



P.E.A.C.E. INITIATIVE

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Helping Build a Connected and Healthy
New Jersey Child Welfare Community



The P.E.A.C.E. Initiative

embrella's inaugural Power to End Adverse Childhood Experiences (P.E.A.C.E.) Initiative is a year-long series of Educational Workshops and Family/Community Engagement Events for foster, adoptive, and kinship caregivers, foster, adoptive, and kinship youth, and Department of Children and Families (DCF) staff and their families. These workshops and community events culminate with a daylong health and wellness P.E.A.C.E. Summit on June 1, 2024.

The goal of the P.E.A.C.E. Initiative is to create a shared child welfare community of healers, leaders, and future changemakers. The initiative is informed by Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences (PACES) research and provides events located strategically throughout all parts of New Jersey.

All events are free for registrants and made possible through support from embrella's donors, granters, and sponsors.





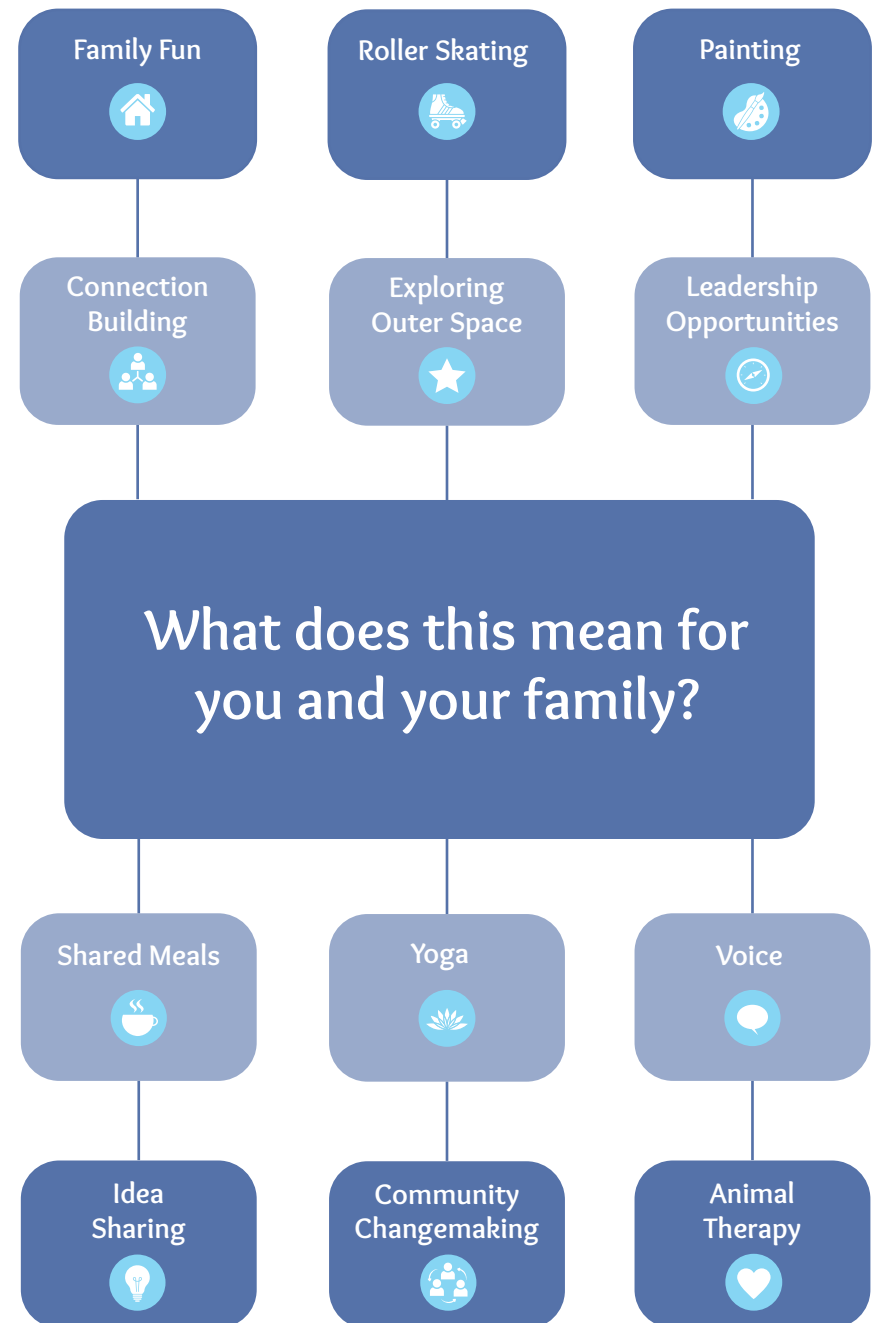
The Research

umbrella recognizes that research has shown that adversity in childhood has lasting impacts into adulthood and even intergenerational implications. The original Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) survey published in the 1990s, and decades of research since, repeatedly come to the same conclusion: if we can lower childhood adversity, disrupt intergenerational patterns, and create Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs), children have better outcomes into adulthood.

A study on PCEs in 2019 found that there were seven indicators for possible better outcomes for children as adults. This John Hopkin's University study of 6,188 adults found the following positives reduce the impact of adversity: the ability to talk with family about feelings, the sense that family is supportive during difficult times, the enjoyment of participation in community traditions, feeling a sense of belonging in high school, feeling supported by friends, having at least two non-parent adults who genuinely cared, and feeling safe and protected by an adult in the home (Bethell et al., 2019).

The P.E.A.C.E. Initiative transforms this research into an actionable response and invites all those that interact with the child welfare community in New Jersey to participate and help shape the future of this community with a goal of lowering childhood adversity and increasing positive childhood experiences.

Reference
Bethell C, Jones J, Gombojav N, Linkenbach J, Sege R. Positive Childhood Experiences and Adult Mental and Relational Health in a Statewide Sample: Associations Across Adverse Childhood Experiences Levels. *JAMA Pediatr.* 2019;173(11):e193007. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2019.3007



Calendar of P.E.A.C.E. Initiative Events



EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Age Range: Adult, 18 years and older

