



CHILDREN'S AID
AND FAMILY SERVICES



Creating
Brighter Futures
Since 1899

IMPACT

Issue 1 2014

She's Made My Life Complete

It was an event that all of us in the New Jersey area remember well: Hurricane Sandy. Trees toppled over and there was no power for a week. But for first-time foster parent Lisa, it was a time of celebration. Her 14-month-old foster child, Stephanie*, came to live with her. "I thought if we can survive the storm, we can survive anything," she remembers.

Lisa has been involved with Children's Aid and Family Services for several years, first as a volunteer for our Baby Basics program and then as a mentor to a teenager in foster care. Today, she is in the process of adopting Stephanie. "Being an adoptive parent has been one of my life's goals," she says. "Stephanie and I have been close from the start. She brings me so much joy. When she runs toward me, calling 'Mommy,' I just melt."

An only child, Lisa is extremely close to her parents, and they have embraced their role as grandpar-

ents. They visit often and consider Stephanie the light of their lives.

An information technology professional with a large bank, Lisa says her priorities have changed since Stephanie has come into her life. "The little things are not as important with a toddler in the house. And there's more play in my life. We go to the park, on play dates, to the zoo and visit family."

Lisa stays in touch with the family that fostered Stephanie when she was an infant, and goes to agency events for foster parents. As a first-time parent, the camaraderie, stories and advice that she receives help her. "I've also found that I can rely on the agency staff during this process," she says. "I can call them anytime."

Lisa would like to adopt another child eventually so Stephanie has a brother or sister to grow up with. She has many goals for her child's future. "I want to make sure she has



Lisa holding Stephanie.

the opportunities to flourish and reach her dreams."

*Name changed to protect client's privacy.

Do you have room in your home and heart to foster or adopt a vulnerable child? Please call our family recruiter at 201.261.2800 or visit cafsnj.org for more information. Thank you!

Message from the President & CEO

Welcome to our first issue of Impact in 2014! I thank all of you that donated to our holiday fundraising appeal. It was a terrific success and we met our match from an anonymous group of donors. Your generosity allows us to provide vital support to our children, such as tutoring, scholarship assistance and medical care and advocacy. I'm so grateful to you for helping us to provide the quality of care that our children need to grow and have fulfilling futures. Thank you.

Robert B. Jones, Ph.D., *President & CEO*



Thank you to our corporate sponsors:

Applebee's • BD • Bergen Risk Managers, Inc. • Boiling Springs Savings Bank • Buck Seifert & Jost • Hudson City Savings Bank • Mutual of America • Otterstedt Insurance Agency • Prestige • The Shannon Rose • Spuntino • TD Bank • Town News Media • United Water

Zoe's Place: A new addition to Children's Aid and Family Services

We will now be helping even more vulnerable mothers and their children: Zoe's Place and Zoe's Cupcake Café have joined our family of services. For several years, Zoe's Place has provided supervised housing, child care, a helpline and other support to young mothers and their babies who might otherwise be homeless.

Zoe's Cupcake Café, which is located in Teaneck, raises revenue to support the house, and provides employment and training opportunities to the mothers. The young women are given an opportunity to learn all aspects of the business, including food preparation, sales, marketing, bookkeeping and customer service.

The clients living at the home participate in a support group for young mothers, where they learn valuable parenting skills, and the young women are matched with caring adult female mentors who provide friendship and guidance.



"If it wasn't for Zoe's Place, I don't think I'd be in college right now."

"I am delighted to welcome Zoe's Place and Zoe's Cupcake Café to our agency family," says Bob Jones, Ph.D., President & CEO of Children's Aid and Family Services. "The services provided by Zoe's Place are a natural extension of our work helping vulnerable children and families in the community. It's a program that provides real hope and opportunity to these young women."



Some of the mothers and children from Zoe's Place.

"Zoe's Place helps me support my child. Being here makes me independent."



If you are looking for a delicious, homemade sweet treat or need dessert for a party or event, please visit Zoe's Cupcake Café, located at 740 Chestnut Avenue in Teaneck. You can find menus online at www.zoescupcakecafe.com or call 201.357.8828.

"I appreciate everything they've done and I couldn't thank them enough."



