

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Free Medical Daycare— located in Ocean County. The Pediatric Day Health Centers of NJ offer parents the peace of mind of a day care program staffed by health care professionals. We have a staff-to-child ratio of 1:3. Each child receives the medical care that they need, is offered free transport to and from the program, a free nutritional meal, daily snacks, and a learning environment to keep them engaged and happy. Call: 609-410-1506

Summer Safety and Pools

For information on healthy swimming, call 1-800-CDC-INFO or visit www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming. For information on how to order a free pool test strip, visit www.healthypools.org/freeteststrips.

Early Childhood, Parenting and Professional Resource Center
NJ just launched a new website for parents and professionals – www.njparentlink.nj.gov



The
Children's
Home Society

OF NJ AND EASTERN PA®
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THE CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

OCEAN COUNTY OFFICE

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2010

From the desk of the Director...

Goodbye and Hello...

June was a month of transitions for The Children's Home Society of NJ. We wished a sad farewell to Gwen Forte who was Director of our Child Care Resource and Referral agency for 10 years and Director of Ocean County's Early Childhood Services. Keep an eye out for Gwen! You'll soon see her around the early care and education circles, advocating for our young children.

I'll next say, Hello! I've been an employee of this agency since 1996 and I can honestly admit that coming here to work has been one of the best decisions I've ever made. CHS of NJ is proud of its heritage and I am honored to have been named as Ocean County's new Director of Early Childhood Services.

Every new job has its challenges and this will be no exception. I know that I'm equal to the task. All of you have helped to prepare me for this new role I have just begun. Through the years, parents who needed technical assistance or providers who had questions or even complaints gave me insight and learning. I plan to continue to be available to all of you every day that I am in the office. Any question or concern of yours is important to me.

I believe in excellence. I work hard each day to do my best for The Children's Home Society of NJ and the children and families we serve. My staff equals that excellence. The programs that we administer allow our families to reach their potential, making them stronger and more independent. The staff at CHS of NJ is proud of that and you will continue to see quality in all of the programs you access from us in Ocean County.

Maureen

Red Rose Day took place on April 21, 2010, a fundraiser that supports the Infant Foster Care Program. CHS staff sold roses and spring bouquets for \$20.00 in the lobby of the Bayview Corporate building where the Ocean County office is located. The private infant foster care program is run strictly through fundraising since there is no government funding. Fundraisers help in defraying the cost of diapers, formula and everyday needs for the foster moms. The day was a great success and many thanks to all of those who purchased flowers.



Would you like to do child care in your home?

If you are dedicated to children and would like to work at home, The Children's Home Society of New Jersey would like to hear from you. Many parents prefer that their children be cared for in a small home-like setting. Family child care providers may provide care for five children or fewer in their homes for a fee. These providers voluntarily register with the State of New Jersey through our agency. Registered providers are at least 18 years old, have completed an application packet, passed a "Child Abuse Record Information" check, attended training and are CPR and First Aid certified. By becoming registered, you would be eligible to receive payment for children whose care is government subsidized, receive referrals from our agency, receive reimbursement for meals given to children in care through the federal Child Care Food Program and attend our educational trainings. For more information, please call Joan Christopher at 732-557-9633, x136.



Spring Baskets

A great big THANK YOU to **Brownie Troop 204**, St. Joseph's, Toms River for the beautiful baskets filled with wonderful gifts for the many needy children in Ocean County. The appreciation for the kindness and generosity was evident on the faces of the parents picking up the baskets.

Provider Appreciation Day is a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers and other educators of young children everywhere. Started in 1996 by a group of volunteers in New Jersey, Provider Appreciation Day is appropriately celebrated each year on the Friday before Mother's Day. The founding organizers saw the need to recognize the tireless effort of providers who care for children of working parents. This year Provider Appreciation Day was celebrated on May 7th. The Children's Home Society of NJ staff celebrates all providers and the wonderful work they perform each day.



