



NEW ALTERNATIVES  
FOR CHILDREN, INC.

# NAC NEWS

37 W 26TH ST NEW YORK, NY 10010 [WWW.NACKIDSCAN.ORG](http://WWW.NACKIDSCAN.ORG)

WINTER 2020



*Kamella, Kayanea, and Juscion attend NAC's holiday party at the Prince George Ballroom.*

## OVERCOMING THE ODDS: ONE FAMILY'S JOURNEY

Coordinating doctor's appointments with a team of specialists can be a daunting task for anyone, but especially when you are the mother of a child with special needs. This is the situation that Keyanea faced when trying to provide care for her son Juscion, who has spina bifida and related conditions.

**Keyanea was living in a shelter with her two children, Kamella and Juscion, and coordinating care for her son Juscion seemed like an impossible task.** Juscion uses a wheelchair and needs to see several doctors, including a neurosurgeon and a urologist, on a regular basis. **NAC's Prevention program was able to help Keyanea to not only navigate the healthcare system,** but also communicate effectively with doctors, and help to identify the best specialists for Juscion.

Keyanea and her family made incredible progress in NAC's Prevention program, and have **graduated to NAC's Partners In Parenting program (PIP)**, which helps families to maintain stability.

**The family has grown stronger,** and when asked to pick one word to describe themselves, Juscion picked "happy" and Kamella picked "kind." They have benefited from NAC's Education and Recreation services, and they enjoy attending events at NAC together. Most recently, the family attended NAC's holiday party at the Prince George Ballroom.

**Keyanea, Kamella, and Juscion now live in an apartment of their own,** complete with an elevator for Juscion, and the future is bright as they continue to grow and thrive together.



## NAC KIDS CAN GALA

Our 37th NAC Kids Can Gala was an incredible success, raising over **\$2.4 million** to help NAC continue its mission of providing safety, permanency, and well-being for medically complex children. The event was held at Pier 60, and featured honoree **Glenn H. Schiffman, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of IAC.** Barry Diller, Joey Levin, and Robert Marcus served as Dinner Chairs. **"When approached by NAC to help out as an honoree, it was an easy and immediate yes. And humbling to think we can help make a difference,"** said Schiffman. Glenn and his wife Stacy have become the founding members of the **NAC Endowment**, a gift that will go on to help generations of NAC kids to come.



# HOLIDAYS AT NAC

Many of our NAC kids come from families who can't afford to put food on the table, let alone buy gifts for the holidays. Thankfully, we have some shining star corporate partners who are always willing to lend a helping hand. **Our Holiday Gift Drive was one of the most successful ever, with over 30 companies and individuals donating more than 2,700 gifts, gift cards and winter coats, with a total value of over \$62,800!**

The holidays would not be complete without a party...or two! We are very grateful to our supporters and volunteers for helping us to throw the best holiday parties for NAC kids and families. Our first party, hosted by the **Wells Fargo Women's Network**, had no shortage of amazing moments. Each child wrote a special letter to Santa, and they all received exactly what they asked for! They received incredible presents, including a PS4, iPads, and tricycles. Our second party took place at the Prince George ballroom, and was a day filled with laughter and fun! NAC kids participated in a special talent show, showed their moves on the dance floor, had their faces painted, and each received a special gift. The day concluded with a special visit from Santa!

Thanks to our donors and friends, NAC kids had an incredible holiday season once again. It's the little and big acts of kindness at this time of year and all year long that bring the biggest smiles to NAC's kids' faces!



## Thank you to our sponsors!

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# CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: KOHL'S

Corporate partners allow us to provide wonderful opportunities to NAC kids, and we're proud to highlight one exceptional standout: Kohl's! Kohl's regularly sends teams of volunteers to NAC, and this year they went above and beyond by hosting a Spooktacular Carnival at their headquarter offices. Employees organized themselves into teams and sold sweet treats, lotions, t-shirts, and more at their booths. Best of all, the proceeds went to NAC! **All in all, the event raised over \$23,000!** A huge gold star and a heartfelt "Thank You" on behalf of everyone at NAC!

