



**Jon Botten (CEO) Speech**  
Childhaven Flourish Gala  
October 21, 2022

It now goes without saying that the past few years have been a period of massive transformation – It's certainly true of Childhaven. Nearly every aspect of our organization has been transformed, in some cases by design, and in some cases out of necessity.

It is now common knowledge that the mental health and wellbeing of children, and their caregivers, is at a point of crisis – Frankly, this was true even before the pandemic.

**Yesterday's solutions aren't making a dent in the scope of today's needs.**

This is because most solutions have historically focused on providing services aimed at addressing the symptoms - of failing systems - rather than transforming the systems themselves to catalyze enduring change.

In other words, as a society, **we have been applying band aids to broken bones.**

In the next 2 minutes I'm going to share with you Childhaven's vision or reason for existence and our core strategies for realizing that vision... and I'm going to make a request.

Childhaven exists to ensure that ALL children, ALL families, and ALL communities are safe, healthy, and flourishing.

Based on the science, it is our whole-hearted belief that **early childhood mental health has the potential to change the world... and in fact, it might be the only thing that will.**

We have developed exceptionally bold strategies designed to do much more than apply band aids to broken bones.

1. We are building the region's most **comprehensive continuum of care** that supports early childhood mental health – and we are doing so within locations in which children live, learn, and play
2. We are working on **growing, diversifying, and enhancing the capacity of the child-serving workforce**
3. This spring we will be launching a public will campaign (or movement) to **bring population-level awareness** to the fact that early childhood mental health has the potential to change the world
4. We are leveraging government relations, advocacy, and funding to **address systemic inequities**
5. And we are doing everything through **multi-sector partnerships**

We call this an eco-system approach because it is working at the child and family level, the provider and community level, and the system and population level.

Here's where you come in...the request. **You are a crucial part of the eco-system.** Please join our movement by spreading the word that early childhood mental health has the potential to change the world, and by investing in these strategies that are designed to help ensure that ALL children, ALL families, and ALL communities are safe, healthy, and flourishing.

Thank you for coming and enjoy your evening.