Educational Event registration is open to foster, kinship, and adoptive parents throughout the state of New Jersey and Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) staff on a first come, first served basis. **Registration is required for these events.** Non-Registrants who show up to the event location without registering will be turned away. We appreciate your assistance with this! Registration will be available on our website at embrella.org/peace-initiative no less than three weeks prior to each event.

ACE Interface & Be the Change

 Saturday, October 21, 2023 • 10:00am to 4:00pm

 Hudson County Technical School, 1 High Tech Way, Secaucus, NJ 07094

Join us for a day long workshop that begins with a light breakfast and a three-hour ACE Interface training that will provide education on childhood adversity and the neurological, epigenetic, intergenerational, and cultural implications childhood adversity can have on adulthood. Participants will then break for lunch before beginning the two-hour Be the Change workshop which builds on the 3-hour educational training and explains how to become a changemaker in your community using the Self-Healing Communities Capacity Building Model.

Licensed caregivers may be eligible to receive up to 5-credit hours of training.



ACE Interface

 Thursday, January 18, 2024 • 6:00pm to 9:00pm


 Three-hour Virtual Event via Zoom

Join us for an Ace Interface three-hour virtual training that will provide education on childhood adversity and the neurological, epigenetic, intergenerational, and cultural implications childhood adversity can have on adulthood.

Licensed caregivers may be eligible to receive up to 3-credit hours of training.



Be the Change

 Wednesday, January 24, 2024 • 7:00pm to 9:00pm

 Two-hour Virtual Event via Zoom

Be the Change is a 2-hour workshop that explains and explores how to become a change-maker in your community using the well documented, proven Self-Healing Communities Capacity Building Model. Bring your own ideas for change for your community and work in groups to see how to make that change come to fruition.

It is recommended, but not required, that participants have taken the ACE Interface 3-hour training prior to attending. Licensed caregivers and CP&P staff may be eligible to receive up to 2-credit hours of training.



What Happened to You?

 Saturday, April 27, 2024 • 11:00am to 1:00pm


 Trinity Episcopal Church, 65 West Front Street, Red Bank, NJ 07701


A workshop that provides activities and education based upon Dr. Perry and Oprah Winfrey's book, *What Happened to You: Conversations on Trauma, Resilience, and Healing*. Caregivers will participate in mindfulness activities to put into practice techniques that are intended to nourish self-empathy and understanding while also learning the science behind why this works to help end intergenerational adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and promotes positive childhood experiences (PCEs). Each participant will receive a copy of the book, *What Happened to You: Conversations on Trauma, Resilience, and Healing*, at the event.

