

For a Child's Sake



Summer 2003

We've been building healthy families since 1894

Gala helps more children

Building hope through harmony

Our annual fundraiser, attended by over 300 volunteers and other caring supporters, capped a day of memorable events that brought the event's motto – Building Hope Through Harmony – to life. The day began when sixth through eighth grade choir students from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School in Trenton came to Merrill Lynch's Plainsboro campus during the afternoon with the Boys Choir of Harlem, who entertained CHS of NJ guests at the evening gala.

The students ate lunch together, followed by a question and answer session that enabled MLK students to ask lots of questions, such as how Boys Choir of Harlem students manage to get their homework done when they are on the road so much. The students of the BCH gave the MLK students two standing ovations when they performed for them. The MLK students then attended a rehearsal by the BCH for its gala performance.

CHS of NJ thanks Trenton School District Superintendent Dr. James Lytle, MLK Principal Marcine Bennett, and Choir Director Gary Taylor for allowing the MLK choir to attend and perform. Most of all, we thank the students of the MLK choir for sharing their talent with us.

The gala itself offered caring and compassionate people who support the work of CHS of NJ an opportunity to not only enjoy themselves but to support the organization through the silent auction. Guests heard Board of Trustees member Dorothea Palsho, who received the organization's most distinguished Friend of Children award for her effective and exemplary service on behalf of at-risk children, talk about the need to help children. Board President Robert Teweles expressed his continuing thanks and gratitude to *(continued on page 5)*



Dorothea Palsho, center, received CHS of NJ's Friend of Children award for her work in helping at-risk children. She is shown with, from left, Donna Pressma, CHS of NJ President and CEO, and Board of Trustees member and gala chairperson Dr. Christine Côté of Janssen Pharmaceutica.

Waiting for a forever family

Niko Alexiev is waiting in Bulgaria to come to the United States to live with his forever family, Eugene and Elaine Milberger of Berlin, New Jersey.

Kathy Westbrook, who is working with Eugene and Elaine on the adoption, said that



the couple traveled to Bulgaria right after Valentine's Day and are eager to return to bring him home. Elaine knows "that Niko is growing and changing every day and she wants to be part of that." Kathy is hoping that "in a couple of months that Niko will be home with his permanent and loving family in New Jersey."

Highlights:

- 2 FOSTER PARENTS**
Imagine caring for 202 foster babies over 40 years.
- 3 VOLUNTEER POWER**
More people than ever are helping children.
- 7 15 YEARS OF CARING**
Our Ocean County office is honored for helping families.

Thank you, foster parents

CHS of NJ honored some of its most valued people – its foster parents – at the annual meeting of the Foster Parents Club. CHS board of directors and staff gathered to salute these outstanding people who give a whole new meaning to the word volunteer by devoting their lives to helping children.

CHS of NJ currently has 10 foster families in New Jersey and Bucks County, with children ranging from a few weeks old and up to three years. One foster family recently agreed to a birth mother's request that they adopt her 20-month-old little girl.

"When a foster family loves and cares for a child for a year or more, it is extremely difficult to let that child go," said Judy Garrison, President of the Foster Parents Club. "It makes you question even more why you continue to do this. But you have to stop and remember that you made such a difference in the life of that child. Giving babies a good start in life will enable them to go on to become happy, productive adults in the future."

► **Caring beginning.** Tom and Kathy Stintson of Levittown became foster parents with CHS of NJ eight months ago and have opened their hearts and homes to one child so far.



▲ **Fostering's finest.** Here are two couples who are devoting themselves to helping foster children. From left: Beth and Randy Curtis of Yardley (18 foster babies in six years), and Judy and Harry Garrison of Yardville (87 foster babies in 24 years). Judy is the President of the Foster Parents Club.



▲ **Double-digit caring.** George and Elinore Morges of Levittown provided a loving home for 96 foster children over 33 years.



▲ **202 and counting?** Imagine giving love and care to 202 foster babies over 40 years. That's what Gordon and Helen (right) Phillips of Levittown have done. CHS of NJ honored them for their contributions. Beth Curtis, secretary of the Foster Parents Club and a resident of Yardley, is shown with them.

For a Child's Sake

The Children's Home Society of New Jersey

- Donna C. Pressma
President & CEO

Have some news to share?
A letter to the editor?

Families are encouraged to send news, updates and photos of their adoptive families.

