

Congratulations!

Margaret Sesny and Sara Lemig have completed 10 years of service at The Children's Home Society of NJ. Margaret and Sara were honored at the Trenton staff meeting in September receiving a certificate stating years of service, a gift card and a gold star paperweight.

Copay Changes

Effective October 1, 2007, a new instruction from the Division of Family Development has reduced the mandated co-payment for parents receiving child care subsidies. Those earning less than 100% of the Federal Poverty Index will no longer be required to pay a co-payment. The remainder of the families will see a decrease based on the newest Federal Poverty Index chart.

www.chsofnj.org

Check out our website "chsofnj.org"! For Ocean County programs, click on "Ocean County Office" highlighted in yellow. It will give you the option to navigate our program information that includes:

- ♥ training schedules
- ♥ newsletters and brochures
- ♥ eligibility information on subsidies
- ♥ contact information

On the "Our Programs" page, under "Child Care Resource & Referral", there is a convenient "Request for a Child Care Referral Form" for parents seeking free child care referrals.

The website also features links to important information on the CDA Council, National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).



THE CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF NJ AND EASTERN PA

...saving children's lives and building healthy families since 1894.

NEWSLETTER

OCEAN COUNTY

FALL 2007

Junior Girl Scout Troop #56 donated birthday boxes to The Children's Home Society of NJ. Two July birthday children, one boy, one girl, were the lucky recipients of the fun filled boxes that included cake mix, icing, party goodies, plates, napkins, party balloons and a gift card! Thank you for making it an extra special birthday.



Staff member, Stacy Solly, accepts the creative "Birthday Boxes" that were delivered by the troop and their leaders.

Family child care provider, Jennifer Mignone of Beachwood, and the children in her care wanted to take on a special project for the summer. A friend of Jennifer's informed her of a great cause that helps children with cancer, "Alex's Lemonade Stand." In 2000, a 4-year-old cancer patient named Alexandra "Alex" Scott, announced a seemingly simple idea. She had a lemonade stand to raise money to help "her doctors" find a cure for kids with cancer. The children in Jennifer's care, Ava (4), Marissa (10), Conner (2), Matt (9), Ryan (2), Bobby (15), Xavier (2), Drew (12), Jordan and Jonalex (8 months) decided to have the event take place the week of July 31st, never complaining of the hot and humid weather they encountered. Matt and Marissa lead the project by waving down cars and offering lemonade and treats.



They raised over \$360.00 for the foundation, which is a registered 501c3 charity. The foundation is a unique foundation that evolved from a young cancer patient's front yard lemonade stand to a nationwide fundraising movement for childhood cancer research for new cures and treatments. Congratulations to Jennifer and the children for their participation in "Alex's Lemonade Stand."

 **The Children's Home Society**
OF NJ AND EASTERN PA®
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CHS of NJ is very proud to spotlight some very special young people who have chosen to put their time and energy into helping other children.

During the dog days of August there are lots of things on a 13-year-old boy's mind: baseball, swimming and teasing your sister perhaps, but probably *not* school supplies or backpacks. Yet, Tom Donnelly had a different type of summer mission in mind this year. Encouraged by his parents, who had seen a newspaper



article about The Children's Home Society's need for donated backpacks stuffed with school supplies, Tom decided to make that his personal quest as a community service confirmation project. St. Joseph's Parish in Toms River, requires all 8th graders to participate in a charitable project as part of their requirements for confirmation next May.

Tom decided to pass out flyers in his development, "The Landings," explaining how some kids in Ocean County just aren't as fortunate as others. His sister, Meghan, helped him in the distribution part of the project. He must be a persuasive salesman because over 20 families donated backpacks, supplies and even checks. That's the kind of boy any parent would want!



On Tuesday, October 16th from 9am until 9pm, The Children's Home Society of NJ's, Toms River office will be participating in **BoscoV's Friends Helping Friends Event**.

The cost of a ticket is \$5.00, which gives you a super savings of 25% off your purchases; it also includes refreshments and door prizes. Tickets can be purchased at our office or at the door on the day of the event. We appreciate your participation in this event and thank you for supporting The Children's Home Society of NJ. See you there!!



The Children's Home Society of NJ- Toms River sponsored a fundraiser on September 15th to the Surflight Theatre in Beach Haven. All who attended enjoyed a wonderful performance of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" starring John Davidson.

What Will \$1 Million Buy?

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.
Helen Keller

Did you ever play the game, "What would you do if you had \$1 million?" Well, here are some ideas for you:

For \$1 million you can pay for....

1. 22 minutes of playing time by Matt Hasselback, quarterback of the Seattle Seahawks football team.
2. 133 children to attend one year of Head Start.
3. One television show performed by Oprah Winfrey.
4. 333,333 doses of antiretroviral drugs for HIV infected children.
5. 480 minutes of work from Capital One Financial CEO Richard Fairchild.
6. 7 PlayPump water systems driven by merry-go-rounds installed at schools in Africa.
7. 1 BGM-109 Tomahawk Missile.
8. 36 early childhood lead teachers' salaries for one year.

Sources:

1. "The World's Best Paid Athletes;" www.msnbc.msn.com; March 22, 2006.
2. "The Future of Head Start" by Ron Haskins, Brookings Institute.
3. "The Celebrity 100," www.forbes.com, June 15, 2006.
4. www.unicef.org.
5. "Forbes CEO Salary Compensation Review 2006," www.forbes.com.
6. "100 Pumps in 100 Days," www.savethechildren.org/newsroom; March 22, 2007.
7. Arms Trade Resource Center, "The Weapons of Enduring Freedom," by Frida Berrigan, www.worldpolicy.org/projects/arms/
8. Exchange Insta Poll, www.ChildCareExchange.com; April 2005.