THE BARCLAYS



COMING SOON: Ragtime Rendezvous Murder Mystery

Sponsors are needed for an evening of mystery, suspense, food and fun at "Ragtime Rendezvous – A Murder Mystery Night!" PGA TOUR golfers in The Barclays field and their wives will lead the sleuths in each team as you search for clues to solve this "who dun-it" set in the Roaring 20's. Inspector General (our Emcee and best-selling author) Harlan Coben will lead the investigation with his team of murder mystery writers and celebrity special guests.

Please contact Liz Mason at 201.261.2800 or lmason@cafnsj.org for more information on sponsorships for this unforgettable event!

Helping children with autism live better lives

Andrew Liso is a Behaviorist with Children's Aid and Family Services where he works with children and teenagers with severe autism and other developmental disabilities and their families. We asked him to tell us about his role as well as the changes he's seen in the children we help.

Q. What is your educational background and experience?

A. I have a Masters Degree in Special Education with more than 20 years experience in the field.

Q. What does a Behaviorist do?

A. Children with autism struggle with leisure time and transitions; activities help them to learn self control, turn taking, social skills and to accept change.



Peter learning to ride a horse

I develop behavior plans for each child that are used by their families and our staff. I supervise the implementation of the plans and make any modifications which might be necessary to help improve challenging behaviors.

I also train all staff in behavior support and positive reinforcement techniques. We build a trusting rapport with the children, which allows them to develop improved social skills and healthy relationships.

All children have different incentives they respond to. It could be

certain foods, a toy or time to listen to music. For example, when we first started bowling with Peter, he didn't want to even try. So we set up a reward system that involved things he liked to do, such as reading, listening to music or playing Wii. At first, he bowled for a short time with a lot of help from the staff, and he earned his reward of playing a Wii game. Gradually, we increased the duration of the game by delaying the reward. Now, he looks forward to bowling and he can play an entire game independently.

Q. How do you teach the children new behaviors?

A. Helping the children gain new skills takes a lot of time and repetition. We give a child one-on-one attention, which is often difficult for families, given their many other responsibilities.

For instance, 7-year-old Eric didn't know how to play with any-



Mark learning to swim



Andy and Eric share a hug

one. Our staff bounced a ball back and forth to teach him how to play with others. They've also taken him to playgrounds and shown him what to do on the equipment. Now he sees other kids at the park and he runs and jumps and plays in the sandbox with them. He's learned the skill of playing.

Q. What other positive effects are you seeing in the children?

A. We notice that Eli speaks more coherently and he uses more words. Patrick goes out more and enjoys activities now. Brandon speaks more and stays focused on an activity longer. Kurian is improving socially. And all of the kids are becoming more independent by learning to practice personal hygiene and helping to prepare meals. These are big steps for children with severe autism.

Q. What do you enjoy most about your work?

A. I feel like I'm helping these kids live better lives. They are learning lifelong skills from us, and even more important, how to connect with other people.

Welcome New Board Members

We are thrilled to welcome Jason Cosimano, Stuart Hinchin, Mary Krugman, Tyler Mathisen, Bernadette Reilly and Joan Stearns to our Board of Trustees.



Jason Cosimano

Jason and his wife, Dorothy, have four young children. He is President of Bergen Risk Managers Incorporated and active in community service. He is a strong supporter of Children's Aid and Family Services. He is also involved in the Oakland Education Foundation, St. Joseph

Regional High School Green & Gold Club and the Hasbrouck Heights Chamber of Commerce.

Stuart Hinchin

Stuart and his wife, Leanne, are foster parents to babies in our Medically Needy Foster Care program. They also have five birth children and one adopted son. Their family was featured in last year's holiday appeal fundraiser. Stuart is an active investor in the pharmaceutical industry.



Mary Krugman

A former Ridgewood resident from 1976 – 1989, Mary spent 23 years in Southern California. She and her husband owned a high-end women's design and manufacturing company where she was the national sales manager. Upon her return to Allendale in 2011, she



joined the Woodlea/Path Advisory Council and is

currently a volunteer at Valley hospital. Mary has two daughters.



Tyler Mathisen

Tyler Mathisen adopted his son from Children's Aid and Family Services in 1993. He and his wife, Joanne, have attended many of our events, and Tyler has served as emcee of our spring gala, where he has shared his family's inspiring adoption story. He co-anchors

CNBC's "Power Lunch" and is Vice President for Strategic Editorial Initiatives.

