



# For a Child's Sake

Summer 2005

We've been building healthy families since 1894

[www.chsofnj.org](http://www.chsofnj.org)

## Hundreds "Open their Hearts" to Celebrate 111 Years of Service



Senator Jon S. Corzine, a close friend of the late Tom Foy, Esq., is welcomed by CHS of NJ board members and gala co-chairs Stacey Meisel, Esq., Rosalind Doctor, Ph.D., the Reverend Darrell Armstrong, a fellow board member and pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, and Donna Pressma, CHS of NJ President and CEO.

Responding to an invitation to "Open your heart... for a child's sake," more than 300 friends and supporters of The Children's Home Society of New Jersey attended the agency's 111<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala held in June at Merrill Lynch in Plainsboro, NJ. Board chair Rosalind Doctor, Ph.D., and board member Stacey L. Meisel, Esq., co-chaired the event.

This year's "Champion of Children Award" was presented to Capital Health System in grateful recognition of their community leadership and care through their ongoing support of our CUNA program and other partnerships with CHS of NJ which have enabled us to better serve the greater Trenton community's children.

The late Thomas P. Foy, a beloved former CHS of NJ board chair and an active board director at the time of his death last September, was honored posthumously as the recipient of this year's "Friend of Children Award." The award was presented to Jamie Foy, Tom's wife, by the Honorable Jon S. Corzine, a colleague and good friend of Tom. Senator Corzine, himself a strong supporter of children's services, spoke of Tom's great love and concern for all children. Both of Tom and Jamie's adopted children, Brian and Allie (who was adopted through CHS of NJ), were in attendance for Senator Corzine's presentation and for a touching slide show tribute to their father.

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Our very first giving clubs listings

## Children First: Join Our Clubs Today!

For well over a century, the Children's Home Society of New Jersey has been the grateful beneficiary of the charitable support of many generous individuals and organizations who have put children first. In appreciation and acknowledgement of these important contributions, we have created "Children First," an array of giving programs designed to recognize those supporting our charitable mission. "Children First" has four components:



**The Leadership Circle.** This category was created to recognize the contributions of individuals making a significant commitment to our children through a personal pledge of \$10,000 or more. A very special recognition reception will be hosted each year for these members. In addition to being listed in our newsletter and other publications, members will also receive a CHS of NJ pin commemorating their generosity.

*Continues on Page 6*

## Gala - continued from page 1

Senator Corzine honored Tom's memory and the cause of children as a top priority by taking time out of his hectic gubernatorial schedule to appear at the gala. Many guests were able to talk with the senator and have their pictures taken with him.

We want to thank the many volunteers, staff and corporate friends who assisted with the gala preparations and produced this memorable affair. Most especially, we are grateful to Event Manager Kimberly Dorony and her staff at the Merrill Lynch Princeton Corporate Campus for providing a wonderful meal.

We also want to express our gratitude to our auctioneer, Steve Newmark from A.J. Willner Auctions, and to Mitch Forest of Forest Jewelers for donating several pieces of fine jewelry for the auction and the diamond raffle.

Thank you to everyone for opening your hearts to our children.



## For a Child's Sake

A newsletter of  
The Children's Home Society  
of New Jersey

Donna C. Pressma  
President & CEO

Have news or a photo to share?  
A letter to the editor?

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

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To learn more about  
CHS of NJ  
please visit our website at  
www.chsofnj.org.

## CHS of NJ foster parent receives CAP award

Merger County resident and CHS of NJ foster parent Judy Garrison was recently honored at the New Jersey Child Assault Prevention 2005 Annual Awards Luncheon for her years of service as a foster parent and her contribution to the lives of the children she has cared for.

During the 27 years Judy has been a foster parent for CHS of NJ, she has cared for almost 100 children, most of them babies with an exposure or an addiction to drugs.

She has also been an active and tireless member and president of the CHS of NJ Foster Parent Club which provides supportive services to our foster care program.

Judy and her husband, Harry, parents of three grown children and grandparents to three, live in Yardville, NJ.



CHS Foster Mom Judy Garrison

## BCAIFA Golf Outing tees off for our children

The sun shone brightly over the beautiful golf course as golfers gathered to tee off at the Bucks County Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (BCAIFA)'s 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Outing held last May at the Northampton Valley Country Club in Richboro, PA. For the second year in a row, The Children's Home Society of New Jersey was the beneficiary of the event which raised a total of \$8,500.

