



THE CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

NEWSLETTER

OCEAN COUNTY

WINTER 2006 / 2007

Dear Colleagues,

Did you notice that our newsletter now has a name? We had a contest in the office and many names were submitted. We asked our Trenton Directors to choose a winner. The winning name, *CHS' Ocean View*, was submitted by Stephanie Claus.

I can hardly believe that it is almost the end of another year. I suppose it might have something to do with the fact that we at CHS have been extremely busy.

We received three grants this year to provide respite services for our special needs families. We also received one to provide training and respite care for parents of special needs children. We are so pleased to be able to provide these programs.

Another highlight of this year has been the hard work of CHS' Early Learning Council. We presented two special events for our Community Learning Series. The first one was held in April where 230 parents and professionals attended a resource fair and workshop on *Positive Discipline*.

The second was in October where 100 participants heard about *Building Relationships* with children and another workshop affirming the wonderful things that we do for children, *Who Are You in the Lives of Children?*

The Council is looking forward to providing more workshops in our Community Learning Series, and is partnering with CHS for our annual Early Care and Education Conference, *We've Only Scratched the Surface*. This year's theme is infant and child mental and behavioral health. The date is March 30, 2007 and will be held, once again, at Woodlake Country Club in Lakewood. More information will be forthcoming.

Contained within this newsletter is information on the Economic Impact of New Jersey's Child Care Industry, *Benefits for All*, done by the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of the Thomas Edison State College. Did you know that child care is a \$2.55 **BILLION** industry in New Jersey? Please read the information and use it for your advocacy purposes.

From all of us at CHS, have a happy, healthy and safe holiday season, and best wishes in the new year.

Sincerely, *Gwen*



Gwen E. Forte, Director of Ocean County Services, gratefully accepts the donation of an original drawing from artist, John Nelson. He was introduced to The Children's Home Society of NJ by Christina Edwards (on the right) of Unity Day Care, Lakewood.

The Children's Home Society of NJ Receives Highest National Accreditation

The Children's Home Society of NJ has received a 3-year reaccreditation from the Council on Accreditation (COA), an independent, not-for-profit, national accrediting body that promotes best-practice standards and quality services for children, youth and families in America.

The COA accreditation process involves a year-long and in-depth examination of an organization's compliance with "best practice" standards in programs, human resources, financial and risk management, and continuous quality improvement. COA accreditation attests that an organization is delivering the best quality services to the community it serves. The Children's Home Society of NJ is proud to be one of fewer than three hundred child serving agencies nationwide to meet COA's strict full standards.

The Ocean County office is also striving towards achieving the Child Care Aware, Quality Assured Accreditation, Criteria for Best Practices, in the Delivery of Consumer Education and Referral in 2007.

2007 EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The Children's Home Society of New Jersey will hold its annual Early Care and Education Conference on Friday, March 30, 2007, at Woodlake Country Club, Lakewood, NJ. The conference, entitled "We've Only Scratched the Surface", will be geared to behavioral and mental health issues in young children. A few of the topics will be; Anger in Young Children, Infant Mental Health, Stress in Children, Relationships/Gang Awareness, and Child Abuse and Neglect. There will be vendors, door prizes and a special grand prize this year.

The staff of The Children's Home Society of NJ was dazzled and amazed by the unique talent of artist John Nelson. John paid a visit to our Ocean County office in September while he was here presenting his work at Ocean County College. He brought with him a variety of drawings which were treasures for the eye. John truly captures the expressions and essences of people, especially children. John donated a drawing to the Children's Home Society of NJ entitled "A Generation". It is on display in our front office. We also purchased a drawing from John which will be the grand prize at our Early Care and Education Conference on March 30, 2007.

Save the date. Look for conference registration forms in early February.

Pajamas, Pajamas, and books!!!

A wonderful gift to any child is the warm and cozy gift of pajamas. Our agency is the recipient of many sizes and colors of pajamas and wonderful story books for bedtime reading. These books and pajamas are distributed to children in need in Ocean County as requested from our agency. Thank you to the efforts of Geraldine Schleich of the Pajama Program (www.pajamaprogram.org) for providing these special gifts.



The holidays always have the elves of The Children's Home Society of NJ very busy helping those in need in the community to have a wonderful holiday season. Thanksgiving baskets are donated to families in need to enjoy a holiday feast. The agency expects to serve at least 300 children in Ocean County with clothing and toys for Christmas. Look for our article in the Spring issue of our newsletter for details on these worthy holiday projects.



Childhood Leukemia Foundation

The office received a call from the Childhood Leukemia Foundation in Brick, asking us if we would like to be the recipients of Cartoon Network T-shirts. After sorting the T-shirts by size and graphics, the T-shirts were made available to everyone visiting our office. We are happy to say that all of them were distributed within 6 weeks of receiving them. Thank you for the great donation and helping us serve the clients of The Children's Home Society of NJ

Left: Staff members Barbara Schoen and Noemi Carlo organize the cases of donated T-shirts.

Funtasia for Kids

In August, Heidi Sloan and Fran Stiles represented The Children's Home Society of NJ at "Funtasia For Kids" in the Ocean County Park. Thanks to Heidi's inventive thinking, the children made their own spin art designs using salad spinners. It was a fun day for all who attended.



Above: Fran helps a young artist get started on her design.

Our Special Thanks to:



...the employees of Johnson and Johnson for generously providing much appreciated bookbags filled with school supplies in time for the first day of school.

...to Joyce Jones for using her time and talent to donate handmade hats and scarves.