Bernadette Reilly

Bernadette and her husband, Patrick, fostered and adopted a child through Children's Aid and Family Services. Bernadette is a member of the Path II Advisory Board as well as the Resource Development Committee. She previously practiced intellectual property law in New York and is now at home full time with her family.



Joan Stearns

Joan Stearns is a longtime volunteer at The Depot Gift and Hand-craft Store, the proceeds of which benefit Children's Aid and Family Services. Joan has served as Co-Director, Member-at-Large and is currently the Gift Buyer at The Depot. She is a graduate of



Montclair State University and had a 32-year career as a teacher.

School success builds confidence

Before coming to us, most of our children have been in seven to 10 state foster care placements. They are usually two grade levels behind and have gaps in their learning. On average, a child in foster care that changes school even once is less than half as likely to graduate high school. **Since establishing our Educational Advocacy program in 2009, 100% of our high school seniors eligible to graduate from high school have graduated.**

"When one of our children struggles in school, we intervene," says Jennifer Flores, Vice President of Child Welfare. "Just as a parent would, our staff works closely with the school personnel to ensure our children are receiving the appropriate level of support and services. We currently provide weekly tutoring to 44

children ranging in ages from 4 – 17."

One tutor is utilizing a specialized method of reading instruction for children with learning disabilities. She has worked with several children, in first through third grades that came to us unable to read. All of them are now reading at or near their grade level, and two of them recently earned "Student of the Week" honors.

All of our tutors are certified teachers. Our Educational Services program is supported by philanthropy. We are in need of donations to this important program. A gift of \$50 can provide one tutoring session, \$250 can provide five tutoring sessions and \$500 can provide 10 tutoring sessions. This gift reaps lifelong dividends. Thank you!

Garfield Prevention Coalition: Collaborating to create a drug-free community



(l.-r.) Stephanie Perez, Congressman Bill Pascrell, Erin Delaney and Samantha Harries of The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources. Senator Pascrell has been extremely supportive of the efforts of The Garfield Prevention Coalition and learned of its progress during a recent meeting.

The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources was recently awarded a five-year federal grant to establish the Garfield Prevention Coalition, a formal collaboration among members of the community who are interested in becoming involved in local drug prevention efforts to reduce the prevalence of underage drinking, marijuana and tobacco use among youth between the ages of 10 and 18. "It grew out of a group of high school students who are members of Empowered Peers Inspiring Change (EPIC), and it is currently comprised of community members working for a healthier Garfield," says Stephanie Perez, Garfield Coalition Coordinator.

The Garfield Prevention Coalition aims to change community perceptions, attitudes and norms about smoking, drinking, and drug use, as well as equip young people with skills to become leaders of tomorrow. The Coalition's collaborators include the public health department, parents, student groups and schools, as well as local political leaders, including Garfield Mayor Joseph Delaney, to focus on educating the community on alcohol, marijuana and tobacco use.

The group is holding at least one event every month to get community members, including young people, involved. The Coalition recently held an information and awareness raising event at Garfield Middle School for parents and is planning on having more "sticker shock" campaigns at Garfield's liquor stores. In partnership with the liquor establishments and adult leaders, these events consist of stickers being placed on packages of alcoholic beverages throughout the liquor store. The stickers act as "warning labels" and notify the public of the consequences of providing or purchasing alcohol for minors.

"It is exciting to be working with such a committed group of community partners who want to create a healthier future for young people living in Garfield," says Stephanie.

To get involved in the Garfield Prevention Coalition, please contact The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources at 201.261.2800 or visit www.tcadr.org.

Grants UPDATE

Children's Aid and Family Services wishes to thank the many generous organizations and foundations that recently provided vital support to its programs for vulnerable children and families:

- BJ's Charitable Foundation
- Carlson Family Foundation
- CME Group Community Foundation
- The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, founded by the Jewish Community
- Investors Foundation
- The Joseph Lapinski Foundation
- Lillian Pitken Schenck Fund
- Macy's
- RGK Foundation
- St. Elizabeth's Church, Ridgewood

Spring – and cupcakes – are at The Depot

After an especially long, cold winter, spring is here! What better way to celebrate this vibrant season than by brightening up the house with some pretty pieces from The Depot, a unique Gift and Handcraft Shop.



