child neglect and abuse.

CHICAGO (May 30, 2023)—Children’s Home & Aid is rebranding in May, but this refresh extends far beyond a new name and logo. Founded in 1883, Children’s Home & Aid helped establish the modern child welfare system and is one of the largest providers of child welfare services in Illinois. Through its evolution, the organization recognizes that strengthening families is the key to advancing the well-being of children. As Brightpoint, the family service organization is on a mission to eliminate the need for the child welfare system altogether.

“We will not foster care our way out of the root causes of child maltreatment.” says Brightpoint President and CEO Mike Shaver. Research bears this out: [according to Children’s Defense Fund](#), children in foster care [are among the most vulnerable children in the U.S.](#) While families who need crisis support are not a monolith, child welfare interventions [tend to disproportionately impact black and brown families.](#) [According to a 2016 study by Washington University in St. Louis](#), 53 percent of black youth under 18 are the subject of an investigation for child abuse and neglect.

A new name to reflect a new mission focusing on families as children’s greatest asset.

Brightpoint is working to be part of the solution that disrupts the factors that push families into crisis situations in the first place. The organization launched a strategic plan in 2021 with a new emphasis on prevention, recognizing and committing to family as the primary asset for child well-being, and intentionally focusing on racial and social equity. Brightpoint understands that systemic and institutional racism are significant drivers of the generational trauma and cycles of poverty impacting many communities today. The lack of opportunities for economic and social mobility driven by systemic biases contributes to poverty, and poverty can lead to family crises, including child neglect or abuse. By shifting the focus of child welfare services from intervention to prevention, Brightpoint is better able to intervene before everyday problems become a life-altering crisis.

The organization is also advocating for changes that create an equitable and accessible system of social supports that can reduce the stressors that plunge families into crisis situations. The ultimate goal is to implement Brightpoint's services and advocacy leadership to create environments within Illinois families and communities where thriving is possible for children, youth and their parents.

Learn more about how Brightpoint is building a new framework to replace the current child welfare system by putting families first at [brightpoint.org](https://www.brightpoint.org).

About Brightpoint (formerly Children's Home & Aid)

Brightpoint is a distinguished child and family services organization. We started our journey as Children's Home & Aid and have served Illinois children since 1883. Brightpoint is recognized for establishing best practices and achieving results through our programs and services that focus on child abuse prevention, healthy child and youth development, and strengthening families. Brightpoint promises to be brave with our families and support their brave choices, because we know that those choices can create strong families and strong families create thriving children.

Brightpoint engages with over 30,000 children, youth and families each year in 67 counties across Illinois. Our organization's mission is to advance the well-being of children by investing in families to disrupt the systemic and multi-generational cycle of racial, social and economic inequality. Our vision is an equitable world where all children and families thrive in strong communities. Learn more at www.brightpoint.org.

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