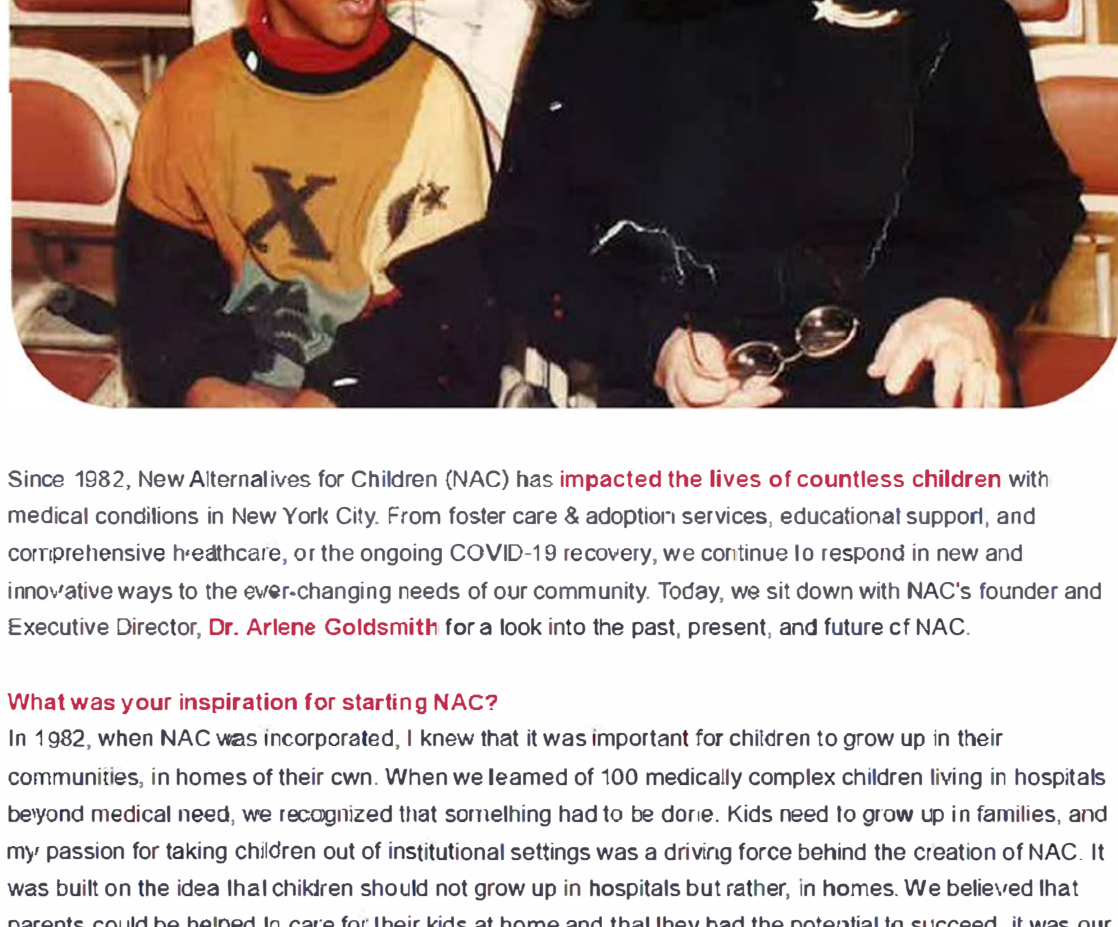


## 40 YEARS: CHANGING CHILDREN'S LIVES



Since 1982, New Alternatives for Children (NAC) has impacted the lives of countless children with medical conditions in New York City. From foster care & adoption services, educational support, and comprehensive healthcare, or the ongoing COVID-19 recovery, we continue to respond in new and innovative ways to the ever-changing needs of our community. Today, we sit down with NAC's founder and Executive Director, **Dr. Arlene Goldsmith** for a look into the past, present, and future of NAC.

