



October 14, 2015

## Happy 50th Anniversary to The Depot



October 18th is the 50th anniversary of The Depot Gift and Handcraft Store in Midland Park! Staffed entirely by volunteers, The Depot has donated an amazing \$3 million to Children's Aid and Family Services during the past half-century. The volunteers that run The Depot Gift and Handcraft Store care deeply about our children and families, the crafters they help support and the day-to-day business of running The Depot. They give countless hours of their time finding merchandise, creating displays, inventorying and marketing, and they are known for providing personalized customer service.

Over the years, the efforts of the volunteers have provided us with the financial support that enabled us to successfully change *thousands of lives*.

All of us at Children's Aid and Family Services are deeply grateful to the volunteers of The Depot and wish them a Happy Anniversary!

## Holiday Open House at The Depot

The volunteers at The Depot Gift and Handcraft Store will be busy preparing the store for its 50th holiday season from October 18 - 20. If you haven't been to The Depot lately, be sure to stop by. The shop will literally be transformed into a Winter Wonderland, replete with gorgeous decorations and unique seasonal gifts.

The Depot is celebrating its 50th Holiday Open House:

Date: Thursday, October 22  
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

From 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., author Patricia Cardello will be signing *The Magical Tale of Halloween Dust* and *The Magical Tale of Santa Dust*. These books are fantastic gifts for the little ones. And don't forget your mystery coupon good for one full-priced item!

Be sure and stop by The Depot for that one-of-a-kind holiday gift or decoration, and wish the volunteers a Happy Anniversary while you're there!

*The Depot is located at 22 Prospect Street in Midland Park. It's open Monday–Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Visit [www.depotgiftstore.com](http://www.depotgiftstore.com).*

## Helping Children Heal Through Song



Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons' medical student Erica Cao developed a project to help medical students increase their level of empathy for children in foster care and learn about the unique challenges they face because of their backgrounds of trauma. Under the guidance of Anne Armstrong-Coben, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Columbia University Medical Center and Director of Children's Aid and Family Services' Medical Services and

Advocacy Center, Erica developed a research project as a Steve Miller Fellow at Columbia University. "The Benefits of Music and Service-Learning: An Intervention Program for Medical Students with At-Risk Youth," involved teaching medical students about children in foster care in addition to teaching them how to create a song.

Our children in the Path II therapeutic group home completed a questionnaire detailing their interests. Erica then led several medical students who partnered with local youth from the Washington Heights, NY community in a five seminar process of writing, creating and producing personalized songs for each girl. Our clinical case managers had the girls listen to their songs in therapy and the girls' reaction was amazing. They felt so special to have songs written specifically for them. One little girl even asks to listen to her song when she starts to feel sad or angry because it helps her to calm down and make good choices.

"We are grateful to the students at Columbia University for creating these songs for our children," says Cathey Duryea, Administrator, Out-of-Home Care, "There was something magical about seeing the girls' reactions as they were watching video messages from their songwriters and then listening to their songs being performed. These are children who have had so little to call their own and having a song written for them is extremely special to them."

## **Boiling Springs Savings Bank Supporting Baby Basics**

Every October, each Boiling Springs Savings Bank branch location hosts a Neighbors Helping Neighbors Collection Drive for a different local nonprofit organization in their Community Alliance Program (CAP). During the month of October, the Ridgewood Offices are recognizing Children's Aid and Family Services' Baby Basics Program, which provides free nutritional formula and diapers to low-income families with children ages newborn through two years old.

Boiling Springs Savings Bank is collecting diapers (especially sizes 3, 4, 5 and 6), baby formula (especially Similac Advance Powder and Similac Isomil Advance Powder) and baby wipes until October 31 at its two locations in Ridgewood:

55 North Broad Street (across from the train station)  
1124 East Ridgewood Avenue (across from the Duck Pond)

Special thanks to Boiling Springs Savings Bank for leading the drive and to those of you who donate. Our Baby Basics program distributes 17,000 diapers a month to families in our community. The need is great and your support is appreciated!

## **An Evening of Wine and Food**



Date: Friday, October 23, 2014  
Time: 7:00 – 11:00 p.m.  
Place: Indian Trail Club  
830 Franklin Lake Road  
Franklin Lakes, NJ

Corporate Honorees: Samsung Electronics North America  
Individual Honorees: Andrea and Jordi Visser and Tracey and David Gerber

Guest Speaker: Tyler Mathisen, CNBC Anchor

This fabulous evening will feature a tasting of wines specially selected by Chuck Russo of Carlo Russo's Wine and Spirit Word of Ho-Ho-Kus. You'll enjoy unique hors d'oeuvres, carving stations, a delicious buffet, open bar and elegant desserts. Join us for an exciting silent auction and raffles for your chance to win great prizes, including a Maurice LaCroix limited edition watch. Ticket prices are \$125 and \$250. [Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

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Children's Aid and Family Services is one of northern New Jersey's leading nonprofit providers of human services and child welfare programs. Our services include adoption and foster care, community homes for children with severe autism and special needs, early childhood education, free nutritional formula and diapers for lowincome families and education and prevention programs about substance abuse. There are so many ways for you to get involved and make a difference.

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For more information, call **201.261.2800** or visit [www.cafsnj.org](http://www.cafsnj.org).