



CHILDREN'S AID
AND FAMILY SERVICES

Turning Points

Fall 2007

Serving vulnerable children and families since 1899

37 years,
162 babies



*Linda Yolman's
extraordinary capacity
to love*



Wyckoff resident Linda Yolman has loved and nurtured more than 162 babies since becoming a foster parent 37 years ago. She joined the Children's Aid and Family Services' family in 1991, caring for babies in the Infant-in-Care program. In this program, foster families provide short-term care for infants while their birth parents test separation from them and consider their options to either raise the child or put the child up for adoption.

In 1997, Ms. Yolman began fostering for the agency's Boarder Babies program. A boarder baby is an infant who has been given medical clearance to leave the hospital after birth, but whose mother has been discharged separately, leaving the baby with nowhere to go. These infants have complicated backgrounds, usually resulting from being born with some degree of drug exposure.

Foster parents like Ms. Yolman provide a temporary, loving, and stable home for the infant while the agency works to obtain a permanent home for the child, either through reunification with the baby's family, or placement with an adoptive family. Without this program, these babies would languish in New Jersey's hospitals, missing the love, nurturing, and gentle-hearted guidance that is critical to their healthy development.

Ms. Yolman is currently caring for two babies, and was recently honored at the agency's Wine and Food Tasting Evening for her amazing commitment to vulnerable infants and toddlers.

"It's always hard to let such lovable bundles of joy go," says Ms. Yolman. "I always say if it's ever easy then it's time to quit. But it's never easy, it's always hard. The one thing that gives me comfort is knowing they will be placed with a permanent, loving family, who will give these babies the care and affection they deserve."

For more information on the Boarder Babies program, call 201.261.2800 or visit www.cafsnj.org.

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Welcome to the latest issue of *Turning Points*. It's been a busy and productive fall, and I urge you to read about the many exciting events in which the agency has been involved.

I thank you for all you do to help Children's Aid and Family Services help vulnerable children and families. I wish you and your family a joyous and healthy holiday season.

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

Food, Wine, and Fun

More than 200 residents from Bergen County enjoyed a crisp fall night by flocking to the agency's annual Wine and Food Tasting Evening on Saturday, October 20, at St. Leon's Church in Fair Lawn, NJ. This special event focused particularly on supporting the Baby Basics program, which provides diapers and formula to low-income families with children less than 2 years of age, the "Boarder Baby" infant foster care program, and Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center in Paramus.



Baby Basics founder and one of the evening's honorees, Jean Ann Lynch, and members of the committee that organized the Wine and Food Tasting fundraiser. (L. - r.): Deborah Turner, Dru Pierce, Nancy Bosch, Pat Hanft, Kerry Schmitt, Erilyn Riley, Cathy Newman, Ms. Lynch, Jean Wilkie, Carol Smith, Caroline Barr, Maribeth Lane (Board member of Children's Aid and Family Services), and Sally Clark.

Save the Date



Dust off your flip-flops, put on your favorite Hawaiian shirt, and mark your calendars! The date is **March 28, 2008**, and the place is Hackensack Golf Club in Oradell, NJ, for Children's Aid and

Family Services' *Beach Party Gala*, to benefit the vulnerable children and families the agency serves.

The beach-themed fundraiser will include cocktails, sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, buffet, open bar, DJ, raffle, and silent and live auctions, featuring vacation homes in exotic locations, memorabilia and once-in-a-lifetime opportunities with your favorite sports teams, and other unique and exclusive items and unforgettable experiences for you and your family.

Corporate sponsors are being sought for this event, the agency's signature annual gala, and one of the largest, most prestigious fundraisers in Bergen County. For more information, call Liz Mason at 201.261.2800.

Wine connoisseurs enjoyed a selection of fine wines from around the world, provided by Carlo Russo's Wine & Spirit World in Ho-Ho-Kus, and foodies dined on delicacies provided by local restaurants. Excited guests eagerly bid on the items in the silent auction, which included a ride through the skies on the Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey's Blimp, a tour of the U.S. Capitol as well as a U.S. flag that had been flown over the United States Congress, and an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of a major television network.

