Helping Children and Families Succeed Since 1894.

Annual Report 2007-2008
Upon our children, how they are taught, rests the fate or fortune of tomorrow's world.

~B C Forbes

OUR MISSION AND VISION

The mission of The Children's Home Society of New Jersey is to save children’s lives and build healthy families. We provide at-risk children and their families with a range of culturally sensitive social services that strengthen, support and empower them to achieve their fullest potential and become productive members of society. Our goal is to give children and parents the skills and knowledge they need to help themselves long after our active case involvement has ended. We evaluate everything we do. If it doesn’t work and we can’t improve it, we stop doing it.
“Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the ONLY thing.” - Albert Schweitzer

In these unpredictable and challenging times, we have a choice, each of us. We can either be overwhelmed or depressed by current events... OR we can stay focused on what we can do; what we can do for our children and grandchildren at home and for the children at our agency to ensure that they have love, safety and all the family support and community services they need to become successful adults.

We know what works and how to do this so children and parents can succeed. We want to influence you to join us and to be positive and upbeat because we know it is the key to successfully dealing with so much change.

We know how to help new parents give their babies and toddlers a sense of love, security and thus emotional well-being. We know how to help parents stimulate their babies’ fast developing brains with words and music and storybooks so they will be ready to be good learners by age 3. We know that a child’s brain is 90% fully-wired by age 3 and what is missing in most American literacy programs is the critical underpinning of emotional and social well-being. John Bowlby, MD, understood this in the mid 50s and 60s but it’s been lost on research shelves – the critical importance of loving, bonding and attachment to one constant, loving caretaker: Mom, Dad, Grandma, Foster Mom. Our preventive parenting programs help parents understand this and gives them the skills to be their child’s first and best teacher.

We know how important it is for middle school students in 5th through 8th grades to be guided in positive peer groups with slightly older peer leaders setting examples of healthy good decision-making. Our teenage peer leaders are role models in caring about diverse peers, role models doing community services to help others in their school or in their neighborhoods, role models to support peaceful resolution of conflicts among fellow students, and role models to good decision making about drug and alcohol use.

We know how to help birth parents make thoughtful, important decisions – whether they feel they can keep and raise their babies safely and lovingly or whether they want us to find loving adoptive parents for their babies. We build wonderful adoptive families when that is the right decision.

We know how to help very stressed parents carry out their successful family reunification plans to regain and strengthen their ability to safely parent their young children who were temporarily removed from them due to abuse or neglect.

We know how to offer effective early childhood parenting education and we offer programs to insure quality low-cost early childcare services to support parents to be successful moms and dads despite the pressures and demands on their lives.

We know how to counsel children and parents who have experienced grief, trauma, losses or changes in life that would overwhelm any one of us. We help our traumatized children to regain the ability to trust, to love and to survive.

HELP US BE THAT POSITIVE EXAMPLE THAT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Help us lead others in the community to see what CAN be done for vulnerable children and parents even in a difficult climate of big change and awesome challenges. We need you to stay with us and support us so that the coming year will be as remarkable and effective as the past year highlighted in this report. Please enjoy our Annual Report.

Donna C. Pressma, President & CEO, Rosalind Hunt Doctor, PhD, Outgoing Chair

Board of Directors
WE HELP CHILDREN SUCCEED IN LIFE THROUGH QUALITY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Children do best in an environment where they feel nurtured, secure and loved. Because we strongly believe there is a loving family for every child in our care, we have developed a wide array of programs and services to strengthen biological families or to find those “forever” families for our babies and children.

Child Welfare/Permanency (2007-08)
3,777 children and adults benefited from our services

- Domestic and International Adoption
  (Includes: Home Studies, Placements, Supervision, Court-Appointed Adoption Complaint Investigations)
- Infant Foster Care
  (Includes: border babies and “medically fragile” children)
- Family and Group Counseling
- Family Team Meetings
- Kinship Support Services
- Intensive Services for abused and neglected children and parents

In New Jersey…

“…of the 12,042 children in DYFS out-of-home care in 2005, 5,446 were waiting to be adopted. The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey helped thousands of these DYFS children be released for adoption. The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey also found loving parents and permanent adoptive homes for 28 of its infants last year.”