- Gil Phillips, Editor
609-695-6274, extension 141,
gphillips@chsofnj.org
- Dana S. Hyland, Designer

To find out more about The Children's Home Society of New Jersey, visit our website at www.chsofnj.org

Spreading the word in Washington about children

Donna Pressma, left, President and CEO of The Children's Home Society of New Jersey, and Zuline Gray Wilkinson of Union Industrial Home for Children, met with New Jersey Senator Frank Lautenberg to advocate for New Jersey's children as a part of "Hill Day" during the Child Welfare League of America's national conference, *Children 2003: Imagine an America*.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Bucks County roses help children again

CHS of NJ thanks the Bucks County Auxiliary for holding its time-honored and successful annual Red Rose Day sales. As a result of the dedicated volunteers of the auxiliary, the members of The Auxiliary Board in Trenton, and the many businesses and other organizations that allowed volunteers to sell roses, the event raised \$15,000 for CHS of NJ. Thanks to the volunteers of the Bucks County Auxiliary for leading this important event.



▲ This year's Red Rose Day featured some new volunteers whose efforts enhanced this traditional and successful fund-raising event. Lynn Rowlands (center), Assistant Treasurer of Roma Bank and Vice President Leadership and VP Service of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) of Mercer County Community College, is shown with (from left) other PTK volunteers Jennifer Quick and Kersti Jakobson, all of whom helped sell roses. Thank you.

Contemporary caring



▲ The Contemporary Club of Trenton continued its caring for foster children by donating jackets, afghans, and diapers for use by foster children. Shown, sitting, from left: Dorothy Ender and Donna Winkler. Standing, from left: Jane Davis, Gerry Higham, Maryann Willette, Nancy Lee Breece, Dolores Higham, and Roberta Cash.

Good tasting donations

▶ The First Presbyterian Church of Dutch Neck in Princeton Junction, New Jersey came through again by holding an Easter drive that resulted in baskets of candy for 40 children who are being helped by CHS of NJ. Shown are three people who helped make this drive successful (left): Kelly MacCarthy, mother, Wendy, and Dave Loebell.



Caring Scouts



◀ The Girl Scouts of Delaware Raritan, Troop #756 in Robbinsville, NJ, came through again for the 6th consecutive year by collecting items for foster children. They came to our Trenton office one morning loaded down with diapers, stuffed animals, and all sorts of hygiene products. And although they are not shown here, we also thank Brownie Troop #1516 in Hamilton for donating beautiful valentines filled with candy that our social workers were able to distribute to children.

Volunteer
Spotlight
continues on
page 6

Gala helps more children by...

Building hope th



1. Sweet sounds. Choir students from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School in Trenton are shown after they performed for the Boys Choir of Harlem – and received two standing ovations. Shown in back, near left, is Marcine Bennett, Principal of Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School in Trenton, and near center, Gary Taylor, MLK Choir Director. Thank you students.

2. Public/private partnership. Trenton School District Dr. James Lytle, left, is shown with Donna Pressma, CHS of NJ President and CEO; and Robert Teweles, President of CHS of NJ's Board of Trustees. CHS of NJ enjoys a strong relationship with Trenton schools.

3. Harlem wonders. The energetic faces give a glimpse of the energy in the wonderful performance by the Boys Choir of Harlem at CHS of NJ's fundraising gala.

4. Two presidents and CEOs. Al Maghazehe of Capital Health System is shown with Donna Pressma of CHS of NJ.

5. Caring people. Robert Teweles (third from left, standing), President of CHS of NJ's Board of Directors, is shown with some of the caring people who attended the gala.

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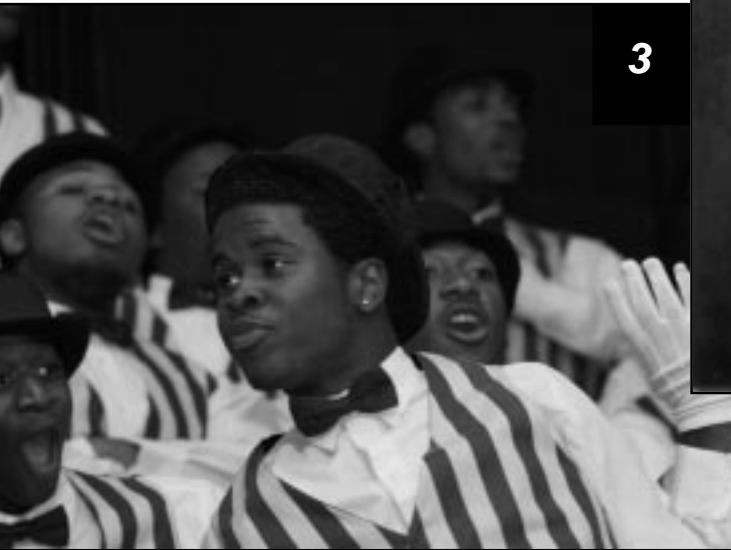
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6. Shady Ladies. Educational Testing Service employees Mildred Davis (standing, left) and Margo DuBose and Beth Keesler (sitting, l-r) helped CHS of NJ special events director Colleen Gehring (standing) prepare for the gala by doing lots of sorting, stuffing, and other functions. And the sunglasses? Any person who purchased a ticket to a pre-gala drawing for a vacation in Florida next February received two bottles of sunscreen (compliments of Johnson & Johnson), and the sunglasses.