...to the United Way of Ocean County for contributing dozens of Halloween Costumes. We know of one little girl who won "Best Costume" in a contest wearing a costume she received from CHS of NJ.



WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Children's Home Society of NJ and Children's Specialized Hospital of Toms River have partnered to offer a series of workshops for parents of children with special needs. This program is made possible through a grant from Hirair and Anna Hovanian Foundation. The first workshop on *Advocacy and Resources* was presented on October 20, 2006 by the Family Support Center of NJ. Topics planned for the future will include *Community Socialization & the Special Needs Child, Learning How to Write an IEP and Estate Planning.*

For more information contact Joanne at 732-557-9633, x131. **2**

BENEFITS FOR ALL:

The Economic Impact of the New Jersey Child Care Industry Infant/Toddler, Preschool, and Out-of-School Time Programs

The child care industry is integral and significant to family and economic life in New Jersey because it:

- Lays the groundwork for New Jersey's future economic success by preparing the next generation with life and learning skills through quality care and education programs.
- Provides working parents with economic opportunities that lead to self-sufficiency and participation in the economic growth of the state.
- Generates \$2.55 billion in gross receipts.
- Serves as an economic driver that supports more than 65,300 full-time jobs in New Jersey.

To read the executive summary or the full report, please go to:

www.nedlc.org/Publications/publications_eir.htm



APPROVED HOME PRESENTATION

On October 17th, 2006, CHS Home Visitor, Bonnie Elbaz, presented a description of her work goals and activities before the CHS Board of Directors in Trenton. The Board saw firsthand "The Approved Home Quality Initiative" at work.

Clients of this program include moms from both Work First New Jersey and New Jersey Cares for Kids. They choose their own providers of childcare who are relatives or friends, and are non-regulated.

Bonnie provides the caregivers of these children - from birth through age three, two or three visits. They include issues such as: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), child development stages with appropriate activities, and pre-literacy reading techniques. She is also available to help solve behavioral problems.

Right: This young lady is engaged in an activity that allows her to show her creative talents while developing small motor skills.

Trainings at The Children's Home Society of New Jersey



If you have never attended one of our trainings, perhaps you don't know what you are missing. Michael Falgares (pictured above) the director of Little Rascals Early Learning Academy in Brick and special education teacher with the Howell School District presented, "The Responsive Classroom" on September 27, 2006. This workshop presented a fresh new approach to the old boring morning meeting and implemented the new responsive classroom approach. Michael has watched his students thrive academically, socially and emotionally. Problem behaviors have decreased and his classroom is positive and joyful.

SHOP TIL YOU DROP

On Saturday November 4, 2006 the Children's Home Society of NJ sponsored our 4th annual shopping trip to the Vanity Fair Outlets in Reading, PA. Our trip included a complimentary lunch, an American Express gift card raffle, and a 50/50. After a day of bargain shopping we enjoyed our dinner at Old Country Buffet before heading home. Hope you join us next year!

Arline Oberst (pictured below) presented, "Be Your Best without Stress" on October 2, 2006. Arline is the President of Lifetime Resources for Women Inc. which includes working as a trainer, speaker, author, consultant and columnist. Arline is a former Community Education Specialist for Prevent Child Abuse NJ and Owner/Director of A Pleasant Day Nursery School. She is a member of NAEYC and the National Speakers Association. Her stress workshop covered taking care of yourself, letting go of the past, adjusting your attitude, making healthy choices, bringing peace to your life, and making time for you!! And if that were not enough the class walked away relaxed and smiling.



FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

On October 17, 2006 The Children's Home Society of NJ participated in Boscov's annual "Friends Helping Friends" event. It was a great day for shoppers to enjoy super savings, refreshments and door prizes while helping charitable organizations in Ocean County. All our ticket proceeds benefit the Early Care and Education Conference.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



YEARS OF SERVICE

In September, certificates of recognition and gift certificates were presented to staff members who had reached notable years of service. In the Ocean County office the following milestones were celebrated:

15 Years: Gwen E. Forte
Heidi Sloan

10 Years: Maureen Lawrence

5 Years: Carmen Garcia
Bonnie Elbaz

Congratulations to each of you!

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Gwen E. Forte

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CHS of NJ – Ocean Office

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| Patty Crane | Adm. Asst. | 111 |
| Carmen Garcia | Receptionist | 100 |
| Joan Christopher | Early Childhood Supervisor | 136 |
| Barbara Schoen | CCR&R, Prof. Dev. | 105 |
| Bonnie Elbaz | FCC | 150 |
| Heidi Sloan | FCC, Hm. Insp. | 103 |
| Joanne Nelson | FCC, Sp. Needs, Prof. Dev. | 131 |
| Debbie Klaus | NJCK Prog. Administrator | 104 |
| Margaret Sesny | NJCK Adm. Asst., Kinship | 107 |
| Colleen Bork | NJCK | 133 |
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| Kim Pascucci | NJCK | 146 |
| Lena Zullo | NJCK | 128 |
| Lisa Michaelson | NJCK | 106 |
| Michele Smith | NJCK | 141 |
| Stephanie Claus | NJCK Apps./Waiting List | 110 |
| Maureen Lawrence | WFNJ Prog. Administrator | 101 |
| Sara Lemig | WFNJ, DYFS, PACC | 114 |
| Yolanda Franklin | WFNJ Adm. Asst., EEI | 102 |
| Dianne Burdette | CCHCC | 132 |
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| Laura Porter | WFNJ | 113 |
| Noemi Carlo | WFNJ | 129 |
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The
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