CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

Turning Points

Fall 2008

Serving vulnerable children and families since 1899

Volunteer Brigid O'Brien with a baby at the Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center.

SPOTLIGHT on Volunteers

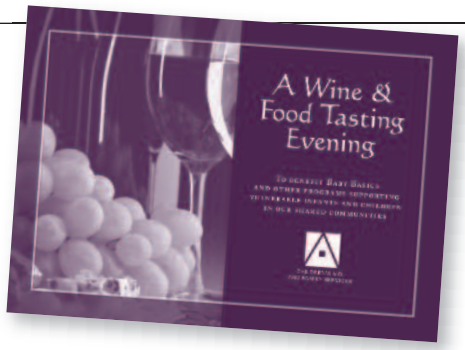
My name is Brigid O'Brien, and I've been volunteering with Children's Aid and Family Services for more than five years. I'm pleased to introduce you to a special issue of *Turning Points* that focuses on the agency's volunteers, the many opportunities available to them, and the expansion of the volunteer program.

I can tell you firsthand that the agency is a wonderful place in which to share your talents. There are so many different opportunities that cover a broad range of interests. For example, I currently volunteer in the Infant Room at the Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center, helping to care, feed and cuddle the babies. In addition, I donate time to the READ NOW! program reading to children in the community. I also worked on a completely different project when I volunteered during the creation of the Healing Garden at the agency's Ridgewood office. As a master gardener, this project was a perfect fit for my skills.

I know many other volunteers at the agency and often marvel at their talents and the different things they do. There are amazing men and women who mentor the children in the agency's care, building important relationships and serving as positive role models. Other individuals help at special fundraising events by decorating the venue to make the event memorable and successful. The Depot is a lovely gift shop in Midland Park staffed entirely by volunteers. And, of course, there are those extraordinary people who answer the call to foster or adopt a child.

I hope if you already volunteer, this issue of *Turning Points* will inspire you to expand your involvement, and if you're thinking about volunteering, you will call the agency's volunteer manager. There are so many ways you can help and so many lives you can touch.

Food, Wine and Fun



Attention all wine connoisseurs and foodies. Join us for a Wine & Food Tasting Evening on Saturday, November 1, 2008, at St. Leon's Church in Fair Lawn, NJ.

A fine assortment of wonderful wines will be provided by Carlo Russo's Wine and Spirit World of Ho-Ho-Kus, and a wide selection of delicious food from some of the area's finest restaurants will be served. Additionally, guests will be able to bid on fantastic items in the silent auction, including autographed New York Giants and PGA Tour memorabilia, a motorized child's jeep, 24 personal training sessions, and a Long Island wine weekend getaway. Also returning this year is the hugely popular wine cork raffle.

Proceeds will support programs for infants and young children in the agency's care.

This year's sponsors include Applebee's, Boiling Springs Savings Bank, Paramus Park Mall, W.B. Mason and media sponsor *Town News*.

Tickets for the event are $75. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please call 201.261.2800 x258 or visit www.cafsnj.org.

In this issue

Goldman Sachs
Volunteer Opportunities
Paramus Police Reserve
Calendar of Events
The Depot

This is an exciting time for the agency's volunteer program. We have grown tremendously in the past several years and as a result, our volunteer program has also expanded.

During the next few months, we will be launching several new efforts as part of our volunteer program, including a monthly email communication, a quarterly newsletter, a brand new look and feel to the volunteer section of the website, and the launch of a new agency "Friends" organization.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact our Volunteer & Community Relations Manager.

On behalf of the agency, I would like to thank all of our volunteers for their valuable contributions of time and talent. They make the work the agency does possible.

Bob Jones, Ph.D.
President & CEO

Goldman Sachs Community Team Works

Recently, employees of Goldman Sachs spent a day volunteering at the agency's Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center by reading stories, doing activities and creating crafts with the children. The effort was part of Goldman Sachs' Community Team Works program.

This marked the second year in a row that Goldman Sachs employees spent a day volunteering at the Turrell Center. The great success of the first Community Team Works project inspired more to participate this year. A total of 20 Goldman Sachs employees participated – 80 percent of whom were returnees from the initial effort.

The 10-year-old Goldman Sachs Community Team Works program aims to give back to communities in which the firm operates. Projects are initiated and organized by employees.

Goldman Sachs employee Peter Koski was the catalyst for establishing the relationship with the agency. Mr. Koski felt New York City was well represented in Community Team Works projects but found that very few were based in Northern New Jersey.