– Child Welfare League of America
NOT KNOWING MY MOTHER

Not knowing my mother made it hard to see
All the pain and the hurt inside of me
The laughs and the love I wanted to give
Were very hard for me because I didn’t know how to forgive
The wall that I put up for so many years
Just made life more difficult and my eyes filled with tears
To know that you loved me and never would leave
Was a vision in my mind that I always did dream
To feel your comfort and see that you are there
To know no matter what you always did care
But now that I know you what a gift to me
To finally see what real love could be
I thank God every day for you coming into my life
For making a change without having to think twice
And I pray that you’ll stay and never leave again
Because without having a mother is like a child without any friends

Love,

Laniece

(Note: Laniece is a young mom in our SAFE parenting teen foster care program. After spending most of her life in DYFS foster homes, she and her birth mother recently chose to reunite and are now in the process of re-establishing their relationship. Laniece is preparing to transition to independence and to support and raise her son.)

CLINICAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (2007-08)
1,378 children and adults benefited from our services

We offer individual and family counseling to children impacted by unplanned pregnancies, foster home placements, trauma or the loss of loved ones. We also provide short-term, in-home counseling for adoptive families with children demonstrating post-adoption emotional or behavioral problems.

- Birth Parent Counseling
- SAFE Program
  (Foster care and support for teen moms and their babies)
- Post Adoption Services
  (Includes: Counseling, Background Reports for Adult Adoptees, Searches & Reunions, Behavioral Supports for Adoptive Families)
- Grief, Separation and Loss Counseling
- FACES – Families and Children Enhancing Emotional Success
  (Includes: Child Therapy, Autism Assessment and Case Management Services, Family Counseling, Teacher Consultation, Parent Support Groups)

In New Jersey…
…53,859 grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren in 2006 (US Census). Today, there are more than 100,000 loving New Jersey grandparents taking on this role.
Through our Ocean County office we recruit, train and supervise child care providers and assist parents in selecting providers who best meet their childcare needs and the needs of their children.

In addition, we provide technical assistance, referrals, early childhood education services and childcare subsidy programs for eligible welfare participants and low-income families living in Ocean County.

- Work First NJ Child Care Subsidy
- NJ Cares for Kids Child Care Subsidy
- Family Child Care Registration
- Kinship Child Care
- Special Needs Family Child Care & Respite Care Network
- Strengthening Families through Early Care Education
- Helping Caring Families
- Family Reunification
- Professional Development/Training

In New Jersey…
…to be eligible for subsidized childcare in 2007 a family of three must make no more than $33,200 (the equivalent to 44% of the state’s median income). In 2005, New Jersey subsidized monthly child care for approximately 37,800 children. In 2007, there were 4,600 eligible children on the child care statewide waiting list.
We conduct two youth development and primary prevention programs in local Mercer County schools. “NJ After 3 – Positive Impact” offers Trenton middle school students a positive alternative to gang involvement and a chance to participate in after school drama and dance classes, academic tutoring, photography, sports, games and other recreational activities.

Through KIKS (Kids Intervention with Kids in School), our youth development school day program in Trenton, Princeton and Cranbury, students learn good decision-making skills and constructive ways to handle stress, anger and negative peer pressure. These life skills help them “stay on track” and prevent substance abuse, premature sexual behavior, bullying, teen violence and other self-destructive behaviors. KIKS won national recognition in 2001 for being one of the most promising and effective model youth prevention programs in the nation.

