

DEEP ROOTS NEW BRANCHES



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to strengthen families and empower individuals – children and adults alike – to reach their fullest potential.

"...no matter how high we go it is from our roots that we draw sustenance."

— WANGARI MAATHAI 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner





WHAT WE DO

Founded in 1899, focusing on child protection and adoption, Children's Aid and Family Services has placed more than 11,000 children with families. While treating children and strengthening 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 (group homes), 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 transition out of foster care to independent living at 18 years old.
- Free diapers, nutritional formula, and other baby essentials for low-income families.
- Community and school-based substance misuse prevention, education programs, and peer recovery support services.









Thanks to the strong commitment of our supporters, volunteers, and talented staff, Children's Aid and Family Services has built a deeply rooted reputation for excellence in the community. In 2022, we continued to grow and had a positive and productive year, offering innovative new programs and serving even more children, adults, and families.

ur commitment to helping children and teenagers in foster care remains strong, and we are one of only three agencies in New Jersey piloting a program called Peer-to-Peer Mentoring.

Launched in 2022, it connects youth in foster care with trained professional staff that have their own lived experience in foster care. The mentors serve as role models, helping the young people to understand their system of support and working with them to identify and strengthen their skills. We are proud that three of the mentors on our staff were in Children's Aid and Family Services foster care as teenagers. Their careers are a result of the impact of the high-quality foster care programs we provide that you have long supported.

The agency was also awarded a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Protection to expand the WISE Families program (Wrap-Around Intensive Services for Families), a community-based treatment for children ages 7-15. Expanded services will allow WISE to provide treatment up to the age of 17. Working collaboratively with law enforcement, the Essex County Prosecutor's Office partners with our team to work with children who are most at risk for having problems with inappropriate boundaries, and their families, to reduce juvenile justice incarceration and family separation. Children's Aid and Family Services is the only agency in New Jersey certified to provide this specialized treatment.

In 2022, The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources served double the number of people than the previous year through virtual and in-person programming.

Unfortunately, there is a fentanyl (synthetic opioid) crisis nationwide and in New Jersey, and substance misuse prevention, education, and recovery supports are even more urgently needed. According to the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, in 2015 all suspected heroin sent to the lab contained between 4 – 8% of fentanyl. In 2023, the number increased to 98%. With an emphasis on harm reduction, in 2022, The Center began working in partnership with local police departments to set up community outreach pop-up sites in Bergen County. They dispense information, links to resources, peer recovery support services, fentanyl test strips, and Narcan to reach people who need help with substance misuse in their own communities.

The Disability Support Services area continues to grow and we opened three new community residences (group homes). With a focus on continually meeting the community's ever-evolving needs, we have been investing in staff and technology to strengthen and modernize our infrastructure. For example, we installed cameras in all 18 of our community residences to help ensure the safety and well-being of the vulnerable individuals we serve and provide additional peace of mind to their families.

For more than 120 years, Children's Aid has been able to grow and evolve and serve some of the most vulnerable members of our community only with the help of supporters like you. Thank you!

C.Tyler Mathisen Chair, Board of Trustees Shavonda E. Sumter President and CEO In 2022, with the combined efforts of our Board of Trustees, supporters, volunteers, and dedicated staff, we helped over 23,000 vulnerable children, adults, and families in the community.



90%

of participants in the Mobility Mentoring program are in stable housing, a sharp contrast to the 85% of participants that experienced housing instability when they started the program. We provided stipends to 18 participants for educational and/or emergency purposes.



SPACES FOR HOPE

Spaces for Hope, our employee-led Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEI) committee celebrated its first full year by hosting an all-staff barbecue.

The committee celebrated DEI holidays by presenting

guest speakers, launching an Employee Roundtable series and hosting themed lunches.



YEAR ONE

Children's Aid is one of three organizations in New Jersey piloting The Peer-to-Peer program this year. It provides young people ages 14-21, who are in foster care, with support from trained professional staff who have "lived" experience in foster care. Three of the Peer-to-Peer mentors we employ were in Children's Aid and Family Services' foster care as teenagers.

650

times our Recovery Specialists responded when individuals overdosed from opioids.

FIVE

children achieved adoption and permanency, which is a remarkable achievement considering most of our children in need of families have significant medical and emotional needs, as well as cognitive delays.

400,000

diapers were distributed through the Baby Basics program to low-income families in Bergen, Essex, and Passaic Counties, a 13% increase from 2021. With inflation affecting the cost of baby essentials, we helped over 600 babies, a record number.



200

classes were offered by STRIVE day program's Community Recreation program which launched in 2022. Over 1,500 participants enjoyed a wide and varied curriculum of enriching and fun activities, including physical fitness, music therapy, drum circles, ballroom dancing, outdoor activities, and arts and crafts.