During the evening, two extraordinary women were recognized, Linda Yolman and Jean Ann Lynch. Ms. Yolman, of Wyckoff, has been a foster mother for 37 years and has opened her home to 162 babies (see the previous page for a feature on her.) Ms. Lynch, a former Ridgewood resident, founded the Baby Basics program in 1994 with support from a team of volunteers from West Side Presbyterian Church.

"We're especially grateful to the evening's sponsors, Applebee's, Boiling Springs Savings Bank, and Saddle River Valley Bank, for their wonderful support, as well as the businesses that generously donated food, wine, and items for the silent auction," says Liz Mason, executive vice president. "The proceeds of this event will help us provide critical services to the very young children we serve."

A “Giant” Season for Families

In addition to fighting for the top of their division and a playoff berth, the New York Giants are scoring touchdowns to help vulnerable families. Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey and the New York Giants have partnered for an exciting program to benefit the agency: “Touchdowns for Families.” A donation of \$500 will be made to the agency by Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield for every touchdown the Giants score during the 2007-08 season. Last year, the team scored 41 touchdowns. If the Giants make the playoffs, the money will increase to \$1,000 per touchdown. If the team makes it to the Super Bowl, every touchdown will earn \$2,500.

At the kick-off party for “Touchdowns for Families,” children in the agency’s care that are available for adoption took a tour of Giants Stadium and tried on football gear. Standout New York Giants’ wide receiver Amani Toomer attended the event and mingled with the children.

“Our kids are the true winners here,” said Bob Jones, Ph.D., president & CEO of Children’s Aid and Family Services. “I am enormously grateful to Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield and the NY Giants for their support.”

To track the touchdowns scored by the Giants this season, visit http://www.giants.com/off_field/Community_Relations.html.



(l.-r.) Back row: Larry Altman, vice president, corporate marketing and communications for Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey; Bob Jones, Ph.D., president & CEO, Children’s Aid and Family Services; NY Giants Wide Receiver, Amani Toomer; and Mike Stevens, senior vice president, and chief marketing officer for New York Giants, with children eligible for adoption.



One of the children demonstrating his expertise with a yo-yo for Amani Toomer.



Amani Toomer with children free for adoption at the kickoff of “Touchdowns for Families.” The children enjoyed a fun afternoon with the star receiver, who enjoyed some laughs with them and signed autographs.



Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey presents a check to the agency for “Touchdowns for Families.” (L - r.): Peter Kullman, New York Giants, manager, marketing partnerships; Senator-Elect Robert Gordon; the Hon. Nicholas R. Felice; Bob Jones; and Larry Altman.

Thinking Big: Agency Receives Grant to

In an exciting development, an anonymous donor is funding a large-scale publicity campaign to raise Children's Aid and Family Services' profile, and help the agency recruit foster and adoptive families, attract new volunteers, and to raise much-needed financial support.

This comprehensive awareness campaign features compelling "call to action" ads, which will be displayed on billboards in northern New Jersey on major highways, such as the New Jersey Turnpike and Route 22. Additionally, display boards will be showcased in several area malls during the busy holiday season, including the Garden State Plaza Mall, Paramus Park Shopping Center, and the Willowbrook Mall. Further, half-page ads will appear in high circulation area newspapers such as the *Star-Ledger* and *The Record*, as well as on the exterior of 94 buses and the interior of 150 buses in Bergen, Passaic, and Essex counties during the months of October, November, and December. Part of the funding of the bus ads is due to additional support from the Redlich-Horwitz Foundation.



I've never had a mom or dad that I have known...
I've never had a home to call my own...

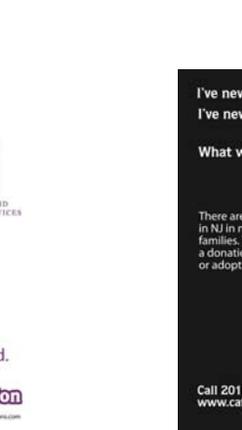
What will I be when I grow up?



