

BUILDING CONNECTOR STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

### **EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS**



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



### If the last two years have taught us anything, it's that connections are vitally important to our

**well-being.** We've learned firsthand what psychologists have long known: strong relationships with family and friends improve our emotional health and strengthen our resilience. For many of us, being able to gather together again has resulted in a deeper appreciation for one another and the precious moments that we spend together.

At Children's Aid and Family Services, forming bonds is essential to our work helping some of the most vulnerable members of the community. We are proud to have a talented and dedicated staff that works hard to build trusting relationships with our clients. Our goal has never wavered: help the people we serve to gain confidence and thrive.

Our therapeutic foster parents play a significant role in helping children and teenagers learn the importance of relationships, and in 2021, we recruited the highest number of caring parents ever in one year, who became licensed by the state and are a key part of delivering our mission.

The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources deepened its commitment to substance misuse prevention for older adults and expanded its connection to this often overlooked population. It launched "Tablets for Seniors," which helps older people connect with loved ones to ease the loneliness of isolation and increase their access and ability to use technology. The Center also expanded its virtual programs geared to seniors to help them embrace healthy aging.

The agency opened two new community residences for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This is a wonderful benefit to our clients as these homes are spacious and conveniently located to our facilities as well as other resources and activities in the community.

Last year, Robert B. Jones, Ph.D., CEO Emeritus, returned to Children's Aid and Family Services to serve as Interim CEO. In total, he has served at the agency for more than 37 years. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank Bob for his tremendous leadership and commitment to meeting the needs of vulnerable children, individuals and families. Dr. Jones is one of a kind — selfless, dedicated, wise, skilled as an administrator and peerless as a friend.

It is my great pleasure to announce that stepping in for Bob is Shavonda E. Sumter. She joined Children's Aid and Family Services as President and CEO in May 2022. Shavonda has more than 20 years of experience in the healthcare sector and, since 2012, has served as the representative of the 35th District in the New Jersey General Assembly. Shavonda is everything you want in a CEO: a born leader, charismatic, confident, empathetic and deeply skilled. I invite you to learn more about her goals for the agency in this year's annual report.

Thank you for all you do. Your connection to our mission continually propels us to build brighter futures for those we serve.

C. Tyler Mathisen

Chair, Board of Trustees

# 66

was overwhelmed and anxious not knowing if I could support my baby as a single mom. This program saved my baby's life.

Single mother's testimonial about our Baby Basics program



To strengthen families and empower individuals children and adults alike — to reach their fullest potential.

### WHAT WE DO

Founded in 1899 with a focus on child protection and adoption, Children's Aid and Family Services has placed more than 11,000 children with families. While helping children and families is still a core part of our mission, the agency has evolved and expanded to meet ever-changing social needs. In addition to adoption, our programs include:

- Community residences, specialized services and day programming for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Treatment Foster Care services provided by foster parents who receive specialized training to provide care in their homes to children and teens who have suffered from neglect, abuse, and trauma.
- Professional mentoring, educational support, and resources for young adults who "age out" of foster care at 18 years old.
- Free diapers, nutritional formula, and other baby essentials for low-income families.
- Community and school-based substance misuse prevention and education programs, and peer recovery support services.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



It is my honor to serve as the CEO of Children's Aid and Family Services, an organization with a rich history of helping the most vulnerable in our community, and one with which I've long been familiar. Today is an exciting time to serve as a non-profit leader as we move into a new, post-pandemic world.

I'm fortunate to have joined a team of senior leaders who are selfless, dedicated heroes. They guided the agency through the many challenges presented during the past two years, and ensured we delivered our mission to as many people as possible during profoundly uncertain times. Some of the ways the agency adapted included using technology to stay connected to clients and team members; ensuring our direct support professionals and residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities were in safe and healthy

environments while also staying connected to the community; and creating strategies for team members to safely return to our offices in-person.

As I look ahead, we will focus on enhancing our systems of care through the implementation of innovative strategies that include technology improvements to create efficiencies in our service delivery. Another priority will be strengthening our partnerships with government, businesses, non-profit organizations and supporters to help maintain the agency's high quality of services, as well as incorporating training initiatives that focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Despite the challenges the pandemic presented, the agency has experienced tremendous growth while continuing to provide exceptional care. This is due to our most valuable asset: our dedicated team of employees. Their training and retention are key to us providing these essential and high quality services.

Our programs and services have evolved throughout our history and remain as relevant today as ever. I thank all of you — our dedicated Board of Trustees, volunteers, staff and supporters — for your unwavering commitment to the mission of Children's Aid and Family Services.

I invite you to continue to be a part our wonderful community of supporters as we build on our rich legacy and continue to help vulnerable children, adults, and families to reach their fullest potential.

Shavonda E. Sumter President and CEO



**2 new community residences** were opened by our **Disability Support Services program**. Located in Wayne and West Orange, the homes are spacious and close to our facilities as well as other resources and activities in the community.

### WHAT WE **ACCOMPLISHED**

With the combined efforts of our Board of Trustees, supporters, volunteers and dedicated staff, we

The Cope Institute for Professional Success was launched in 2020 to **teach**, **coach**, **and educate** the agency's Direct Support Professionals and other Disability Support Professionals. The Cope Institute was featured by both CQL (The Council on Quality and Leadership) and NADSP (National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals) for its leading efforts in promoting professional development.



