



## Dear Friends,

The Home for Little Wanderers is proud to declare Juneteenth a holiday celebrated in our organization this year and every June 19<sup>th</sup> moving forward.

On this day, 155 years ago, two-and-a-half months after the Civil War ended, word finally reached the last African Americans held in bondage that they were, in the words of the Emancipation Proclamation, "henceforth and forever free." We are pleased to join with the Black Community to commemorate and celebrate this important milestone in our nation's history.

The Home understands that there is a lot of work that needs to be done to support our staff of color and members of the Black Community. The Home will continue to stand up for and take action steps towards effecting positive change. Recognizing Juneteenth as a holiday is an important step for us to take together. Coming together to celebrate this important day in our history, Juneteenth is an opportunity to celebrate Black History and Black Culture. It is an opportunity to educate ourselves and each other.

Let us all challenge our own perspectives and create opportunities for real learning and acceptance. We are challenging ourselves to be the best organization that we can be. Change starts with us.

Please Join us in celebrating this day – today and every June 19<sup>th.</sup> We envision a society where Black Lives actually Matter and we are committed to do our part.

Sincerely,

Lesli Suggs

President and CEO