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**Children's Home Society of Washington invests  
in strengthening families with \$8 million gift**  
*Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott's contribution deepens commitment  
to advancing efforts to keep families together*

SEATTLE— March 23, 2022 — Children's Home Society of Washington, one of the state's and nation's leading children and family organizations, announced today it has received a significant investment in its groundbreaking efforts to strengthen families.

The expansion is thanks to an \$8 million donation from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. The unprecedented gift is the largest unrestricted donation in the 126-year history of Children's Home Society of Washington.

This contribution will help Children's Home Society of Washington carry out its transformative work to shift of government and philanthropic resources to keeping families together and to combat inequities that have been compounded by the pandemic.

“This is remarkable moment not for just families in Washington state, but also nationally, that will result in a profoundly different approach to helping children by keeping families together, especially families of color and those living in poverty,” said President/CEO Dave Newell. “This unrestricted gift allows us to reimagine how we address the complex needs of families and shift resources to support families on the front end.”

Children's Home Society of Washington recently supported the 2021 launch of the Washington Family Support Network comprised of family resource centers that are advancing efforts to create a strong child and family well-being system in Washington state. This effort also connects to national efforts of Children's Home Society of Washington to shift government funding from waiting until a crisis occurs in the home to addressing root cause issues by investing in families and communities.

“Children's Home Society of Washington has been a leader in the state and nationally for decades working on approaches to best support child and family well-being,” said Board Chair Andy MacDonald. “This investment will take us to the next level in demonstrating that change is truly possible.”

In January 2020, a governor-appointed steering committee released a 10-year plan to dismantle poverty in Washington that highlighted the intersection of poverty, race and child welfare.

According to the report, in 2019, 1.75 million Washingtonians—more than 500,000 of them children—lived in a household that struggles to make ends meet. The vast majority of child neglect cases occur when families have insufficient incomes, below 50 percent the family poverty line. Indigenous, Black, and Brown Washingtonians experience poverty rates above the state average.

After decades of attempts to reform the child welfare system, Black, Brown and Native American children are still disproportionately removed from their parents, remain out of home longer, and are more likely to have their rights to their family permanently severed. Children's Home Society plans to play a significant part in seeking to help make needed change happen.

### **About Children's Home Society of Washington**

Founded in 1896, Children's Home Society of Washington is the largest child and family service organization in the state of Washington. It has three areas of focus – Behavioral Health, Early Learning and Family Support. Its mission is to develop healthy children, create strong families, build engaged communities, and speak and advocate for children. For more information about Children's Home Society of Washington, visit [childrenshomesociety.org](http://childrenshomesociety.org).

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