



# The COLLECTIVE CHRONICLES

The Children's Collective, Inc.

Oct 2025

A Poverty Alleviation Non-Profit

WHO WE ARE

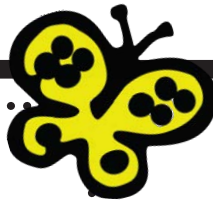
TCCI is dedicated to alleviating poverty and transforming lives in South Los Angeles by empowering children, youth, and their families to overcome systemic challenges and build pathways to sustainable success through high-quality, comprehensive, educational and family support services.



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**

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



The Children's Collective, Inc. was founded in 1972 by Dr. Jackie Kimbrough, who served as the Executive Director for 52 years.



# CEO CORNER



## Fall, Faith, and the Fight We Share

As the first cool mornings of fall arrive, I'm reminded that every season carries both beauty and challenge. October, in particular, asks us to do two things at once: slow down enough to notice the changing leaves—and **show up** for one another during **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**.

This month is personal for me. My mother is a two-time breast cancer survivor. Our family has known the fear that comes with a diagnosis, the fatigue of treatment, and—thankfully—the joy of recovery. I am profoundly grateful for her life, her strength, and the countless clinicians, friends, and family members who stood with her. To every survivor reading this: we celebrate you. To every person currently in treatment: we see you. And to every family who has lost someone: we honor their memory with our action.

### Why this matters to our TCCI family

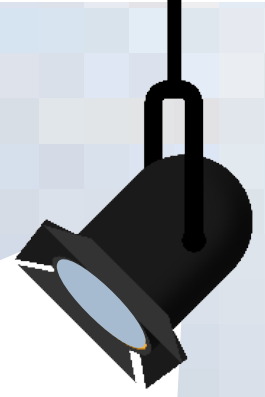


At TCCI, we work every day to strengthen children and families. Breast cancer touches families—emotionally, financially, practically. When a parent is healthy, kids thrive. When a community is informed and connected, outcomes improve. That's why awareness is not enough; **early detection and timely care save lives**.

### Simple actions that make a real difference

I encourage each of us to take (and share) these steps this month:

1. **Know your family history.** Talk with your relatives and write it down. Share that information with your healthcare provider.
2. **Talk to your doctor about screening.** Ask what schedule is right for you based on age, risk, and medical history. (If you don't have a provider, start with a community clinic or county health line.)
3. **Be "breast aware."** If you notice changes (lumps, skin changes, nipple discharge, new pain), **don't wait**—call your provider.
4. **Remove barriers.** If cost, childcare, transportation, or time off are concerns, ask about low/no-cost programs and support. (Our HR team can direct you to local resources and clinics.)
5. **Stand with survivors.** A ride to an appointment, a meal, a note of encouragement—small acts become big courage.



**6. Men, this includes you.** While less common, men can develop breast cancer. Share concerns with your provider and encourage the women in your life to get screened.



### **A culture of care**

Let's be the organization that makes wellness **practical**:

**Managers:** be flexible with scheduling so staff can keep screening appointments.

**Colleagues:** check in on one another; offer to swap shifts or help with workload when someone has a medical visit.

**Community partners:** join us in amplifying local screening days and resource fairs.

### **To our survivors**

Your story is light in a difficult hallway. If you're comfortable, consider sharing a few words this month at a staff meeting or through our internal channels; you never know who needs to hear that hope is still possible.

### **To our loved ones in treatment**

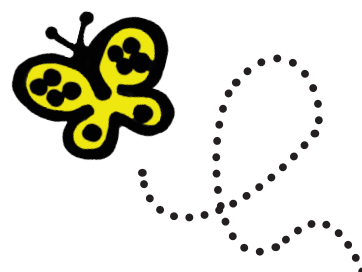
You are not alone. Please let us know how we can support you—practically and compassionately.

As we step into autumn, may we bring the same determination to this fight that we bring to serving our community: steady, united, and full of hope. I'm grateful for my mother's life. I'm grateful for yours. And I'm grateful for the chance to do this work together.

With hope and resolve,

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

Chief Executive Officer  
The Children's Collective, Inc.



# CLIENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT: YESENIA CALDERON

## How are you involved with TCCI?

Yesenia has actively engaged with our FamilySource Center's food distribution and utility assistance programs, accessing essential resources to support her family's well-being. Her ongoing participation reflects her commitment to creating a stable and healthy home environment.

## How long have you been a TCCI client?

Yesenia and her children have benefited using TCCI services for two years now.

## In what ways has TCCI changed your life?

"They've helped me a lot with my past due bills which is something I was extremely behind on, and for me, it's a huge deal! Also providing me with food for my children has been something I'm very grateful for."

## What else makes them so spectacular?



Despite personal challenges that Yesenia has had to face, she continues to push hard to provide for herself and her kids. She has always wanted the best for her children, and has worked tirelessly to get the help she needs. Slowly but surely, she is getting where she needs to be.

