When Hurricane Sandy struck New Jersey on October 29 it caused the massive destruction of thousands of homes, businesses and property throughout the state. Moreover, it left thousands of families in other homes without power, telephone service or heat for up to three weeks. Monmouth, Ocean and Mercer Counties were among the areas hardest hit. But thanks to our dedicated staff (some of whom lost their homes themselves) and the generosity of many wonderful friends, our five CHS of NJ offices and neighborhood centers in Mercer and Ocean Counties were able to open almost immediately after the storm and offer support, warmth, hot food, blankets, diapers and other basic necessities to local families in need of assistance.

The CHS staff spent the following days and weeks reaching out to the children and families in our programs to find out if they were safe, if they had a place to live, food, clothing, and the necessities to survive and to help in any way they could to return the family to stability. In these past four months, we have helped many, but there are still families living in tents on their property despite this cold winter and other families who are displaced and even split living between the homes of relatives or friends. We found one of our older grandmoms in her wheelchair living in a temporary homeless shelter with the two grandchildren she
Illinois as a chemical engineer, Al was recruited by DuPont in 1941 to work in the Explosives division at their Experimental Station in Pompton Lakes (he later became director of that division). Because his work had been necessary for the war effort, he had not been drafted into the military, thus Al and Mimi married that year with the intention of starting a family. Mimi had planned on having six children, but five years later, still childless, they began to consider adoption. She was not going to compromise their desire to have six children.

When they came to The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey in 1946 with the hope of adopting a baby, we were able to help them. The following January, 3-week-old Terri became the first child in their family. Over the next few years she was joined by Rick, Christy and Mark. In 1964 the Ramsdells adopted their fifth child, 9-year-old Carol, who had been a ward of the state. A few years after that Becky, a Chinese teenager in need of a home, came to live with them for most of her high school years. She became the sixth child Mimi had always wanted.

Both having university degrees, Al and Mimi were determined that their children be well educated. A good statistician, Al had done the school population projection that indicated their town would need a second high school. But when the bond measure to build it was defeated, he and Mimi decided they would move the family to a community where there was a great high school even though it meant leaving behind the lakeside home Mimi loved, (a home she and Al had hired an architect to design and build). The children’s education came above all else.

According to daughter Terri, Al was “the quintessential family man” who always wanted to come home from work at a normal time and have dinner with his family, and there were only rare occasions during his 39 years with DuPont when that didn't happen. “We all gathered around the table for dinner for many years,” Terri remembers. “The family did everything together.”

Terri recalled how her mother always enjoyed traveling while her father always preferred to sleep in his own bed. Since they both wanted the family to travel together, they compromised by purchasing a camper unit for the back of their pick-up truck. In that way, Al could sleep in his own bed even on trips. During the 60s the family took three cross-country trips hauling Al's bed with them! In addition to the long car trips, the Ramsdells also took two family cruises together. “They wanted all of us to experience as much out of life as we could,” said Christy. Once the college bills loomed over them, however, the big family trips came to an end.

In the early 70s, after all the children had gone through high school, the Ramsdells bought a house in Highland Lakes that became Mimi’s “dream home” and the primary family residence until Al’s death.

Although Al’s primary concern was his family, he had several other interests as well. He was a good photographer who developed and printed his own black and white pictures. He was an avid musician who played the flute and piccolo not only in his college marching band but in a local orchestra as well. In addition, both he and Mimi sang in their beloved church choir, Al as a tenor and Mimi as an alto. Both were active in their community and were willing to help out whenever and wherever they could. “He was so, so caring,” says Christy, “and not only for his family but for everybody else as well. If he could do something for someone, whatever it was that needed to be done, he would do it.” When their good friend Philip, a spectacular Chinese chef at a restaurant Al and Mimi frequented, lost his job because the restaurant was closing, Al invested in the “Wok ‘N Sushi,” a Chinese restaurant that Philip could innovate and develop.

The Ramsdells were also generous ongoing supporters of our agency for over 50 years because they wanted our CHS babies to have a chance to be adopted by caring parents who would love them forever just as they had done for their five children and Becky. Whenever people would comment on how lucky their children were, Al and Mimi would always say, “We gained so much more than they did. They would undoubtedly have been adopted, but without them our lives would have been empty.”

Sadly, the passing of both Al and Mimi Ramsdell has left many
RECOVERING FROM SANDY  (cont. from page 1)

is raising. We are helping her move and re-establish a home.

Through the continuing generosity of caring friends of
children near and far, we are still receiving donations of food,
clothing and household goods for our Sandy impacted fami-
lies as they struggle to recover. Said CHS of NJ President
and CEO Donna Pressma, “This is an example of how so
many good people come together to help each other in times
of devastating crisis.”