30 of our KIKS students raised a total of $1,800 in support of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society’s annual MS Walk by making the five-mile trip from their school to Griffith Electric and back. Pictured above with our KIKS students is CHS of NJ Board Vice President of Community Relations Meta Griffith (center), owner of Griffith Electric, the local sponsor of the event. Meta Griffith was honored at our 2007 Gala for her remarkable lifetime support of our babies and school-aged youth.

In New Jersey…

…An estimated 63,000 children aged 12-17 were dependent on or abusing drugs or alcohol in 2005, the date of the latest report.

– The Centers of Disease Control
When a widowed mother of five needed emergency hospitalization because of out-of-control mental health and substance abuse issues that made her a danger to herself and her children, DYFS had to consider placing her four younger children in separate foster homes in different parts of the state. The oldest child, a 22-year-old waitress who was already living independently, wanted to care for her siblings herself, but she had no way of meeting their basic needs until the state could legally help her take over the family’s living expenses two months later. Although all of the children, scared for their mom’s well-being and their own, desperately wanted to remain together, there appeared to be no chance for that to happen. No other options seemed available to them but to be separated.

“I prayed to God that someone would care enough to help. This must be God answering my prayers,” the oldest daughter softly responded with tears of happiness in her eyes when we told her CHS of NJ could help keep her and her siblings together.

We had learned of the children’s situation from their DYFS case-worker in one of our family team planning meetings just a few hours before they were to be moved. Thanks to the wonderful, spontaneous generosity of our caring board, we were able to keep all five children together and temporarily help them when no one else could. We made sure they had food on their table and we replaced their very old, ill-fitting clothing with new clothes they could wear to school. We took the four youngest girls to a beauty parlor to have their hair done so they would no longer be teased and embarrassed by their appearance. We arranged for the family to have immediate supportive counseling.

Today, the children remain together with their older sister in charge. They are back in school and two are currently on the honor roll. Mom is on the road to recovery and will resume her parenting role at home in the not too distant future. Meanwhile, the oldest sister has found a much better paying job that will enable her to better meet the family’s expenses and keep the children together until their mother returns.

In New Jersey...

...In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment was $1,103 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was $21.21 per hour working a 40-hour week. – National Low Income Housing Coalition
COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES (2007-08)
1,723 children and adults benefited from our services

In collaboration with Children’s Futures, the State of New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Capital Health System and other community partners, we offer culturally sensitive support and health programs for improving birth outcomes, strengthening parenting skills and improving early child literacy and readiness to learn.

At our two Family Success Parent Child Centers in Trenton’s North and South Wards, we provide the on-site support and resources parents say they need to raise happy, healthy and productive children. Both centers offer FACES, our mental health assessment and counseling program for families with children from birth to age six. FACES identifies and removes or reduces emotional issues as barriers to learning so the children are better able to learn when they enter school. Both centers also include expanded CUNA pre-natal and post-natal parenting and support services for Spanish speaking families.

North & South Parent/Child Family Success Center Programs:

- “Mommy and Me” (for mothers and young children)
- “Music Together” (moms/dads and children attend together)
- “Fun with Books and Music” (moms/dads and children attend together)
- FACES (mental health assessment and counseling)
- Home Visiting Services (we visit families in their homes)
- “Lunch Bunch” (a support group for mothers)
- BPA (Bilingual Parenting Academy)

CUNA (Latino pre- and post-natal parenting programs):

- CUNA classes (for expectant or new mothers and fathers)
- MAYA Program (for mothers who have completed CUNA classes and wish to serve as mentors)
- Safety Education Workshops (for parents and older children)
- BURP parenting program (for parents and very young children)

In New Jersey…

…although the state’s total population has grown by only 1% since 2000, the Latino population has grown by 22%. One in seven of New Jersey’s current 8.5 million residents is Latino.
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María Otter, Capital Health System
Jason Salvatore, Mercer County Sheriff’s Office
Yolanda Sweney, PNC Bank
Leonor Tapia, Planned Parenthood & Mercer County Ecuadorian Assoc.
The operating budget of The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey relies on funding from government 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 we receive from these state grants are critical, we must add our own unrestricted private dollars to most grants in order to provide the quality and the intensity of services that are critical to changing the lives of our clients and producing successful outcomes.

