



FOUNDED IN 1959 BY SARA O'MEARA + YVONNE FEDDERSON
PREVENTION + TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE

WHO WE ARE

SECTION I





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Section I: Childhelp, Who We Are

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About Childhelp

The story of Childhelp began with two young Hollywood actresses' "chance" encounters—one with 11 homeless orphans abroad, and one with Nancy Reagan—that led to a lifelong commitment to helping children in need.

CEO and Co-Founder Sara O'Meara and President and Co-Founder Yvonne Feddersen started Childhelp in 1959, establishing it as a leading national non-profit organization dedicated to helping victims of child abuse and neglect and at-risk children. Childhelp focuses on advocacy, prevention, treatment and community outreach.

The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline, 1-800-4-A-CHILD, operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receives calls from throughout the United States, Canada, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam. Childhelp's programs and services also include residential treatment services (villages); children's advocacy centers; therapeutic foster care; group homes and child abuse prevention, education and training. Childhelp also created the National Day of Hope that mobilizes people across America to join the fight against child abuse.

Mission

Childhelp exists to meet the physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs of abused, neglected and at-risk children. We focus our efforts on advocacy, intervention, treatment, prevention, family resilience and community outreach.

Philosophy

Childhelp credits its success to its founders' visionary beliefs, which are the heart of the organization:

- Childhelp believes that every child has a unique contribution to make to the world. We do everything within our power to help each child heal and develop self-esteem to reach their God-given potential.
- We believe unconditional love is the foundation upon which all healing begins. The entrance of each Childhelp facility features the words, *All Who Enter Here Will Find Love*.
- These children, who have seen the worst that life has to offer, deserve the best that we can provide while they are in the care of Childhelp.

Not surprisingly, the perspectives of the children served by Childhelp are varied. Some have known nothing but abuse and neglect, believing they were alone and that no one cared. Others lived in happy homes with caring, loving families, only to be hurt by someone outside the home, usually someone they already knew and trusted.

Childhelp programs and services are designed to help children from any situation and let them experience the life they deserve – one filled with love. The principal theme is to provide these children with an environment of love and kindness and with the best possible treatment services so they will see how special they truly are.

The Childhelp® Story

The Beginning of a Lifetime Commitment to Children...

Eleven half-American, half-Japanese orphans wandering homeless in Tokyo following a typhoon sparked a mission that has spanned internationally for 65 years and impacted the lives of millions of children.

Hollywood actresses Sara Buckner (O'Meara) and Yvonne Lime (Fedderson) first met on the set of *The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet*, when they played the girlfriends of Ricky and David Nelson. Their mission for children began in 1959 when they were sent on a government-sponsored goodwill tour to visit troops in Japan.

On the streets of Tokyo after a typhoon, the actresses came upon a group of cold and frightened children huddled together for warmth. Learning they had no parents and were born from American troops during the Korean War, the young women took the children to their hotel room for the night with the idea of placing them into an orphanage the next day.

What they didn't know then was that this was the beginning of a lifetime commitment to children.

They learned the youngsters had been turned away from orphanages because of their mixed heritage. They were told of a woman, Kin Horuchi, living in a one-room hut that kept several Japanese-American children. She agreed to care for the 11 additional children and the ladies promised to send money to help the children. They thought the problem was settled, but word of what they were doing spread rapidly through the city. Before they left Japan, 100 additional Japanese-American children were left on the doorstep of the hut, which now needed to be expanded and later rebuilt. They had suddenly become surrogate mothers to a brood of 100, operating and maintaining what had now become an orphanage.

Returning to California, the actresses began to raise funds among friends and their families, as the film community to care for the children.

From that beginning grew International Orphans Incorporated, an organization that eventually built four orphanages, caring for thousands of abandoned Japanese-American children.

America's Best Kept Secret

In 1966, the actresses were invited to Washington to discuss the building of orphanages for Vietnamese American children. With the help of the Third Marine Amphibious Force, they established five orphanages, a hospital and a school for abandoned children in Vietnam.

International Orphans Incorporated maintained the facilities until the American troops pulled out. In 1975, the two young women helped arrange Operation Baby Lift, flying thousands of children to waiting adoptive homes in America.

It was after a speech they made on International Orphans Incorporated that Nancy Reagan, then First Lady of California, asked they turn their attention to "America's best kept secret" – child abuse.