The golf day concluded with an awards reception where delicious hors d'oeuvres were served, awards presented, and raffle prizes won. We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the BCAIFA Golf Committee for their wonderful support of our Bucks County and New Jersey infants



Valerie Noble & Colleen Gehring accept a check for \$8,500 from BCAIFA members Gary Armstrong, Bart Waxman, and Jerry Redington.

and children. Next year's golf outing will be held on May 15, 2006, and will once again benefit CHS of NJ and the children we serve. Please join us!

## Foster Parents' Store

If you are looking for some great gifts – photo albums, small blankets, framed poems, stuffed animals, and more – and want to help foster children, stop in at our Trenton office and see what you can buy. All items are handmade by volunteers of CHS of NJ's Foster Parent Club. Proceeds are used to purchase equipment and items our CHS of NJ foster babies need.



Blankets honor memory of Tom Foy Marjorie Greenberg (far right), "the knitting lady" at Robbins Annex @ Bayard School in Trenton, helped students knit two blankets for use by our foster children during medical exams. The blankets were donated in memory of board member Thomas P. Foy, Esq. Tom's wife, Jamie (center), proudly accepted the blankets on behalf of Tom and the children.

## Thoughts and Observations of a CHS of NJ Foster Mom

*In September of 1997, Beth Curtiss received a telephone call from The Children's Home Society of New Jersey informing her that their family's first foster child, a baby girl, was on her way. Since then, Beth and Randy Curtiss have been foster parents to 19 boys and girls. Printed below are excerpts from a speech Beth gave at a foster parent dinner in which she expressed her thoughts and observations on foster parenting. We wanted to share those thoughts with you:*

"...I think I now understand what a calling from God is all about. Foster parenting was something I happened to be aware of, and after a little research and much discussion with a few incredulous friends, our family decided we would never know if it was for us until we gave it a try. Why choose this over scouts, or the other countless ways of serving? I don't know. It was a thought that would not go away.

"I had read somewhere that foster parenting is like being a bridge – a bridge between uncertainty and a permanent family (birth or adoptive parents). To be part of a baby's life while his or her future is being planned is a privilege.

"Well, that first baby filled a void we never even knew was there. And I didn't expect all that a baby could give and what a learning experience it would be. I learned, for example, that there are 'I Love Lucy' reruns on at 2 o'clock in the morning.

"That my teenagers are less selfish and more flexible than I gave them credit for.

"That the love you feel for a child that you know is yours only temporarily is unbelievably strong, and that while you have that child they ARE yours.

"That moms who opt to carry a baby to term and then give it away are taking the hard way out and are truly brave.

"That skin color doesn't matter.

"That you have to have a strong faith to be able to let go.

"That the first smiles and coos are something to treasure in your heart, for the babies do move on and forget all that you went through together during their first weeks of life.

"That the range of emotions cannot be described, but another foster parent knows.

"That not every child will be raised like we have tried to raise our own, but that's OK.

"That it is not so easy to be judgmental when you are emotionally involved and see the lives other people live.

"I wish there was some way of expressing the feelings that come with the world of foster parenting, but I am not that



**"...the love you feel for a child that you know is yours only temporarily is unbelievably strong..."**

eloquent. I am not a superwoman, an angel, earning my place in heaven, or a martyr. I am an average, middle-aged woman who loves my home and family and enjoys sharing that with others. My heroes are other foster parents whom I have gotten to know who give continuously, do not want attention or accolades, work around the frustrations of a well-intentioned but bureaucratic system, and provide a place of harmony in their small corner of the world for babies who need them. We all share a love of babies and are people of action, wanting our arms to be full and our days busy. I could go on and on. Why do we keep foster parenting? Because we still have lots to learn and cannot imagine not doing it!" *(Editor's note: Beth and Randy Curtiss were the recipients of the "Parents' Pride Award" at this year's Faith Based and Community Resource Fair in Trenton. They recently adopted the three-year-old boy they had been foster parenting since he was nine months old. They've also welcomed their 19<sup>th</sup> foster child into their home.)*



### Invest in your community, and we will invest in you!

#### Refer a resource family and earn \$1,000\*

Can you be a foster parent, or do you know somebody who can? Help us spread the word that foster parents are urgently needed now for adolescents and medically fragile infants. Contact Chris Rednor at (609) 695-6274, ext. 176, for more information. \*The family must be successfully licensed by the Office of Licensing and retain an adolescent in their home for a minimum of six months.