### What was your inspiration for starting NAC?

In 1982, when NAC was incorporated, I knew that it was important for children to grow up in their communities, in homes of their own. When we learned of 100 medically complex children living in hospitals beyond medical need, we recognized that something had to be done. Kids need to grow up in families, and my passion for taking children out of institutional settings was a driving force behind the creation of NAC. It was built on the idea that children should not grow up in hospitals but rather, in homes. We believed that parents could be helped to care for their kids at home and that they had the potential to succeed. It was our goal to help them do just that.

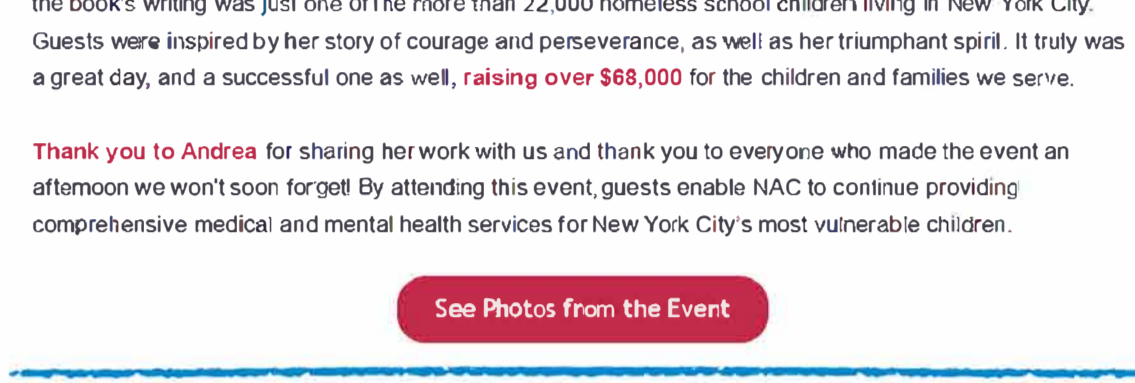
### What do you feel is the biggest impact NAC has made on children's lives?

It is so important to mention that we helped make children with disabilities visible because they had been invisible for far too long. As an agency, we saw the potential of each of the kids that crossed our doors and NAC helped them make incredible strides. Graduating from college, getting jobs, and most importantly, giving children a sense of promise and awareness that they had the ability to achieve great things. And they have!

### What do you envision for the organization in the next forty years?

For 40 years, NAC has been leading the way with our approach to child welfare and the support we give to children in our communities with disabilities. We certainly want to continue the work we're doing through a DEIB lens and to understand structural racism and how that has affected our families. On a larger scale, we want to demonstrate the way NAC works with our children and families. Our success demonstrates that we should be a model for the way foster care and preventive services agencies work with children in the City of New York. NAC's programs have had great outcomes and we want to continue to build on that strength as we move forward into our next 40 years.

## WOMEN FOR WOMEN: WITH ANDREA ELLIOTT



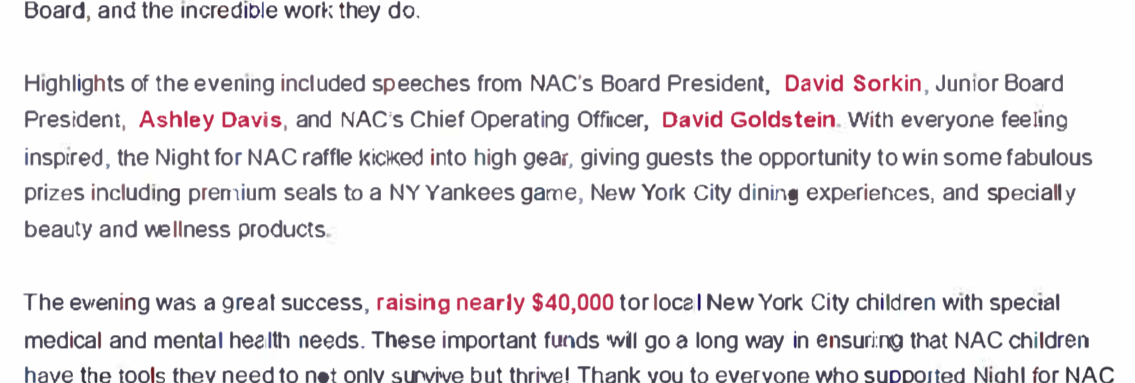
On May 10, 2022, we held our 40th Anniversary Women for Women Luncheon with Pulitzer-prize-winning author, **Andrea Elliott**. After two years of virtual luncheons, we were excited to be back in person at the beautiful Bryant Park Grill. The afternoon was attended by 150 guests who were delighted by the perfect weather, beautiful venue, and of course our distinguished Keynote Speaker, Andrea Elliott. Attendees got a behind-the-scenes look at Andrea's extraordinary and moving book, *Invisible Child*, for which she won a 2022 Pulitzer Prize for best non-fiction.