Gala builds hope (continued from page 1)

everyone for their ongoing support of the organization, noting that children must always come first. Board member and gala chairperson Dr. Christine Côté said that gifts from caring people “will be used directly to bring hope and help to the children we serve.”

This year’s gala showed an encouraging trend for CHS of NJ. More people than ever attended. There was also a surge in new volunteers and support. Volunteers came from Educational Testing Service, Mercer County Single Volunteers, Council of NJ Grantmaker, Phi Theta Kappa of Mercer County Community College, and CHS of NJ staff and friends. Also, prior to the event volunteers from Educational Testing Service and Bloomberg came to CHS of NJ’s Trenton office and performed much-needed help in pre-gala preparations. Thank you, supporters and volunteers, for making the 109th gala so successful.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Thanks, Auxiliary, for 40 years of caring

The New Jersey-based Auxiliary Board of CHS of NJ held its 40th Anniversary Dinner this year with some special highlights. The meeting included the four very special women who started the group in 1963: Shirley Hartig, the group's first president and founder, and Ruth Bartasawitz, Marilyn Carroll, and Alice Ruch. Their longstanding commitment to children speaks volumes about their dedication to children. Thank you for your many years of service. We also thank the new officers: Kellie Foerter, President; Mary Lee Pierson, Vice President; Lisa Daly, Recording Secretary; Rebecca Mullowney, Corresponding Secretary; and Aline Guzzo, Treasurer.

In a tribute to the auxiliary's dedicated work, the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly passed a joint resolution to "praise the significant and essential work" of the organization. The resolution also paid special tribute to Shirley, Ruth, Marilyn, and Alice "for their forty years of active and dedicated service."

▶ **Forty years of caring.** In 1963, four women joined together and founded the Trenton Auxiliary Board of CHS of NJ. Forty years later, these volunteers are still actively involved with the auxiliary and helping children. They are, from left: Shirley Hartig, Alice Ruch, Marilyn Carroll, and Ruth Bartasawitz.



◀ **Carrying on the good work.** Shown, from left, are the new officers of the Auxiliary Board of CHS of NJ: Rebecca Mullowney (Corresponding Secretary), Lisa Daly (Recording Secretary), Aline Guzzo (Treasurer), Mary Lee Pierson (Vice President), and Kellie Foerter (President).

Higher Horizons



▲ *Hamilton Horizons Federal Credit Union continues to provide lots of items for children. From left: Dana Burzymowski, public relations coordinator; Bill Morgan, Horizons board member; Bill Noble, chairman of the board; and Cindy Rein-Zima, president and CEO.*

Corporate Caring



▲ *Tom Gudusky, Director Contributions & Community Affairs, and Dr. Christine Côté, Vice President Medical Affairs, both of Janssen Pharmaceutica, arranged for generous program support from Janssen and Johnson & Johnson. Janssen is a part of J&J.*

Donations from the heart

CHS of NJ thanks the following people who made generous donations between January 1st and April 30, 2003 in honor of or in memory of special people.

IN HONOR OF:

Adoption of Mandy Marie Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Edward V. Allen
Susan C. Appel
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Mr. and Mrs. William C. Hart

Ocean County celebrates 15 years of caring



◀ New Jersey state Senator Robert Singer, a longtime advocate for children and early childhood services, presented CHS of NJ's Lakewood office with a plaque saluting CHS of NJ for its work in the community during the last 15 years and for its continued success in helping families and children in Ocean County. Senator Singer is shown with, from left, Gwen Forte, Ocean County office Administrator, and Barbara Schoen, Resource & Referral Specialist/Training Coordinator.



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Return Service Requested



Foster parents are helping children, one life at a time – page 2

Rider University students make the grade

As a result of some good students from Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, CHS of NJ's website graduated with honors. If you check out our website at www.chsofnj.org you will find a new look and see how much easier it is to find information. We owe this design to four students – Julie Bernd, Erica Bolinski, Jessica Franko, and Ronald Rosa – and Rider professor Dr. Yun Xia. The students redesigned our website as part of an internship program.

Also, Lori Keenan, an elementary education student at Rider, worked as a tutor for three Trenton students. Beth Prud'homme, a social worker who oversaw Lori's work, was delighted with how she clicked with the children and the families and is hoping for more interns from Rider. Thank you, Rider and students.

This website can change lives www.chsofnj.org



A website for building families and helping children

- **Adoption:** international and domestic
- **Early care/education:** child care services
- **Foster care:** for infants and pregnant adolescents
- **Pregnancy services:** free and confidential
- **Volunteer opportunities:** there are many options
- **Businesses and employees:** how you can help



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