Licensed caregivers may be eligible to receive up to 2-credit hours of training.



ACE Interface & Be the Change

 Saturday, May 18, 2024 • 10:00am to 4:00pm

 Stockton University, Atlantic City Campus, 3711 Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Join us for an all-day workshop that begins with a light breakfast and a three-hour ACE Interface training that will provide education on childhood adversity and the neurological, epigenetic, intergenerational, and cultural implications childhood adversity can have on adulthood. Participants will then break for lunch before beginning a two-hour Be the Change workshop that builds on the 3-hour educational training and explains how to become a changemaker in your community using the Self-Healing Communities Capacity Building Model.

Licensed caregivers may be eligible to receive up to 5-credit hours of training. The event is sponsored by the New Jersey Child Welfare Education Institute (CWEI). *Thank you to the event partner, Stockton Child Welfare Education Institute, for sponsoring the event space for us.*



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Age Range: All family & community events are appropriate for all ages unless otherwise noted.

Family and Community Event registration is open to foster, kinship, and adoptive parents throughout the state of New Jersey and Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) staff and their families on a first come, first served basis. **Registration is required for these events.** Non-Registrants who show up to the event location without registering will be turned away. Registration will be available on our website at embrella.org/peace-initiative no less than three weeks prior to the event. We appreciate your assistance with this!

Fall Family Fun on the Farm

 Saturday, October 14, 2023 • 11:00am to 2:00pm


 Constanta Wellness & Healing at Safe Haven Farm
1647 Commissioners Road, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

Join us for a day of fun, self-exploration, and healing on the Safe Haven Farm. In partnership with Constanta Wellness & Healing, families will be guided by licensed staff and participate in activities that are fun but also therapeutic. These activities include nature yoga, therapeutic animal interactions, and creative activities such as painting. Lunch will be provided, and a water ice truck will be on site. Due to the program for this event, it is for resource families and children ages 5 and up. *Thank you to Constanta Farms for sponsoring this event.*

Age range:
Appropriate for ages 5+



Roll Into Gratitude


 Thursday, November 16, 2023 • 5:00pm to 8:00pm


 United Skates of America, Branch Brook Park Roller Skating Center
7th Avenue & Clifton Avenue, Newark, NJ 07104

Roll into Thanksgiving with an evening of roller skating and family fun! Food and skate rental included. Share a day of gratitude as part of the wonderful child welfare community in New Jersey. Specific activities such as DJ led movement are intended to build emotional regulation and resilience. Bring your own knee pads and helmets. Assisted skating devices available.



You're a Star

 Saturday, February 24, 2024 • 5:00pm to 8:30pm

 New Jersey State Museum and Planetarium, 205 W State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Bring the family to “Touch the Stars” and learn about astronomy at our state’s planetarium before taking a break to have dinner and participate in a quilting activity. The quilting squares we create at this event will be transformed into a completed quilt and on display at this year’s P.E.A.C.E. Summit on June 1, 2024.



Magic Under the Sea Celebration

 Saturday, March 23, 2024 • 10:00am to Closing

 Camden Aquarium, 1 Riverside Drive, Camden, NJ 08103

Bring the whole family to explore the Camden Aquarium and enjoy lunch in the aquarium’s ballroom where you will be surrounded by sharks and introduced to strolling animals. Lunch will be served in the ballroom for families from 12:00pm to 2:00pm. Event registration includes entry into the aquarium for the registered family and lunch in the aquarium’s ballroom.



P.E.A.C.E. Summit

 Saturday, June 1, 2024 • 9:00am to 4:00pm

 DCF Professional Center, 30 Van Dyke Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

The P.E.A.C.E. Initiative’s continuing goal is to build a connected and healthy New Jersey child welfare community. The P.E.A.C.E. Summit is an event intended to be a celebration of the connections and learning that the child welfare community has invested in throughout this year’s inaugural launch of the P.E.A.C.E. Initiative.

The P.E.A.C.E. Summit provides a full day of activities for children and families that promote health and wellness. Examples of these activities include painting, yoga, participation in drum circles, and planting. We will also gather and share our experiences, have a chance to voice our opinions about how to prevent child adversity in the future, and further nurture our growing connections to one another.

Please visit embrella.org/peace-initiative for registration and full event information.





