



CHILDREN'S AID  
AND FAMILY SERVICES

# Turning Points

SERVING VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SINCE 1899

SPRING 2011

## *A New Decade at Children's Aid and Family Services*

2011 marks the start of a new decade, as well as the 112th anniversary of Children's Aid and Family Services. Throughout its history, the agency has strived to adapt to meet the evolving needs of the vulnerable children we serve. At the forefront of our services has been our commitment to provide adoption and foster care programs to support some of the most traumatized and vulnerable children in New Jersey. With the help of our generous supporters, we continue to offer vital services to help the children in our care heal from their deep wounds and build stronger, brighter futures.

For many years we've offered our children multiple complementary therapies – including individual, group, family, music and art – as well as tools to help them to reduce anxiety and better manage stress, such as yoga and participation in team sports. These therapies help the children regain their trust in others, build lasting relationships and constructively channel their strong, sometimes overwhelming emotions. To help the children strengthen their fundamental skills and increase their success in school, we hired an Education Director to provide much-needed educational advocacy and tutoring support to the children, who often have a history of multiple school placements and developmental delays, and as a result, struggle with their studies. We are one of the only agencies in the country to provide educational advocacy and support. Through the



Anne Armstrong-Coben, M.D., director of the agency's new Medical Services and Advocacy Center.

Thomas R.S. Burgin Parents Fund, we offer scholarship assistance to those young adults "aging out" of foster care and attending college or vocational training. Most of these children have little or no family support during this time of transition; help from the fund, including emergency support when needed, puts them on a path toward a successful, self-sustaining future.

### **Launch of Medical Services and Advocacy Center**

These pioneering efforts to help children in foster care overcome the daunting obstacles they face continue today with several new initiatives, including the launch of our new Medical Services and Advocacy Center. The majority of the children in the agency's care have histories of severe trauma, abuse and neglect, as well as pre-existing medical conditions.

Their access to medical care has been inconsistent, as on average, they have been in seven to 10 failed placements before entering our care. Some of them have received little or no medical care before coming to us, and others have gone from one foster home to another and thus, have never seen the same doctor twice. A child born with a chronic condition such as asthma – which is manageable when treated consistently – can experience multiple trips to the emergency room because of a cold.

The launch of the Center will increase the agency's ability to coordinate and support the complex medical care of the medically needy infants, as well as the older children and teenagers in our foster care programs. The pediatrician and nurse practitioner who staff the Center will

See **A New Decade** page 4

## Message from the President



I thank everyone who donated so generously to our Holiday Appeal Fundraiser. I'm delighted to tell you that we reached our goal of raising \$150,000, which enabled the agency to receive a matching gift from a private foundation. Your gift makes a real difference in the lives of the vulnerable children and families we serve facing uncertain times.

This year is starting out on a busy note, with preparations underway for our annual spring gala. "Love is All You Need" is Thursday, April 7, 2011 at the Venetian in Garfield, NJ. It's going to be an exciting evening, with "Caledon," the Scottish tenors, performing, and the 15 carat "Love" emerald necklace – created especially for the gala by Arthur Groom & Co. – being raffled. Both Dr. Anne Armstrong-Coben and Doris Hansmann will be honored at the event. I thank our sponsors and our Event Committee for working hard to make this a terrific evening to benefit the agency's vulnerable children and families. For more details, please see the back cover of Turning Points. I hope to see you there!

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

# Holiday Wrap-Up

The children and families in need served by the agency had an especially happy holiday season, thanks to the generosity of individuals, organizations and businesses who supported our holiday drive this year by donating gifts, toys and gift cards. Some of the donors include



(l. – r.): Craig Pintado, Anne Crochunis, Christine Chmielewski, Milly Valentin, Chrystal Alves, John Colaizzi Jr and James Ward of Walgreens.

The Adoptive Parents Committee, Bergen Regional Medical Center, Bogota Savings, Capacity Coverage Company of New Jersey, Kei Macray and Friends, Paramus Chamber of Commerce, Ridge School, Rodman Publishing, St. Paul's Church in Ramsey and the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood.



