WE VALUE YOUR SUPPORT

Our Values:
The Foundation for Saving Children’s Lives and Building Healthy Families

ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003
our theme for this annual report is our steadfast focus on values and ethics. We believe it is what makes our CHS of NJ services work and why we have kept your dedicated support over the years. We know that the one certainty about the next year is that our world is uncertain. We live in volatile times. Change is happening at a rapid pace; resources are no longer predictable. Yet we have babies to care for and for whom we must find loving, permanent families. We have school-aged children we need to keep on track, out of trouble and learning. We have young mothers and fathers who want to be the best parents they can be. How are we preparing for the challenges ahead? We are recommitting ourselves to our core mission and values; we are partnering with others; we are passionately speaking out to advocate for our children’s unmet needs; we are using technology to do our work faster, more efficiently and more effectively.

Our professionally trained and well-supervised staff conveys our values of caring and our belief in the goodness and strength that exists in each child and parent, no matter what their problems. Our clients know that they come first and are respected; they know we will listen to them and help them to achieve what they feel is important. We work from our client’s strengths. We give our dedicated staff year-round training and we send many of them back to graduate school for courses to gain added advanced knowledge and/or a master’s degree. We have promoted and will continue to promote many of our qualified staff to higher positions.

Because a child’s brain is 90 percent developed by the age of three, everything we help parents do for their newborn, toddler or preschooler in these first three years of life is critical to their child’s health, their learning ability and their emotional ability to form loving and lasting relationships. We work with Merrill Lynch volunteers to ensure that our very young children can read and that their parents become their best teachers at home. We work with our corporate partners like Johnson & Johnson and Janssen Pharmaceutica Products L.P. to ensure respite/time out and emergency counseling is available for families under stress. We work with the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services and with Educational Testing Service as partners in supportive services that protect children and put the cause of children in front of the community.

We are forming more partnerships with other effective institutions and organizations because we know that together we can accomplish results that none of us can do as well alone. For example, there are tremendous unmet needs in growing Latino communities. We have teamed up with the Capital Health System, the Henry J. Austin Community Health Care Center and the Puerto Rican Community Day Care in providing CUNA (pre- and post-natal) services because all of us want to more effectively serve young Latino parents and help assure their babies have healthy births and the stimulation of good parenting.

The faith-based community is a magnificent resource trusted by many families in our service areas. We work with Shiloh Baptist Church and many other churches in faith-based partnerships to

“Be ashamed to die before you win some victory for humanity.”

– Horace Mann

Robert Teweles, Chairman, Board of Directors
ensure that we truly reach more families who may not know of our supportive services but would use them.

We believe our loving foster parents are the reasons our babies thrive and succeed. We believe our caring auxiliaries and our growing legions of volunteers will ensure the resources are there for the next child in need. We believe our committed, knowledgeable board is the reason we can grow and continue to meet our advocacy goals to guide the agency, attract resources and design services that work.

We are developing added capacity to cultivate funding and resources that are critical to our survival and growth. Our endowment must grow as it protects our ability to provide services that work. We have restructured our operations, board functioning and policies and added advocacy goals to better prepare the agency for future growth and successful services. Most importantly, we continue to evaluate everything we do. If the outcome proves our service works, we do more; if it doesn’t work, we alter that service or close it.

We monitor our functioning in all ways and we hold ourselves to the highest standards of practice by being accredited by the National Council on Accreditation of Child and Family Service Agencies. We train our staff based on the Child Welfare League of America’s best practice standards. Our reports are publicly available for review as we believe transparency ensures the continuation of our good practices and your faith in us. Thank you for being there with your loyal support for our children.

Donna C. Pressma, President & CEO, reading to a child.

Our Mission

Since 1894, The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey has made a passionate commitment to meet the needs of infants, children and youth. Our mission is to provide at-risk children and their families with a range of social services that strengthen, support and empower them to achieve their fullest potential and become productive members of society. Our philosophy is to give children and parents the skills and knowledge they need to help themselves long after our active case involvement has ended.
The Domzalskis

"I was born on August 4, 1979, and my ‘special day’ [her adoption day] is September 10th. I have a brother, Stais, who was also adopted through The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey. I have been fortunate to have such caring and supportive parents who contributed to my character and encouraged my love of learning and music.

Education has always been important to my family, and with their help, I graduated from Westminster Choir College of Rider University with a BA in music. Piano was my primary instrument. I also enjoyed being a part of the choirs at Westminster, and I have performed with the Westminster Symphonic Choir in Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, and Liberty State Park, where we sang Verdi’s Requiem in memory of the September 11th tragedy. My goal is to work in arts administration in the area of public relations/marketing or special events. I completed an internship at Opera Festival of New Jersey. I also worked as the Special Events Intern at CHS of NJ. It was very rewarding to work there because of my personal connection to the agency and my belief in its mission.”

