



# OCEAN VIEW

THE CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

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

Dear Colleagues,

We are very excited about this year's Early Care and Education conference entitled, "We've Only Scratched the Surface". For the first time we are reaching out to a broader audience by focusing on mental and behavioral issues in young children.

We are offering 4 ½ hours of training beginning with the keynote speaker, Dr. Gerard Costa from Youth Consultation Services (YCS). If you've never heard Dr. Costa, you're in for a real treat.

Once again we will have our "Lunch and Learn" tables led by Maritza Raimundi-Petroski, who will be explaining the CUNA program that she developed in Trenton. It is a supportive and informational program for Spanish-speaking parents and children providing services from prenatal to early childhood stages. Maritza will also be discussing pertinent Hispanic issues.

We will be having some exciting vendors with a variety of items available for purchase.

This year the Ocean County Early Learning Council (OCELC) will be participating. Please note that the Council meets at our office on the second Tuesday of every month at 1:30pm.

Speaking of the OCELC, their spring Community Learning Series presentation is "Keeping Our Children Safe". The event will be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2007 at Toms River High School North auditorium from 6:30-9pm. One and a half training hours will be awarded. Resource tables will be available for your perusal. The evening is free. A light dinner will be provided, and child care will be available by reservation.

Keep your eyes and ears open for Governor Corzine's proposals on pre-K expansion. It might have an impact on some of our centers in Ocean County, so it is imperative that you "get ready", which means having degreed teachers and an accredited center.

Another reason to "get ready" is that New Jersey is moving toward a quality rating system. At some point, **ALL** child care providers will be evaluated by an early childhood specialist and given a star rating which will indicate your program's degree of quality. Many states have already adopted such a system, and parents have been asking for one for some time.

We can help you "get ready". Just give us a call.

Sincerely,

*Gwen*



Above: Stephen (in his Santa hat) with some of the toys purchased by his co-workers

## "Big Heart Spotlight"

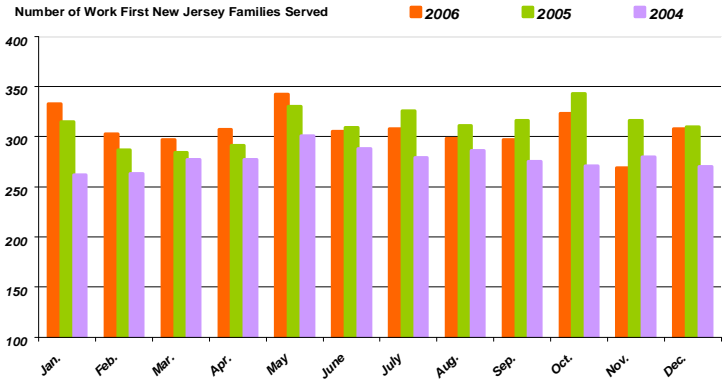
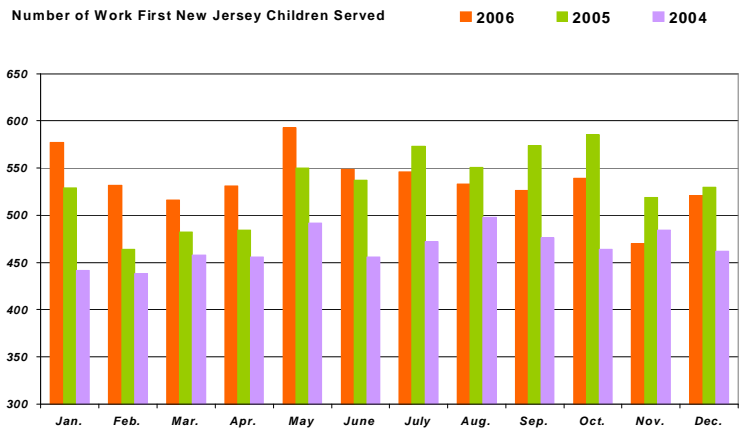
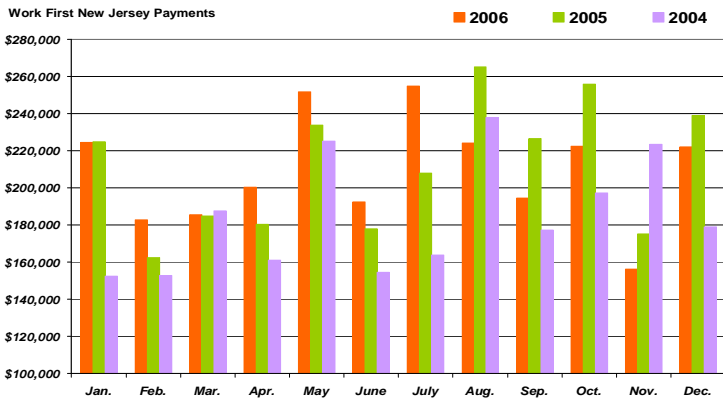
During the holiday season that just passed, we had a chance to get to know some of the people who work for other companies in our building. Word of our holiday gift program seemed to travel to all three floors. People called or stopped by to see if they could do something to help our clients' children, and their acts of generosity put smiles on a few hundred children's faces.

