



CHS of NJ President Honored at National Conference for Leadership as Exemplary Child Welfare Advocate

*Donna C. Pressma Receives David Roth Leadership Award
at Child Welfare League of America's 2013 Gala*

Donna C. Pressma, President & CEO of The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHS of NJ) was recently presented with the national prestigious David Roth Leadership Award at the Child Welfare League of America's (CWLA) Gala Dinner in Arlington, VA. Before a gathering of over 500 of the nation's most influential leaders in child welfare, Pressma was honored for her life-long commitment to the well-being and healthy development of children and for her and her agency's leadership and national contributions to the at-risk children of America.

Christine L. James-Brown, CEO of CWLA, said of Pressma, "I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this recognition. Donna and her team at CHS of NJ consistently go above and beyond what is required in order to serve their children and families." James-Brown continued to note, "The most recent and visible example is the response to (Hurricane) Sandy, but I know that every day lives of thousands of children are made better by the work of the organization."

Since the hurricane destroyed areas of the New Jersey shore and the towns along the coast, CHS of NJ staff have continued to ensure that children and families receive the resources, counseling, and guidance they need to move forward in their lives and keep the tragedies and losses of the storm in check so they can thrive despite the unexpected and life-changing setbacks they've encountered. CHS of NJ has received over \$150,000 in Sandy grants and awards to enhance its services in these overwhelmed areas.

Pressma has spent the past 26 years leading the staff at CHS of NJ as the President and CEO of the agency. Under her guidance, the agency has grown from a team of 14 staff to nearly 200 full and part-time professionals. Her vision and dedication to working only for the best interest of the children and families whose lives are touched by the agency have helped to build CHS of



President and CEO of CHS of NJ Donna C. Pressma being presented with the prestigious David Roth Leadership Award at the Child Welfare League of America's (CWLA) Gala Dinner by Christine James Brown, President and CEO of the CWLA.

NJ into a national leading child-welfare agency to which others turn to learn best practices and seek advice.

Prior to taking the helm of CHS of NJ, Pressma was the Executive Director of The Chicago Jewish Children's Bureau and prior to that she was responsible for the State of Connecticut's child welfare services from 1970 to 1975.

When asked to remark upon the meaning of this award, Pressma was notably humbled and replied, "I can only hope I can continue to be half the humanitarian and leader David Roth was in his own lifetime. I am able to be a leader because of my terrific Children's Home Society of New Jersey team: my staff, my parent advisors, my board, my foster parents, and my volunteers. And we must each give a part of our own time, energy and ideas to keep that national voice for children loud and strong through our work with the Child Welfare League of America."