Meredith Domzalski

I have been fortunate to have such caring parents.”
– Meredith Domzalski
The Ramsdells

Mimi and Al Ramsdell are two remarkable people. They have built a loving family through CHS of NJ, and today they help other children find caring parents through their generosity to the agency. Mimi has recorded the adventures and growth of their family in a remarkable 100-page handwritten journal, “The Romance of Al and Mimi Ramsdell.” The journal, a collection of their memories and photos, tells the story of “romance and the building of the family of Al and Mimi Ramsdell” and goes on to describe how they set about establishing the next generation of the Ramsdell family.

Mimi told us that when people learn of their adoption history they often say, “That was a wonderful thing you did – those kids were so lucky.” Her response is, “We gained much more than the children, since they would undoubtedly have been adopted – but without them, our lives would have been empty.”

“We were privileged,” said Al, “to adopt four babies from The Children’s Home Society and are delighted to be able to contribute financially today so that other parents may share the joy of adoption. Children and grandchildren are the future, and we need to nurture them, be examples for them, and let them know that we are always there for them.

The security that a loving, stable family provides is the foundation of a successful life. Our parents and friends supported us in our adoptions. They knew what we knew: that adoption is very special.”

▲ The Ramsdell Family. Al (second from left) and Mimi (fourth from left) Ramsdell built a family through adoption. Here are the Ramsdell’s children and the dates they were adopted. From left: Christy (12/5/51), Richard (12/13/48), Terry (1/30/47), Mark, (3/8/56), and Rebecca Ching. Carol is not shown in the photo.

▲ Al and Mimi Ramsdell: Two very special people who adopted five children, four of them through CHS of NJ.
Children’s Futures - Partnership that improves child health

In 2002 the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation gave Trenton a $20 million Children’s Futures grant for five years. In April 2003, our Children’s Futures Parent/Child Center North opened its doors to the community. We are one of four centers funded by Children’s Futures.

Our Trenton north ward center is dedicated to providing services that give pregnant and parenting mothers and their children a healthy start together and improve the children’s health and development. The center offers home-visiting services for families, parent support groups, computer literacy and family literacy programs. A unique feature of the center is that it is truly a collaborative effort by the following community partners: Capital Health System, Capital Corridor Community Development Corp., Community Innovations, Henry J. Austin Health Center, Puerto Rican Community Day Care Center, Trenton Board of Education, and The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey (managing agency). Children’s Futures has city-wide partners: Mercer Street Friends, St. Francis Hospital and Catholic Charities with similar centers in the south, east, and west wards of Trenton.

The power of foster parenting

Judy Garrison, president of CHS of NJ’s Foster Parent Club and a foster mother to 87 CHS of NJ infants, gave a speech at last year’s Foster Parent Dinner, an event we hold to honor these special people. Here is an excerpt from her talk:

“When a foster family loves and cares for a newborn child for sometimes a year or more, it is extremely difficult to let that child go – it makes you question even more why you continue to do this. But you have to stop and remember that it 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.”
A unique young mom walked into CHS of NJ’s Ocean County office for help with child care. That first step led to one good step after another. The name of the person is changed, but the story is true.

Makesha Hayworth, a Work First New Jersey participant, came to CHS of NJ for help in obtaining child care while she attended Job Search, a WFNJ pre-employment activity. She had a three year old daughter, an 11 year old son, no transportation and no job skills or training. Her only source of income was watching neighborhood children while their parents worked.

During a search for her own child care, she took a big chance and decided to ask about employment at one of the child care centers to which we referred her. She loved working with children and had an enthusiastic, caring and nurturing demeanor. Not only was she offered a position, but there was also a vacancy for her daughter, and she received a discount rate. Her son attends day camp at the YMCA and is signed up for Y-Kids After School where she plans on participating in a Counselor In Training program next summer.

Makesha has decided to use her love for children as a basis for a career and attends child care provider training classes offered by CHS of NJ. She is one of the best students in the class! Makesha is pursuing financial assistance for obtaining a Child Development Associate degree and dreams of one day owning her own child care center. Given her renewed confidence, enthusiasm and motivation, that is a dream we believe she will achieve.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey is pleased to accept gifts in the following forms:

- Cash and/or negotiable securities
- Gifts of insurance, providing that the policy be fully paid-up and that The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey becomes the owner and sole beneficiary
- Planned gift or a bequest
- Real estate or other tangible property

All gifts to The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey are fully tax deductible and may offer the donor substantial tax benefits. We will be happy to work with donors and their legal and financial advisors to develop gift-planning opportunities that meet the needs of the donor.