The Senate Subcommittee on Children and Youth had just released a study that child abuse had become epidemic in the United States and was the leading cause of death in young children.

With encouragement of childcare experts in private and public sectors, International Orphans Incorporated began a campaign about child abuse, producing and airing the first television special on child abuse in America and in 1976 changed its name to Children's Village USA. They began a program in the United States for abused and neglected children and called it a "village." This began a new chapter in their life-long mission to help children in need.

Childhelp Today

Childhelp is one of the largest and oldest national nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping victims of child abuse and neglect and at-risk children. Childhelp focuses on advocacy, prevention, treatment and community outreach. Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson continue their involvement with the organization as Chairman/CEO and President, respectively.

The charity's comprehensive programs and services include:

- **Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline, 1-800-4-A-CHILD** This 24-hour-a-day, 7- days-a-week hotline serves the United States, Canada, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam. Staffed exclusively with degreed professional counselors, this confidential service offers crisis intervention, information, literature and referrals to emergency, social service and support resources. Through translators, the hotline can communicate in over 170 languages. Services are available over phone, text and online chat at childhelphotline.org
- **Childhelp Residential Treatment Village** A Childhelp Residential Treatment Village is an intensive arena of 24-hour nurturing in an idyllic country setting. Professional counselors provide equine, art, ranch, and traditional talk therapy to children who have been exposed to extreme brutality. On-site nonpublic schools ensure that even the most neglected child is brought back to an appropriate grade level.

- **Childhelp Children’s Advocacy Centers** Pioneered by the Childhelp Co-Founders, these safe havens are designed to significantly reduce the trauma of abuse. The centers house a coalition of law enforcement, prosecution, social service agencies, medical professionals and therapists working in unison to investigate abuse and heal injured children. Fully equipped mobile units bring these essential services to children in remote areas, ensuring that no child is left behind.
- **Childhelp Group Homes** For abused children, a Childhelp Group Home can be an oasis of peace and safety from lives of chaos and fear. Through structured activities with therapists and plenty of play, children regain confidence and begin to repair their fractured lives.
- **Childhelp Foster Family & Adoption Agencies** Childhelp recruits, screens, trains and certifies foster families to ensure that children who have been through trauma are gently introduced into safe environments with sensitive guardians. 24 hour on-call assistance, respite care, financial stipends, group counseling and transportation assistance are just some of the ways Childhelp supports the healing process. Childhelp Adoption Agencies conduct home studies, assist families in preparing for placement and find children the loving parents they deserve.
- **Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe for Educators** Known for three decades as Childhelp Good Touch, Bad Touch, this research-based program is a Pre-K through 12th grade, comprehensive child abuse and bullying prevention education curriculum that equips students nationwide with the skills they need to play a significant role in the prevention or interruption of abuse and bullying. Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe is delivered through an online virtual campus and covers topics such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, bullying and cyberbullying, all at an age-appropriate level.
- **Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe for Athletes** Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe for Athletes is a direct response to abuse in youth athletics. Designed as a positive and fun way to embed lifesaving concepts through activity and motion, Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe for Athletes educates coaches, parents, educators and community members about the signs and symptoms of child abuse while teaching children ways to protect themselves against predators.

Decades of Caring: 1959 – 2024

One of America's most recognized non-profit organizations dedicated to helping victims of child abuse, neglect and at-risk children through advocacy, prevention, treatment and community outreach. (Founded by Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson.)

2024 In partnership with AmeriCorps, the Los Angeles Tribune awards Childhelp co-founders The President's Volunteer Service Lifetime Achievement Award.

The State of Tennessee recognizes September 9 as "Sara O'Meara Day" in honor of her lifetime of service to Tennessee and the children of America.

Google announces that any search related to child abuse and neglect from the U.S. will result in an information box at the top of search results to direct help seekers to the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline.

In partnership with Inspired Media 360, Childhelp launches "The Survivor Series: Dare to Care" podcast to amplify survivors' voices and celebrate their journey.

Childhelp organizes the first "Childhelp Day of Hope Ride" in Arizona, welcoming dozens of bikers and supporters to ride from Biker Week Arizona to the state Capitol in support of survivors of child abuse and child abuse prevention.

2023 Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe includes students in Japan among international delivery of prevention education curriculum.

Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe celebrates one million students protected by the program since inception

Childhelp Founders are the recipients of the Arizona Interfaith Movement's Golden Rule Award.

2022 The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline celebrates its 40th anniversary serving children and concerned adults with 24-7 crisis counseling.

Childhelp offers Courage First Athlete Helpline in partnership with long-time collaborators Foundation for Global Sports Development. The new helpline, staffed by specially-trained Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline counselors, is geared toward athletes and communities involved in youth sports.

Childhelp Founders are the recipients of the Arizona Interfaith Movement's Golden Rule Award.

Childhelp continues to help children nationwide, meeting the needs of abused, neglected and at-risk children through programs and services in prevention, intervention and treatment.

2021 Grand opening of new Knoxville location with facilities for the Childhelp Children's Center of East Tennessee and Childhelp Foster Family and Adoption Agency of East Tennessee.

Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe is the first pre-k to grade-12 child abuse prevention education curriculum listed as evidence-based by the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse.

Research on COVID-19 public health response published in academic journals spotlights the work of the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline.

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Research on COVID-19 public health response published in academic journals spotlights the work of the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline.

2020 The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline became a lifeline for children, families, and survivors during the coronavirus pandemic, seeing up to 43% increases in calls as national child welfare lines showed decreases.

2019 Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline launches text and online chat services nationwide.

U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity chooses Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe as their official abuse prevention curriculum for military base schools.

Tennessee Senate issues proclamation celebrating Childhelp's 60 years of service.

Childhelp wins 2019 AZ Business Angels Awards – Nonprofit of the Year (Education and Youth).

2018 After a successful launch, Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe for Athletes partners with Foundation for Global Sports Development to bring prevention education to every state in America through the Courage First initiative.

The Council on Accreditation grants four-year accreditation for eight Childhelp Programs, recognizing Childhelp as a provider with high standards, effective stewardship of resources, and high-quality service delivery.

The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline pilots online webchat services across Arizona, wins multi-year, multi-million dollar innovation grant to expand and research chat and text capabilities

Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson were nominated for the 9th time for the Nobel Peace Prize

2017 The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline, in its 35th year, joins the National Hotline Consortium.

Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe for Athletes partners with Arizona Interscholastic Association to expand delivery of prevention education to tens of thousands of youth athletes across Arizona.

Childhelp Alice C. Tyler Village is named "2017 Nonprofit of the Year" by the Culpeper County Chamber of Commerce.

2016 Arizona Governor Doug Ducey proclamation formally acknowledges the Childhelp National Day of Hope in the State of Arizona.

The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline partners with Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. A satellite hotline branch began operating out of this location.

Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe, in conjunction with Arizona State University researchers, undertakes pilot project to gather evidence for impact measurement and improvement.

Ongoing improvements to residential facilities see 4 new roofs for cottages and an upgrade to paved roads at Childhelp Alice C. Tyler Village, while technological resources and new curriculum implementation enhance e-classroom offerings at Childhelp Merv Griffin Village.

Childhelp Merv Griffin Village receives technological upgrade and new curriculum implementations to enhance e-classroom learning.

2015 The Childhelp Children's Center of Arizona is rededicated in honor of Linda Pope, longtime benefactor of Childhelp's mission.

Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe expands and enriches offerings for students PreK-12 and improved facilitator training.

The Childhelp Community Center provides families the Strengthening Families program in tandem with Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe, providing a unique research opportunity into program outcomes by experts from ASU.

2014 The Childhelp Children’s Center of Arizona moves to a building shared with the City of Phoenix Family Advocacy Center to provide better care to clients, and Childhelp Headquarters moves from its location in north Scottsdale to Phoenix.

The Childhelp Community Center begins offering the high-impact Strengthening Families Program to help area families build parenting skills and healthier family dynamics.

Childhelp.org sees update and expansion, providing additional information on Childhelp and child abuse prevention to visitors worldwide.

The Childhelp Hollywood Resource and Training Center begins offering its after school program, as well as offering bilingual parenting classes in Spanish and English.

Childhelp Merv Griffin Village installs a covered arena to offer shade to children during equine-assisted therapy.

Childhelp Co-Founders are nominated an eighth time for the Nobel Peace Prize.

2013 Sara and Yvonne are awarded the Torch 1975, Inc. Nonprofit Certificate of Recognition in honor of “Outstanding, dedicated, diligent and inspirational service to orphans and children of the Vietnam War.”