On behalf of those adults and children who have benefited
from these gifts, we wish to thank the many kind-hearted in-
dividuals, groups and businesses who have participated in
this ongoing and massive relief effort. The relief experts from
FEMA say recovery will likely take at least five years. Most
especially, we wish to acknowledge the following companies
and organizations for their overwhelming support:

**Vanguard Charitable** for their $10,000 contribution for
Sandy victim trauma counseling and support for grandpar-
ents raising their grandchildren, **OceanFirst Foundation** for
their $10,000 donation for Sandy relief, **Hirair and Anna
Hovnanian Foundation** for their $5,000 grant for post-storm
counseling, and **Oxford Communications** for their cash do-
nation;

**The Children’s Home Society of America** for collecting and
sending a truckload of clothing, and many boxes of new
warm winter coats, blankets, diapers and other necessities;

**JC Penney** and the **American Red Cross** for hundreds of
warm winter jackets and coats;

**Sawgrass Springs Middle School** in Coral Springs, FL, for the
collection of winter clothing, backpacks and school supplies
collected for New Jersey children affected by the storm and
**Con-Way Trucking** and **Workout World** for transporting,
storing and distributing the 500 pound shipment from Florida;

**Hayneedle, Inc. and its vendor partners** for their donation of
much needed 4,500 new warm blankets and **Meelheim’s
Transfer & Storage** for their assistance with the blanket stor-
age and distribution;

**Novo Nordisk** and **Joulé Staffing Solutions** for their dona-
tions of gift cards and household supplies;

**Capital Health Wound Center, David Lerner Associates,**
**Edgewood Elementary School, Genesis Biotechnology
Group, Pennsbury School District** and **Rue Insurance** for
their generous donations of food items.

To offer a donation for Sandy-affected families of CHS of
NJ, please contact the Development Team at 609-695-6274
x161 or make a cash donation directly through our website
and mention “Hurricane Sandy” in the special notes field.

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**FLORIDA TEACHER MOBILIZES
STUDENTS IN SANDY RELIEF TO HELP
CHILDREN IN HER HOMETOWN**

When Denise Aber, a language arts and reading teacher at
the **Sawgrass Springs Middle School** in Coral Springs, Florida
heard of the damage Hurricane Sandy had caused at the Jersey
Shore, she was devastated. A former Toms River resident, she
had spent much of her youth at the boardwalk and was heart-
sick to learn so much of it had been destroyed. Determined
to do what she could to help her hometown recover, she en-
listed the support of her 6th and 7th grade students in a relief
effort to help the children who had been affected by the
storm. “My students couldn’t imagine their entire town being
wiped out and having no place to go,” Ms. Aber told the edi-
tor of her local newspaper. Before long her students had filled
23 boxes filled with clothing, school supplies, backpacks and
toys. “They just kept bringing in things,” she said.

Through the use of social media and a reference from a for-
er high school classmate, the determined teacher made
arrangements with Kevin Maurer, a representative of **Workout
World** in Wall, NJ, to have the boxes shipped to their ware-
house. With that destination in mind and the help of another
former classmate, she was then able to arrange for **Con-Way
Trucking** to transport the boxes from Florida to New Jersey.
Once the shipment was in the warehouse, The **New Jersey
Strong Foundation**, a nonprofit affiliated with Workout
World, delivered the boxes to the CHS of NJ office in Toms
River for distribution to our families.

Reflecting on the success of the mission, the teacher stated
in a follow-up email to CHS of NJ Director of Development
Denise Wentzler, “I thank my former class mates from Toms
River High School South and everyone for coming together to
help out after the disaster. Everyone just came together, even
strangers, to help people they didn’t know.”
HAYNEEDLE BRINGS WARMTH TO SANDY VICTIMS

February was busy as our staff coordinated the receipt and distribution 4,500 blankets donated by Hayneedle, Inc., based in Omaha, NE, through its Gifts That Give Back collection. This timely gift of warmth was arranged through Hayneedle’s collaboration with The Children’s Home Society of America of which CHS of NJ is a member. Susan O’Leary and the Ocean Family Success Center team reached out to our partner agencies in impacted areas along the NJ shore to distribute blankets swiftly to those who need them. Over a dozen organizations including Your Grandmother’s Cupboard, Catholic Charities, O.C.E.A.N. Inc., Family Promise, The Salvation Army, Missionary Pentecostal Church, The Hope Center and St. Francis picked up boxes for those they serve in the same hard-hit areas along the coast.