There are thousands of children in NJ in need of foster and adoptive families. You can help by making a donation, volunteering or fostering or adopting a child.

Call 201.261.2800 or visit www.cafsnj.org for more information

www.bowervolutions.com

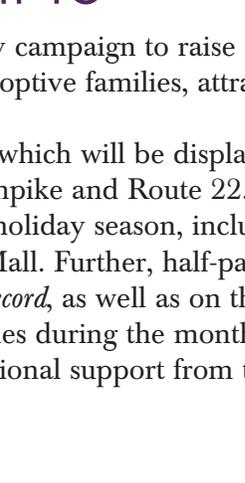


I am a good kid. Why doesn't anyone want me?

Every child deserves a family.
You can help. Volunteer. Make a gift.
Adopt or foster a child.



Call 201-226-0300 or visit www.cafsnj.org



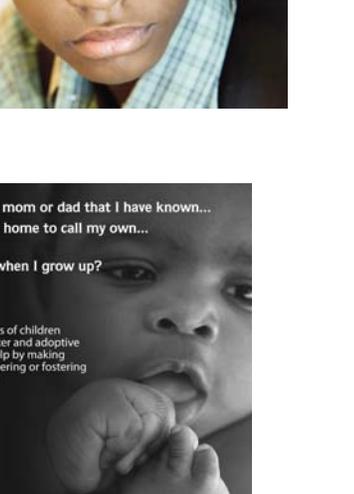
“It's not really what I've gained from becoming an adoptive father, but what I would have lost if I didn't become one.”



There are thousands of children in NJ in need of foster and adoptive families. You can help by making a donation, volunteering or fostering or adopting a child.

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www.bowervolutions.com



I've never had a mom or dad that I have known...
I've never had a home to call my own...

What will I be when I grow up?

There are thousands of children in NJ in need of foster and adoptive families. You can help by making a donation, volunteering or fostering or adopting a child.

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Raise Profile, Awareness, and Help

The new creative concepts were produced to target a wider audience that may not be familiar with the agency's work. The goal of these concepts is to engage the community and invite its support as foster/adoptive parents, volunteers, advocates, and donors.

"We're extremely grateful for this tremendous opportunity to bolster the agency's profile, as well as raise awareness of the pressing needs of the vulnerable children and families we serve," says Liz Mason, executive vice president, Children's Aid and Family Services.

More ads will run throughout 2008.



Volunteer. Donate.
Adopt or foster a child.

Call 201.261.2800 or visit
www.cafsnj.org for more information.



CHILDREN'S AID
AND FAMILY SERVICES

www.bowerwebsolutions.com



MY MOM IS SICK.
MY DAD IS GONE.
MY GRANOMA IS OLD.

...WHO WILL TAKE CARE OF ME?

There are thousands of children in NJ in need of foster and adoptive families. You can help by making a donation, volunteering or fostering or adopting a child.

Call 201.261.2800 or
visit www.cafsnj.org
for more information



CHILDREN'S AID
AND FAMILY SERVICES



i have never known love
i have never been cared for
What are you going to do?

There are thousands of children in NJ in need of foster or adoptive families. You can help by making a donation, volunteering or fostering or adopting a child.

Call 201.261.2800 or visit www.cafsnj.org for more information



CHILDREN'S AID
AND FAMILY SERVICES



I am a good kid.
why doesn't
anyone want me?

Every child deserves a family.
You can help. Get involved.
Volunteer, donate, foster or adopt a child.

Call 201.261.2800 or visit
www.cafsnj.org for more information



CHILDREN'S AID
AND FAMILY SERVICES

Hoops for Hope

Staff and friends of Children's Aid and Family Services dusted off their favorite basketball sneakers, hit the hardwood and attempted to sink 20 free throws each at the sixth annual Hoop-A-Paluzza fundraiser. The agency was a primary beneficiary at this fun event, which took place on Sunday, November 18, at Millburn High School, in Millburn, New Jersey.

