



# The COLLECTIVE CHRONICLES

The Children's Collective, Inc.

May 2025

A Poverty Alleviation Non-Profit

WHO WE ARE

TCCI is dedicated to alleviating poverty and transforming lives in South Los Angeles by empowering children, youth, and their families to overcome systemic challenges and build pathways to sustainable success through high-quality, comprehensive, educational and family support services.

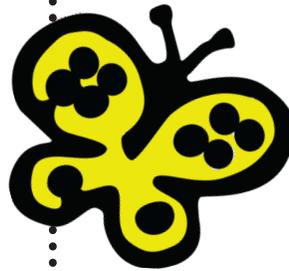


WHAT WE'RE DOING



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WHERE WE ARE

## Locations

The Children's Collective, Inc. has 10 locations in the South Los Angeles area, offering various programs and services. To learn more, check out our website:

**CHILDRENSCOLLECTIVE.ORG**

## Administrative Office

8616 La Tijera Blvd Ste 100  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
**(310) 870-1370**

TCCI continuously enrolls for infant, toddler, and preschool programs. Call 424-286-4409.

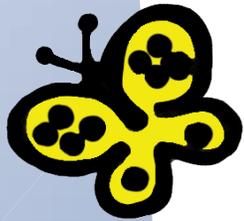


# CORNER CEO

## Honoring the Heart of Our Community: Mothers

*"Motherhood: All love begins and ends there."* - Robert Browning

As we step into the month of May, a time when we pause to honor and celebrate mothers, I find myself reflecting on the extraordinary power of a mother's love. It is a love that sacrifices without asking, hopes against all odds, and pours greatness into the hearts of children—often while carrying the invisible weight of the world.



I was blessed to be raised by a phenomenal mother, Joyce Kitchen. As a single mother navigating hardship and making miracles stretch, she taught me what strength, faith, and resilience look like. Though she didn't always have much, she gave me everything that mattered—love, discipline, encouragement, and vision. She planted seeds in me that are still bearing fruit today. I am who I am because of her.

At The Children's Collective, Inc., we see mothers every single day who are walking the same courageous road—doing the best they can, with all they have, to shape the lives of their children. Through our programs—from child development and Black Infant Health to CalFresh and our



Family Resource Center—we are honored to stand beside them. We strive to be a source of stability and empowerment, helping mothers find the tools and support they need to raise thriving families.

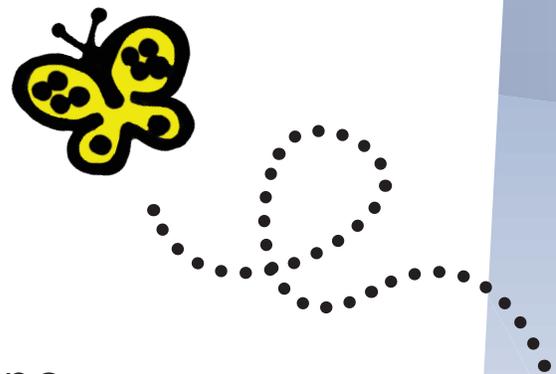
To every mother in our community and on our team at TCCI:

**We see you. We value you. We thank you.**

Your love is the foundation of strong children, healthy families, and vibrant communities. Your presence makes this world better—and your impact echoes for generations.

Happy Mother's Day, and may you feel celebrated not just this month, but every day.

With deep gratitude,



***Dr. Charles Lee-Johnson***

CEO, The Children's Collective, Inc.

# MOMS IN THE SPOTLIGHT: MEET PATRICIA

## How are you involved with TCCI?

Patricia and her family belong to the Florence/Firestone community of South LA. She has two daughters who have both attended TCCI's Florence Childcare Center. Her younger daughter is currently enrolled and the eldest recently graduated.

## How long have you been a TCCI client?

Patricia and her children have been part of the TCCI family for over three years.

## In what ways has TCCI changed your life?

Patricia says that TCCI's services have been a huge help in her life. She notes that TCCI teachers have continued to build upon the knowledge and values that are encouraged at home. She says it's amazing to see how much of a positive impact that TCCI's teachers have on our kids.

## Tell us more about you!

Patricia values her role as a mother and takes pride in providing all the tools necessary for her kids to develop into healthy and happy humans.

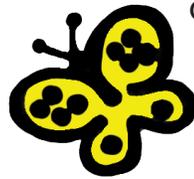
**Happy Mother's Day  
to Patricia and all  
TCCI moms!**



# LITTLE VAN GOGHS IN THE MAKING

Over the past month, we celebrated the children's imagination and creativity by hosting an art show at each site. For the past few weeks, the children have been working hard on their pieces to be displayed for their families at their art show.

Along with the children's creations, they were also introduced to an artist who produced similar art. Each site was tasked with producing the same types of art: a self-portrait, an abstract piece, 3-D art and a whole group project. For the self-portrait, the children were introduced to Frida Kahlo and Vincent Van Gogh. For the abstract art piece, the children were introduced to Pablo Picasso.



This experience was more than creating art. It was about introducing the children to lifelong skills, introducing them to historical figures, expanding their vocabulary and using critical thinking skills to observe, ask questions, and explore various topics related to artistic expression.