Sara and Yvonne are awarded honorary doctorates from Northcentral University.

2012 Childhelp wins the North Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of The Year Award.

Childhelp launches a new prevention program for Athletes as a response to abuse in youth athletics. This lifesaving educational curriculum was underwritten by Olympic consultants, The Foundation for Global Sports Development.

Childhelp Co-Founders are nominated a seventh time for the Nobel Peace Prize.

2011 Childhelp Co-Founders Sara O’Meara and Yvonne Fedderson are nominated for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Childhelp is awarded the U.S. Department of Education Grant to completely revamp the “Good Touch, Bad Touch” prevention education program to address concerns such as Internet predators and bullying, partnering with development teams at Arizona State University to create Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe.

Florida becomes first state to mandate prevention education in every school in the entire state (over 400 school districts). Childhelp Speak Up, Be Safe curriculum is chosen as the official prevention education program for Florida.

Childhelp receives a critical voice on Governor Jan Brewer's Arizona Child Safety Task Force. The task force brings together 19 experts in the field and is tasked with developing a plan for child safety reform in Arizona.

Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson win the Congressional Angels in Adoption Award in Washington D.C.

Childhelp Co-Founders are nominated a sixth time for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson receive the Global Women's Summit Humanitarian Award.

2010 Childhelp honors Nancy Reagan with special 50th Anniversary Award.

Childhelp celebrates its 50th Anniversary Celebration event at the Warner Theatre in Washington, D.C.

2009 Childhelp begins to celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson are honored at 17th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Childhelp launches 'End Child Abuse Now' national bus tour.

In an unprecedented show of bipartisan support, each governor from every state in the Union signs the Childhelp Governor's Resolution to Eradicate Child Abuse.

2008 Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson receive the Clarins 2008 Most Dynamic Woman Award by Clarins USA.

The Childhelp Children's Center of Virginia relocates to a new, larger facility in Fairfax County to meet rising demands.

Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson are nominated a fourth time for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Childhelp acquires *Crystal Darkness*, a meth abuse prevention and awareness documentary and campaign that broadcasts in states and regions around North America. There is a strong tie between meth users and child abusers.

2007 Childhelp renames the Village of Childhelp West to the Childhelp Merv Griffin Village in celebration of the life of Merv Griffin.

Childhelp acquires Phoenix-based Southwest Leadership Foundation, expanding programs, facilities and resources.

Childhelp opens the Childhelp River Bridge Advocacy Center in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, serving Colorado communities.

Childhelp launches Childhelp Alert, a system that proactively notifies subscribers when a registered sex offender moves into their neighborhood.

Childhelp celebrates 25th Anniversary of the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline, 1-800-4-A-CHILD.

Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson receive the Frank E. Moss Humanitarian Award from the Caring Institute in Denver.

Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson are nominated a third time for the Nobel Peace Prize

2006 Childhelp USA changes its name to Childhelp to engage international efforts. A new logo is adopted and the Childhelp Web site is redesigned.

Lifetime Television debuts the movie For The Love Of A Child, the story of Sara and Yvonne and Childhelp's early days in Japan and Vietnam. The film was ranked the number one show by Nielsen Media Research.

Childhelp initiates legislation to authorize the establishment of a national registry that will follow child abusers from state to state. It was enacted by President George W. Bush under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.

Good-Touch/Bad-Touch curriculum is acquired from Prevention and Motivation, Inc. and begins providing the abuse prevention program to local schools under the Childhelp name.

Childhelp Wings, a mother-daughter philanthropic group started by Childhelp board member Carol Hebets, is founded.

Childhelp expands its foster care programs in Tennessee and California.

2005 Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson are nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. It will be the first of many nominations in their career.

A therapeutic foster care program opens in Michigan.

Childhelp USA holds inaugural Drive the Dream Gala in conjunction with the Barrett- Jackson Collector Car Auction, becoming the organization's largest annual fundraiser.

Three new Chapters and Auxiliaries are chartered in Temecula, California; Flagstaff, Arizona and Knoxville, Tennessee.