The three-hour child-friendly fundraising afternoon included a basketball foul shot contest, delicious food, and carnival-style entertainment.

Registered participants raised money by obtaining pledges from donors who sponsored them to shoot 20 free throws. Agency staff and friends participated in the event, sinking baskets to raise money, while family and co-workers cheered them on.

An all-volunteer organization since its founding in 2002, Hoop-A-Paluzza has raised more than



\$1,000,000 to aid children's charities in New Jersey. Through this year's event, Hoop-A-Paluzza provided funds to help support the Boarder Babies program, in which individuals or families provide foster care for infants whose mothers are unable to care for them for a variety of reasons, including substance abuse and homelessness. The funding also helped support medical training programs for these fragile infants and the families who take them into their homes.

"I'm extremely grateful to Hoop-A-Paluzza for its support," says Liz Mason, executive vice president, Children's Aid and Family Services. "Besides being a fun and exciting event, this was a terrific way to help the vulnerable infants in the agency's care."

Look for more information about this fundraiser, including photos, to come in the next issue of *Turning Points*. You may also visit www.cafsnj.org for photos of this event.

Wendy's Wonderful Kids: Helping Adoptive Children Find Families

Children's Aid and Family Services recently held a Wendy's Wonderful Kids Meet and Greet event at Christian Reformed Covenant Church, in North Haledon, NJ, for six prospective adoptive families to get to know some of the children awaiting adoption in the agency's care. Wendy's Wonderful Kids is a signature program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. Children's Aid and Family Services received a grant from this organization to provide child-specific recruitment for the children in its care.

During the three-hour, fun-filled event, the families and children played "Are you smarter than a Wendy's Wonderful Kid?" a take on the popular "Are you smarter than a 5th grader?" game show. Additionally, Wanaque-based company Snakes-N-Scales and Turtle Tales showed the families and children exotic rescued animals, such as baby alligators, turtles, and snakes.

Wendy's supplied a delicious assortment of food for lunch, and generously provided gifts for all the children at the event. The Meet and Greet was co-sponsored by Victoria Howard, President of Grillco, LLC. Ms. Howard owns more than 14 Wendy's franchises throughout the New Jersey area. Several of the franchise district managers and Ms. Howard's family members also participated in a volunteer capacity at the event.

For more information about the children in the agency's care who are in need of a loving home, please contact Shena Romney, Children's Aid and Family Services' Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter, at 201.226.0300, ext 225.



Some of the children available for adoption at the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Meet and Greet bravely hold a long snake.

2007 Building Futures Awards

Children's Aid and Family Services recently held its 2007 Building Futures Awards ceremony, recognizing several individuals, groups and corporations that contribute to building futures for children, families, and communities in New Jersey.

Arthur Groom & Co. Jewelers, located in Ridgewood, was the winner of the Small Business Leadership Award, in recognition of the tremendous service and support it has given to local nonprofit organizations, including Children's Aid and Family Services. Mr. Groom donated an Eternity™ Natural Emerald to the agency's "March Madness" gala this past spring. **The Valley Hospital Foundation** was the winner of the Community Leadership Award, in recognition of its long history as a grant-making foundation that has generously supported many local organizations.

Mr. Dan Shiver was the winner of the Individual Leadership Award, in recognition of his enormous advocacy on behalf of underprivileged children and families in Bergen and Passaic counties, especially within the Paterson community. **Boiling Springs Savings Bank** was the winner of the Corporate Leadership Award,

in recognition of its generous and ongoing support of many local organizations. Further, the bank donated funding to the agency to purchase a brand new van for use in the Baby Basics program.

Commissioner Kevin Ryan was the winner of the Government Leadership Award, in recognition of his long history of advocacy for underprivileged children and youth. **Share, Inc.**, located in Ridgewood, was the winner of the Non-profit Leadership Award, in recognition of its 25 years of volunteer service in providing affordable housing for senior citizens in the area.

