

The COLLECTIVE CHRONICLES

The Children's Collective, Inc.

May 2026

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

In This Issue:

- CEO Corner.....p2-3
- Client Spotlight.....p4
- Child Development.....p5
- FamilySource Center.....p6
- CalFresh.....p7
- Black Infant Health.....p8
- Feature Photos.....p9-11
- Careers.....p12



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

Strong Mothers, Healthy Minds: Honoring the Heart and Healing the Whole

May is a month that invites us to pause and reflect on two powerful realities: the strength of mothers and the importance of mental wellness. At The Children's Collective, Inc., we recognize that these two are deeply connected.

Mothers are often the heartbeat of our families and our communities. They nurture, sacrifice, provide, and protect—often carrying unseen burdens while ensuring everyone else is cared for. Whether biological, adoptive, grandmothers, or mother-figures in our villages, their influence shapes generations.

But while we celebrate mothers, we must also acknowledge a truth we don't talk about enough: *even the strongest among us need support.*

Mental Health Awareness Month reminds us that strength is not the absence of struggle—it is the willingness to seek help, to rest, and to prioritize wellness. Many mothers, particularly in communities like those we serve in South Los Angeles, navigate stressors related to economic hardship, caregiving demands, systemic inequities, and the daily pressures of life. Yet they continue to show up—resilient, committed, and full of love.

At TCCI, we are committed to supporting the whole family—and that includes the mental and emotional well-being of mothers. Through programs like Black Infant Health, FamilySource Center, and our early childhood education sites, we strive to create spaces where mothers feel seen, supported, and strengthened.

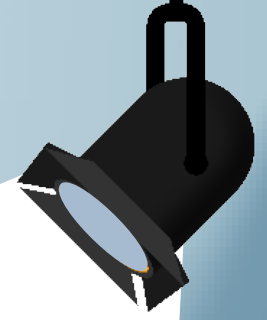
This month, we celebrate mothers not just for what they do—but for who they are. And we encourage all of us to prioritize mental wellness—not as a luxury, but as a necessity.

4 Tools for Mental Wellness

As we honor this month, here are four practical tools that can help support mental health—for mothers, caregivers, and all of us:

1. Give Yourself Permission to Rest

Rest is not weakness—it is restoration. Many mothers operate in a constant state of giving. Taking intentional time to pause, breathe, and recharge is essential. Even small moments of rest can renew your strength and



clarity.

2. Stay Connected to Community

You were never meant to do life alone. Whether it's a trusted friend, a support group, a faith community, or a TCCI program, connection is a powerful buffer against stress and isolation. Healing often happens in safe spaces with others.

3. Talk About What You're Feeling

There is strength in vulnerability. Speaking with a counselor, mentor, or trusted loved one can provide relief, perspective, and healing. Silence can be heavy—but sharing lightens the load.

4. Prioritize Your Physical and Emotional Health

Simple daily practices—like walking, journaling, prayer or meditation, and healthy eating—can have a significant impact on mental well-being. Taking care of your body supports your mind.

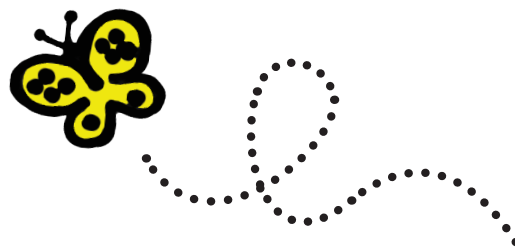
Closing Reflection

This May, let us honor mothers not just with words, but with intentional support. Let us create environments where they can thrive—not just survive. And let us continue to break the stigma around mental health by reminding one another:

It's okay to not be okay—and it's more than okay to seek help.

To every mother, grandmother, and caregiver: We see you. We appreciate you. And we are committed to supporting your wellness—mind, body, and spirit.

Dr. Charles Lee-Johnson



Chief Executive Officer
The Children's Collective, Inc.

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT: MAYTE

How are you involved with TCCI?

Mayte's son, Emir, is enrolled at TCCI's King/San Pedro Child Care Center.

How long have you been a TCCI client?

Mayte is a new parent of the TCCI community. Her son has been attending TCCI's King/San Pedro Child Care Center since December 2025.

In what ways has TCCI changed your life?

Mayte says that, thanks to the help of the child care center and CalFresh Healthy Living (CFHL) program, her child has learned more about fruits and vegetables and the program's produce distributions have also helped her family.

Mayte spends a lot of time working and the additional produce from the CFHL distributions help her to provide healthy meals to her family in addition to saving money.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

Mayte's goal is to be the best mother she can be. She wants all the best opportunities for her child and strives to be a role model for her son.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES TEACHERS

May is a truly special time of year at our child care center as we come together to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week—a meaningful opportunity to honor the incredible individuals who make a difference in your children’s lives each and every day. Our teachers go far beyond teaching letters, numbers, and routines; they create a warm, nurturing environment where children feel safe, valued, and inspired to explore the world around them. Through their patience, creativity, and genuine care, they help spark curiosity, encourage independence, and build the confidence children need to grow and thrive.