Hayneedle.com had launched its second annual Gifts That Give Back holiday collection in November 2012 with the goal of delivering thousands of warm blankets to children in need in the United States. Shortly after a discussion with the chair of The Children’s Home Society of America, Sharon Osborne, and after hearing the reports of devastation left by Hurricane Sandy, Hayneedle (in association with Pearl Mantels and other participating vendors) agreed that the best use of their blankets would be to designate them to families impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

“At Hayneedle, we are committed to positively impacting the communities we serve in any way possible,” said Doug Nielsen, President and CEO, Hayneedle. “As families continue to struggle with the hurricane aftermath, donating all blankets to the affected families was an easy decision for our company and participating vendors. As temperatures continue to drop, we take comfort in knowing our collective donation will help families stay warm. We are proud that our Gifts That Give Back collection has expanded to include many generous partners and associations this year, as the donation nearly doubled since the prior year.”

The blankets were delivered to Meelheim’s Transfer & Storage warehouse in South Toms River on February 12th and 13th. Although the warehouse itself had been flooded with two feet of water and was still in the process of recovery, the owners accepted all of the pallets and stored them overnight. Having been notified in advance of their arrival, representatives from each organization were on hand to accept cases of blankets for the Sandy families and children they serve.

Also present during the distribution Fern Lumpkin, a parent participant at CHS of NJ’s Ocean County Family Success Center who lost her home to Sandy. Lumpkin and her 17-month-old daughter had been living in shelters until just recently when they moved into a temporary home. Lumpkin accepted blankets for her family as a representative of all families who will receive blankets through this effort. When asked what the gift of warm blankets means to her, she wiped tears from her eyes and replied, “It shows me that people do care.”

Donna Pressma, President and CEO of CHS of NJ, expressed her thanks and appreciation to Hayneedle. The Children’s Home Society of America and to the brother-owners of Meelheim’s Transfer & Storage, Ron and Jeff Meelheim, for use of their warehouse space. “This is one more wonderful example of how so many good people come together to help each other in times of devastating crisis,” she said.
GRACE’S STORY: VANGUARD CHARITABLE HELPS CHS SAVE SANDY LIVES

Grace Brown is 60 years old and confined to a wheelchair. She is the sole caretaker of her 30 year old son Nate who is also wheelchair-bound as a result of multiple sclerosis and she is raising her 14 year old grandson, John. CHS of NJ staff has been working with this grandmother through our Kinship Navigator program.

When the storm hit the New Jersey coast, it was difficult for this multi-generation and mobility-challenged family to evacuate their rented apartment. Sandy left their apartment completely flooded and the family lost everything that was in it. Grace, Nate and John, now homeless, ended up in a shelter. Grace had been sure to bring the minimum necessary clothes and hygiene items that her family would need while staying at the shelter, but she did not take anything for herself. When our Kinship worker, Kim Calderwood, made contact with Grace, she had been wearing the same clothing for a week because the shelter did not have clothing to fit her and no washing machine was available to refresh her only outfit. Through the Kinship Navigator program, CHS of NJ was able to provide gift cards that Kim used immediately to buy clothing for Grace and she personally delivered the clothes to the shelter the next morning.

After learning of the funding generously donated by the Vanguard Charitable to help children and families affected by the storm, Kathy Guercio, our CHS of NJ field worker in Monmouth County, began working with the family to make plans as to how they would return to their soon to be cleaned up rented apartment. Kathy worked with Grace’s family through their transition back into their home, helping them replenish food supplies, clothing, bedding, linens, towels, and more.

Just when everything seemed to be moving forward, Grace suddenly ended up in the hospital for surgery. Grace’s brother moved in with the boys to care for them until she was able to return home. Kathy was able to work with Grace’s brother and provide him with Vanguard assistance so he could help Grace’s grandson purchase additional clothes, shoes, toiletries, and other necessities during the time of Grace’s hospitalization. Kathy also discovered that Grace’s dryer had been damaged during the storm, and her brother was washing the family’s clothing and then transporting them to his home to dry them. The Vanguard Charitable has provided a new dryer for Grace as we continue to help her plan for her family.

KINSHIP SERVICES HOSTS SPECIAL GRANDPARENT’S DAY CAREGIVERS BRUNCH

A special guest at our Kinship Caregiver’s Brunch, Commissioner Alison Blake of the New Jersey Department of Children & Families listens intently as Elettra Brown-Hare relates some of the challenges she has experienced as a legal guardian raising the child in her care since his birth 15 years ago. In addition to Commissioner Blake, several other local representatives who work with kin caregivers and twenty of our Kinship program participants attended the brunch at our Lawrence Kinship Services Office in September. It was a wonderful opportunity for our families to share their experiences and have an open dialogue with decision makers and service providers in our communities. Increasing the number of children living with their kin caregivers is a loving alternative to becoming part of the state foster care system. The New Jersey Department of Children & Families believes in keeping children with biological family members whenever possible and appropriate. CHS of NJ’s Kinship Services to assist these caregivers have been an important part of our program since 2000. Our professional staff is able to link the grandparents and caregivers to community resources and agency services that can assist them with their needs as caregivers of kin children. CHS of NJ is dedicated to providing continuing resources and support for these often elder relatives who are raising children for the second time in their lives.
REMEMBERING AL RAMSDELL  (cont. from page 2)