### PROGRAM INCOME AND EXPENSES, JUNE 1, 2007 THRU MAY 31, 2008

#### WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Contracts</td>
<td>$15,955,473</td>
<td>88.28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations, Fundraising, Auxiliaries</td>
<td>$ 1,148,154</td>
<td>6.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Dividends and Interest</td>
<td>$ 499,813</td>
<td>2.77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Subsidy</td>
<td>$ 264,523</td>
<td>1.46%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Client Service Fees</td>
<td>$ 203,649</td>
<td>1.13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$  1,650</td>
<td>.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>$18,073,262</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
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#### WHERE THE MONEY GOES TO HELP:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood</td>
<td>$11,100,954</td>
<td>61.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanency Planning</td>
<td>$ 3,873,057</td>
<td>21.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Health/Mental Health</td>
<td>$ 1,195,437</td>
<td>6.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Services</td>
<td>$  771,764</td>
<td>4.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General &amp; Administration and Fund Raising</td>
<td>$  676,687</td>
<td>3.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-based services</td>
<td>$  455,363</td>
<td>2.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>$18,073,262</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
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**NOTE:** By COA standards, general administration and fundraising costs of 8% reflect a fiscally responsible and well managed organization. We are proud to report our G&A and fundraising expenses are 3.74%, well under the national standard.

A copy of the latest audit by J.H. Cohn, Independent Certified Public Accountants, is on file at the agency’s Trenton office. The investment advisor for The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey is T. Rowe Price Associates.
Send a Hug and Help a Child for only $100

All proceeds go to our direct services that save children’s lives and build healthy families.

Sending a Hug is Easy!

a Simply send a check in the enclosed envelope and check off the “Hugs” box
or

a Go to our website at www.chsofnj.org and click on “Send a Hug” to donate through our secure server with a credit card.

When you send a loving hug to a child, you will be supporting our largest fundraising event of the year that directly supports our babies, children and families through the 115th Annual Hugs and Kisses Gala

May 2, 2009
Trenton Country Club

Our goal is to raise $10,000 through this special campaign as part of the overall gala goal of $100,000.

Please help us today!

Check our website often as we display the results weekly.

For more information about gala sponsorships, tickets or advertising opportunities, please contact Colleen Gehring at (609) 695-6274, ext. 153 or colleeng@chsofnj.org

When you send a hug for $100, we will proudly display your name as one of our Hugs and Kisses sponsors at the gala event. You will also receive a special Thank You “Hugs and Kisses” Certificate suitable for framing.

Send your hug today!

Official Hug Certificate

Your Name Here

I sent a hug today. I helped build a healthy family today because I helped save a child’s life.

I sent a hug today.

www.chsofnj.org
Support our 2008 Little Red Stocking Campaign

For almost 100 years, The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey has used the “little red stocking” as a symbol of need and giving during the holiday season. Originally, the stockings were made of heavy red paper and had slots for the insertion of a check or cash donation. Donors often returned their gifts in person. In later years, our paper red stockings were used as holiday decorations by donors who chose to mail their contributions.

Today, our “Red Stocking Appeal” is the agency’s primary fundraising drive of the year and donations are usually made by mail, phone or through the internet. Monies raised are used to support our infant foster care program, adoption services, birth parent and family counseling, child abuse and neglect prevention services, school based youth development programs … and so much more!

This year’s “Red Stocking” drive begins on December 1st with a goal of $80,000. Due to the economic times we are in, our needs are extraordinary. Check our website to read about Isabella’s story. And if you haven’t yet made your “Red Stocking” contribution, please consider doing it now by sending your check in the enclosed envelope and checking off “Red Stocking” or visiting our website at www.chsofnj.org to donate through our secure server with your credit card.