**85% of the children** placed into our **Therapeutic Treatment Homes** last year remain in their first placement and 85% show improved performance in school. Additionally, of those discharged, 70% were discharged to a less restrictive level of care, which included adoption and family reunification.



98% success rate for the

52 families served by our **WISE Families Program**, which diverts children from the juvenile justice system, works to prevent placement of children into foster or residential care, and promotes family wellbeing. WISE has helped 374 children and their families since its inception and is the only program of its kind in New Jersey.



**56 people** received support from our Support Team for Addiction Recovery (STAR) and STAR expansion program. The majority of STAR program participants are in stable housing, regularly attend

The majority of STAR program participar are in stable housing, regularly attend recovery meetings, and are employed, volunteering or attending school.



### **Construction was completed**

on the second floor of **STRIVE day program** at 200 Robin Road, thanks to funding from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation and Bergen County. This renovation allows us to expand upon the programs we offer, such as community recreation and day habilitation. STRIVE day program emphasizes the socialization building skills needed for its members to seek employment.



**1,440 virtual classes** were conducted for members of **STRIVE day program** for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### TOGETHER IN 2021

### helped over 15,000 vulnerable children, adults and families in the community.

1,397 clients and their families were served by our Recovery Specialists last year.



**766 times** our **Recovery Specialists** responded when individuals overdosed from opioids.



**100% of young adults** participating in our **Mobility Mentoring program** live in safe housing, 88% are enrolled in school and/or working and 96% maintain their own bank accounts.

**350,000 diapers were distributed** through the **Baby Basics program** to low-income families in Bergen, Essex, and Passaic Counties, a 15% increase from 2020. There are no government safety net programs that address diaper need, which worsened during the pandemic. In 2021, the number of families served by the program increased by 40%.

**531 calls were received** at **The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources**' 24-hour hotline for help with addiction, of which 370 people received Recovery Support services and 123 entered into a form of treatment.

### **MEMORABLE** MOMENTS



Nearly 60 years of support

Since 1965, The Depot Gift Shop in Midland Park has been donating its proceeds to the agency while also supporting local crafters. Staffed by dedicated volunteers, The Depot has donated more than \$3 million to Children's Aid since its inception. Pictured are Joanne Mandry, co-director; Holly Maschio; Mae Mahonchak and Maureen Grassi, co-director, during a recent planning session.



Supporting the community

The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources' team spends a lot of time in the community, working with children and teens, families, adults and older adults to provide information, support and solutions about addiction and prevention. Pictured are team members attending "National Night Out," an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.



#### Grateful for our volunteers

Team members at Origami Risk spent a day sprucing up the yard at one of our community residences. Our volunteers help in so many ways, such as packaging diapers and baby supplies running drives, making care packages, leading arts and crafts projects and helping at special events. A big thank you to all of these caring people who help us deliver our mission.



Providing essentials in uncertain times

Supply chain issues and increasing material costs caused diaper shortages in 2021. Thanks to our generous supporters, we provided over 350,000 diapers to families in need. Pictured is Sam, a member of the STRIVE day program, helping us organize a delivery of diapers



#### A more inclusive agency

Children's Aid and Family Services launched Spaces for Hope, its diversity, equity, and inclusion employee-led council. Pictured is Jay Suggs leading the all-staff kickoff meeting.



An Evening of Mystery and Magic

Children's Aid hosted An Evening of Mystery and Magic, our first in-person event since 2019. Everyone had a great time reconnecting with each other as they helped us to raise funds for the vulnerable children, adults and families we serve.

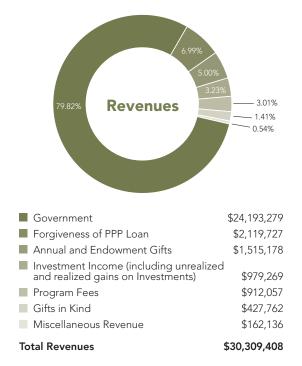


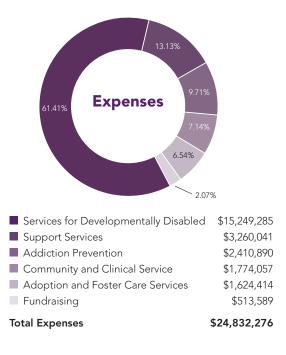
#### Brightening the holidays

Thanks to our generous supporters, we are able to help make the holidays special for those we serve. This little girl's mother is a participant in our Mobility Mentoring program where she works with our professional mentor to set goals to help build economic independence. She and her daughter appreciated the kindness of our donors during the holidays.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

For the 12 months ended December 31, 2021.





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Children's Aid and Family Services is a member of NADSP (National Association of Direct Support Professionals).

200 Robin Road Paramus, NJ 07652 📕 cafsnj.org

### CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

### Children's Aid and Family Services would like to thank the following donors who gave from January 1 – December 31, 2021. We also gratefully acknowledge those donors that wish to remain anonymous. Thank you for being a part of our community of caring!

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The Leadership Circle is a group of donors that have made significant personal commitments to Children's Aid and Family Services and its mission to vulnerable children and families. Their exemplary annual gift commitment of \$10,000 or more is instrumental in providing the resources necessary to make the difference between programs of average quality and those that are truly outstanding. The Leadership Giving Circle was created to: recognize exceptional gifts; engage new leadership; and strengthen relationships and partnerships with our donors.

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