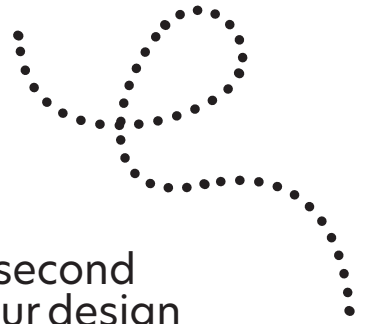




# CLASSROOM BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

We believe every child deserves to feel safe, seen, and supported—and that begins with the environment they learn in each day.

We are excited to share that we embarked on a Classroom Beautification Project to create a calm, welcoming, and inspiring space for our students to develop! A space that also nurtures emotional well-being, sensory needs, and a strong sense of belonging for all children.



Our classroom is more than just a...classroom, it's a second home where creativity, curiosity, and community thrive. Our design approach is to create a peaceful and organized space to help lessen challenging behaviors by meeting the needs of the children's emotional and sensory needs before frustration or overwhelm occurs. We've created clearly defined, low-clutter spaces for learning, quiet time, and movement. This helps reduce visual distractions and creates a sense of order and safety.

A designated quiet area is available when students need a break.

By working together, we support the children in developing lifelong self-regulation skills in a space where they feel safe, respected, and ready to learn.



# FSC PREPS FOR FALL FESTIVITIES

## Happy Fall to All!

The FSC is getting ready for the holiday season, and we hope you'll join us in the celebrations! Here's what's coming up:

### Halloween Fest & Resource Event

Wednesday, October 29

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

All TCCI staff and families are invited to join the FSC and our participants for a spooky evening of fun, giveaways, and helpful community resources!

### Thanksgiving Distribution

Saturday, November 22

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Each year we distribute dozens of free turkeys with sides to community members in need. Help us spread joy and gratitude this Thanksgiving.

### Holiday Gift-Away

December (date to be announced)

This is FSC's largest and most rewarding event of the year! Together, we'll brighten the holidays for 300 households with food and toys for children. Get Involved!

Whether you'd like to volunteer, receive support, or both — your friendly FSC team is here to connect you with more information.





# CFHL WRAPS UP A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

For the month of September, Calfresh has completed the objectives for the program and will close out the fiscal year. As a result, the team is now focusing on aiding the teachers based on their needs. For example, the team was able to build a new garden bed and put new soil for kids to grow new fruits and vegetables. The children will be able to participate in planting new seeds to learn where our produce comes from.



This year the 16 CATCH teachers have taught 681 CATCH classes across all of our preschool sites for this year. This is a huge accomplishment as children are receiving vital support from their teachers and building healthy habits.

The CFHL team have also continued to conduct the produce distributions.

- For the month of September, the sites that received produce have been Vermont, Willowbrook, and King.
- We will continue doing the produce distributions for all of the sites
- As of right now Calfresh has compiled over 1,800 produce bags and supplied over 6,700 households with produce bags.



# BIH GROWS CLIENTS AND STAFF

On August 28th, BIH honored Black Breastfeeding week by educating mothers about Lactation Basics and four common reasons why breastfeeding can be challenging. The Group Facilitator team provided demo instructions to show mothers how to help their baby latch during breastfeeding time as well as things to look out for which could lead to breastfeeding struggles. This event was very informative, and mothers were able to ask questions and share their breastfeeding successes and challenges.



We had 14 mothers who successfully completed prenatal and postpartum groups during the week of September 8th. During the four baby showers, moms and their babies received a variety of maternal and baby supplies including diapers, wipes, diaper bags, baby slings, and books.

Recruitment and enrollment efforts led by staff have been increasing as a result of the BIH mailers that TCCI distributed throughout SPA 6, which is a great addition to the promotion of the BIH program. Our Family Health Advocate team continued to offer ongoing support to our mothers and conducted weekly check-ins, provided home visits, and connected clients to a variety of resources.

Lastly, we would like to welcome our newest BIH staff member, Kambeh, who started with us on September 16th. Kambeh is our Data Entry Lead and will focus on ensuring that program data is collected, accurate, and tracked according to BIH policies and procedures. We are thrilled to have Kambeh on the BIH team!





# FEATURED EMPLOYEE: SUSAN VEGA

**Program:** FamilySource Center

## What do you do in your role?

I am a part of the front office staff for the FSC as an intake worker. This consists of managing phone calls, scheduling appointments, completing program enrollment applications, screening for program eligibility, as well as share the services and resources we have to offer here at the FSC.



## What do you like about working at TCCI?

What I like most about working at TCCI is having the space and opportunity to share my thoughts and ideas. I'm grateful to have a job where my feedback is not only requested but encouraged.