lives much emptier now. “At Mimi’s memorial service in 2007,” CHS of NJ President and CEO Donna Pressma recalls, “I looked around and saw family members and special friends who had come from all parts of the country to be there for her and for Al and their children. I remember feeling that Mimi was smiling down on us that day as we held and comforted each other. At Al’s memorial service last month, I had that same feeling again . . . except this time Al was with her, and they were holding hands together in Heaven and smiling down together as they saw their family and friends continue to gather to support and comfort each other and their children. It was just as they would have wanted and hoped we would continue to do.”

The board of directors and staff of The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey express sincere condolences to the Ramsdell family and to all who knew and loved Al and Mimi Ramsdell. Extraordinary parents, grandparents, great grandparents and caring friends, they will be fondly remembered and most sorely missed.

NEW MERCER WIC SATELLITE OFFICE AT HENRY J. AUSTIN HEALTH CENTER

On March 1, doors opened at the newest satellite office of our Mercer County WIC Program. Through a new collaboration between The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey and the Henry J. Austin Health Center in Trenton, more local WIC recipients will be able to make appointments closer to home. WIC serves eligible mothers, newborns and young children with food vouchers, nutrition education and breastfeeding resources and support. The new WIC space will be staffed on Fridays. Sharing space with the Henry J. Austin Health Center will allow WIC recipients to conveniently access more health and dental services which are also offered at the center.

An open house was hosted for the community on Thursday, March 7th with WIC and HJA staff on hand to explain available services and offer tours of the facility.

CHS OF NJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey is pleased to announce the appointment of Kimberly Whelan to its Board of Directors. A multiple winner of the Johnson & Johnson Global Standards of Leadership Award, Ms. Whelan has been employed by J&J since 1987 and is currently the Director of Marketing, Strategic Customer Group, for Johnson & Johnson Healthcare Systems in Titusville, NJ. Prior to that she served as the Institutional Director of the Strategic Customer Group at Centocor Ortho Biotech, Inc. in Horsham, PA. A resident of Newtown, PA, Ms. Whelan has a Bachelor of Arts degree in computer science and accounting from LaSalle University and is a Certified Public Accountant. Ms. Whelan said she joined the Board to try help make a difference for children at-risk.
RHODIA, INC.’S SENSATIONAL “CHEMISTRY CONNECTION®” INSPIRES OUR “POSITIVE IMPACT” TRENTON STUDENTS

In celebration of National Chemistry Week last October, employees from Rhodia, Inc., a leading manufacturer of specialty chemicals based in Cranbury, NJ, shared their passion for chemistry with the Trenton students in our Positive Impact after-school program through their “Chemistry Connection®” presentation at the Grace Dunn Middle School. After demonstrating the principles of chemistry found in everyday home products and applications, the Rhodia volunteers enlisted the assistance of student “scientists” in performing desk-top experiments using safe, common ingredients found in homes, classrooms, supermarkets and other everyday locations. The students were completely engrossed as they conducted the hands-on experiments, and the event was an exciting educational experience for them as well as “a ton of fun!”

CHS of NJ welcomes STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) volunteers from the corporate world. Society’s growing reliance on science in everyday life underscores the importance of science education and is why Rhodia brings Chemistry Connection® to middle schools. “Our quality of life depends on these inquisitive and imaginative minds,” explained one Rhodia volunteer, “and we want to do all we can to spark and encourage their scientific curiosity. Our volunteers said that the students did creative and remarkable things with their experiments. Showing students how chemistry improves our homes and our lives is one step toward developing the next generation of scientists.” Now in its seventeenth year, the program has been presented to more than 250,000 students nationwide.
You should have seen the big smiles and heard all the laughter when our children opened their gifts and discovered the toys and games they had wished for! Thanks to the kindness and generosity of many caring friends, hundreds of at-risk children and their families had a holiday season they never expected and won’t soon forget. We want to thank everyone who stopped by our Trenton office with “wish list” gifts they had brought for one or more of our boys and girls. We are especially grateful to the following individuals and groups who came with carloads (and sometimes truckloads) of wonderful presents:

AFEW
Silvia Ascarelli
Bank of America
Bank of Princeton
Berkely Accident & Health
Betteanne Bertrand
Kathy Bogdiewicz
Buffardi & Cascio
Cablevision
Capital Health
Chosen Generation Center
Nancy Columbia
George Coyle
Cycle Kings
Timothy Danley
David Brearley High School
Christine Delgado
Cheryl Delpome
Shannon Dumas
Dranetz
Dutchneck Presbyterian Church
Ken Dysart

East Amwell Township School
Karen Faiman
Fox Rothschild
Donna Funari
Gaben Family
Tammi Gallagher
GE Healthcare - Piscataway
GE Healthcare – Princeton
Laura Gilligan
Barbara Glowsarsky
Grace United Church of Christ
Tiffany Green
Patricia Guaracci
Harris Family
Aime Hawkins
Linda Hess
Janet Higgiens
Senia Hill
Barbara Honig
Hopewell Valley Golf Club
Mike Hubsher
Emily Huegler
Hunterdon Church
Hunterdon Co. Junior Leaders
Hunterdon Co. Quilting Guild
Hunterdon Hoppers 4-H Club
Incaronation-St. James Parish
Joann Jaremback
Johnson & Johnson
Joule
JoAnn Kerollis
Kltrazkin and Company
Amanda Kovacs
Lakeview Child Center
Sherri Laman
Marlene Lambert
Larison’s Corner Church
Risa Lemkin
Linden Bulk Transportation
Link Family
Local 172 - Laborers Union
Lt. Col. Peter Mahoney
Mercer Co. Corrections Officers
Arlene Miller
MMS Education
Mollo Family
Moms Club of Lawrenceville W.

Moms Club of Yardley
Munich Reinsurance America
Debra Nobile
Not So Silent Ranks
NovoNordisk
Office of the County Prosecutor
Our Lady of Sorrows School
Oxford Communications
Parker Ibrahim & Berg LLC
Princeton Day School
Princeton Social Professionals
Princeton University
Dept of Art & Archaeology
University Services
Woodrow Wilson School
Paul Reibel
Kristin Robinson
Melissa Ross
M/M Howard Rothman
Rue Insurance
Nicole Russano
Michelle Sabo
Gina Sampai
Gunnery Sgt. Jack Santelli
Savino Family
Solebury United Methodist Church
St. Gregory the Great Church
St. Mark Lutheran Church
Linda Schwartz
Pattijo Shafer
Janet Sprang
Stivala Family
Jerrod Suber
Susan and Chelsea Makara
Foundation
Sylvestor Family
TGI Friday
Thomas Edison State College
Three Bridges Reformed Church
Nakia Townsend
Trenton Fire Department
Villagers of Allentown
Voigtsberger Family
John Weeren & Kristin Turner
Wells Fargo
W. Trenton Presbyterian Church
THREE GENERATIONS OF ADOPTION: A MOTHER, AN ADOPTEE HERSELF, RETURNS TO VISIT AGENCY THAT MADE HER A MOM

When Florida resident Naomi DeHart decided to travel back home to New Jersey to visit with friends in Sergeantsville last summer, she was determined to make a stop at CHS of NJ a part of her journey. An adoptee herself, Mrs. DeHart and her husband Ralph had adopted a son through CHS of NJ many years before, and she was intent upon returning to the agency to share her family’s updated story with us. Last May, she wrote to us to say she would be coming. Once her plans were finalized, she called to set the time and date. On a beautiful morning last June, a very energetic Naomi DeHart and Harriet Fisher, her best friend of more than 50 years, arrived at our Trenton office just before noon to meet and have lunch with Donna Pressma, the agency’s President and CEO.

As they enjoyed lunch together, the women talked about the agency, its history in their lives, their children and adoption. Mrs. DeHart recalled how she and Ralph had met and married and how in 1965 they had adopted through our agency a 5-week-old boy they named Jeffrey. She spoke about Jeff’s childhood, his marriage (Harriet’s son had been the best man) and how Jeff and his wife, Alana, had adopted a beautiful daughter they named TerraJoy.

Mrs. DeHart then spoke about the life changes that had occurred since that time . . . how Jeff’s wife had given birth to a second daughter, Cassidy, thirteen months after they had adopted their first . . . how “her Ralph” had died in 2002 . . . and how Jeff and his family had eventually moved from Florida to North Carolina where they currently reside.

Now in her 80s and with two beautiful granddaughters on the brink of womanhood, Naomi DeHart reflected upon her life and what three generations of DeHarts had learned about adoption. She wanted us to understand that adoption is a life affirming gift of love that keeps on giving in her family. “When you love a child and you care for that child,” she smiled broadly, “that’s what makes that child yours – FOREVER!”