# Thanks to our



- (1) Brian, Allie and Jamie Foy with Senator Jon S. Corzine.
- (2) Senator Corzine with Capital Health System Trustees: Miles Truesdell, Michael Summerstein (Chair), Al Maghazehe.
- (3) Board member Bill Godfrey and wife, Christine, with Congressman Rush Holt.
- (4) The Capital Health System table.
- (5) Gala co-chair and board member Stacey Meisel with husband Marty Borosko.
- (6) CHS of NJ adoptees Hunter Allen (back, second from left) and Meredith Domzalski (sitting, second from left).
- (7) CHS of NJ Board chair and gala co-chair Rosalind Hunt Doctor.
- (8) CHS of NJ Board Dr. Christine Côté, Congressman Rush Holt, Donna Pressma, and James DiEleuterio, former NJ Treasurer.
- (9) The Rev. Darrell Armstrong (standing, third from left) with local clergy leaders.

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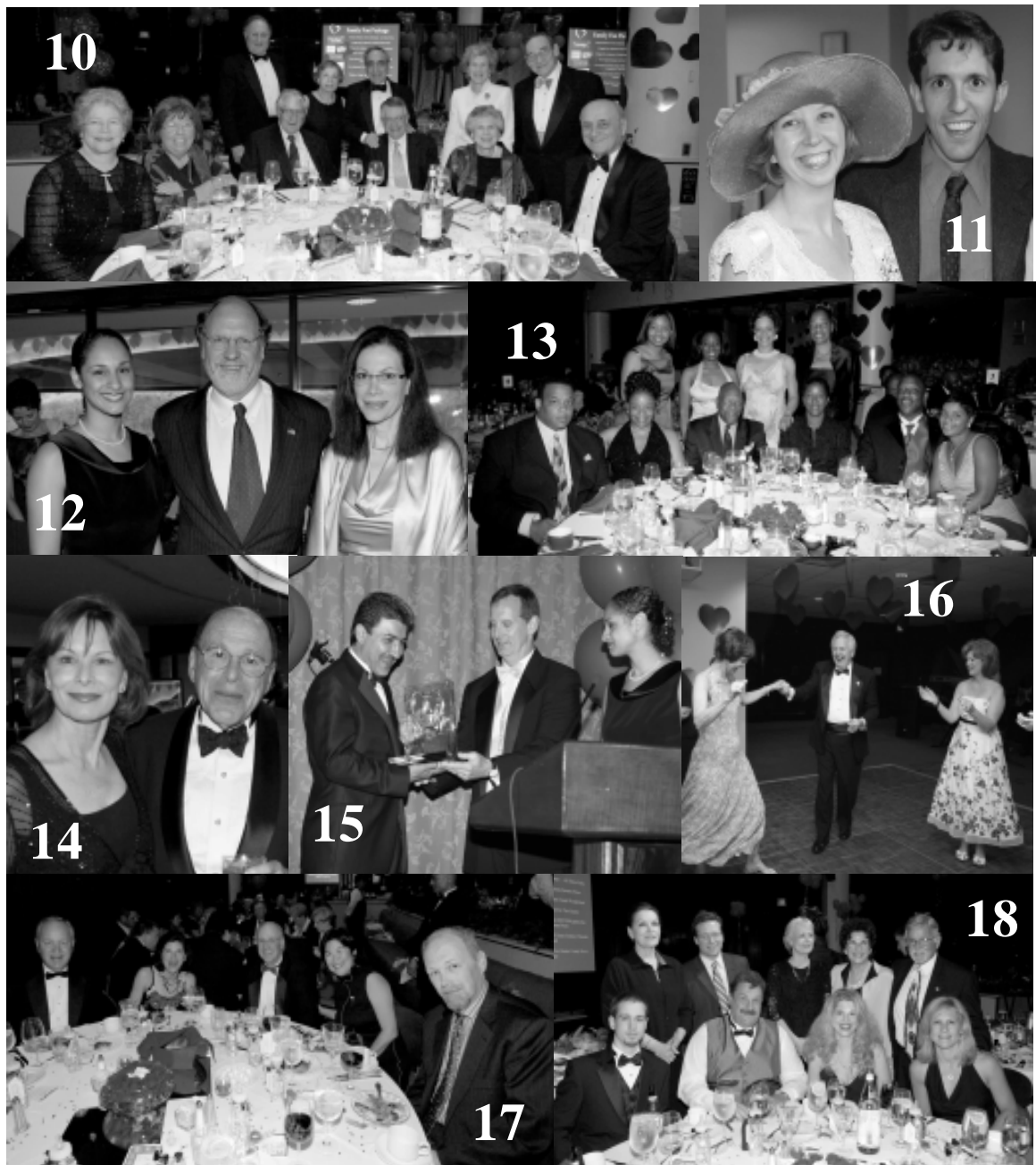
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- (10) (From right, sitting) Cy and Jackie Meisel with M. David Atkin, Susan and Harold Loew (center, standing) & friends.  
 (11) CHS of NJ adoptee Meredith Domzalski and guest.  
 (12) Stacey Meisel, Senator Corzine, and board member Shelley Punchatz.  
 (13) Rosalind Hunt Doctor with family and friends.  
 (14) Former board chair Robert L. Teweles with Karen Dandurand.  
 (15) Capital Health System CEO Al Maghazehe accepts "Champion of Children Award" from Bill Godfrey & Stacey Meisel.  
 (16) Board member Bill Sheehy, Nancy Sheehy and guest dancing.  
 (17) Board member Dorothea Palsho, (second from left), Ed Palsho, with guests.  
 (18) Friends and family of "Friend of Children" Award recipient Thomas P. Foy, Esq.