An active community volunteer, Mr. Koski believes that "everyone should give back in one way or another, especially where people are in greatest need." To that end, Mr. Koski wrote the project proposal and organized the first Community Team Works Day last year, and coordinated the implementation of the second program this year with co-captain Lisa Recupero.

Peter Koski volunteering at The Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center.

"It was unbelievable how many of the kids remembered us and remembered which books we read to them last year; we were only there for one day and they remembered," Mr. Koski said.

In 2009, the relationship with Goldman Sachs Community Team Works will expand. The agency will become a Community Team Works Partner, which will allow the project to extend from a single day to multiple days over the course of several weeks.

Help Wanted/Volunteer Opportunities

Baby Basics Program – This program provides formula and diapers to low-income parents of children ages birth through 2 years. Volunteers are needed at the Carlstadt location to help pack, shop, and distribute bags of items to families.

Job Mentors – Help a student learn about a career by taking him or her to work with you. He or she will "job shadow" you for a day, and learn about your profession.

Life Skills Workshop – Share your expertise in balancing a checkbook, managing a budget, dressing for a job interview or preparing a nutritious dinner with the young people living in our group homes by conducting a life skills workshop.

Elder Care – The senior center in Garfield needs an attorney to discuss wills and other issues related to aging. The Garfield and Hackensack locations are seeking volunteers to teach computer skills and help lead a "Brain Games" class.

Contact Cyndy Mitchell, Volunteer & Community Relations Manager, at 201.261.2800 x222, for more information on these or other volunteer opportunities.

Paramus Police Reserves Deliver Joy

Paramus Police Reserve Sergeant Kevin Harrison wanted to help make the holidays a brighter time for children in need from his town. For four Saturdays last December, he and a colleague – fellow Reserve Sergeant Dan DeRienzo – teamed up together to present the first-ever "Coin Toss" for Children's Aid and Family Services.

The two officers mobilized fellow Paramus Police Reserves officers on local street corners to seek donations from passing-by motorists. The funds were used to purchase gifts and gift-wrapping for children in the agency's group homes. Sergeant Harrison recalls the children's smiling faces when the officers joined Santa to deliver the bag of gifts to the children using one of their patrol cars.

"The reaction from the children was priceless," Sergeant Harrison said. "As soon as we walked in and saw the smiles on their faces – it meant so much to us to be able to help."

Perhaps Santa's elves will ask advice on how to deliver joy from the Paramus Police Reserves. Each holiday season, the unit sets aside time to conduct charitable work, and after this first successful interaction with the agency, Sergeant Harrison looks forward to future collaborations.

Generous Paramus Police Reserves with Santa Claus.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

New Volunteer Orientation

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 1
Wednesday, October 15
Wednesday, November 19
Wednesday, December 3

Location: 200 Robin Road
Paramus, NJ

Agency Tour

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Friday, September 26
Wednesday, October 15
Thursday, November 20
Wednesday, December 3

Location: 200 Robin Road in Paramus; includes visits to several agency programs.

Wine & Food Tasting Evening

7:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 1

Location: St. Leon's Church
Fair Lawn, NJ

Register online at www.cafsnj.org

For more information or to schedule a date, please call our Volunteer & Community Relations Manager at 201.261.2800 x222.

The Depot: All Volunteers All the Time

Do you have a knack for sales and customer service? A volunteer career at The Depot might be the perfect fit for you. Staffed by 120 dedicated volunteers, The Depot – a gift and craft shop that features exquisite, one-of-a-kind merchandise – is the largest all-volunteer women's exchange in the country and raises money for Children's Aid and Family Services.

The Depot is located in a seven-room house at 22 Prospect Street in Midland Park. It showcases unique home goods including serving sets, vases, tea pots, baby clothing and toys, and an impressive display of ornaments and decorations during the holiday season.

Founded in 1965, The Depot continues to grow and attract new customers with its merchandise and attentive, personal service. Volunteers typically donate three and one-half hours every other week. For more information, call 201.444.6120, or visit the store online at http://thedepot.cafsnj.org.

Some of the beautiful, handmade items featured at The Depot.

Could you open your home and foster a vulnerable infant?

There are many young children who need a loving home. Will you be the one to make a difference?

Call **201.226.0300** and ask to speak to a recruitment specialist, or visit **www.cafsnj.org.**

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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