As always, we strive to provide the children with hands-on, imaginative experiences that help them

explore the world in various ways. This experience not only allowed the children to express their creativity through their art, but it also allowed them to build confidence by seeing their creativity celebrated. We're not just putting paint on paper, we're sparking curiosity, creativity, and a lifelong love for learning.

Children thrive when they feel seen, heard, and supported. By making the art show a family event, we wanted the children to know that they are supported by both their families and teachers.



# FSC WRAPS UP A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Throughout April, the Family Source Center (FSC) provided free VITA Tax Preparation services. This amazing service provided over 350 households with preparation services, credits, and deductions totaling \$537,680. We are confident that these saved costs and refunds will aid our community during difficult times. Our Spring College Readiness Program also ended with our youth enjoying a trip together to Six Flags. Twenty youth were able to gain knowledge on college preparation, mental wellness, and emergency preparedness during this program.

As FSC's contract year comes to an end, the program has met and surpassed their overarching goal of providing supportive services and has assisted 2,903 individuals. These individuals were able to benefit from such services as housing assistance, financial coaching, pre-employment support, tutoring services, food distributions, essential items, immigration services, and so much more.

The FSC has given over \$258,233 back to the community, helping clients to avoid eviction, obtain safe housing, maintain basic needs, and support academic and employment achievement.

Throughout all of these achievements, FSC continues to host events to keep our families engaged and supported, such as our Easter event which provided 98 individuals with hygiene kits, food for their holiday meal, and of course, Easter baskets for the children.



# CALFRESH HOLDS CATCH TRAINING

The CFHL program has been busy training new CATCH teachers! CATCH stands for Coordinated Approach to Child Health and is a physical activity curriculum designed specifically for children ages three to five. It contains two different curricula. One focuses on physical activity and comes with an activity box that has hundreds of different activities. The lessons are not only super fun for both kids and teachers, but are designed to improve preschool children's development, coordination, and physical health.



The nutrition component of CATCH is a set of lessons that enables children to identify healthy foods. Kids learn about nutrition through stories, songtime, and art activities.

Here are some CATCH highlights:

- CFHL educators Kat and Citlalli led an all-day training that includes both a classroom portion and an active session.
- Teachers were introduced to the CATCH curriculum and accompanying physical activity tools.
- A collaborative space was provided for teachers to connect and exchange effective teaching strategies.
- Hands-on activities were demonstrated to support successful implementation of the program.



# BIH CELEBRATES MOMS

The Black Infant Health (BIH) program continues to provide support services to prenatal and postpartum mothers. Over the past month, there was a total of 34 women recruited and 28 were enrolled. We also started four group series, including an evening group to accommodate mothers who are unable to attend group sessions during the daytime. One postpartum group concluded this month in which four mothers successfully completed the group by attending seven or more classes. A baby shower was held to acknowledge the mothers who graduated from our fourth postpartum group. Mothers received items including diaper bags, hygiene supplies, baby clothing, baby serving bowl/spoon sets, pacifiers, bibs, diapers, and wipes.

BIH also hosted a recruitment fair in which new qualifying women were invited to enroll in the program. A total of 27 women attended and five that enrolled immediately. The women who attended were able to receive resources from vendors participating in the event. Vendors included TCCI's Child Development Department, Mother's Nutritional, Irth App, Dior Sunset Foundation, and South LA Mommy & Me. Thank you to the BIH staff, mommas, babies, guests, and vendors who attended this wonderful event!



# FEATURED EMPLOYEE: MAYRA CARRILLO MARTINEZ

**Site:** Florence Childcare Center



## What do you do in your role?

I am a full-time teacher assistant. What I do in my role is not only support the lead teacher in the classroom, but I also support the children in their socioemotional, language, and fine motor skill development. I also help with classroom management and organization.

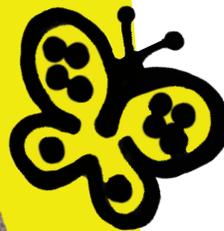
## What do you like about working at TCCI?



I love that any of my input or ideas are taken seriously. I always have support from my supervisor if I have any questions or concerns. I also like working at TCCI because it has helped me grow as an individual, with the support of other teachers and staff.



## Tell us something about you.



I pride myself on keeping a positive outlook in life regardless of any situation.

## What is your favorite part of the job?

My favorite part of this job is coming into work every day and being able to make a difference by supporting the children in their development. I enjoy seeing the children grow as individuals and I'm grateful to be a part of their journey.

# NOW **HIRING**

**The Children's Collective, Inc.**



**EARLY INTERVENTION  
SPECIALIST**

Child Development

**LEAD CASE MANAGER**

FamilySource Center

**MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR**

General Hire

**PRE SCHOOL TEACHER  
ASSISTANT**

Child Development Program

**PRE SCHOOL TEACHER**

Child Development Program

## **To Apply:**

To browse any of our open positions, please go to [childrenscollective.org/careers](http://childrenscollective.org/careers) or scan the QR code to the right.

**Thank you for your interest in employment at The Children's Collective!**