Rebecca Wilcox and Christine Jenkins of JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Left: (l. – r.): Patricia Paris, Lisa Fritts and Jon Kolakowski of the Sigma Group.

## The "Love" Emerald Unveiled

Raffle tickets are on sale now for the "Love" Emerald, created by Arthur Groom & Co. especially for our "Love is All You Need" gala. This spectacular 15-carat pear shaped emerald, surrounded by diamonds and valued at \$40,000, has been generously donated by Arthur Groom & Co. and will be raffled at the agency's spring gala, on April 7.

Tickets cost \$20 a piece or 6 for \$100 and may be purchased at Arthur Groom & Co., 262 E. Ridgewood Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ or online at [www.arthurgroom.com](http://www.arthurgroom.com) or [www.cafsnj.org](http://www.cafsnj.org). Buy your tickets today – you don't want to miss the opportunity of owning this stunning one-of-a-kind necklace that's sure to turn heads.



Nancy Slott, member of the agency's Board of Trustees, models the "Love" emerald.

## Full-Day Kindergarten Registration



Parents of children entering kindergarten in fall 2011 are invited to register their children at Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center in Paramus. This program is particularly helpful to working families whose town public schools do not offer full-day kindergarten. The Turrell Center's kindergarten program is state-certified, licensed and accredited, and runs from 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. It features a small class size, typically 12 – 15 children. Both before and after care programs are available. Also included are breakfast, hot lunch and snacks.

For more information or to take a tour of the Turrell Center, call 201.261.5970.

## SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATIONS

The Turrell Center is also offering **Camp Kaleidoscope**, for children ages 5 through 9, from July 5 until September 3. The theme-based curriculum is designed to reinforce and strengthen school concepts while providing a fun and memorable summer experience for your child.

Campers will explore the universe during Space Week, “visit” Egypt and Rome via the interactive SMART Board during Archaeology Week, learn ways to help others during Community Week, learn about the wonders of the sea during Ocean Reef Week, and compete in their own Olympic Games during Athletic Week. Additionally, an optional Reading Assistance Program is available, where a certified teacher will work one-on-one with your child for 30 minutes a day to help improve reading skills.

## The Depot Named “Best in Bergen”

Congratulations to the all-volunteer staff of The Depot craft and gift shop, named Best Gift Shop by Best of Bergen (201) magazine! The Depot, located at 22 Prospect Street in Midland Park, NJ, features beautiful, one-of-a-kind merchandise for the home hand-made by crafters and artisans, as well as a large selection of Vera Bradley handbags and accessories. All proceeds benefit Children's Aid and Family Services. If you are thinking of adding something cheery and beautiful to your home, spring is the perfect time to visit The Depot to find that magnificent decor item!

For more information, or to learn about volunteering, call 201.444.6120 or visit the store online at <http://thedepot.cafsnj.org>.





work with existing nursing staff to provide services such as medical screenings, prevention education, care coordination with primary care physicians and specialists. They will also focus on training and advocacy – supporting agency staff and foster parents and working with community health care providers to make them more familiar with the special needs of the children. Additionally, they will help locate missing medical records and compile information that will be used to create individual “Child Health Passports” that contain medical histories and treatment plans for each child. These vital documents will accompany the children to their next placement, permanent home or as they prepare to “age out” of foster care, thus helping to ensure that the children’s conditions are managed properly.

Located at the agency’s headquarters, the Center is staffed by medical director Anne Armstrong-Coben, M.D., a pediatrician and assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at Columbia University Medical Center and Kathy Courain, APN with a specialty in Pediatrics. Dr. Armstrong-Coben has an extensive history of helping vulnerable and at-risk youth. She formerly served as medical director at Covenant House, where she helped develop a new medical

facility providing health care for homeless/at-risk youth. She also served as a medical consultant to the NJ Office of the Child Advocate.