There is one person who took a slightly different approach than most. Stephen Gruver asked if he and his co-workers could adopt one family for the holidays. He wanted to provide everything from the holiday meal, gifts for the mother, gifts for all the children and gift certificates for things the family could do together, things they could not normally afford. After Stephen received the information he needed to start shopping for the family, he enlisted the help of some of his co-workers. Their enthusiasm spread throughout their department. In the end, they filled an entire work station with gifts for the family of six. When the mother of the family saw all that they did for her children, she had to sit down.

This alone makes a wonderful, moving story, but Stephen's crew did not stop there. After all the generous donations we received, we still had quite a few children with no gifts. When this group of "elves" learned about that, just one week before Christmas, they asked for the information on thirty more children! They spent much of their own time at the height of the season shopping for other people's children. As a result, we were able to get gifts to every child on our list!

On November 15, 2006, our Director of Ocean County Services, Gwen E. Forte, was presented an award for one of the Exceptional Women of Ocean County, Class of 2006. This event was hosted by WJRZ (100.1) radio station. The ceremony was held at the Quality Inn in Toms River. This award is for those women who have made a major impact on the lives of children and families in Ocean County. **Congratulations, Gwen!**





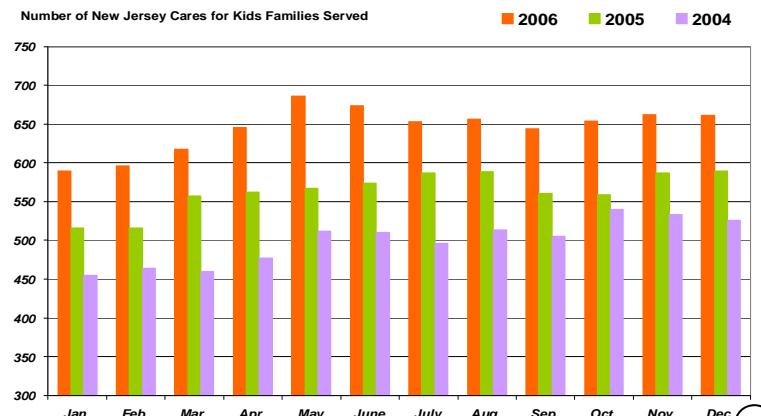
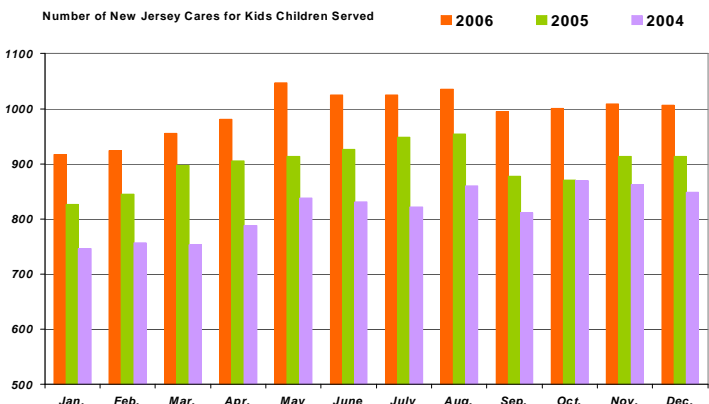
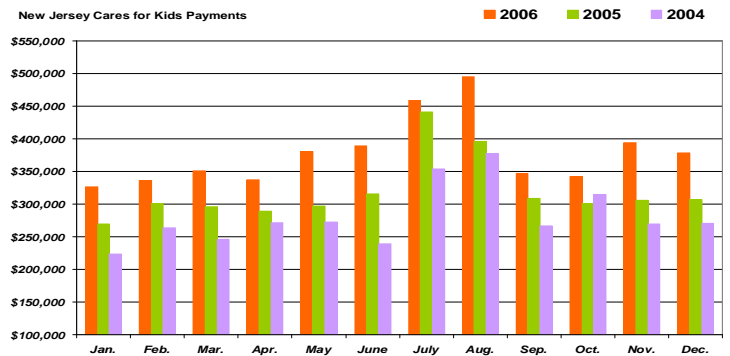
**Work  
First  
New  
Jersey**



*Our two major child care assistance programs continue to help Ocean County's families afford safe, quality child care while they work toward self-sufficiency.*



**New  
Jersey  
Cares for  
Kids**



# THANK YOU!

All of your hard work and caring made the 2006 holidays a warm memory for over 300 children!

