

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



CHILDREN'S AID
AND FAMILY SERVICES

LEGACY OF GROWTH

OUR MISSION

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



WHAT WE DO

Founded in 1899, Children's Aid and Family Services has a rich history of protecting vulnerable children. Over the years, our mission has evolved and expanded beyond adoption to address a broader range of social needs.

Today 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 care for children and teens who have suffered from neglect, abuse, and trauma.
- Professional mentoring, educational support, and resources for young adults transitioning from 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.

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER

Busterstock

An enthusiastic crowd attended BUSTERSTOCK, a concert to benefit The Buster Spike Lucky Elkin Marri Love & Luck Fund, created in loving memory of Buster Spike Lucky Elkin Marri who passed from a Fentanyl overdose. All donations from the event helped support substance misuse prevention, education, and recovery support through The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources.



60 YEARS

The Depot Gift Shop is still going strong after nearly 60 years! Founded in 1965, it is staffed entirely by volunteers and all proceeds benefit Children's Aid. We are grateful to the wonderful volunteers who have donated over \$3 million to the agency through this remarkable shop!





2 GRADUATES

The number of aged-out foster youth who earned their bachelor's degrees. Congratulations to Ash and Tiara (pictured), two participants in our Mobility Mentoring program for this remarkable achievement. Statistics indicate that only a small percentage — 3% - 4% of former foster youth — attain a 4-year degree.



3.64M+ ONLINE VISITS

NJ ARCH (New Jersey Adoption Resource Clearing House) celebrated its 20th anniversary. Since 2003, it has built a searchable database of over 3,000+ resources, had 3.64M+ visits to njarch.org and answered 10K+ adoption-related questions or concerns.



Results FOUND BY RUTGERS UNIVERSITY STUDY

In 2023, Rutgers University, School of Social Work, conducted a research project studying the effectiveness of WISE (Wrap-Around Intensive Services) Families program. The program helps youth with problematic sexual behaviors and their families. The outcomes found positive results, in which there was a significant reduction of harmful sexual behaviors and an increase in positive youth behaviors.

SOCIAL MEDIA Impact

The Tree of Addiction conference has become the county's premier event for cutting-edge information on substance misuse prevention, treatment, and recovery. In 2023, Andrew Walsh, LCSW, MHRM was the keynote speaker for the 10th annual conference and discussed the impact of social media on adolescent mental health. Participants learned best practice recommendations for clients who struggle with social media use and how to help their loved ones.





23 FOSTER YOUTH

In its first year as a program at Children’s Aid and Family Services, Peer2Peer (NJP2P) has matched 23 youth in the care of the state’s foster care with trained peer navigators who themselves have lived experience in the child welfare system. A strong source of support, the navigators work with their mentees, meeting them where they are in life.



682 CALLS WERE MADE

to the 24/7 hotline 201-589-2976 to help Bergen County residents access and navigate addiction support. The hotline is available to anyone struggling with addiction as well as family members who are seeking resources and support.



1,600 HEARTFELT WISHES WERE FULFILLED

during our annual Holiday Gift Drive! Thanks to our generous supporters for spreading joy!



400,000 DIAPERS

Over 400,000 diapers were distributed through the Baby Basics program to low-income families. We continue to be a lifeline for low-income families, helping over 600 babies in 2023 to be happy, healthy and dry.





(l – r): Dennis Martin, Shavonda Sumter and C. Tyler Mathisen



DEAR FRIENDS

Thanks to the commitment of our dedicated staff, volunteers and supporters, 2023 was a year of continued growth for Children's Aid and Family Services. We are delighted that our organization was provided with significant opportunities to support our community. Here are some highlights:

Addressing Youth Mental Health Crisis

To address the youth mental health crisis affecting our state and nation, Children's Aid and Family Services has been selected as one of 15 statewide providers by the Department of Children and Families to establish New Jersey Statewide Student Support Services (NJ4S). This is an initiative to create a system of support for children in all 79 school districts in Bergen County to provide equal access to prevention services. Collaborating with four local mental health agencies, the agency began providing much-needed prevention and clinical services to students and their families.

Expanding Services for Children and Families

Children's Aid and Family Services has a rich history of supporting adoptive and kinship families on their unique journeys in addition to extensive experience helping children recover from trauma. We are proud that the agency was chosen as the sole provider of pre- and post-adoption and kinship legal guardianship counseling services by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. This essential service is designed to help strengthen families and promote permanence through parent education, psychotherapy, advocacy and supportive treatment for children who suffer from the effects of significant trauma.