P.E.A.C.E. Initiative Staff Committee

The P.E.A.C.E. Initiative is a voluntary, staff-led movement that began after two staff members were able to become trained presenters in the ACE Interface, Self-Healing Communities initiative offered through the Department of Children and Families in 2021 to 2022. After becoming certified in the ACE Interface training, they shared what they learned with embrella, sparking the idea behind using science and research to help build a stronger child welfare community through action.

Committee Chairs

Ebony Lenard, Scholarship Programs Manager
Michele Rodriguez, Development Program Coordinator
Carlissa Snowden-Gause, Family Support Advocate

Educational Events Sub Committee

Kathleen Battle, PACES Coach Region 2
Lindsay Fox, Family Support Advocate
Corissa Kazar, Director of Family Support
Tasia St. Louis, Family Support Advocate

Family Engagement Sub Committee

Travis Fuchs, Family Support Advocate
Robin Garzoni, Director of Communications
Jessica Hernandez, Family Support Manager
Lazaro Lugo, Family Support Advocate
Novelette Williams, Technical Support & Office Coordinator

P.E.A.C.E. Summit Sub Committee

Anika Beckford, PACES Coach Region 2
Lenore Bonilla, Family Support Manager
Sebastian Vargas, Digital Media Manager
Sandra White, Scholarship Administrative Coordinator

P.E.A.C.E. Initiative Committee Oversight

Corinne LeBaron, CEO



P.E.A.C.E. Initiative Advisory Committee

We send a special thank you to the child welfare community advisory committee that consists of resource and kinship caregivers, child welfare provider staff, and Department of Children and Families (DCF) staff, specifically from the Office of Resource Families (ORF), Office of Resilience (OOR), and Division of Child Protection & Permanency (CP&P). And we especially appreciate that all advisory committee members have committed to volunteering their time to help bring embrella's P.E.A.C.E. Initiative to life.

Sharon Coney, Resource Parent, embrella Heart 2 Heart Mentor
Katie Cunniffe, Resource Family Support Supervisor, DCF/CP&P
Juanita Henry, LCSW, New Jersey Therapy Partners
Lisa Johnson, Health and Wellness Coach, L Marie Wellness
Yvonne Ketter-Walls, Kinship Caregiver, embrella Heart 2 Heart Mentor
Sophia Noncent-Johnson, Faith Based Community Navigator, DCF/OOR
Sheray Norfleet, Resource Development Specialist, DCF/CP&P
Twanda Owens-Jones, Kinship Caregiver, embrella Heart 2 Heart Mentee
Gina Lynn Pearson, NJFC Scholars Graduate
Greg Rapport, Executive Director, Age Out Angels
Ava Sharp, Local Office Manager, DCF/CP&P
Lauren Sikora, Communications and Development Director, CASA of Middlesex County
Victoria Spera, Program Manager of Community Education, Prevent Child Abuse NJ
Mahnoush Vaziri, Assistant Director, DCF/ORF
Dr. Alexis Walsh, LCSW, ADHD-CCSP, Owner & Director, Constanta Wellness & Healing



Are you involved in the child welfare community in New Jersey and interested in finding out how you can become part of next year's P.E.A.C.E. Initiative?

Reach out to us at:
PEACE@embrella.org





embrella®

Embracing Families

We're here for you as you open up your heart and home to care for our children.



Family Support Advocates

Advocates are experienced with CP&P policy and are here to support you during your child welfare journey.



Heart to Heart Mentoring

Our mentoring program connects you to experienced resource or kinship caregivers for extra support.



Community Education

embrella offers convenient training courses and meetings specific to your needs as a resource/kinship caregiver or a youth in care.



PACES Coaches

The Pathways to Academic and Career Exploration to Success (PACES) program serves NJ Foster Care Scholar eligible adolescents as they transition out of high school.



Scholarships

We offer support and funding for eligible youth in care pursuing their post-secondary education through our New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program and Private Grant and Scholarship Programs.



Fostering Wishes & Dreamers and Believers

embrella's grant programs help your children build their self-esteem and pursue their dreams.



Conferences, Events, and Meetings

embrella offers conferences, events, and meetings to support resource/kinship caregivers, children, and youth throughout the year.

Contact us today!

All programs and services are free to licensed resource or kinship homes in NJ.



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Embracing Families

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