For further information, please contact the Funds Development Office at (609) 695-6274 extension 161 or visit our website at www.chsofnj.org to make an online donation.
WE VALUE...

THE FINANCIAL FIGURES

June 1, 2002 to May 31, 2003

The June 1, 2002 to May 31, 2003 operating budget of The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey relies on funding from dual sources: public grants and private contributions, with a major portion of the budget coming from a collaborative partnership with several New Jersey state agencies. Although the funds CHS of NJ receives from these state grants are critical, for most grants the organization must add its own unrestricted dollars in order to provide the quality and intensity of social services that are imperative to changing the lives of the clients.

A copy of the latest audit by J.H. Cohn, Independent Certified Public Accountants, is on file at the agency’s office. The Children’s Home Society of NJ’s investment advisor is T. Rowe Price Associates.
WHO WE SERVED IN 2002-2003
Services to children and families

- **Child Welfare Services**
  - Foster care: children 26
  - Extended Family Care: teens & their babies 19
  - Pregnant Adolescent Treatment Homes: teens 16
  - Adoption: children placed in homes 36
  - Adoption: children under CHS of NJ supervision 95
  - Adoption: services for families 114
  - Court-ordered adoption investigations 56
  - Intensive Services: at-risk children & families 91
  - Family Group Conferencing 30
  - Kinship Navigator/Guardianship 747
  - Division of Youth & Family Services:
    - Foster Home services 1324
    - Behavioral Health: children observed and assessed 93
    - Behavioral Health: children receiving counseling 64

- **Clinical Services**
  - Post-Adoption Counseling services for families 345
  - Child & Family Counseling for families 2
  - Birth Parent Counseling 65
  - Childhood Separation & Loss for children and families 92

- **Early Childhood and Education Services**
  - Child Care Programs (Ocean County)
    - Work First New Jersey 976
    - New Jersey Cares for Kids Certificates 1207
  - FACES
    - Fun with Books and Music 157
    - Parent Education: families 259

- **School-based Services**
  - Kids Intervention with Kids in School 642
  - Holland Middle School/Trenton School District 44
  - Slackwood School Extended Day Program for Slavic Speaking Students/Lawrence School District 40

- **Community/Neighborhood-based Services**
  - CUNA (Latino pre- and post-natal parenting program) 50
  - Respite Services for Families in crisis 20
  - Family Resource Center (Trenton/West Ward) 390
WE VALUE...
OUR CHILDREN
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**Reverend Darrell L. Armstrong**, Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Trenton. A recognized teacher, preacher, writer, workshop facilitator, radio host and motivational speaker, he is considered a national leader in child welfare issues, particularly foster care and faith-based community development, and is founder/chair of the National Association of Foster Children. He lives in Ewing Township with his wife, the former Melanie Pinkney, Esq.

**Dr. Christine Côté**, Vice President, Medical Affairs and a Member of the Management Board of Janssen Pharmaceutica where she sets strategic direction and manages the Medical Affairs Division in concert with Janssen’s strategic objectives and the growth plans for the Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical group. She attended Manchester University in England, the University of Toronto School of Graduate Studies and, most recently, the College of Family Physicians of Canada. She lives in Skillman with her daughter Monique.

**William A. Godfrey**, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Dow Jones & Company. Previously, he was Senior Vice President of Information Technology Services at Hartford Life, Inc. and a member of the company’s senior leadership team. He received a bachelor of business administration from the University of Massachusetts. He lives in Princeton with his wife Christine and son Conor.

**James A. Graham**, Assistant Professor of Psychology at The College of New Jersey. He received his Ph.D and M.S. from the University of Memphis and his B.A. from Miami University in Ohio. His teaching interests include child development, developmental psychology, social and personality development, black psychology, and peer relationships and friendships. He lives in Edison.

**Harold L. Loew**, founder of H.L. Loew Associates, independent consultants with headquarters in Princeton, NJ. He is now retired. He specialized in organization and human resource development by designing and implementing productivity improvement projects and improving work life, quality assurance and participative leadership. He graduated with a B.S. M.E. from Technicum Winterthus in Switzerland and has an M.B.A. from the City University of New York. He lives in Princeton.

**Vivian B. Shapiro**, a Professor Emeritus of University of Michigan, School of Social Work, she has a private clinical practice as a Consultant and Development Specialist. Her academic appointments are from Fordham University, Mount Sinai Medical School and the University of Michigan where she served as a professor, lecturer, and senior social worker. A nationally recognized researcher and author of numerous child welfare and early childhood development publications, she lives in Princeton with her husband Harold, a retired president of Princeton University.
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