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# For Further Information

Gordon Johnson  
President/CEO  
Neighbor To Family, Inc.  
220 S. Ridgewood Ave. #260  
Daytona Beach, FL. 32114  
386.523.1440 or [gjohnson@ntf.org](mailto:gjohnson@ntf.org)  
[www.neighbortofamily.org](http://www.neighbortofamily.org)



*Foster care that keeps siblings together*

*Professional Qualifications*

- *President/CEO, Founder Neighbor To Family, Sibling Foster Care Program*
- *Co-founder of the National One Church, One Child*
- *Former Director, Illinois Department of Children and Families*
- *Former Commissioner, Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission*
- *Former Assistant Commissioner, New York Department of Social Service*
- *Former President/CEO, Jane Addams Hull House Association*
- *Former Director, Bureau of Child Welfare, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare*
- *Former Cottage Officer, Jamesburg State Home For Boys, Jamesburg, NJ*
- *Former President/CEO, Foster America Inc, Chalfont, PA*

**EDUCATION**

Graduate School, Penn State University  
1973 – 1974 Community System Planning Dev. Doctoral Program

Penn State University  
1962 – 1963 Rehabilitation Counseling M.Ed.

Rutgers School of Social Work, Rutgers University  
1958 – 1959 Casework

Thiel College, Sociology/Psychology  
1955 – 1958 AB degree

**PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND**

2000 to present **PRESIDENT/CEO-FOUNDER, Neighbor To Family, Inc.**

Founded Neighbor To Family Foster Care Program as a 501c-3 non-profit, national organization to provide sibling foster care and technical assistance to State Child Welfare Agencies and selected Provider Agencies on techniques for implementing the Neighbor To Family Foster Care Model. This unique model keeps siblings together in one foster home and the foster parent is a paid employee of Neighbor To Family. The program results demonstrate low foster parent turnover, high return to biological family rate and high permanency placement, including adoption, and no children have been returned to the state agencies.

In 2010, Neighbor To Family operates programs in Daytona Beach and Jacksonville, Florida; Atlanta, Augusta and Savannah, Georgia; Baltimore, Maryland; Greensboro, North Carolina; and, Charleston, South Carolina. The agency has an annual operating budget in excess of \$14 million.

2001 to 2002 **PRESIDENT/CEO, Foster America, Inc.**

Appointed President/CEO of Foster America, Inc. private child welfare managed care organization and provider of administrative services to state and local agencies. Foster America applies managed care principals to the delivery of child welfare services to produce positive outcomes for children in a cost effective manner.

**GORDON JOHNSON  
PRESIDENT/CEO**

- *Consultant to SOS Children's Village of Illinois*
- *Founded G.J. and Associates Consulting Firm in Chicago, Illinois*
- *Former Member of Mayor Daley's Foster Care Task Force regarding Chicago children*
- *Nationally recognized in the fields of Child Welfare and Youth Services*

1990 to 2000 **PRESIDENT/CEO, Jane Addams Hull House Association**

Managed the nationally recognized, non-profit social service agency that annually serves 200,000 people through six community centers and more than 30 satellites throughout metropolitan Chicago. Founded and initiated model programs, including Families for a Better Life (family self-sufficiency program in collaboration with Oprah Winfrey); Neighbor To Neighbor (foster care); and New Directions Teen Program (teen independent living). During tenure, agency budget has grown from \$9 million to \$45 million while staff has doubled in size to 800 employees. Responsible for overseeing and directing managers, fundraising and program development and continue the agency's philosophy of "neighbors helping neighbors." Founded in 1889 by Nobel Laureate Jane Addams, Hull House Association offers more than 100 creative programs of self reliance addressing such social issues as childcare, foster care, literacy, domestic violence, gang intervention, independent living for young persons, economic development, homebound senior citizens, teen pregnancy, drug abuse, and fine arts. Was the first and largest settlement program to be accredited by the National Council on Accreditation.

1983 to 1990 **DIRECTOR, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services**

Administered third largest, high visibility, cabinet-level human services agency in Illinois with \$500 million annual budget and 3,000 employees. Responsible for 80 statewide offices providing a variety of services for the 650,000 children under DCFS care; child care in foster homes; group homes and institutions; adoptions; day care; help to unwed parents, troubled youth and adolescents; and licensing and monitoring of some 20,000 child care facilities. Founded, Initiated and administered nationally recognized One Church, One Child program effecting adoption placements of 5,000 children since 1980. Recipient of Ford Foundation, John F. Kennedy School of Government, and Harvard University 10 Best Program Innovation Awards for minority adoptions and Parents Too Soon teen-age pregnancy prevention programs. Worked extensively with legislators, state's attorneys, judges, federal officials and congressional representatives. Instituted the first Child Welfare training institute. Designed and implemented first statewide child abuse death reviews.

1979 to 1983 **DEPUTY DIRECTOR, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services**

Directed, implemented and coordinated activities with delegated responsibility for children's services statewide, including child welfare, protective services, child abuse, licensing, foster care, institutional adoption and CETA programs. Served as Chicago Regional Administrator

**GORDON JOHNSON  
PRESIDENT/CEO**

and monitor and measure effectiveness of services provided by all regions. Represented the director in public and intergovernmental relations.