- 2004** The book, *Silence Broken*, the story of Childhelp USA's beginning written by Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson, is published.
- Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson receive the Arizona Foundation of Women's Sandra Day O'Connor Award.
- 2003** The Childhelp California Advisory Board is formed.
- Childhelp Children's Mobile Advocacy Center begins services in northern Arizona.
- 2002** Childhelp Merv Griffin Village of Arizona officially opens.
- The Childhelp Children's Center of Virginia, an advocacy center for children, opens.
- Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson receive the Champions of Children Award from the National Children's Alliance.
- 2001** The 6,000-square foot Batavia Learning Center opens for the residents of the Alice C. Tyler Village of Childhelp East in Virginia.
- Childhelp opens its first mobile children's advocacy center in Tennessee, the first of its kind in the United States.
- Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Charity Awards Committee.
- 2000** Merv Griffin announces donation of Merv Griffin's Wickenburg Inn and Dude Ranch to Childhelp USA. The 192-acre property is located within a 4,700-acre private preserve 70 miles northwest of Phoenix. The facility will be named Childhelp USA Merv Griffin Village of Arizona.
- The U.S. House of Representatives passes House Concurrent Resolution 76 with a unanimous vote, supporting the Childhelp USA National Day of Hope. The National Day of Hope is a day reserved for people across the nation to take time to say a prayer and observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the children who die every day from abuse and neglect.
- The Goodyear Blimp advertises the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline, 1-800-4-A-CHILD, throughout the year.
- 1999** Grand openings are held for the children's activity centers at the Village of Childhelp West in Beaumont, California and the Alice C. Tyler Village of Childhelp East in Lignum, Virginia.
- New Chapters and Auxiliaries are chartered across the United States. These continue to develop and grow to this day.
- Childhelp USA celebrates its 40th Anniversary.

- 1998** A grand opening and dedication of the Childhelp Children's Center of Arizona, an advocacy center for children, is held in November.
- A toddler group home opens in Orange County, California.
- 1997** 110-acres of land in the Smoky Mountains becomes home to the foster care program in East Tennessee.
- Groundbreaking takes place for the children's activity center at the Childhelp Village in Beaumont, California.
- The Alice C. Tyler Village of Childhelp East opens a new school and another cottage that will house 16 more children.
- Childhelp is now on the Internet, www.childhelpusa.org
- 1996** Childhelp celebrates the grand opening and dedication of its new headquarters and relocation of the national child abuse hotline to Scottsdale, Arizona.
- Childhelp participates in the Stand For Children march in Washington, D.C.
- Children's Advocacy Center of Manhattan, a project of Childhelp, opens in Manhattan, New York.
- 1995** A grand opening for the Childhelp Children's Center of Knoxville, Tennessee is held.
- 1994** The Childhelp Southern Regional Office, located in Knoxville, Tennessee, opens its offices with the goal of breaking ground for a children's advocacy center, a one-stop center for interviewing victims of sexual abuse.
- 1993** The Alice C. Tyler Village of Childhelp East opens in Lignum, Virginia.
- Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson receive the National Caring Award from the National Caring Institute in Washington, D.C. and the Hubert Humphrey Memorial Award from the Touchdown Club of Washington, D.C.
- 1992** The Adult Survivor Program, an on-going therapy and support program for those who have survived abuse, is launched.
- Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson receive the Women Who Make a Difference: Women of the Year Award from Family Circle Magazine.
- 1991** Childhelp USA purchases 270-acres of land in Culpeper, Virginia, which will be the site of the Childhelp East Coast Village. On October 1, 1991, Childhelp celebrated the groundbreaking of this new residential treatment facility bearing the name of its major benefactor, Alice C. Tyler. This site was dedicated by former First Lady Barbara Bush.

Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson receive the Kiwanis World Service Medal.

1990 Childhelp expands its specialized foster home program.

The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline is expanded, adding a computerized telephone system that is capable of handling up to 5 million calls a year.

A joint research partnership with the University of California, Riverside is established.

Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson receive the National Charity Award from President George H.W. Bush in Washington, D.C.

1989 Childhelp celebrates its 30th Anniversary of providing direct services to children. A specialized foster care program to train Childhelp foster parents is established.

1988 New Chapters are chartered in Arizona, Maryland and Virginia.

Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson receive the 'Crime Victims Week' Department of Justice Award, presented by President Ronald Reagan.

1987 Childhelp opens two group homes in Orange County, California in conjunction with the Department of Children's Services.

Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson receive the Excellence for Individual Achievement Award from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge and are given Citations from Pope John Paul for "recognition of the dedication to the loving care and commitment to protection of abused children in the world."

1986 A village after-care program is designed to serve those children discharged from the village, but who still require additional support to complete the healing process.

1985 Childhelp celebrates the opening of its western regional office. It houses the national toll-free hotline and a family evaluation program that provides a complete psycho- social assessment for abused children and their families.

1984 Childhelp produces and airs a national telethon on child abuse, Will We Hear Their Cry?

1983 Children's Village USA name changed to Childhelp USA for national programs and Childhelp International for international activities. Sara O'Meara was the representative from America to the International Union for Child Welfare which enabled the organization to share expertise with child abuse agencies around the world.

Childhelp is instrumental in preparations to establish the International Alliance on Child Abuse and Neglect.

- Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson receive the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Award for leadership in the prevention, treatment and research of child abuse and neglect, nationally and internationally.
- 1982** Children's Village USA launches its first national campaign for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- The first national toll-free hotline, 1-800-4-A-CHILD, is implemented by Children's Village USA, operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week staffed exclusively with degreed professional counselors.
- Child Abuse and You, a brochure on how to recognize and report child abuse, is published and distributed nationally. Five educational child abuse booklets targeted to teens and pre-teens are also published and circulated to high schools and junior high schools coast-to-coast, including a comic book about child abuse.
- Children's Village USA co-sponsors an International Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect with NATO in France.
- Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson receive the Mary Ellen Award for Excellence in Child Care by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.
- 1980** A Time for Love, Children's Village USA's first television special on child abuse and neglect, is aired and syndicated coast-to-coast.
- Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson receive the Dame Cross of Merit of the Order of St. John of Denmark for outstanding humanitarian work.
- 1979** Through the encouragement of Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson, President Jimmy Carter designates the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- Children's Village USA celebrates its 20th Anniversary.
- 1978** Children's Village USA opens a residential treatment center in Beaumont, California. This village treats severely abused children ages 2-12 placed from California counties.
- 1976** International Orphans Incorporated changes its name to Children's Village USA.
- 1975** Nancy and Ronald Reagan ask Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson for International Orphans Incorporated to address the problem of child abuse and neglect in the United States. Planning begins for a residential treatment center for abused children and their families.

International Orphans Incorporated helped organize Operation Baby Lift where thousands of orphans were rescued from Vietnam and brought to the United States for adoption.

1973-1974 IOI built and maintained a hospital, school and 5 orphanages in Vietnam.

1972 Congress asked Sara and Yvonne to go into Vietnam to replicate their successes for children in Tokyo.

1970-1971 IOI instituted a Special Friends project to connect helping hearts with Childhelp

orphans. A version of this type of program exists to this day.

1969 International Orphans Incorporated celebrates its 10th Anniversary.

1968 IOI builds 3 more orphanages in Japan.

1967 Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson receive the Cross of Merit from the Knightly Order of St. Brigitte for humanitarian work as co-founders of International Orphans Incorporated.

1966 Chiyoko, the first Japanese-American orphan brought to the United States by International Orphans Incorporated is adopted.

1961-1965 IOI begins building two large orphanages in the Tokyo area for Amerasian children.

1960 International Orphans is incorporated (IOI)

1959 International Orphans is founded by Sara Buckner (O'Meara) and Yvonne Lime (Fedderson) in Tokyo, Japan to care for Japanese-American children who were considered "throw away" children because of their mixed heritage.

1952 Two young Hollywood actresses, Sara (Buckner) O'Meara and Yvonne (Lime) Fedderson, met playing the bubbly girlfriends of Ricky and David Nelson on The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet. Little did they know at the time, it was a friendship that would last a lifetime.

