

Announcements...

The Professional Development workshop schedule from October 2010 until March 2011 is posted on our website, www.chsofnj.org. If you do not have access to the web stop by our office to pick one up or call 732-557-9633 x105 to have a copy mailed to you.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) 2010 Annual Conference & Expo is being held in Anaheim, California, on November 3-6, 2010. Please check their website for further information www.naeyc.org.

Professional Impact NJ offers an educational opportunity directory for workshops and conferences throughout New Jersey. Visit their website at www.pinj.org.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has completed a new policy statement recommendation for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children. Visit www.pediatrics.org and <http://pediatrics.aapublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/eds.2010-2216v1> for the information.

Child & Adult Care Food Program: Through CACFP more than 3.2 million children receive nutritious meals and snacks each day as part of the child care they receive. See how CACFP can make a difference in the quality of your program, whether you are a provider at a child care center or in an afterschool care program. Visit the website www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/care or www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/fn/childadult/food.html for further information. We also suggest visiting the website www.mypyramid.gov for menu planners, healthy eating tips and food group information.



The Children's Home Society
OF NJ AND EASTERN PA®

1433 Hooper Avenue, Suite 340
Toms River, New Jersey 08753



Newsletter

The Children's Home Society of NJ ~ Ocean County Office

Fall/Winter

It's hard to believe that another summer has passed us by and fall is upon us. It's no longer environmentally friendly to burn the leaves that have fallen from your trees. How many of you can remember this from days gone by? I'll admit to being a baby boomer and the smell of burning leaves was a sure sign that winter would be leaving its stamp very soon. Playing in those huge piles was mandatory though wasn't it? Hats and gloves would soon come down from the attic; winter was on its way. Today, the leaves fall, get raked up (or blown) and placed by the curb. Next we wait for the men to pick them up in the town trucks. Winter is coming? The times have changed, haven't they? Ah, the good old days....

Now that I've gotten over that wave of nostalgia, let's get down to some serious facts. Children's laughter and the sound of their play was always present back then but just last year New Jersey ranked first in childhood obesity. I don't think any of us wants the first place ribbon for this. We have to find new ways to improve both the nutrition and physical activity of our children and we need to do it quickly.

NAP SACC was created to address this issue. The Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care program is an obesity prevention series that helps child care facilities improve their nutrition and physical activity environment by changing policies and practices. If you're interested in getting involved with NAP SACC please call me at ext. 108. You can also call Susan O'Leary, ext. 142. Together we can work to make our children healthier.

I hope to hear from you soon!

Maureen

Wachovia, a Wells Fargo Company, held a **Community Partners Breakfast** hosted by Josephine Moran (pictured below on left), Community Bank President Jersey Shore. The breakfast was established to give team members an opportunity to make a charitable contribution on behalf of Wachovia/ Wells Fargo to a nonprofit of their choice that provides critically needed services for local residents. Our director, **Maureen Lawrence** (pictured below in the center), was present to accept the generous donation made to The Children's Home Society of NJ, Ocean County. Wachovia has always believed that giving back is a vital component of their culture. They recognize the responsibility of bringing strength and capacity to the community while supporting education, community development, health and human services, arts & culture, environmental and civic projects. Through corporate and foundation grants, they are able to support non-profit organizations that address vital community needs and issues.



Attention All Registered Family Child Care Providers

Effective October 1, 2010 all registered family child care providers need **20** hours of training **every three years**. This does not count your CPR and First Aid training hours. So be sure to sign up for trainings yearly to fulfill the requirements for renewal.



Did you know you could be reimbursed \$1.95 to \$4.00 per child, per day for serving meals and snacks to children in your care? (Including your own children, if eligible) Call today to set up an appointment for in-home training. Call Linda Shoemaker @ 609-695-6274 x146.

Book bags were received through our main office in Trenton, donated by **Johnson and Johnson**. The bags were filled with back to school supplies for the new school year. The children of Ocean County were thrilled to receive the donation to help them with a great start to a new school year. Here are some of the "Thank You" notes the children wrote (or drew) to show their appreciation.



Thank you for supplying me with my backpack and supplying me with school supplies. You have such a nice program. Thanks so much!