To learn how your company can volunteer with NAC, contact Bobbi Nathanson at [bnathanson@nackidscan.org](mailto:bnathanson@nackidscan.org)



## 7 DAYS OF NAC: JUNIOR BOARD

Our Junior Board continues to amaze us! Once again, they **completed their incredibly successful "7 Days of NAC" crowdfunding campaign to raise money for NAC kids.** Starting on Giving Tuesday, they competed for seven days to see who could raise the most money. Each day was linked with a special video of a NAC child, and each Junior Board member reached out to their personal network to ask for support. This year's theme was "superheroes," and each video featured a positive message about what being a superhero means to NAC kids. At the end of the campaign, **the NAC Junior Board raised a whopping \$58,000+!**

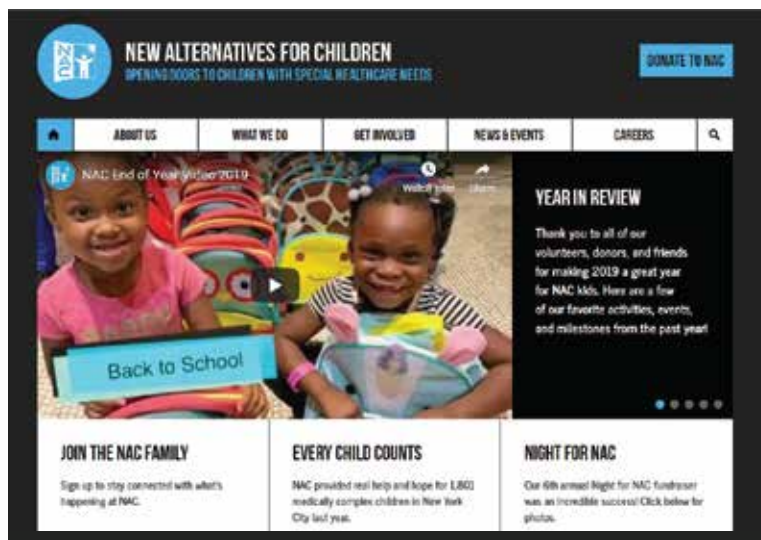
These funds will go toward providing essential services to NAC kids, to ensure that they have everything they need to survive and thrive. Thank you to our dedicated Junior Board members for once again coming through for NAC kids!

Are you interested in joining the NAC Junior Board?  
Email us at [juniorboard@nackidscan.org](mailto:juniorboard@nackidscan.org), or visit [nackidscan.org/juniorboard](http://nackidscan.org/juniorboard).



**\$58,697** of \$50,000 goal





# NAC YEAR IN REVIEW!

2019 was an amazing year for NAC, and we are so thankful for the essential support of our corporate sponsors, donors, volunteers, and friends. Together, we can continue to provide comprehensive support for NAC children and families. Most of all, NAC kids were able to enjoy just being kids. This past year they made stuffed animals at Build-a-Bear, went for the gold at the NAC Olympics, learned about numbers and patterns at MoMath, explored the Museum of Natural History, learned to code, went camping, and celebrated the holidays with gifts and surprises throughout the month of December. We can't wait to see what's in store for the year 2020!

To view, visit our home page at [www.nackidscan.org](http://www.nackidscan.org)

## TASTE OF NAC

NAC kids had an elegant Thanksgiving Feast at our first "Taste of NAC" restaurant night! Each child placed an order from a special menu, and were served by our very own NAC staff and volunteers. We had a short lesson on manners, and for dessert - a selection of 4 types of pie!



## NAC BOOK FAIR

YOU can help a child in need by simply purchasing a book! Literacy is an important milestone for NAC kids, and many of our families do not have children's books at home. Our annual NAC Book Fair is coming up in April, and we are beginning to collect donations so that we can once again provide a spectacular Book Fair for all NAC kids. Last year we gave away over 5,000 books to children in need!

To donate, contact Bobbi Nathanson at [bnathanson@nackidscan.org](mailto:bnathanson@nackidscan.org)

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