Dear First3Years Stakeholders,

2019 was a year of great strides to impact infants, toddlers, and their families in communities across the state of Texas. Reflecting on 2019, we are grateful for your continued investment that supports our innovative programs and approach to creating positive lifetime outcomes for very young children.

A glance at our work:

- **Promoting Professional Wellbeing**: First3Years worked intensively with 56 early childhood professionals through training and reflective supervision practice to build a specialized infant-toddler workforce that can address the needs of infants, toddlers, and their families who are faced with adversity.

- **Addressing the Needs of Maltreated Infants and Toddlers**: Infants and toddlers in foster care are much more likely to experience developmental delays and much less likely to receive early developmental screenings. Safe Babies increases likelihood that maltreated children are screened for delays through Early Childhood Intervention (ECI), with more than 65% qualifying for services. ECI screening and intervention can provide the additional support children need to achieve developmental milestones.

- **Launching Baby Day**: 2019 was our inaugural year, welcoming nearly 1,500 children and adults for a day of bonding and delight in five cities across the state.

- **Introducing Relational Health**: In partnership with Columbia University, First3Years trained professionals across the state to facilitate critical conversations with 300 families about the importance of fostering healthy relationships with their child starting at birth.

- **Creating a System of Care**: Babies in Baytown leads conversations and collective action among 46 community members and individuals that live and work in Baytown. This work guides decisions and plans for investing in families with young children.

Together we are meeting the critical needs of infants, toddlers, and their families. Thank you for giving a voice to babies and entrusting First3Years to fulfill the vision for happy and healthy families.

Gratefully,

Sadie Funk    Hillary Kramer Lynch
Chief Executive Officer  Board President

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND BOARD PRESIDENT
SAFE BABIES
Working to lessen the long-term impact of maltreatment on infants and toddlers in the foster care system.

47 number of children 0-3 years of age served in Dallas and Tarrant County

Do children who participate in the Safe Babies program achieve better permanency and well-being outcomes compared to children who do not participate in the program?

Initial evaluation shows: Children’s developmental needs are identified early; Children receive more sensitive parenting from birth and foster parents; Birth parents and foster parents work collaboratively around the child’s needs; Birth parents feel increased support & experience less stigma around accessing services; Service providers demonstrate a strong alliance and find a way to provide reflective practices to the early childhood teachers that we work with every day.  

REFLECTIVE PRACTICE
individuals across 7 organizations received reflective supervision and intensive infant mental health training

56 of participants reported a maintained or increased level of ability to manage emotional impacts of their work after completion of their participation in the program.

BABIES IN BAYTOWN
$800,000 funds awarded to First3Years from the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health to support collaborative and inclusive approaches to resiliency, mental health and well-being in the Baytown community with a focus on young children of color and their families. A key area of focus is ensuring historically excluded and under-represented populations are included in this community-driven process.

RELATIONAL HEALTH
the total number of families screened on emotional connectivity

BABY DAY
4,900+ caregivers and children attended on February 15, 2020 in nine cities across Texas. Attendees participated in activities that promoted bonding and delight. This was a growth of over 230% from its inaugural year in 2019!

ROCCO REGIONAL COUNCIL
an advisory body comprised of civic and business leaders from the greater Houston area who are seeking to contribute their time and talents to advancing the long-term goals of First3Years in the region.

HOUSTON INFANT TODDLER COALITION
a new collective effort to fill a critical gap in systems-building work focused on advancing the well-being of infants and toddlers within Harris County. This coalition engages organizational stakeholders from the early learning, family engagement, education and health sectors that work with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, and their families in the Houston area.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
173,000+ total number of children impacted by First3Years trained professionals

58% of participants are repeat attendees

2,580 total number of professionals reached

26 Scholarships provided to early childhood professionals to deepen their expertise on infants and toddlers

LOOK AHEAD:
With support from the Herman H. Fleishman Foundation and the Houston Endowment, Safe Babies will be expanding to Harris County in 2020.

FIRST3YEARS’ first “Texas Cross Site Learning Retreat on Infants and Toddlers in Child Welfare” hosted 100 judges, lawyers, Child Protective Service staff, researchers, foster parents, and others working with maltreated children from across 11 counties. The purpose of this cross site was to create an opportunity for stakeholders to share what is and is not working within their communities and come up with new solutions together.
THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, Inc.

“David and I have served First3Years with both our time and our money because nothing is more important than early childhood. The work done by First3Years is changing the trajectory of thousands of young lives.” -Patty Miller

STAFF
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Celanese Foundation check presentation