Helping Individuals with Disabilities Build Confidence

We served over 115 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our group home residences and day program. In 2023, they were reintroduced to the community following the pandemic when isolation exacerbated an increase in anxiety and isolation. Our staff worked diligently to ensure the individuals were active, social, and engaged. They hosted an art show, Valentine's and Winter proms, went on historical outings and celebrated holidays in grand style, to name a few. These activities helped the individuals enhance their social skills, build self-confidence, and prepare them for future volunteer or vocational opportunities.

Last year also saw a change in leadership of our Board of Trustees. We extend a special thank you to C. Tyler Mathisen, whose term as Chair of the agency's Board of Trustees ended. For more than 25 years, Tyler has been a valued leader, advocate, and supporter.

As we reflect on our legacy of growth, we recognize that none of our vital work would be possible without your steadfast support. Your generosity empowers us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable in our community. Together, we continue to build brighter futures for those we serve. Thank you!

Shavonda E. Sumter
President and CEO

Dennis Martin
Chair, Board of Trustees

MEMORABLE MOMENTS



STRIVE

The STRIVE day program offered over 200 classes of enriching and fun activities including community excursions, music therapy, physical fitness, arts and crafts, and dances. These activities help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities build social skills, enhance their creative expression and health and improve their confidence.



Helping teens in foster care

Because they lack a permanent place to call home, children in foster care rarely have the chance to have pets of their own. Being around the horses at Bergen Equestrian Center in Leonia gave the children and teens in our Treatment Foster Care program a new and joy-filled experience.



Our generous supporters

Thanks to Greater Alliance Hopes and Dreams Foundation for Children — and all of our generous supporters — for enabling us to provide high-quality services and change lives every day.



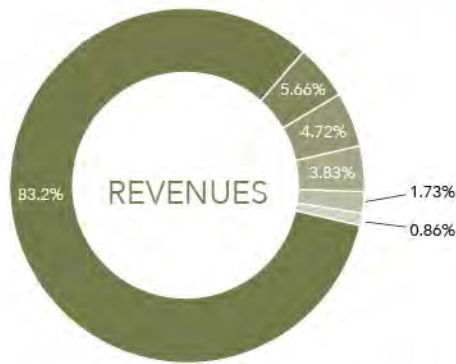
Embracing DEIB

Spaces for Hope, our employee-led Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging committee, hosted several special events for agency staff to promote inclusion including the annual barbecue.

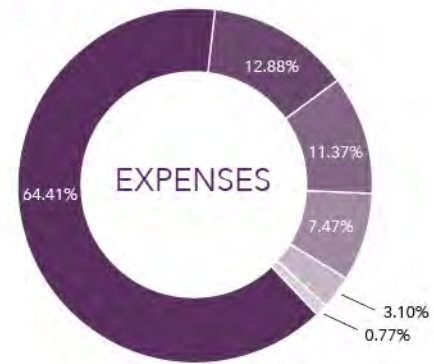


FINANCIALS

For the 12 months ended December 31, 2023.



Government	\$26,635,581
Annual and Endowment Gifts	\$1,810,540
Program Fees	\$1,512,397
Investment Income (including unrealized losses and realized gains on investments)	\$1,227,312
Gifts in Kind	\$554,041
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$275,716
Total Revenues	\$32,015,587



Services for Developmentally Disabled	\$19,423,467
Management and General	\$3,883,897
Addiction Prevention and Recovery Support	\$3,429,524
Adoption and Foster Care Services	\$2,252,885
Fundraising	\$933,482
Community and Clinical Services	\$233,360
Total Expenses	\$30,156,615

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CHILDREN'S AID
AND FAMILY SERVICES

2023 ANNUAL GIFTS

Children's Aid and Family Services would like to thank the following donors who gave from January 1 – December 31, 2023. We also gratefully acknowledge those donors that wish to remain anonymous.

\$5,000.00 +

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THE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

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.

\$250,000.00 +

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\$500.00 +

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\$250.00 +

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Claudia and Jeffrey Frankel
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Eric Weil & Sandra Butler Weil
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2023 ANNUAL GIFTS

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 Eddie V's
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 Ellen Elias (18)
 Arlene and Steven Elias
 Elmwood Park Memorial
 Middle School
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I give and bequeath to Children's Aid and Family Services, Inc., of Paramus, New Jersey _____ percent; or the sum of _____ from my estate; or all the rest, residue, or remainder of my estate.

This bequest is designed for the Endowment Fund, to be used by Children's Aid and Family Services wherever the need is greatest.

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