Please contact Betty at (609) 695-6274 x 161 or bbohlert@chsofnj.org with any questions.

Please donate today!

a Simply send a check in the enclosed envelope and check off the “Red Stocking” box

or

a Go to our website at www.chsofnj.org and click on “Red Stocking” to donate through our secure server with a credit card

When you click and purchase products at Amazon.com and Endless.com Shoes and Handbags through www.chsofnj.org, The Children’s Home Society receives a direct donation. Please shop now!
We gratefully thank you, our wonderful donors, for contributions received between June 1, 2007 and May 31, 2008. Your gifts made it possible for us to provide needed services for our children.
WAYS TO GIVE: HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR CHILDREN SUCCEED

Voluntary donations to The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey fund a wide variety of services that make it possible for at-risk infants and young children living in New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania to succeed in life and become productive members of society. Through your gift today, you will help to ensure the availability of these services in the future and give more children the chance to reach their full potential.

Please visit us on the internet at www.chsofnj.org or contact us at (609) 695-6274 ext. 161 to make a gift or to learn more about these ways to give.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>INDIVIDUAL GIFTS</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We appreciate and acknowledge every contribution, regardless of size. Voluntary donations received from concerned and caring friends fund adoptions, infant foster care and other services that save and change children’s lives. If you wish, you may use your VISA, Mastercard or American Express credit cards to make a gift by phone, mail, or through the internet.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>SPECIAL EVENTS</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Attending and participating in a special event is a way you can have fun while supporting programs that are saving and changing children’s lives. You are welcome to attend our annual Gala or any of the other events we hold during the year. Check our website for the dates and places!</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION GIVING</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>We are very grateful for our many corporate sponsors and foundation friends who support our programs and special events. Fun with Books and Music, KIKS, CUNA (our Latino outreach program) and Respite Care are just a few of the important programs they make possible. If your employer is interested in becoming a corporate donor or learning about our many corporate volunteer opportunities, please let us know.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>GIFTS OF REMEMBRANCE</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>A remembrance gift to CHS of NJ is a thoughtful and meaningful way for you to make a difference in the life of a child while celebrating the life or accomplishments of a loved one or friend. We will send an acknowledgement to you and an announcement to the individual or family of the person in whose name your gift was made.</td>
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<th><strong>GIFTS OF STOCK</strong></th>
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<td>If you wish to donate appreciated securities, you can do so very easily by contacting our funds development office to initiate the transfer. Benefits to you include the avoidance of any capital gains tax, a tax-deduction for the value of the stock, and the knowledge that many children will be helped through services you helped fund.</td>
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<th><strong>MATCHING GIFTS</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Many companies actively support their employees’ charitable giving and will match or even double these gifts. Ask your employer for a matching gift form, complete it and mail it to us with your contribution. You will increase the value of your gift and help twice as many children.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>MAJOR GIFTS</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Through a restricted gift of $10,000 or more from your company, foundation or private account, you could initiate, maintain or expand a specific program. Your unrestricted gift would allow us the flexibility of directing dollars to programs in greatest need or to purchase needed equipment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A simple bequest in a will, a trust, a paid-up life insurance policy – these are just some of the ways you can make a significant gift to CHS of NJ while reducing your own capital gains, gifts and estate taxes and providing a lifetime income for yourself or those you love.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>WHAT WE NEED MOST</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• A new van that will transport 15 clients</td>
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<tr>
<td>• An endowed psychiatrist position to help our traumatized children and parents</td>
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<td>• An endowed Respite &amp; Counseling program to prevent child abuse and neglect</td>
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<tr>
<td>• An endowed fund to expand services to Latino clients in need</td>
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<tr>
<td>• An endowed fund to help us care for our babies until we find adoptive parents for them</td>
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<th><strong>UNITED WAY DESIGNATIONS</strong></th>
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<td>You can designate CHS of NJ as the recipient of your United Way contribution by using the donor choice option.</td>
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