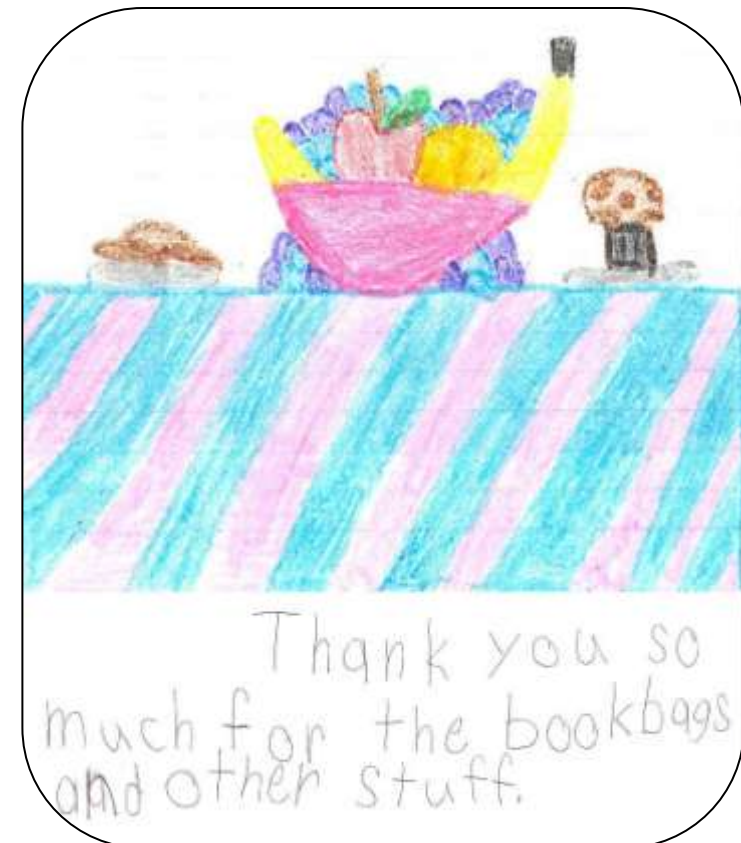


"Thank you for the new bookbag. I love it!"

"Thank you for the filled back packs! We ♥ them!"

"The whole family would like to thank you very much for the nice bookbags and school supplies. We appreciate it very much. They are very useful and we thank you again for being there for the people who need help. Thank you!"

"On behalf of my brother and I, we would like to thank you for the bookbags. We will surely use them to great use and take good care of them."



"Thank you so much for our new bookbags and school supplies. And we are both excited about going back to school, these gifts are wonderful! Thank you so, so, so much! P.S. Just in case you were wondering, my sister is six, going into first grade! And I am nine, going into fourth grade!"

Below: A few of the beautiful bookbags ready to be picked up by parents.



In the community...

On July 23, 2010 staff members Heidi Sloan, Kim Pascucci and Aleyda Maylone participated in a free "decorate a seashell" activity for the children at the **Funtasia Festival**. The free festival was held at Ocean County Park, Rt. 88 in Lakewood. Music, games and a food court were available for all to enjoy.



The Children's Home Society of NJ Ocean Office participated in **Boscov's, Friends Helping Friends** day on October 5, 2010. Friends Helping Friends is a day to enjoy great shopping, super savings, refreshments, door prizes and the chance for people to support their favorite non-profit organization. Tickets were \$5.00 and 100% of the ticket money went to the selling organization.



Children's Specialized Hospital held their 2nd Annual Provider Fair on Thursday, September 30th. Barbara Schoen the Resource & Referral Specialist in our Ocean County office, attended the event providing parents with information and resources on the agency.

Thanks to the **Pajama Program**, NJ Chapter, Middletown, our agency received pajamas of all sizes. The contribution will help many families provide their children with warm, cozy pj's for the upcoming winter months.

Child Care News...

On October 4, 2010, NACCRRRA (National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies) released its newest report, *The Impact of the Economy on Parents' Child Care Choices and Perspectives*, which found that quality and cost remain the most important factors for parents when choosing child care. The report shows that despite modest improvements in the economy, many families are still struggling. Nearly 40 percent of parents say the current economy has affected their child care arrangements and they worry about not being able to meet their household expenses. Three-quarters of parents rate affordable child care as the most important (31 percent) or one of the most (45 percent) important factors in helping working families. Other key findings of the report:

- The majority of parents believe state laws and regulations ensure that child care settings are licensed and safe. Nearly 85 percent of parents believe that providers have undergone background checks; 73 percent believe providers are trained in child development; and 78 percent of parents believe child care is licensed.
 - Parents' perceptions about laws, standards and oversight far exceed weak federal and state government policies. In reality, only 10 states require a comprehensive background check for child care providers; about half of states inspect child care settings only once a year or less and some inspect child care settings once every five or 10 years; and eight states grant family child care providers a license with no previous inspection or site visit.
 - Despite the down economy, parents want quality child care. Nearly three-quarters of parents (73 percent) said that they support investing more government money in improving the quality of care, even if it means they would have to pay \$10 more in taxes per year.
- The report and related materials may be found here: <http://www.naccrra.org/publications/naccrra-publications/economy-impact.php>