STRIVE also expanded to the second floor of 200 Robin Road, enabling us to provide this vital service to 20 new members. We also opened three new community residences (group homes) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Bergen and Passaic Counties, helping to fill an enormous need in the community.

SPECIAL THANKS

EXPANSION

Children's Aid and Family Services received federal funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to expand its WISE Families program (Wrap-Around Intensive Services for Families), a community-based treatment for children ages 7-15. WISE diverts children from the juvenile justice system, works to prevent the placement of children into foster or residential care, and promotes family well-being. Expanded services will allow WISE to provide treatment to children up to age 17.

to the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey for providing funding that supports the position of a Family Support Specialist to provide educational and emotional guidance to family members and loved ones of overdose survivors. Until now, these individuals have had little support to help them navigate the disease of addiction or guide them to the resources available to their loved ones.



of teenagers participating in 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens report the information they gleaned will be useful. The interactive program, which includes game-based learning and demonstrations, addresses protective factors against substance misuse. Thanks to Circle of Care for providing the program funding.





CQL

The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) featured an article spotlighting the agency's many efforts to show appreciation to the Direct Support Professionals who support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE



The Baby Basics program is funded entirely by philanthropy. We are grateful to our many donors, including Columbia Bank Foundation, for their support of this vital program.



Employees from DeLonghi volunteered with members of STRIVE day program making custom hot-off-the-press paninis and crafts, and, of course, dancing.



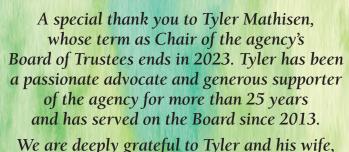
We are grateful to Mary Krugman (pictured) and the Woodlea Path Advisory Council members for making the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities we serve feel special.



Thank you to volunteers from M&T Bank who spent the day sprucing up our Paramus location.



The children, adults, and families we serve had extra special holidays thanks to everyone that participated in our annual holiday gift drive. Pictured are employees from BSAF.



Joanne LaMarca, for their friendship and commitment to improving our community.



Many thanks to Maschio's Food Service for donating Thanksgiving turkeys to all of our community residences (group homes).



The Depot Gift Shop in Midland Park has been dedicated to the upliftment of women since 1965. Entirely volunteer-run, all proceeds benefit Children's Aid and Family Services. Through the efforts of these amazing volunteers, The Depot has donated more than \$3 million to the agency.



Congratulations to New Jersey Adoption Resource Clearing House (NJ ARCH), Kinship Care Clearing House (KinKonnect), and Dana Fried, Assistant Director, for receiving the New Jersey statewide commitment award from Embrella, a New Jersey foster care nonprofit. NJ ARCH and KinKonnect provide support to NJ's foster, adoptive, and kinship families.

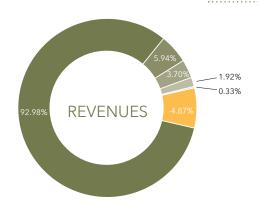


Congratulations to Naysha (pictured center), a participant in Mobility Mentoring who was honored with the Young Role Model Award at our fall event. Naysha became a Registered Medical Assistant with the support of the program, which provides one-on-one coaching and educational and financial support for young people aging out of foster care and is entirely funded by philanthropy.



The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources held its 9th Annual Tree of Addiction Conference. The keynote speaker was Dr. Perry Halkitis, and the theme was Chemsex, Disordered Eating & Intimate Partner Violence in LGBTQ Clients. (Pictured l: - r:) Liz Rebein, Public Information Officer, Bergen County Prosecutor's Office; Dr. Halkitis; Ellen Elias, Executive VP, Prosecutor Mark Musella, and Shavonda E. Sumter.

FINANCIALS





Total Revenues \$26,286,937



Total Expenses	\$26,443,332
Adoption and Foster Care Services	\$267,607
Fundraising	\$862,863
Addiction Prevention	\$2,545,285
■ Community and Clinical Services	\$2,723,751
■ Support Services	\$3,327,656
■ Services for Developmentally Disabled	\$16,716,170

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200 Robin Road Paramus, NJ 07652 | cafsnj.org

Children's Aid and Family Services would like to thank the following donors who gave from January 1 – December 31, 2022. We also gratefully acknowledge those donors that wish to remain anonymous.

Thank you for being a part of our community of caring!

\$5,000.00 +

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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 Circle was created to: recognize exceptional gifts; engage new leadership; and strengthen relationships and partnerships with our donors.

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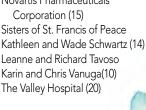
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