It was a riveting discussion, shedding light on the trials and tribulations of Dasani Coates, who at the time of the book's writing was just one of the more than 22,000 homeless school children living in New York City. Guests were inspired by her story of courage and perseverance, as well as her triumphant spirit. It truly was a great day, and a successful one as well, raising over \$68,000 for the children and families we serve.

Thank you to **Andrea** for sharing her work with us and thank you to everyone who made the event an afternoon we won't soon forget! By attending this event, guests enable NAC to continue providing comprehensive medical and mental health services for New York City's most vulnerable children.

[See Photos from the Event](#)

## OH WHAT A NIGHT: NIGHT FOR NAC



Oh what a night! On June 9, 2022, the NAC Junior Board was once again able to join together with their friends and networks in person for Night for NAC, a fun-filled evening to raise critical funds for our kids as well as celebrate all they do for NAC. The event took place at The Mezzanine, a spectacular event space in downtown Manhattan.

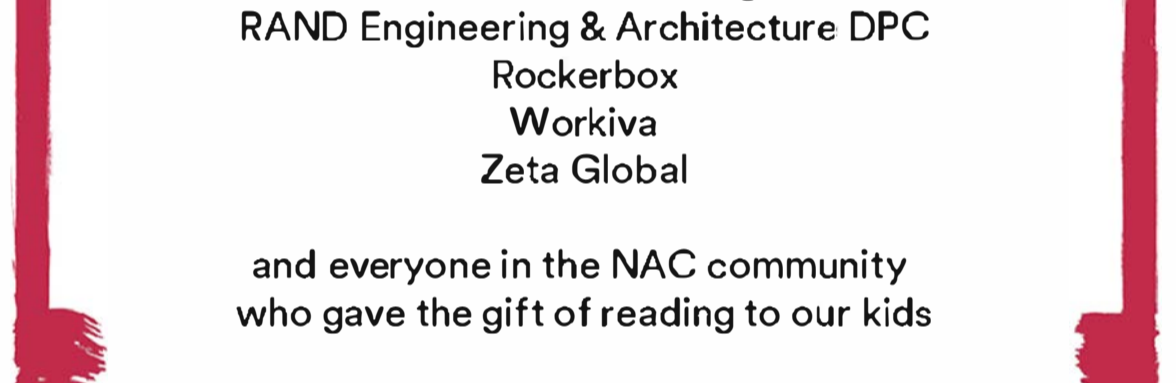
After a two-year hiatus, it was great to be able to get together once again. Over 200 guests joined us for a night of great food, drinks, and networking. Guests had the opportunity to learn more about NAC, our Junior Board, and the incredible work they do.

Highlights of the evening included speeches from NAC's Board President, **David Sorkin**, Junior Board President, **Ashley Davis**, and NAC's Chief Operating Officer, **David Goldstein**. With everyone feeling inspired, the Night for NAC raffle kicked into high gear, giving guests the opportunity to win some fabulous prizes including premium seats to a NY Yankees game, New York City dining experiences, and specially beauty and wellness products.

The evening was a great success, raising nearly \$40,000 for local New York City children with special medical and mental health needs. These important funds will go a long way in ensuring that NAC children have the tools they need to not only survive but thrive! Thank you to everyone who supported Night for NAC and an extra special thank you to our Junior Board for always coming through big for NAC kids and their families!