Continued from Page 1

**The Corporate Honor Roll.** The Children's Home Society of New Jersey counts on the generous support of many good corporate citizens. These extraordinary organizations are committed to keeping "Children First." Corporate Honor Roll membership is awarded in recognition of their support.

**The Annual Giving Club.** This special club makes it possible for virtually everyone to make a difference in the life of a child. Annual Giving Club membership is open to anyone making a yearly gift of \$100 or more. Members will be invited to an annual reception and be listed in our publications.

**The 1894 Society.** Commemorating the year of our founding, membership in the 1894 Society will be bestowed upon those individuals who have included The Children's Home Society of New Jersey in their will or estate plan. Anyone making a simple bequest in a will, a trust, a gift of life insurance or another deferred giving vehicle is eligible to join. The 1894 Society is guided by a volunteer committee of the area's leading financial professionals.

Other ways of supporting our charitable mission and keeping "Children First" include making a memorial gift, donating a car, contributing new items for our various seasonal drives (holiday toys, back to school supplies, and Easter baskets). To learn more, please call Chris Rollins at (609) 695-6274, ext. 153.

### Does your company match gifts?

Please ask your employer for a matching gift form, complete it and mail it to us with your check made payable to CHS of NJ. You increase the value of your gift and help twice as many children.

## Can you help our Baby Bottle Program?

Contact Valerie Noble at (609) 695-6274, ext. 141, or via e-mail at [vnoble@chsofnj.org](mailto:vnoble@chsofnj.org) for more information and how you can help.

*Only one day each week is all we will ask  
To lend us your hands for this very special task.  
The job is easy and the reward is great —  
We don't even mind if you show up late!*

*You need not apply – just give us a call.  
Your help will bring much happiness to all.  
Preparing our bottle requires tender care.  
Stuffing and labeling will prevent our despair.*

*You will be received with such a great smile,  
We promise to make your time here worthwhile.  
And one million thanks is what we will say  
When we see grand results at the end of the day.*

**Valerie Noble**



## Enrollment begins for "Children First" giving clubs

Below are membership donors who supported our spring 2005 membership mailing with a gift of \$100 or more and those donors who made a general contribution of \$100 or more during the month of June. A full listing of **all** donors will appear in the fall Annual Report.

### LEADERSHIP CIRCLE (Pledges of \$10,000+)

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*(These individuals have included CHS of NJ in their estate plans)*

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## Donations from the heart

We wish to thank the following individuals and organizations for donations received between February 1 and May 31, 2005 in honor or in memory of loved ones.

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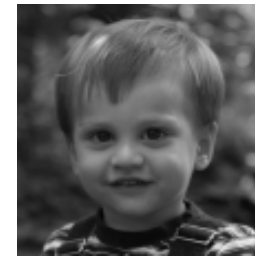
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## ■ Senator Corzine Presents Tom Foy Award at Gala - see Page 1



**Volunteer Spotlight.** Thirteen-year-old volunteer **Lindsey Curewitz** reads to pre-schoolers attending our “Fun with Books” program at The William S. and Meta A. Griffith Children’s Center, our Trenton headquarters, as her mother **Melissa** proudly looks on. Literacy is one of CHS of NJ’s major goals for every child. Lindsey and her mother also made and brought gift baskets for the children. Every child appreciates the kindness of others.