On July 20th, Kim Pascucci and Laura Porter represented The Children's Home Society of NJ at "Funtasia Festival for Kids" at the Ocean County Park, Rt.88, Lakewood. Admission was free and games, activities and entertainment were provided. Laura and Kim provided a spin art activity which created a great work of art for the children to take home.



Above: Kim attends to some of her anxious "customers".

Sharon Arena of Brick donated toys, including this large leopard, to The Children's Home Society of NJ. Many children will enjoy hugging their very own stuffed animal. Such thoughtfulness and generosity are always appreciated.



Staff member, Joanne Nelson, of The Children's Home Society of NJ, was contacted by Academy Bus Company to receive complimentary bus tickets and show tickets for the taping of The Montel Williams Show in NYC. A group from The Children's Home Society and students from Ocean County College were guests on September 27, 2007. Complimentary lunch and refreshments were included in the event.

Thanks to Bonnie Elbaz, staff member of The Children's Home Society of NJ, backpacks were donated for distribution to children in Ocean County for the new school year. Bonnie wrote an article and submitted it to Micromedia Publications, who in turn publishes and distributes town newspapers in Brick, Jackson, Manchester and Toms River. Contributions of backpacks, lunch boxes, notebooks and trapper keepers were made by:

- ♥ Christine Girtain of Girtain Signs of Toms River
- ♥ Sue Campbell of Toms River, employee at Girtain Signs
- ♥ Helen Johnson, receptionist at Girtain Signs
- ♥ Tom Donnelly of Toms River
- ♥ Sandra Suder of Jackson
- ♥ Deborah Emr of Brick
- ♥ Jill Hermann of Toms River

Thanks to their generosity many children in Ocean County started school with backpacks and supplies; a great start to a successful school year.



Bonnie accepts school supplies donated by Deborah Emr.

NEW REGULATIONS FOR CHILD CARE CENTERS

On June 1, 2007, the Office of Licensing rolled out regulations for new centers and those renewing their licenses requiring environmental investigations of the center's site. A "Preliminary Assessment" (PA) which is a letter that basically tells the history of the site, can be obtained from the Construction Official in your municipality. The PA must then be sent to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) who determines whether any further investigation of the site is necessary. When you send the PA to DEP also send a copy to the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). DHSS has to evaluate the inside air quality.

The Office of Licensing suggests that you **DO NOT TRY TO DO YOUR OWN PA**. Doing your own may cause unnecessary delays and may end up costing you more. It is best to hire an environmental consultant. Before hiring anyone ask questions such as: "Are you familiar with the regulations that govern the remediation of contaminated sites in New Jersey? How many PAs have you done? How many No Further Action (NFA) letters have you done? Are you licensed? Do you have insurance?"

Along with the PA, DEP requires documentation that safe drinking water is being provided.

If the results of the PA and the drinking water indicate no contamination, then the DEP will issue a NFA letter.

Licensing suggests that you submit your PA no earlier than 6 months before your renewal date.

While these new regulations are understandable, (We certainly want our children to be safe.), they are costly. There is a program to reimburse centers \$1500 for their PAs. This process is still being worked on, and should be in place by November 3, 2007. It will be retroactive.

In the meantime, sign up on the "Site Remediation" list serve. They will send a broadcast when the process is defined. The link is: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/> About half way down the left column you can enter your email address.

If you have any questions about the new regulations, you may call Sana at

The Children's Home Society of NJ is

EXPANDING

our services in Ocean County!

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Strengthening Families

Two new programs and one expansion program have been added to our services. The new programs are Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education and Reunification. The expanded program is Respite and Family Sharing Program.

Strengthening Families is a child abuse/neglect prevention program. We will be working with 5 child care centers and training them in the Strengthening Families curriculum developed by the Center for Social Policy. As of the printing of this newsletter, the new staff person has not been hired.

Ocean Reunification Program

The Children's Home Society, Ocean County office, has been awarded a new contract with the Department of Children and Families, Division of Youth and Family Services. The Ocean Reunification Program is an innovative program that provides comprehensive clinical services to families and children in Ocean County with the goal of safe, timely and effective reunification. Services include Family Team meetings, Individual and Couple's counseling, Parenting Group, Therapeutic Visitation, in-home services and supports to children in placement and their foster parents/caretakers and in-home aftercare services upon reunification. This program accepts families only by **DYFS** referral.

The Children's Home Society welcomes the new Ocean Reunification Staff:

- ♥ Joseph Zdeb, MSW
- ♥ Carol Trub, MA
- ♥ Lisa Quackenbush, BSW

Respite and Family Sharing Program

The Children's Home Society of NJ, Ocean Office, welcomes new staff member, Wanda Cintron, MSW. Wanda will be offering family support services to parents of special needs children thereby expanding our respite program. Respite care is provided to any Ocean County parent of a special needs child. For more information on these programs, contact Wanda @ x133 or Joanne @ x131.

DEP, (609) 984-2038. For technical questions, call (609) 633-1480.

We have a list of "Frequently Asked Questions on Licensing for Child Care Centers" in the office. Please feel free to call for a copy.

Also, it is important that you inform us of the costs you have incurred regarding these new regulations. As the Resource and Referral agency, if we are aware of extra fees, we can advocate for additional reimbursement.