[See Photos from the Event](#)

## LITERACY FOR ALL: GIVING THE GIFT OF READING

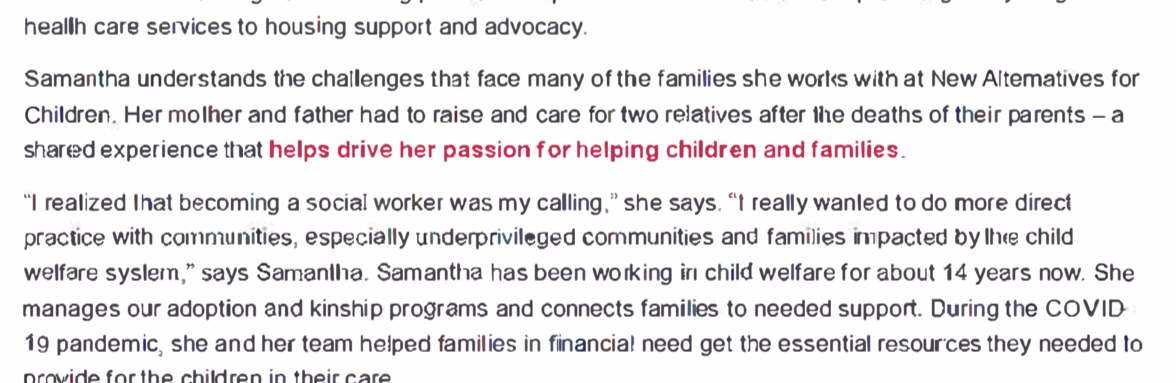


Literacy is such an important milestone for NAC kids, and many of our families do not have children's books at home. With the generous support of the NAC community, we were able to deliver over 1,000 books during our Annual Literacy for All Book Drive, giving the gift of reading to NAC kids in all 5 boroughs! As part of our week-long celebration of literacy, we also hosted numerous reading events and story circles. Each one giving children the opportunity to explore new worlds, connect with peers, and let their imaginations soar.

## THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED TO OUR ANNUAL LITERACY FOR ALL BOOK DRIVE

New York Junior League  
 RAND Engineering & Architecture DPC  
 Rockerbox  
 Workiva  
 Zeta Global

and everyone in the NAC community who gave the gift of reading to our kids



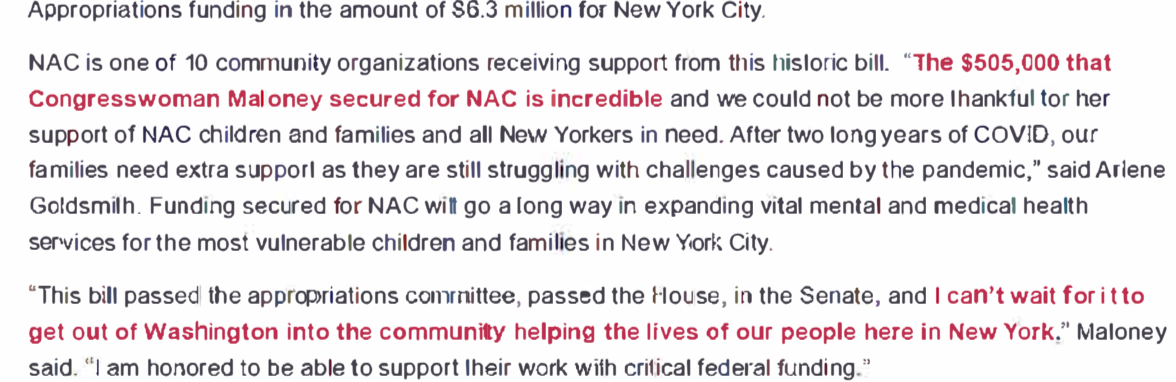
**Congratulations** to our very own Director of Adoption and Kinship Support Programs, **Samantha Callaghan** on being named a great leader on the *City and State New York 2022 Nonprofit 40 Under 40 list*, highlighting the next generation of leaders who are serving the most vulnerable New Yorkers. These rising stars – all under the age of 40 – bring passion and professionalism to their work providing everything from health care services to housing support and advocacy.

Samantha understands the challenges that face many of the families she works with at New Alternatives for Children. Her mother and father had to raise and care for two relatives after the deaths of their parents – a shared experience that helps drive her passion for helping children and families.