With Mrs. DeHart’s permission, we share with you the following pictures that she lovingly shared with us during her visit. Thank you, Naomi DeHart. Your wonderful photos say it all!

Your Golden Raffle voucher is inside! Complete the info on the enclosed voucher and send back to us TODAY or purchase your raffle tickets online at www.chsofnj.org!

You could win THOUSANDS of Dollars!

You just may be the winner! Don’t miss this fabulous opportunity!
2012-2013 “CHILDREN FIRST” GIVING CLUB ROSTER

We thank our Honor Roll Sponsors and our Annual Giving Club Donors whose gifts of $100 or more were received between June 1, 2012 and January 31, 2013 and given through United Way, baby bottle, internet, memorial or direct mail appeals.

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING DONORS FOR THEIR MOST GENEROUS FUNDING.

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Eight-year-old Isabella Llanes (center) with her younger sister Sophia (left) and friend Manon Ardell (right) sold lemon water ice last summer to raise funds to help adolescents girls. The girls raised a total of $40 which they donated to our SAFE program to provide assistance to teen moms and their babies.

With help from his father’s local Kiwanis Club, eight-year-old Christopher McCormick (far right), seen here with mom Debbie and 6-year-old brother Matthew, conducted a back-to-school drive that helped 22 of our children return to school last fall with beautiful new bookbags.

Barnegat third-grader Donovan Fraim spearheaded a toy drive in his class and filled more than six contractor type bags with new toys that he and his mom delivered to our Ocean office.

When his mom asked how we determine what families would receive toys, a staff member explained that we know which of our families have a limited income. The staff member went on to explain that all too often our moms ask for winter coats, or socks and underwear because they just can’t afford these things. Having listened carefully to the conversation, Donovan looked up at his mother and said, “Next year, we’ll get clothes, ok, Mom?” There wasn’t a dry eye left in the room! What a heart for a nine year old boy!
CONGRATULATIONS TO STAFF ON PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Our staff continues to gain knowledge and expertise so that it can better serve at-risk children and families. We are proud to announce that:

Aniela Brzoz, Lydia Colon, Socorro Garcia, Ashley Gonzalez, Nichelle Hill, Asia Johnson Martin, Geraldine Matosky, Susan O’leary, Yhermana Puello, Maritza Raimundi-Petroski, and Fatima Reynolds have successfully completed the National Fatherhood Initiative Training sponsored in part by the Division of Family and Community Partnerships;

Karen Fisher has been promoted to Child Care Worker II Trainer;

Liliana Gomez has been accepted to The College of New Jersey Early Childhood Development Master’s Degree Program;

Maureen Lawrence was chosen by the New Jersey Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies as the recipient of its 2012 Leadership Award;

Sara Lemig has been promoted to Program Administrator;

Marilyn Pantoja has been offered a 6-week internship at the United States Pentagon as she completes her coursework for a Master of Science in Nursing Administration (MSN). In this role, Ms. Pantoja will work directly with the Deputy Director of Population Health and Medical Management in the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense on health promotion and disease prevention efforts on a national level.

Deborah Pavan has been promoted to Child Care Worker I;

Yhermana Puello and Maritza Raimundi-Petroski successfully completed the Leadership Track of the Family Development Credential (FDC) Program offered through the Rutgers University, School of Social Work’s Institute for Families; Our WIC Program staff were recently featured and received recognition in the MARWIC Times from the Mid-Atlantic Region Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children for their National Breast Cancer Awareness Month event held at their Ewing site, and for their participation in the World Breastfeeding Week Celebration at Capital Health Medical Center.

Kelly Ryan. MS, CLC, WIC Program Administrator at the Children’s Home Society of NJ’s Mercer WIC Program will be a workshop presenter at the 2013 National WIC Association’s Annual Education and Networking Conference in Little Rock, AR. Kelly will be presenting along with Alissa Wilson, MPH, PhD, RD, Senior Principal Scientist at PepsiCo on the results of an innovative pilot project called Willow Comes to WIC. A one-year pilot program was designed to increase the usage of the vouchers, by reaching the parents through educating the children. Willow Comes to WIC are 15-minute lessons that provide fun, hands-on opportunities to interact with a wide variety of seasonal produce for children ages 2-5. The pilot was completed at the Children’s Home Society of New Jersey’s Mercer WIC Program clinic in central New Jersey, with a large Hispanic population.

CHS of NJ board member Marilyn Carroll (center) presents a check from the CHS of NJ Trenton Auxiliary to Board Chair Kati Chupa (left) and CHS of NJ President and CEO Donna Pressma (right). The $14,000 raised by one of their most successful “Brunch with Santa” events will support our Infant Foster Care program.