April 20th, **Bring Your Child to Work Day**, fell two days before Earth Day this year. Our young assistant, Noemi Carlo's daughter, Cynthia, helped Joan Christopher and Susan O'Leary prepare 200 blue spruce seedlings to be distributed to Ocean County child care centers for Earth Day planting.

OFFICE STAFF NOTES

Sara Lemig has been promoted to supervisor to fill the void left by Maureen. Sara will be supervising child care programs including TANF / Work First New Jersey, DYFS and PACC. Sara has worked closely with Maureen in that unit for more than twelve years and we wish her well in her new position. Congratulations, Sara!

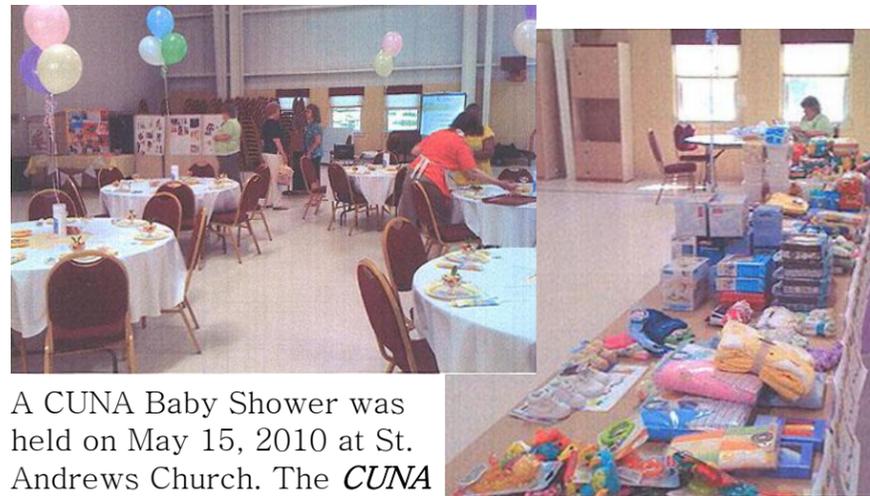
Program Assistant for WFNJ **Aleyda Maylone** received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Kean University in May 2010. Aleyda is currently pursuing an MBA through Georgian Court University. Congratulations, Aleyda, on this great achievement!

The Ocean office welcomes **Debbie Piccione** as the newest member of our office. Debbie has worked for the agency in the Trenton office, and, now will be splitting her time between the Toms River and Lawrenceville offices in the Kinship Program. Welcome, Debbie!

FOR OCEAN COUNTY CHILDREN



Earlier this month **The Carpenter's Apprentice Club of St. Joseph's Elementary School** in Toms River donated sunscreen and a dozen children's bathing suits. The summer items will be very helpful to the clients' families that received them. We appreciate the children remembering that there are people in need all year. Thank you!



A CUNA Baby Shower was held on May 15, 2010 at St. Andrews Church. The **CUNA Program**, which means crib in Spanish, offers information, support and resources for Spanish-speaking parents and their children as early as possible in the pregnancy. The parishioners of St. Andrews Church collaborated with Cordelia Hill, CUNA coordinator in Ocean County, and raised money, donated gift baskets and decorated to celebrate 10 parents participating in the program. For further information on this program, call 609-695-6274, x160.



RETIREMENT

The Children's Home Society of NJ commemorated **Gwen Forte's retirement** on May 26th at the Ramada Inn in Toms River. Seventy people attended to celebrate her 19 years of service at The Children's Home Society of NJ. In attendance was staff from the agency's Ocean and Mercer County offices, family child care providers, child care center staff, agency representatives throughout the state, friends and family. The celebration was both joyous and heartfelt knowing Gwen's passion and dedication in advocating for children and families. We all wish Gwen the best in her retirement.



Donna Pressma (right), CEO of The Children's Home Society of NJ, thanks Gwen (left) for her years of dedication and of advocating for children.