### **Serving Developmentally Disabled Youth**

The agency will be offering even more services to vulnerable children this year, as it was recently named an approved provider for developmentally disabled children by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). We will be caring for children with severe challenges, including mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy and epilepsy, and in some instances, significant behavioral issues, in a group home setting. Historically, a

good number of these children have been living in out-of-state facilities because there has been a lack of appropriate programs and resources within the state. A devastating effect of this has been the strain on families

who are unable to spend meaningful time with their disabled children. By bringing these children back to New Jersey, the families and children can spend more time together and the children will have greater opportunities to visit home. The

**“The wellbeing of children – especially those who have no family to care for them – is of utmost importance to me, both professionally and personally. I am so pleased to be at the forefront of this effort that will have a tremendous impact on the healthcare needs of children in foster care.”**

Anne Armstrong-Coben, M.D.

agency plans on opening the first home for developmentally disabled children later this year.

“I’m pleased we are a part of this crucial effort to bring these children back to New Jersey, and closer to their family homes, which will foster stronger family ties,” says Bob Jones, Ph.D., president & CEO of the agency. “This is a natural extension and complements the services we already offer to vulnerable children and families.”

### **The WISE Program**

The agency was recently awarded a federal grant to launch WISE (Wrap-Around Intensive Services for Families) in our South Orange, NJ office this year. In fact, only three such grants were awarded nationwide. WISE Families is a community-based program that provides specialized assessment, treatment and support services to children who have been sexually abused by another minor who is a member of the victim’s family or household. This is a pioneering program that works with all members of the family to help them recover

**“I’m delighted that through these new initiatives we will expand our services and be able to reach out to even more vulnerable children. I am grateful to our supporters and friends, too, for helping us to continue to play a vital role in the community.”**

Bob Jones, Ph.D.

from the abuse and make changes to ensure that the family environment is safe and healthy for everyone. The program will be offered in partnership with Wynonna's House Child Advocacy Center in Newark and Children's Hospital at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center's Metro Regional Child Abuse Diagnostic and Treatment Center.

### More Ways to Foster

Helping wounded children along a path toward healing, so they can eventually become part of a loving and nurturing foster family has always been core to the agency's mission. Today we are intensifying our foster parent recruitment efforts to attract even more prospective parents, who may be married, single, or in a committed relationship, and may rent or own their own homes.

The opportunities include:

- **Professional Foster Parent** – either caring for teenagers in an agency-owned home or in the parents' home. A full-time youth counselor is provided and either a salary or stipend.
- **Treatment Home Foster Parent** – Provide therapeutic foster care to children ages 6 – 18 in the parents' home.
- **Medically Needy Infants and Toddlers** – Provide care and nurturing to a baby or toddler with complex medical needs. One parent must stay at home.

All parents receive comprehensive training and full support from the agency. Financial stipends are also offered. All children have health insurance coverage.

Our recruitment efforts are multimedia and include newspaper, interior and exterior bus, billboard and internet advertising in Essex and Bergen Counties, as well as speaking engagements at area churches and community events attended by families.

If you are interested in learning more about fostering or adopting, and/or inviting a speaker to your house of worship or community organization, please call our recruitment specialist at 201.226.0300 x242.

## The Most Important Gift You Ever Make

Helping vulnerable children forever. Incredibly, that's what's possible with a gift to the Anne Goheen Crane Endowment Fund.

By making a bequest commitment to the agency's endowment fund, it's possible to ensure the agency continues to receive a gift each year that is equivalent to the value of your regular annual gift. By giving in this way, you can help give coming generations of children hope for a brighter tomorrow. The chart below\* illustrates how you can permanently endow your annual gift.

With your gift to this endowment fund, the principal of the fund remains intact and only the interest income is paid out. By pooling and investing all estate gifts and bequests in the endowment, the agency can ensure that even the most modest of gifts is leveraged to its fullest potential.

Your bequest allows you to make a lasting difference by leaving an impressive legacy of caring to those who need it most. It is an investment in the lives of vulnerable children both now and in the future: a gift that keeps on giving.

Your gift doesn't have to be cash. You can give stocks, bonds, an insurance policy, or even a gift from your IRA. By touching the future, it could be the most important gift you ever make. For more information, contact Mary Pat Boron at 201.261.2800 x217 or mboron@cafsnj.org.