**Childhelp National Headquarters,
Facilities and Programs Directory**

Email for Sara and Yvonne: Should be sent to Founders’ Executive Assistants
Lucy Navarro manavarro@childhelp.org or Mary Mullen mmullen@childhelp.org

Email for Judy Jensen, Director Western Region Chapters jjensen@childhelp.org

Email for Kristin Parker, Director Chapter Relations kparker@childhelp.org

Headquarters Senior Leadership Team

Co-Founder/Chairman/CEO	Sara O’Meara
Co-Founder/Vice Chairman/President	Yvonne Fedderson
Executive Vice President	Jim Hebets
Senior Vice President & Chief of Staff	Michael Medoro
Chief Administrative Officer	Denise Biben
Chief Financial Officer	Stephen Tucker
Chief Information Officer & HIPPA Officer	John Hopkins
Chief Human Resources Officer	Catherine Schwartz
Vice President & General Counsel	Sarah De Oliveira
National Vice President of Philanthropy	Daren Wendell

Facilities and Programs Directory

**Childhelp National Headquarters
6730 N. Scottsdale Rd. Ste. 150
Scottsdale, AZ 85253**

PH: 480-922-8212; FAX: 480-922-7061; Toll Free: 1-800-790-2445

The Childhelp National Headquarters office is home for the Childhelp administrative offices, including the National Child Abuse Hotline and Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe. Childhelp distributes information, materials and public service announcements through its National Headquarters and individual facilities.

**Childhelp Palm Desert Office
74-333 Highway 111, Suite 206
Palm Desert, CA 92260**

PH: 760.674.9400; FAX 760.674.9404

The Childhelp Palm Desert Office houses the Regional Chapter Director and is a place for local Chapter members to meet and congregate.

Childhelp Los Angeles Foster Family Offices
1625 West Olympic Blvd, Ste 601
Los Angeles, CA 90015

PH: 323.465.4016

Prevention & Intervention Programs

Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe

Childhelp National Headquarters
6730 N. Scottsdale Rd. Ste. 150
Scottsdale, AZ 85253

PH: 480-922-8212; Toll Free: 1-800-790-2445

Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe (CH SUBS) prevention education curriculum helps children and teens learn the skills to identify, prevent, and interrupt all forms of child abuse – physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, bullying, cyberbullying and online dangers. Human Trafficking Prevention is now also included for grades 6 to 12, as an enhancement to the core curriculum. CH SUBS is the only [evidence-based program](#) that has developmentally appropriate lessons for Pre-K/K through 12th grade and is used nationally and internationally. Lessons are aligned to common core standards and to the ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors standards.

Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe for Athletes

Childhelp National Headquarters
6730 N. Scottsdale Rd. Ste. 150
Scottsdale, AZ 85253

PH: 480-922-8212; Toll Free: 1-800-790-2445

Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe for Athletes is a direct response to abuse in youth athletics. Designed as a positive and fun way to embed lifesaving concepts through activity and motion, Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe for Athletes educates coaches, parents, educators and community members about the signs and symptoms of child abuse while teaching children ways to protect themselves against predators.

Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline - 1-800-4-A-CHILD®

**Childhelp National Headquarters
6730 N. Scottsdale Rd. Ste. 150
Scottsdale, AZ 85253**

PH: 480-922-8212; Toll Free: 1-800-790-2445

This 24-hour-a-day, 7-days-a-week hotline available via calls, text, and chat, serves the United States, Canada, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam. Staffed exclusively with degreed professional counselors, this confidential service offers crisis intervention, information, literature and referrals to emergency, social service and support resources. Through translators, the hotline can communicate in over 170 languages.

Courage First Athlete Helpline

**Childhelp National Headquarters
6730 N. Scottsdale Rd. Ste. 150
Scottsdale, AZ 85253**

PH: 480-922-8212; Toll Free: 1-800-790-2445

In partnership with the Foundation for Global Sports Development, we have created the Courage First Hotline to serve athletes, former athletes, parents, coaches, and sports communities through crisis response, mental well-being intervention, informational resources, and reporting guidance for concerns about emotional, physical, or sexual abuse. Courage First's team of athlete-centered counselors offer confidential assistance through calls, text, and online chat.

Childhelp Children's Advocacy Center of Arizona

**2120 N. Central Ave., Suite 130
Phoenix, AZ, 85004**

PH: 602-271-4500

Pioneered by the Childhelp Co-Founders, child advocacy centers are safe havens designed to significantly reduce the trauma of abuse by housing a coalition of law enforcement, prosecution, social service agencies, medical professionals and therapists working in unison to investigate abuse and heal injured children. Since 1998, the Childhelp Children's Center of Arizona Dedicated to Linda Pope has served abused and neglected children by providing treatment, intervention, and investigation services in a child-friendly and child-centric environment. The goal of the Center is to provide services that address the immediate safety and complete well-being of children referred to the Center.

