

VOICE for Children

2026 VOICE for Children Award Recipient

Charles J. Coe, CPNP, MSN, MPH, MSW, LCSW, C-ACYFSW

Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Incredible Kids Learning Center Organization

Charles J. Coe is an accomplished leader and advocate with over a decade of dedicated service to advancing social justice and improving outcomes for women and children. As the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of the Incredible Kids Learning Center Organization, Charles has positively impacted the lives of more than 16,789 children by providing high-quality early childhood education, early intervention, scholarship opportunities, and comprehensive supportive services to children and their families. By delivering whole-family, comprehensive services, the organization ensures that every child wins from day one and begins their educational journey with a strong foundation both inside and outside the classroom. Through visionary leadership, Charles has driven organizational success while expanding equitable access for underserved communities and empowering women within the workforce to step into leadership roles. Known as a coach, cheerleader, and champion for children, women, and the community, Charles leads with purpose and accountability. His guiding belief reflects this commitment: *“Having belief in someone is a very powerful thing and will have a profound impact on the person we are blessed to work with. This responsibility should never be taken lightly but held in the highest regard.”*

Mr. Coe's passion, vision, and unwavering dedication were shaped at an early age. At just seven years old, he survived a traumatic accident in which a rock struck his left eye,



leaving him in a coma for approximately 45 days and resulting in a fractured nose, traumatic brain injury, and permanent blindness in his left eye due to irreversible optic nerve and retinal damage. Doctors warned his family that he would never be the same child again, as the trauma temporarily reduced his cognitive functioning to that of a three-year-old. Despite enduring multiple eye surgeries, extensive therapy, and later developing open-angle glaucoma in his right eye, Mr. Coe and his family transformed tragedy into purpose. “The loss of my vision in my left eye turned out to be a blessing in disguise, because it propelled me to become the person I am today,” said Charles Coe—now an accomplished motivational speaker, disabilities advocate, entrepreneur, educator, life-skills wellness coach, corporate trainer, intensive clinical case manager, trauma specialist, and mentor.

With a passion for advocacy, Charles also founded Creating Opportunities for Empowerment (COE) Inc., a Social and Human Services Organization servicing both Philadelphia and Atlanta that focuses on crisis intervention, family advocacy, and intensive clinical case management for women, children, and families. With advanced degrees in public health, education, leadership development, nursing, healthcare administration, and social work, Charles combines a strong academic foundation with practical expertise. In addition to founding the Incredible Kids Learning Center Organization and Creating Opportunities for Empowerment, he is also a Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (CPNP), Clinical Trauma Specialist and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), with additional certifications in children, youth, and family social work.

Beyond his day-to-day work, Charles has received numerous prestigious honors.

From serving more than 4,000 meals to families in need during the pandemic, to helping 54 parents resecure employment who previously lost their jobs, and transitioning multiple families from shelters to placing them in fully furnished homes—that would later



become the purchase of their very first home, to creating and managing Keystone STAR 4 programs that provides high quality educational and supportive services to children throughout the Philadelphia region, Charles's advocacy is both far-reaching and impactful. He has expanded leadership opportunities for women, supported local businesses, and championed the needs of children and the early childhood education (ECE) community at the local, state, and federal levels. His commitment to advocacy knows no bounds and continues to drive meaningful, systemic changes. Charles' vision is driven by a passion for **educational equality, social equity, and empowering individuals and families**. His work continues to shape the future of early childhood education and social services, ensuring that those in need have the resources and opportunities to succeed and flourish. Charles is truly a "Champion" of our time for both women and children.

Charles Coe is currently developing a children's book slated for release this summer that celebrates inclusion and diversity while empowering children to view their disabilities as strengths and superpowers. Through strategic partnerships with PNC, PIDC, the Reinvestment Fund, and community stakeholders, he is also leading the expansion of the Incredible Kids Learning Center Organization by developing additional early childhood education centers, family shelters, and community resource hubs.