Value of Your Annual Gift	Endowment Gift Required to Fund your Annual Gift at 5% Return
\$ 100	\$ 2,000
500	10,000
1,000	20,000
5,000	100,000
10,000	200,000

\*The information in this publication is not intended as legal advice. For legal advice, please consult an attorney. Figures cited in examples are for hypothetical purposes only and are subject to change.

# Innovative Efforts to Reduce Drunk Driving

It seems like you can't open the newspaper or watch the news without coming across a story about a horrific car crash caused by drunk driving. Even the results of a Google search of the term "drunk driving" are alarming: page after page of news articles from the past 24 hours detailing alcohol-related car accidents fill the computer screen.

For more than 30 years, organizations such as The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources, the newest member of the Children's Aid and Family Services' family, have worked tirelessly to educate the public about the dire consequences of drinking and driving. Their efforts have certainly been making a difference and raising public awareness. According to Madd.org, annual traffic fatalities related to alcohol have dropped from an estimated 30,000 in 1980 to fewer than 17,000 today. Yet even though progress has been made, there is still much to do to alleviate this problem and make our communities safer.

Last year, The Center received funding from the New Jersey Division of Addiction Services to create initiatives to address heavy drinking and drunk driving in Bergen County, a problem that plagues young adults, especially men between the ages of 18 – 25, and the communities in which they live. The Center aligned with numerous individuals, organizations and businesses, to create the group CARDD (Connected Around Responsible Drinking Decisions). The group has already implemented two important efforts to help prevent people in restaurants, bars and nightclubs from driving drunk. A campaign, "Who's Takin' You Home Tonight?" has been developed that is geared toward the typical young man who tends to go out to meet young



women and socialize, but is likely to end up driving home drunk and getting into trouble. The campaign includes posters, a promotional team, game wheel, prizes and giveaways. Ads have appeared in STEPPIN' OUT, the magazine aimed at young adults who go to local nightclubs and have also been posted on Facebook. A kickoff party at

Park City Bar and Grill in December was well received by guests.

CARDD is also partnering with local bars, restaurants and night clubs to provide free training programs to their serving staff. The training, called TIPS (Training Intervention Procedures) is designed to help prevent underage drinking, intoxication and drunk driving through classroom-style and on-premise training. It teaches servers the legal forms of identification in New Jersey for proof of age, how to spot fake ID cards, the behavioral clues of

intoxications and how to legally and safely handle situations and intoxicated customers.

CARRD is seeking additional hospitality businesses to help spread its important message. For more information, contact Lesleigh Campanale at 201.488.8680.

**"Project CARDD is great for the hospitality industry. Times are changing for us and we need to work together to protect our businesses, our patrons, and our communities. CARDD's free TIPS trainings was a great opportunity to educate our new staff and even our senior staff members benefitted. The 'Who's Takin' You Home Tonight' promotional event was a great hit, too."**

John Mosca, owner of Park City Bar and Grill

- The National Highway Traffic Safety Association reported in 2008 that drivers in their early twenties have the highest level of involvement in alcohol-impaired driving fatalities, compared to drivers of all other ages<sup>1</sup>.
- Bergen County ranks higher than most other NJ Counties in alcohol-related crashes from 2001-2009; at over 50 crashes per month for almost every year. Young men make up the majority of those crashes, as well as the majority of DUIs<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Shope, J.T. & Bingham, R. 2008. "Teen Driving Motor-Vehicle Crashes and Factors That Contribute" American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Volume 35, Number 3S: 261-271

<sup>2</sup> Statistical data reported on motor vehicle accidents was obtained via New Jersey Department of Transportation and analyzed using a statistical software program, STATA, by The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources

## Grants Update

Children's Aid and Family Services wishes to thank the many generous organizations and foundations that provide vital support to its programs and services. Our Medically Needy Infants and Toddlers Foster Care Program benefitted from grants from the Gertrude E. Skelly Charitable Foundation (\$25,000), and Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation (\$5,000). The Carlson Family Foundation donated \$10,000 toward foster care and adoption recruitment efforts for the Medically Needy Infants and Toddlers Foster Care Program. The Baby Basics program, which provides free nutritional formula, diapers and other baby essentials to low-income families in Bergen County, received grants from the NYMEX Foundation (\$5,000) and St. Elizabeth's Church (\$2,500). For our older children, a recent grant of \$25,000 from the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey will help us to assist current and former clients of the agency to successfully transition to adulthood. Finally, a \$7,500 grant from TD Charitable Foundation will provide funding for our Life Skills program, teaching the foster children in our care important skills.