Childhelp Tennessee Child Advocacy Center

**623 Lindsay Place
Knoxville, TN 37919**

PH: 865-637-1753

For 29 years, the fully accredited Childhelp Tennessee Child Advocacy Center has served the community's most frightened and fragile victims of child abuse and neglect through advocacy, treatment, and investigation services. Walls adorned with bright colored murals and a playroom filled with toys and games develops a sense of safety and happiness in victims that know only danger and fear. Children receive medical exams, forensic interviews and mental health services from professional therapists specially trained in treatment of complex trauma to help begin the healing process and provide hope to the children, helping them realize that abuse is never their fault.

Childhelp Tennessee Foster Family Agency

**408 N. Cedar Bluff Suite 300
Knoxville, TN 37923**

PH: 865-291-0288

Childhelp recruits, trains and licenses foster families in Knoxville and 6 counties surrounding counties to provide therapeutic foster homes for children who have suffered from abuse and/or neglect. The Childhelp foster homes provide a safe and loving environment for the children that allows them to heal from the trauma they have experienced. 24-hour on-call assistance, respite care, financial support, counseling and transportation assistance are just some of the ways Childhelp supports the healing process. Childhelp also provides adoption services for our foster homes by conducting home studies, assists families in preparing for permanency, and working with them through the adoption process until adoption finalization.

Childhelp Tennessee Relative Care Giver Program

**408 N. Cedar Bluff Suite 300
Knoxville, TN 37923**

PH: 865-291-0288

Childhelp provides support and services to families where children have been removed from a relative's home and placed with a relative caregiver. Our Care Coordinators work with the relatives to provide assistance to the family through access to services, financial, educational, and emergency support in order to help the Relative Caregiver provide a safe and stable home for the children.

Childhelp Tennessee Clinical Services Program

**408 N. Cedar Bluff Suite 300
Knoxville, TN 37923**

PH: 865-291-0288

Childhelp's Clinical Services is a child friendly, child focused therapy clinic that provides mental health treatment to children and their families within our community. Children that receive services with our clinic have experienced varying types of abuse and have complex trauma needs. Our clinical therapists are specially trained in complex trauma treatment and utilize evidence-based interventions to provide healing and hope to the children we serve.

Childhelp Knox County Tennessee Speak Up Be Safe Prevention Program

**623 Lindsay Place
Knoxville, TN 37919**

PH: 865-637-1753

In FY23, the Childhelp Tennessee Child Advocacy Center in Knoxville was awarded a grant to promote child abuse prevention education in Knox County. Through the addition of a Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe trainer, tremendous success was achieved in raising awareness throughout Knox County and successfully implementing Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe into classrooms and other community settings. FY24 will have an even bigger reach in Knox County through these efforts.

Childhelp Foster Family Agency of California

**1625 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 601
Los Angeles, CA 90015**

PH: 323-465-4016

Childhelp recruits, screens, trains and certifies foster families to ensure children who have been through trauma are gently introduced into safe environments with sensitive guardians. 24-hour on-call assistance, respite care, financial stipends, group counseling and transportation assistance are just some of the ways Childhelp supports the healing process.

Treatment Programs

Childhelp's California Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (Group Homes)

Costa Mesa, CA

Childhelp's California Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program seeks to help heal children in California's child welfare system by providing comprehensive treatment in stable, nurturing, safe environments. Since 1996, Childhelp Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs have served residents with counseling, therapy, support and structure for children they serve. To ensure that each child gets the individual attention and treatment they need, Childhelp operates three group homes in residential neighborhoods of Costa Mesa, California.

Childhelp Alice C. Tyler Village

23164 Dragoon Rd.

Lignum, VA, 22726

PH: 540-399-5090

Opened in 1993, Childhelp Alice C. Tyler Village is recognized as Virginia's premier treatment destination for severely abused and emotionally disturbed children. Licensed to care for 67 children, treatment programs enable victims of abuse to overcome the negative effects of their trauma and acquire coping skills necessary for success outside of an institution. Therapy includes art therapy, animal therapy, recreational therapy, group therapy, speech and occupational therapy, special education classes, and psychiatric counseling. Facilities include five residential cottages, a fully accredited school, a gymnasium, two social services buildings, a medical clinic, an art studio, a swimming pool, an equestrian center, canoes, go-carts, horses, and farm animals.

Childhelp National Board of Directors 2024-2025

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