Our Trenton Auxiliary will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary next year. This dedicated and caring group of women have saved so many of our babies through their work with CHS of NJ.
CHS of NJ Vice President Cordelia Staton (second from left) accepts a $5,000 donation from the New Jersey Bankruptcy Lawyers Foundation (NJBLF), one of three grants made by the NJBLF at the end of 2012 to “give back” to the communities in which they work. Attending the presentation were (left to right) Bankruptcy Judge Katherine Ferguson, former CHS of NJ board member and NJBLF member Stacey Meisel, Bankruptcy Judge Michael Kaplan, and NJBLF Trustee Christine Gravelle. “Bankruptcy isn’t always an answer,” said Judge Kaplan. “Clients undergoing bankruptcy proceedings often fall behind and need assistance before they can make a fresh start.” Gravelle nodded in agreement. “We make the fresh start fresher,” she said.

William Rue, president of Rue Insurance, presents a $5,000 check from the Rue Foundation to CHS of NJ President and CEO Donna Pressma. The funds will be used where they are needed most as our families continue to recover from Hurricane Sandy.

National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors of Greater Philadelphia raises $11,600 for The Children’s Home Society of NJ’s Infant Foster Care Program which gives at-risk babies a loving start in life until they can be placed in their forever homes. Pictured left to right are: Jerry Redington (Rockland Financial Group), Ella DeAngelis (CHS of NJ), Tony Pettola (A.J. Pettola & Associates), Brian Dobisch (Dobisch Associates), Gary Armstrong (Gary Armstrong Insurance Agency), Denise Wentzler (CHS of NJ), and Archie Foor, (LMK Insurance).

Save the date for this year’s outing at Northampton Valley Country Club on Wednesday, September 18, 2013!

DONORS WHO HELP US SAVE LIVES

Scott Pashman from Church & Dwight presents a $10,000 contribution for our FACES program to immediate past chair Christine Côté, MD (left) and CHS of NJ Director of Behavioral Health Susan Paul (right). FACES provides comprehensive autism assessments, counseling and classroom consultations to Trenton parents and their children from birth through age six.
DONATIONS FROM THE HEART

We wish to thank the following donors for gifts received between June 1, 2012 and January 31, 2013 in honor or in memory of loved ones.

IN HONOR OF:

Jennifer
Thomas Kenoy

Joyce Aitken
Interchem Corporation

Dorothy Albert
M/M D. Walshingham

All Adoptive Parents
M/M Michael Kjetsaa

Baby Foster
Ann Breitman

Richard Bilotti
Carol & Barry Belt

Solomon Borowy
Scott & Elise Lasensky

Kathleen Brown
Carol Maier

Richard Bush
Susanna Manstein

Patricia Chiaveni & Larry Marcel
Donna Prusak

Amy Venable Chuffreda
Patricia Venable

Steve & Kat Chupa
M/M David Hood

Mallery Cohen
James & Randi Cohen

Susan DeSandre
Dorothy Croker

Lois Drake
Janine Baxter

Christopher Duggan
Angelina J. Duggan

Rachel Enderle
M/R M. Cummings

Dr. Mark Esser
Kathleen Priest-Esser

Family & Friends
M/M Joseph Bithell

Francis Family
M/M James Francis, St.

