Dear Friends,

Twenty-six years ago, my husband and I walked out of the neonatal intensive care unit with our first daughter with no guidance on accessing developmental information or services. Today, I still meet families that are missing out on opportunities to increase their knowledge and capacity to support their children’s development. What we all have in common is the desire to see our children reach their maximum developmental potential.

In communities across Colorado, too many parents of children under 5 feel anxious, alone and confused. They aren’t sure how to name their concerns as they watch their children struggle and fall behind. The stress, worry and challenge of caring for their children takes a toll, causing some to miss work and others to suffer from depression and financial hardship.

At ABCD, we envision a different Colorado, where all children with social, emotional and developmental needs are identified by age 5 to ensure they get help when it matters most. Primary care, early childhood and community agencies work together seamlessly, effectively referring and connecting families to the resources and services they need. Aided by that support, parents are empowered to address their children’s developmental needs. Their children start kindergarten ready to learn and succeed in school and in life.

ABCD’s work proves that we can make a difference. In 2018, 30,000 children had been served by agencies that have received our model of customized consultation to improve their early identification and referral processes, 250 early learning professionals participated in our trainings and have increased their knowledge of child development, and referrals from primary care providers to early intervention services increased by 1,200% since 2006.

As we reflect on what we have accomplished, we recognize there is much more to be done. Our success depends on our partners to advocate for and collaborate with ABCD. Together we can ensure that every child in Colorado has an equal opportunity to thrive.

Eileen Auer Bennett
Executive Director

...because every Colorado child deserves an equal opportunity to thrive.

The Challenge

Without the right information and help, children and families face serious challenges that can affect all areas of their lives.

Colorado’s rate for recommended developmental screenings for kids birth to age 3 on Medicaid and CHIP was 41.8%.

12-15% of all children have some type of emotional or behavioral problems or developmental delays. In Colorado alone, approximately 35,000 children under age 3 are affected by those challenges.

Early identification and intervention are critical because research shows that human brains grow faster in the first three years of life than at any other point in the human lifespan.

Cost Savings

For every dollar communities invest in early identification and intervention, they see a $4 to $9 reduction in long-term societal costs.

Our Work

Working in partnership with frontline providers, ABCD helps bring the lifelong benefits of early identification and intervention for developmental needs to all Colorado children and families.

We Educate, Equip and Partner with:

- Primary Care Providers
- Early Childhood Programs
- Community Agencies

We Offer:

- Training
- Customized Consultation
- Screening & Referral Database
- Community Systems-Building
- HealthySteps
Our Impact

ABCd is a trusted name when it comes to child development and early intervention. Partners agree we are connecting families and children to the services they need.

Pediatric medical providers who partnered with ABCD improved the rate of referred children who followed through to evaluations by ... 20%!

Women Screened for Pregnancy-Related Depression Before and After ABCD support

Exceeding national standards!

Denver Health Lowry Family Health Center has improved screening rates for Non-English, Non-Spanish speaking children from 54% to 77%

"ABCD’s support has been absolutely vital to our success in providing technical assistance support to early learning centers."
Tri-County Health Department

"With the implementation of the screening program, we screened 330 students ages 18 months to 6 years old... and it gave excellent baseline information on the child’s development."
Amy Boss, Little Blessings

"From medical providers to child care centers to developmental therapists to parents... and more, ABCD is aware of what's going on in the landscape and who should work with whom to ensure the ball is not dropped."
Dr. Sophia Meharena, Every Child Pediatrics

From 2013-2018, HealthySteps has served 2,135 children between the ages of birth-36 months.

Over 1600 children are currently enrolled in HealthySteps, over 1/3 of whom were enrolled in 2018!
Vision
Colorado’s children reach their maximum development potential.

Mission
To align and mobilize pediatric and community agencies to improve early childhood development outcomes.

Help us make an impact!
Our impact is felt by Colorado families whose children are thriving thanks to the early intervention they received from the primary care, early childhood and community agencies we serve.

FY2018 Financial Highlights
Notes: Numbers based on unaudited 2018 financial statements
Projected Net Assets December 31, 2018 $412,443