



January 12, 2026



Greetings, ICAN Friends and Partners!

What an amazing year 2025 was! It entered with historic wind and fire and left with record rainfall. It reminded us that Mother Nature is in charge...of the outdoors.

Isn't this a universal message? We can't control what goes on outside, - we only control what goes on inside.

It's not a simple message. Outside, it's not only the weather, - the world continues to present increasing challenges, especially for those most vulnerable.

Children cannot control any part of their environment, inside or outside. It's this reality that inspires our commitment to supporting their opportunity to be safe, survive, and thrive in this challenging world.

Unfortunately, not all children experience this opportunity.

We answered the calling of child protection believing that children hold the key to the future, that they deserve a safe and joyful life. Our work reveals that, inside closed doors, they can be hurt, neglected, or experience profound trauma and loss.

It's hard to control what's happening inside if we don't have support outside. This is where we discover the immeasurable value of connections. Supportive relationships with colleagues who may not share the same profession, agency, ethnicity or community, but do share the belief that children deserve respect, safety and hope.

This New Year, we celebrate the difference we can make as we work together. Families with more support, human services and law enforcement actively working together, diverse community councils connecting neighborhoods, domestic violence and child abuse advocates addressing their critical Nexus, and a better-informed public through campaigns such as No Hit and Safe Sleep. Our numbers reflect encouraging progress, with declining child death rates.

Still, there are children today in harm's way.

We can't change the weather, but we can reach the minds, hearts and practices of those who will hopefully join us in a new year of hope for the children who count on us for safety and their very survival.

Thank you for your collective internal strength and commitment to the health and safety of children and families, and your unwavering advocacy.



Deanne Tilton Durfee, Doc. Hc

Executive Director, Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN)

The brilliant and dedicated ICAN staff.



ICAN Highlights 2025



STUDENT POSTER ART CONTEST



CHILDHOOD GRIEF AND TRAUMATIC LOSS CONFERENCE





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admin@ican4kids.org

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