"I realized that becoming a social worker was my calling," she says. "I really wanted to do more direct practice with communities, especially underprivileged communities and families impacted by the child welfare system," says Samantha. Samantha has been working in child welfare for about 14 years now. She manages our adoption and kinship programs and connects families to needed support. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she and her team helped families in financial need get the essential resources they needed to provide for the children in their care.

Samantha is an invaluable member of our team and we are so proud of all her achievements!

## Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney: HELPS SECURE OVER \$500k FOR NAC KIDS



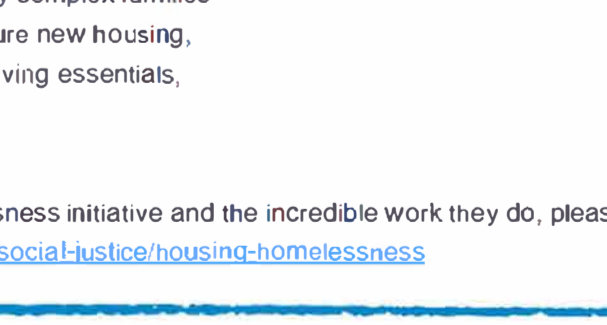
On Tuesday, March 22, NAC's Executive Director, **Dr. Arlene Goldsmith**, COO **Dr. David Goldstein**, Education Director **Tomas Hunt**, and Board Member **Marian Bott** joined **Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney** in Union Square to publicly celebrate Congresswoman Maloney's championing FY22 Federal Appropriations funding in the amount of \$6.3 million for New York City.

NAC is one of 10 community organizations receiving support for this historic bill. "The \$505,000 that Congresswoman Maloney secured for NAC is incredible and we could not be more thankful for her support of NAC children and families and all New Yorkers in need. After two long years of COVID, our families need extra support as they are still struggling with challenges caused by the pandemic," said Arlene Goldsmith. Funding secured for NAC will go a long way in expanding vital mental and medical health services for the most vulnerable children and families in New York City.

"This bill passed the appropriations committee, passed the House, in the Senate, and I can't wait for it to get out of Washington into the community helping the lives of our people here in New York," Maloney said. "I am honored to be able to support their work with critical federal funding."

## VISIT US ONLINE: WE'VE GOT A NEW WEBSITE!

As part of our historic 40th Anniversary, we are both excited and proud to announce the completion and launch of our new website! We've started from scratch and completely redesigned the site with stories of success from NAC kids and clients, a fresh new look, more functionality, and easy access to information about NAC. We invite you to visit us at [www.nackidscan.org](http://www.nackidscan.org) and then stop by our social media [@nackidscan](https://www.facebook.com/nackidscan) to tell us what you think! Be sure to check back often as we are adding new content all the time.



## FUNDERS SPOTLIGHT: TRINITY CHURCH

The **Trinity Church Wall Street Housing & Homelessness** initiative advances its mission priority to build up our neighborhoods by advocating for New Yorkers who find themselves in shelters, or who are at risk of losing their housing. NAC Resources, Advocacy, and Homelessness Prevention Program (RAHPP) has helped clients obtain and maintain safe, permanent, and appropriate homes, by providing hundreds of families with housing resources, advocacy, expertise, services, and emergency grants, when needed. As the need for stable and permanent housing becomes an increased priority during the pandemic recovery, we are especially grateful for **Trinity's recent award of \$200,000** which has allowed RAHPP to hire a new Housing Counselor and has provided directly to client emergency grants that have supported our medically complex families by helping them maintain their current housing, secure new housing, and increased access to government entitlements, living essentials, and supportive services.



To learn more about Trinity's Housing & Homelessness initiative and the incredible work they do, please visit: <https://trinitywallstreet.org/social-justice/housing-homelessness>

# NAC Kids CAN ANNUAL GALA

## SAVE THE DATE!

October 19, 2022 @ Pier Sixty, NYC

honoring

### Aryeh Bourkoff

Founder & CEO of LionTree

We're so excited and can't wait for you to join us at our **40th Anniversary NAC Kids Can Gala** as we celebrate **40 years of transforming the lives** of New York City's most vulnerable children.



Follow us on social media for updates and photos of NAC Kids, upcoming events, how you can help, and all things NAC!

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