Whether it’s comforting a child who misses home, celebrating small milestones, planning engaging activities, or fostering friendships, our teachers pour their hearts into everything they do. Their dedication does not go unnoticed, and this week gives us all a chance to pause and show our appreciation for the positive impact they have on our families and community. We are deeply grateful for their passion, commitment, and the love they bring into the classroom every single day.

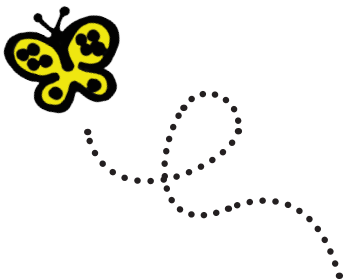


FSC WRAPS UP TAX SEASON

April has been brought new opportunities to The Children's Collective FamilySource Center. We hosted our Spring distribution event/resource fair at the beginning of the Month. We invited several different agencies to attend this event. They engaged our participants by providing awareness of their programs and the opportunities they can access. We provided our attending families with different food items and a spring themed basket for the kiddos in attendance. April also brought on the conclusion of our tax season. Our team has assisted in preparing over 300 of our community members tax returns this season. So far, these returns have led to over \$250,000.00 worth of refunded money making its way back to our community members pockets.



The Children's Collective FSC and our very own FAIR program will be hosting our first collaborative farmers market style produce distribution at the end of the month. This is a fresh idea that will give our community monthly access to nutritious produce and more community-based resources. We are truly appreciative to our FAIR program team and excited for this new collaboration.



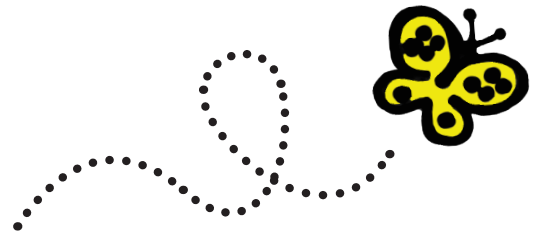
CFHL TRANSITIONS TO FAIR PROGRAM

TCCI is excited to introduce our new program: FAIR (Food Access Investing in Resilience)—formerly known as CalFresh Healthy Living.

We will continue providing produce distributions across all child care sites, with a new addition: A Resource Hub Table. This table will offer valuable information and support to parents and community members.

Resources will include:

- Housing support
- Local food pantries
- Resources for transitional youth
- CalFresh application assistance



The FAIR Program will continue serving families at child care sites, and we're expanding. We're excited to introduce a new distribution location at the Family Source Center (FSC), which will offer additional produce, resources, and goods.

Location:

915 W.
Manchester St,
Los Angeles,
CA 90044

Date:
Saturday, 4/25

Time: 10 AM

We hope to
see you there!



BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

During the month of April, TCCI's Black Infant Health (BIH) program focused on Black Maternal Health Week (BMHW) which occurs annually during the week of April 11th-April 17th. BIH participants engaged in various BMHW events hosted by BIH partners and on April 11th 2026, many of our mothers attended the annual African American Infant and Maternal Mortality (AAIMM) initiative Community Baby Shower. BIH was a co-sponsor for the event and the TCCI BIH program served as one of many vendors to provide information about the BIH program, conduct outreach and recruitment, and engage with community members. Participants who attended the baby shower received a variety of infant and maternal resources and items including books, diapers, wipes, clothing and wellness supplies.

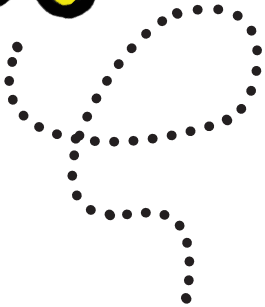
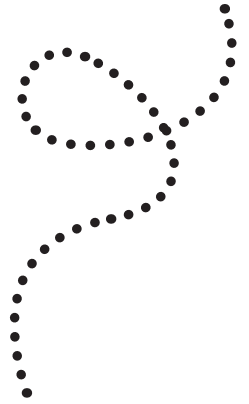
During the month of April, a total of four new Prenatal and Postpartum groups series started, with a total of twenty-one 21 mothers enrolled. Our groups have been successful in reaching pregnant and parenting mothers, and we are happy to provide them with education and support that helps them thrive as mothers and as an individual.

BIH Career Vacancies: Family Health Advocate and Group Facilitator (for more information visit the Careers page on the TCCI [website](#)).



FEATURED PHOTOS: GARDEN ART SHOW AT TCCI







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Get the newsletter delivered right to your inbox, every month.

Scan the QR code to the right or go to tcci.kit.com/newsletter-signup



HELP US START OUT STRONG IN 2026! DONATE NOW!

Join us in alleviating poverty in South LA. Head to our website:

childrenscollective.org/donate

NOW **HIRING**

The Children's Collective, Inc.



SITE SUPERVISOR

CASE MANAGER

GROUP FACILITATOR

INTAKE WORKER

PRE SCHOOL TEACHER ASSISTANT

PRE SCHOOL TEACHER

FAMILY HEALTH ADVOCATE

To Apply:

To browse any of our open positions, please go to childrenscollective.org/careers or scan the QR code to the right.

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