And be sure to mark your calendar on the second Thursday of each month: The Depot will have samples of cupcakes from Zoe's Cupcake Café, from 4:00–8:00 p.m. as well as wine and cheese. So grab your friends and make a fun night of it at The Depot, located at 22 Prospect Street in Midland Park.

All proceeds from The Depot benefit the vulnerable children and families served by Children's Aid and Family Services. Proceeds from Zoe's Cupcake Café benefit Zoe's Place, a program of Children's Aid and Family Services, which provides a safe, supervised home and supportive services for homeless pregnant teens, teen mothers and their babies.

Zoe's cupcakes can now be purchased at The Depot! Try one of our packs of mini or regular-sized cupcakes. They are so, so good! You can also place an order with Zoe's Cupcake Café by calling 201.357.8828 and it will be delivered to The Depot for pickup.



Children's Aid and Family Services
200 Robin Road
Paramus, NJ 07652-1414

Board of Trustees

Chair Bruce M. Brady, Esq.
1st Vice Chair Robert G. Sommer
2nd Vice-Chair Kenneth Bronfin
Secretary Nancy Slott
Treasurer & CFO Joanne E. Mandry, C.P.A.
President & CEO Robert B. Jones, Ph.D.

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Marie Adler-Kravec | J. Christopher Nettleton |
| Harvey D. Braun | Anne W. Oros |
| Gregory J. Bullock | William Paquin |
| Jason Cosimano | Frank Plateroti |
| Patricia Duarte, C.P.A. | Bernadette Reilly |
| Tracey Gerber | David Sabath |
| Stuart Hinchin | Nina A. Sharma |
| Barbara Hyslop P | Dan Shiver |
| Peter Jadrosich | Joan Stearns |
| Mary Krugman | Andrea Visser |
| C. Tyler Mathisen | Carol Whaley |

Non-profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hackensack, NJ
Permit No. 104

Change Service Requested

Visit us online at www.cafsnj.org
Call us at 201.261.2800

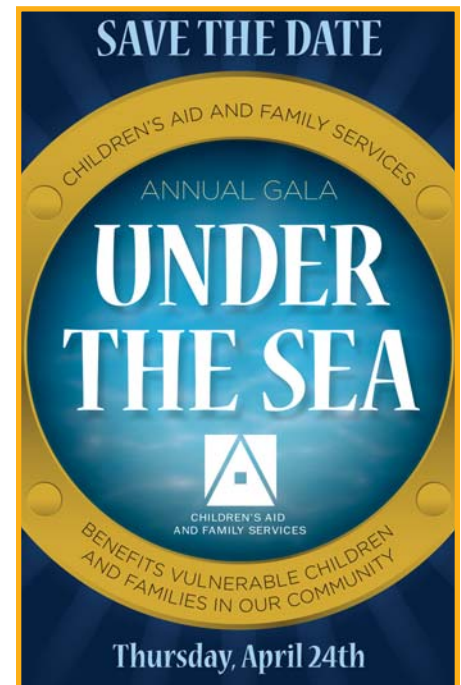
A Whale of a Good Time

Children's Aid and Family Services' 11th annual fundraising gala, "Under the Sea," will be held on:

Date: **Thursday, April 24, 2013**
Time: **7:30 – 11:30 p.m.**
Place: **The Terrace at Biagio's Ristorante**
299 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ

The evening's individual honorees are longtime foster parents **Anne and John Oros** and **Shea and George Campbell**. The corporate honoree is **Boiling Springs Savings Bank**.

The evening will feature sea-themed entertainment, silent and live auctions, dinner, dancing and much more. The event will benefit vulnerable children and families in the community. Sponsorships, electronic event journal advertising and auction item donations are available. Tickets, which cost \$150, \$250 and \$350, are on sale at www.cafsnj.org. For more information, please call Eve Marsan at 201.261.2800 or visit www.cafsnj.org.



Our **Mission** is to preserve, protect, and when needed, provide families. Motivated by compassion and in partnership with the community, we make positive lasting differences in the lives of those we serve. We provide high quality, innovative services to children and their families that advance social, educational and emotional development and well-being.