Marc Fineman
M/M Murray Fineeman

Jill Ann Flaccavento
Donna Mac Ondick

Mattan Glazer
Scott & Elise Lasensky

Michael Goodman
Karen Raskasky

Joan Gatsas
Margaret Schmidt

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David Hayde & Tracy LaRou

John & Mary Hegyi
Tim and Mary Hoh

Bill Herman & Laurie Navin
Leonard Feldman

Kaden Jordan
Bob & Bonnie Urey

Allysa & Sarah Kajan
Caroline Wilde

Angela Lawrence
M/M David Oiler

Nancy Longenecker
Richard Scott 
Robert Preahs

Ana Lopez
Janine Baxter

Al & Anna Mae Marinicas
Dann & Sara Marinicas

Kim McCarty
Janine Baxter

Evan Morrison
MarieEllen Minton

Rebin West Morrow
Leonard and Joan West

My Children
Jennifer Yousko

My Children & Grandchildren
Phyllis LaGreca

Glenn Nied
Richard Nied

Amy Nienick
Marjorie Nienick

Christina Oiler
Mary Oiler

Jeremy Oiler
Mary Oiler

Sharon Osborne
Virginia Root

Jackie Oui
Danny & Sara Marinicas

Our Five Grandchildren
Joyce & Thomas Fritz

Teresa Papp
Bentysue Charkhoff

Patric Family
Dorothy Croker

Ted & Florence Paric
Dorothy C. Brown

Susanna Pavitova
M/M R. Cummings

Ian Frederick Pearson
Dr. Gayle Pearson

James People
Marie & Frank Turi

Donna Presmane
Naomi DeHart 
Nancy Robb
John Sheely & Sherry Caplan

Nico, Gianna, Marco
and Sofia Pulisni
Alice Pulisni

William Joseph Raenke
M/M Arthur Raenke

Jean Rahak
Angie Boyer

Rick Ramney
M/M William Higham

Valerie & Justin Romaniak
Mark & Rose Romaniak

Peter & Vanessa Rumer
Ray Rumer

Jason & Ashley Sanders
Linda & William Lieb

Lauren B. Schiffman
M/M Alan Schiffman

Erin Sheldon
Mrs. Robert L. Crozer

Jessie M. Spence
Josephine M. White

Tollgate School Teachers: Pam
Weitz, Bernadette Furlong, Carol
Jabola, Ma-Ray
Holly Jones

Janares Treuwig
Joanne Treuwig

Mark Venable
Patricia Venable

Helga Unkeless
Carly Asch

Virginia Grace Wallick
M/M Joseph Steinmetz

Donald J. Weener
John Weener & Kristen Turner

“Gideon” William Whited
M/M Joseph Steinmetz

IN MEMORY OF:

Ignatius Angiello
Linda Rizzo & Family

Aunt “Bunny”
Dorothy C. Brown

Carolyn Bacher
Joel Bacher

Jean Belding
Jay and Barbara Belding

Lillian & John Billig
Nancy & Frank Pollicino

Robert L. Bland
Pamela Bland

John and Edna Blicharz
Eugene Blicharz

Eugene Bobko
Evelyn Bobko

M/M Kenneth Bedine
Robert & Judith Bird

Midge & Ted Bolz
Holly Bolz

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Tony Belcher

M/M Robert Blekicki
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Kristin Orlando
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James & Carol Pandoli
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Eugene Burby
Angeline C. Burby

Margery Bush
Constance Freer
Rabbi David & Deborah
Glamborg-Krannin
M/M Jeffrey Goodion
Steve and Marra Griffith
Alan & Gail Keim
M/M M. Kransenstein
Alma Leadbeater
Levin Family
Judith Lipshutz
Marcy Plaum
Ann Rainey
Betsy Tabas

Wynona Caputo
M/M Lawrence Colburn

Bea Carlson
James Temple

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Virginia Chafey

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Audrey Clark

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Holly Bolz

Bill Herman
Leonard Feldman

Bette Hutchinsen Ela
Al & Martha Ela

Gladys Johnson
Margaret Schmidt

Nancy Susan Kaplan
Herbert & Doris Kaplan
The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey will be “Celebrating Decades of Champions” at its 119th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, April 27th. Chaired once again by board member Carol Meta Stretch, our Gala will be held this year at the Hyatt Regency in Princeton, NJ.

CHS of NJ is proud to be honoring Capital Health with our prestigious 2013 “Champion of Children” award. The purpose of our anniversary gala is to raise critical funds to sustain our programs and services for the abused, neglected and at-risk children of our communities. To make a reservation for this special evening, or for information about how you can make a difference in the life of a child by participating in our Gala, please contact Denise Wentzler at 609-695-6274 ext. 153 or via email at dwentzler@chsofnj.org.

Note: Purchase tickets for our 50/50 Gala Raffle by filling out and mailing the enclosed golden voucher today. All prizes based on total ticket sales and winners need not be present to win.

OUR 119TH ANNIVERSARY GALA CELEBRATION IS HAPPENING APRIL 27TH!
Family Fun Night in February got our TEDI kids and their families dancing together. The fun-filled evening had everyone’s energy up and was a great way to share what they’ve been learning!

Earlier this year, 32 members of the TEDI Celebration Team were invited to perform for a team of Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. international executives at a conference in Philadelphia. Paired with groups of corporate leaders, our students were tasked with the special leadership opportunity to teach the executives a TEDI signature dance sequence and to design a costume for the dance routine. The room was filled with high-energy and creative juices were flowing until it was time to leave. Each of our participating dancers was thanked for their efforts and presented with an iPad of their own. How thrilled they were! Giant thanks to Kimberly Whelan for inviting our TEDI troupe to be a part of this exciting event and making this inspiring afternoon possible!

The TEDI troupe has been invited to dance at the Trenton Board of Education meetings on April 22 and May 16 and will perform at the Trenton War Memorial for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen’s 30th Anniversary Souperfest on April 20th. Also mark your calendar for the fabulous End of Year Event on Thursday evening, May 23 at the Hedgepeth/Williams School auditorium. Come and support our TEDI dancers and watch them move to beats from music legends as they present What’s The Scoop!