## Tell us something about you.

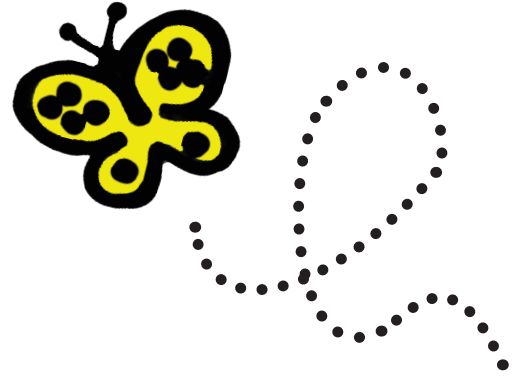
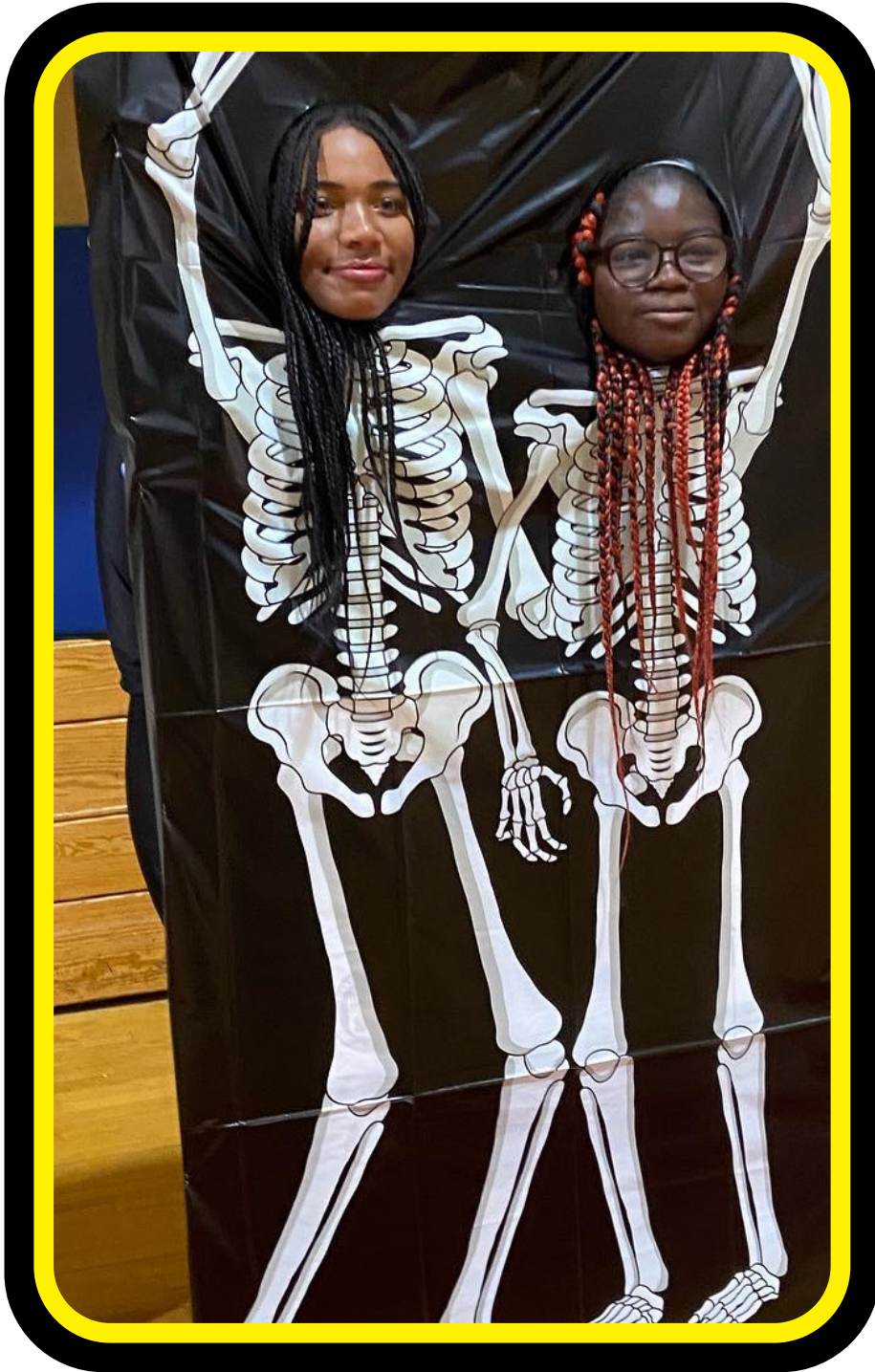
A fun fact about me is I love going on roadtrips and being in nature. My most memorable roadtrip was traveling from New York to LA with my brother. It took around five days of being on the road with lots of nature to see! My favorite stops on that trip were stumbling across a small town called Vega in Texas and spending time in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## What is your favorite part of the job?

My favorite part of the job is helping the community we serve to the best of our abilities. It's great being a part of a team that works together to help meet the needs and accomplish the goals of our clients.



# FEATURED PHOTOS: FSC FALL EVENTS







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your inbox, every month.

Scan the QR code to the right or go to  
[tcci.kit.com/newsletter-signup](https://tcci.kit.com/newsletter-signup)



**CAN YOU GUESS HOW MANY BUTTERFLIES ARE IN THIS NEWSLETTER?**

Find the answer in next month's newsletter!

The September newsletter had 28 butterflies! Did you get it right?



# 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!**