(l. – r.): Dennis McSherry, regional vice president, TD Bank; Liz Mason, senior vice president, Children's Aid and Family Services; and Joanne Westphal, retail market manager, TD Bank.

## Homecoming

### The Todd Ouida Children's Foundation 10th Annual Birthday Event

Be sure to mark **Saturday, June 5, 2011** on your calendar. It is the 10th annual Todd Ouida Children's Foundation's birthday event. This family friendly event, from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at River Dell High School, 55 Pyle Street in Oradell, NJ, will include bouncy rides, face painting, and other children's activities, as well as a silent auction. This year the Foundation is partnering with Children's Aid and Family Services to

help us raise money for the new Medical Services & Advocacy Center. For more information, contact the Development Office at 201.261.2800.

The Todd Ouida Children's Foundation was established by Todd's parents to create a meaningful legacy for their son Todd, whose life was tragically ended in the September 11th terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

## LET'S DANCE

Children's Aid and Family Services is holding its first-ever dance marathon fundraising event on Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. at Bergen Community College gym, located at 400 Paramus Road in Paramus. We need your help to make this a fun and memorable event. If you love to dance the night – and day – away, call the Development Office at 201.261.2800. If you can't make the event, you may still participate as a "virtual dancer."

To register as a dancer or sponsor, visit [www.dance4kids.kintera.org](http://www.dance4kids.kintera.org).





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Visit us online at [www.cafsnj.org](http://www.cafsnj.org)  
Call us at 201.261.2800

## Love is All You Need

Now is the perfect time to purchase tickets to the agency's spring gala, "Love is All You Need," at [www.cafsnj.org](http://www.cafsnj.org). The event is on **Thursday, April 7, 2011** from 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. at the Venetian in Garfield, NJ. Ridgewood resident Anne Armstrong-Coben, M.D. will be honored for her leadership and advocacy on behalf of the medical needs of vulnerable children and youth. Doris Hansmann, also of Ridgewood, will receive special recognition from the agency for her many years of service and support.

This is a night you won't want to miss, what with a performance by "Caledon," the Scottish tenors, as well as a buffet, open bar and silent and live auctions. What's more, the exquisite 15 carat "Love" Emerald, created by Arthur Groom & Co. especially for the gala and valued at more than \$40,000, will be raffled. Some of the fabulous auction prizes include vacation packages to Bermuda, Florida and Colorado Springs, golf packages, catered cocktail parties, an Apple iPad and much more. Sponsors include Applebee's, BD, Boiling Springs Savings Bank, Bogota



Members of the "Love is all you need" event committee: front row (l. - r.): Ellen Goodman, Christine Dunn, Roseann Castrillon, Tracey Gerber, Andrea Visser, Jennifer Cohen and Kathie Schwartz. Back row (l. - r.): Beth Jorgensen, Jacqueline Laurita, Bernadette Davis and Carol Whaley.

Savings Bank, Mutual of America, TD Bank, Buck, Seifert & Jost Inc., United Water, Elaine and Michael Adler, Jennifer and Kenneth Cohen, Brenda and Frank Gallagher, Ellen and Michael Jacobs and Beth and Glenn Jorgenson. Tickets start at \$150. Order them online at [www.cafsnj.org](http://www.cafsnj.org) or call the Development Office at 201.261.2800.

**MISSION**

The Mission of Children's Aid and Family Services is to preserve, protect, and when needed, provide families. Motivated by compassion for vulnerable children, young adults, frail elderly and their families, we provide high-quality and innovative services that meet their social, educational and emotional needs. Since 1899, the agency has been recognized as a leader in adoption and specialty therapeutic services for children who have been severely traumatized and abused.