



BLACK LIVES MATTER

2020 STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT



We at the Rainbow Project Child & Family Counseling & Resource Clinic mourn George Floyd's senseless murder and extend our empathy to his family and friends for their loss. His loss has triggered outrage and sadness that has been heard globally. We deeply mourn for the history of suffering and Black lives lost over the past 400 years. We are saddened, shocked and angry, and grieve the loss of a country that is so rich with diversity, and yet which too many do not appreciate, nor celebrate, and in fact are threatened by. We see policies and institutions dehumanize individuals and groups of people, blindly justifying destructive and deadly outcomes.

We are humbled by the peaceful, heartfelt demonstrators that have emerged, worldwide, to voice their outrage of oppression and support of social justice, compassion and taking a stand against racism, making us all accountable. The American Academy of Pediatrics and American Psychological Association caution concerns on the impact of racism on the physical and mental health of children. We at the Rainbow Project know all too well the impact that trauma has on young children and adults: pain, fear and loss of hope. We also know the dreams of the young children and families we work with, who are healing from personal, as well as complex systemic, trauma; and we see the resilience and courage they demonstrate, every day, to recover.

In our work, we see all too often how vulnerable children and families recover and overcome their trauma and experience post-traumatic growth. They become stronger — more invincible — in their determination to do the hard work of self-examination and change, and, in addition, overcome the complex negative consequences of cultural and historical trauma and ongoing oppression we have inherited. They have done their work; but now the systems, policies and institutions of wealth and white privilege of the majority, coming from the historical fact of racial oppression and systems, need to do their part.

We feel the grief, shock, despair and moral outrage of lost Black lives, which fuels our commitment and uncompromising determination to do what we can to not be a gear in the machinery of individual and institutional racism and injustice in our systems. This has been a major value and commitment of the Rainbow Project since our inception in 1980, and it has deepened over the decades. We recognize there is more work to be done, including from within, as we continue to learn and grow from the lessons of the past and present, and look forward to the future. We will not stop being shocked or accepting of the injustices that happen everyday, in all our lives, and in the lives of the young children and families we are honored to serve. We promote trust, empathy, compassion and healthy change in ourselves, in our organization and in our community. Silence is our enemy.

We can and must do better, and we are optimistic for a future free from systemic injustice and inequality. We actively join with our Black sisters and brothers and other People of Color in this essential, urgent, vital, critical movement for change.

*Sharyl J. Kato, Director
The Rainbow Project Staff
The Rainbow Project Board of Directors*