**1979 to 1979 ACTING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER-DIVISION OF SERVICES, New York State Department of Social Services**

Interim appointment to develop and implement policies and programs affecting children and adults. Supervised seven bureaus, 250 employees and \$1 billion budget for services in 58 counties. Represented the state on the American Public Welfare Task Force, Washington, D.C.

**1978 to 1979 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER AND ACTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER-FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, New York State Department of Social Services**

Supervised and coordinated Bureau of Children's Services program management, foster care, adoption, child protective services, day care and preventive services, all affecting 300,000 children in 58 counties through 400 agencies and institution.

**1972 to 1978 DIRECTOR, Department of Public Welfare, Bureau of Child Welfare, Office of Children and Youth**

Planned and directed \$121 million statewide child welfare and juvenile court payment programs affecting four regions and 67 counties. Operated statewide family planning program representing \$2.5 million and affecting 200,000 people. Duties included assistance and development of major state legislation and continued review, evaluation and improvements of program objectives. Appointed by governor to serve as Trustee and Past Chairman of \$1 million, 12,000-state employee health and welfare fund. Selected as Acting Commissioner of Office of Children and Youth during the commissioner's absence. Liaison to federal officials concerning children's programs such as Vietnamese placement program. Developed and implemented the state's first child abuse registry, "Child Line."

**1971 to 1972 ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, Department of Housing and Urban Development**

Responsible for Florida's Dade County agency-oriented community organization, public housing, social work, relocation, personnel and staff training. Supervised 100 staff and community development programs.

**1968 to 1971 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Model City Program**

Developed the first model city program affecting 90,000 citizens with \$10.9 million budget. Supervised 100 staff dealing with housing, employment, education, crime, delinquency, transportation, health, and children's programs. Represented Dade County in urban affairs programs, made reports to county and city officials, appeared on media and prepared statistical and program reports.

**1966 to 1968 DIRECTOR OF CORPSMEN DEVELOPMENT, Custer Job Corps Center**

Planned, implemented and directed comprehensive training programs for 1,300 disadvantaged youth, 16 to 21 years of age, with residential living, recreation, counseling and staff training. Headed staff committees, initiated policies and procedures, prepared statistical reports, supervised and trained 231 employees, and supervised finances. Maintained liaison with public officials as well as basic education, medical and corpsmen payroll needs.

**1965 to 1966 RESIDENT DIRECTOR, New York State Division for Youths, Sam A. Lewisohn Short Term Adolescent Resident Training Center**

Directed and implemented comprehensive juvenile delinquency program with intensive groups, psychotherapy, daily care, psychiatric and medical services, recreations and work experience programs for youth. Lived on campus with youth.

**1964 to 1965 CONSULTANT, Thompkins County Hospital Rehabilitation Center**

Assisted and advised medical director in development rehabilitation program for physically and mentally handicapped referred clients.

**1963 to 1965 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, COUNSELOR, Austin McCormic Rehabilitation Camp, New York State Division for Youth**

Guidance counselor for 12 juvenile delinquents referred by New York courts. Then assistant director responsible for overall camp program, including counseling, conservation work, recreation, discipline and staff training for 65 youngsters.

**1960 to 1962 PROGRAM DIRECTOR, COUNSELOR, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Youth Forestry Camp #2**

Counselor for 7 to 20 delinquent youths referred by Philadelphia courts. Then program director for entire program, including community relations and camp activities.

**1959 to 1960 COTTAGE OFFICER, Jamesburg State Home for Boys**

Cottage parent for 30 to 65 delinquent youths in a 900-bed boy's reformatory

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- Board Member, One Church, One Child of Florida
- Member, Florida Task Force on Child Protection
- Member, National Advisory Board on Foster Care, Child Welfare League of America
- Founder, Advisory Board Member, Boston Children's Institute, Boston, Massachusetts Home for Little Wanderers
- Founder, Commissioner, Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission
- Task Force Member, Death Fatality Task Force for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
- Past Chairman of Ambassador of Mercy, United Way Crusade of Mercy
- Chairman, C.A.U.S.E.S., a non-profit sexual abuse treatment agency
- Past Trustee, Thiel College
- Trustee, Dominican University, Chicago, Illinois
- Past Trustee, Rockford College, Rockford, Illinois
- Past Board Member, University of Illinois HMO
- Board Member, Alliance for Children, Work Force, National Board
- Board Member, One Church, One Addict, Father Clements, Founder
- Founder, Board Member, First Non-Profit Trust Insurance Co.
- Past Member, G-Tech Chairman's Council for Diversity – The world's leading supplier of computerized on-line products and services

**PROFESSIONAL AWARDS**

Eugene Calhoun Lifetime Achievement Award, Georgia Catalyst for Care, 2009; Purpose Prize, Civic Ventures, Inc., 2007; Nordlinger Child Welfare Leadership Award, 2006; Honorary Doctorate, Thiel College, 1995; NOBLE Significant Achievement Award, 1992; Blackbooks Community Conscience Award, 1991; Ford Foundation/Harvard University Innovations Award, 1986 and 1987; YMCA Urban Programs, 1986; Chicago Police Department Award, 1986; Adoption Promotion Award, OURS Quad Cities, 1984; Springfield Urban League Community Service Award, 1984; Lakeside Community Committee Award, 1984. 1998 Penn State University Alumni of the year.