BARNES AND NOBLE, BRICK  
CENTURY 21 ACTION REALTY, MORGANVILLE  
CENTURY 21 ACTION REALTY, JACKSON  
CENTURY 21 ACTION REALTY, HOWELL  
CENTURY 21 ACTION REALTY, FREEHOLD  
EMPLOYEE CENTER FOR YOUNG CHILDREN  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN OF  
HOLY INNOCENTS CHURCH, BEACH HAVEN  
FIRST HALLMARK MORTGAGE, TOMS RIVER  
HILLTOP NURSERY SCHOOL, TOMS RIVER  
KIDDIE UNIVERSITY, LAKEWOOD  
DOROTHY LUCAS AND FAMILY  
MATZEL & MUMFORD ORGANIZATION  
MELODIERS, HOLIDAY CITY, BERKELEY  
MERRILL LYNCH, TOMS RIVER  
MOM'S CLUB OF JACKSON WEST  
MOUNTAIN HILL SCHOOL, ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS  
NAEYC - OCEAN COUNTY CHAPTER  
OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY  
PAJAMA PROGRAM, NJ CHAPTER  
LARAINÉ SCHOENEWEIS  
SHORROCK GARDENS, BRICK  
STEPPING STONE, BRICK  
A GROUP OF EMPLOYEES FROM TECH DEPOT, TOMS RIVER  
UNITED WAY OF OCEAN COUNTY  
VERIZON, LAKEWOOD & WINDSOR GARAGES



The Episcopal Church Women have been helping our "South County" clients for quite a few years. Above, Jean Muller is pictured with some of the food collected by her church at Thanksgiving time.



The employees of The Matzel & Mumford Organization have shown boundless generosity toward our clients' children since the early 1990's.



Some of the group of employees from Tech Depot "caught" delivering hordes of gifts.



Some of the generous donations of toys, clothing and books get organized and then matched with the needs of the children on our list.

## Attention Child Care Center Directors:

### Guidance for Environmental Testing at Child Care Centers

SRWM is continually updating this web site to include more helpful guidance to assist in meeting the recently enacted requirements as they apply to the licensing of child care facilities and environmental testing. The site has been updated this week to include the fee requirements to proceed with a No Further Action Letter that indicates that no further remediation is needed for the child care center. <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dccrequest/>

# Kinship Care - Child Care Subsidies

The Kinship Child Care Subsidy program was established by the state of New Jersey in August, 2000. The purpose of the program is to help with the cost of child care for those who have a child that is related to them by blood or marriage, residing in their home. Under most circumstances, neither of the child's parents can be residing in the home.

During the first year, The Children's Home Society of NJ serviced an average of 12 families and 16 children per month. Today we have an average of 48 families and 64 children per month on the subsidy.

Our office is responsible for assisting residents of Ocean County who are eligible to receive this subsidy.

A co-payment is assessed, based on the family size and applicant(s) income. Full time employment is not always required to be eligible. Currently there is no waiting list for this subsidy; funding is available.

Please call Michele Smith at extension 141 for an application or for further eligibility criteria.

## Ocean County Office Staff Extension List

Gwen Forte	108	O.C. Director
Pat Crane	111	Adm. Asst.
Carmen Garcia	100	Receptionist
Joan Christopher	136	Early Childhood Supervisor
Barbara Schoen	105	CCR&R, Prof. Dev.
Bonnie Elbaz	150	FCC
Heidi Sloan	103	FCC, Hm. Insp.
Joanne Nelson	131	FCC, Sp. Needs, Prof. Dev.
Debbie Klaus	104	NJCK Prog. Administrator
Colleen Bork	133	NJCK
Donna Reid	138	NJCK
Kathy Razetti	155	NJCK
Kimberly Pascucci	146	NJCK
Lena Zullo	128	NJCK
Lisa Michaelson	106	NJCK
Margaret Sesny	107	NJCK Adm. Asst.
Michele Smith	141	NJCK, Kinship
Stephanie Claus	110	NJCK Apps./Waiting List
Maureen Lawrence	101	WFNJ Prog. Administrator
Dianne Burdette	132	CCHCC
Erica McKay	143	WFNJ
Fran Stiles	139	DYFS, PACC
Laura Porter	113	WFNJ
Noemi Carlo	129	WFNJ
Sara Lemig	114	WFNJ, DYFS, PACC
Stacy Solly	112	WFNJ
Yolanda Franklin	102	WFNJ Adm. Asst., EEI



The  
Children's  
Home Society

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