Additionally, the **Elsie B. Schlivek "Help Realize a Dream"** Award was presented to Fair Lawn resident Rose Pizzo. Ms. Pizzo, born deaf to a hearing family, serves as a strong advocate for the deaf and hard of hearing senior citizen population.

"I can't say enough about this outstanding group of individuals who consistently donate their time and talents to many worthy causes," says Liz Mason, executive vice president. "They have dedicated themselves to the hard work of building brighter futures for vulnerable children and families."

Halloween Happenings at Turrell



A friendly police officer patrols the Turrell Center.



A little lion's first Halloween.



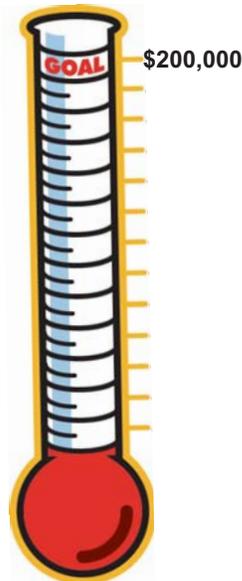
Monkeying around at the annual Turrell Halloween Parade.

We love a parade

Great Holiday News

Be sure to check your mailbox this month. The agency's annual holiday appeal is set to arrive. This year's appeal tells the story of Rosa S., a young woman of remarkable courage, who overcame a traumatic childhood to reach her full potential.

Additionally, this year's appeal features a unique opportunity. The agency has received two "challenge" matching grants for the 2007 Holiday Appeal. For every new dollar we receive in response to this holiday appeal, the agency will receive another dollar, up to \$100,000! Fifty cents of each challenge grant dollar will be donated to this appeal to help children today, and another 50 cents will be added to our endowment fund to help future generations. Your gift will continue to give for years to come. Our goal this year is to raise \$200,000. Please be as generous as you can, and thank you, as always, for your continued support.



Emerging from the darkness to find light

"There were times where I was so down, I felt I couldn't get back up. I was lucky there were loving and caring people along the way to help lift me up."

~ Rosa S.
Adoptee and former foster child



Rosa with her 6-year-old daughter, Meghan.
Children's Aid and Family Services is proud to share the story of Rosa S. As you will read, Rosa was with the agency before being adopted by a family she lovingly calls, "her heroes." She has told her story many times at churches and other public forums. She firmly believes her adoptive family helped shape her life and let her know that she belonged somewhere. Her hope is that by sharing her story, she will encourage others to adopt and give a child the same opportunity she was given: an opportunity to be part of a family that will love them unconditionally.

Every morning, Rosa S., 25, awakens her 6-year-old daughter and gets her ready for school. She fixes her hair, helps her choose her clothes for the day and then waits with her for the bus to pick her up. Afterwards, Rosa feeds her 3-year-old daughter breakfast before taking her for a walk to the park in her stroller. Later in the afternoon, her husband returns from work as Rosa prepares dinner. They talk about their day and play with their daughters, whose laughter fills their home.

Rosa smiles as she thinks to herself, "Is this real?" Just a few years ago, she could never picture enjoying the simple pleasures of a happy marriage and caring for two beautiful daughters. Her childhood experiences were in stark contrast to this peaceful and stable home life she's created with her husband.

A traumatic past

As a child, Rosa suffered tremendous abuse and neglect. She spent her childhood in her grandmother's cramped one-bedroom apartment in Hudson County. Her mother struggled with addiction and was in and out of her life, and Rosa would sometimes go months at a time without seeing her. She was left in the care of her grandmother, who was in poor health and ill-equipped to care for Rosa, and for her cousin, who had been similarly abandoned by their mother, Rosa's aunt. The combination of the overcrowded apartment and lack of supervision, led to her being neglected, abused, and deprived of the opportunity every child deserves: a safe, carefree childhood.

CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

The 2007
Holiday Appeal

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. For more information, please visit www.cafsnj.org.



CHILDREN'S AID
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