



## CEO SHARES

### Dear ACLP Community,

As we celebrate Child Life Month, I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible work of each of you and express my deepest gratitude for the profound difference you make in the lives of children and families every day. This month offers us the perfect opportunity to honor the dedication, compassion, and skill that every member of the profession brings to their practice.

At its core, child life is a profession rooted in understanding, empathy, and the belief that children are entitled to be heard, understood, and supported in their emotional and psychosocial development. You, as child life professionals, embody these values through

your clinical practice, and your skilled support of children and families is unmatched. Your work may take many forms, whether you're supporting children through the anxiety of medical procedures, providing therapeutic play opportunities, or helping a family cope through trauma, but in each is a dedication to the psychosocial wellbeing of children and their families that is transformative across settings. In addition to recognizing the care you provide, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the unwavering commitment you show, even in the face of challenges. The work you do is not always easy—it requires creativity, patience, and the ability to be a calming presence in unpredictable situations. It requires a deep well of empathy, insightful assessment, and many, many hours of education and training. May each of you continue your work with confidence rooted in your own dedication and abilities. Your commitment is what drives this profession forward and makes all the difference in the lives you touch. Through your hard work, you provide the foundation for resilience and healing, not just for the children you work with, but for entire families.

This year, our Child Life Month celebration includes a free webinar for members, an opportunity to join our community at a reduced price, and story-sharing across our digital platforms. Members have an additional opportunity through our annual Call for Volunteers to join us in realizing our vision that children and families of every race, identity, and community understand, navigate, and cope with serious life events. Serving on a committee is an effective way to contribute to our profession while creating meaningful connections, earning professional development units, and making a lasting impact. Whether you are new to our community or have

continued to support us through many years or decades, we invite you to walk alongside us as we strive for excellence in the profession.

Thank you for the commitment and strength you bring to your work. I am incredibly proud to be part of a community that continuously elevates the standard of care for children and families. Your impact is immeasurable, and this month, and every month, we celebrate you. Thank you for being the heart of this profession and for your ongoing dedication to the children and families who rely on you.

With deepest appreciation,

**Alison Heron, MBA, CAE**

CEO, Association of Child Life Professionals