Founded in 1894, The Children's Home Society of New Jersey is a nonsectarian, not-for-profit private agency that promotes the welfare of infants, children, adolescents and parents throughout New Jersey and Bucks County, Pennsylvania. As a comprehensive counseling, placement, parenting education and child care agency, CHSofNJ touches the lives of over 50,000 children and families each year.

Values

We value services that work, that are all evaluated, and that help children and parents to help themselves. Our services are delivered with dignity, cultural sensitivity and respect for our clients.

Vision

Every child in a safe, caring, and permanent family. All children and parents have the skills and knowledge they need to help themselves long after our active case involvement has ended.

Major Service Areas

- Child Welfare/Permanency
- Clinical/Mental Health
- Early Childhood and Parenting Education
- Maternal/Child Health, Family & Community
- School Based
- Kinship

Licensed Adoption Agency in New Jersey and Pennsylvania
**KIKS Philosophy**

KIKS is a school based youth development and primary prevention program emphasizing prevention of teen pregnancy, substance abuse, violence, and gang affiliation.

KIKS also helps middle school-age youth acquire a solid background of skills, attitudes, and behaviors that will enable them to become successful, productive adults.

- KIKS utilizes Peer Leaders to serve as interventionist and positive role models for the younger students.
- KIKS helps students develop and enhance effective “life skills” so that they can be more positive, productive and peaceful.
- KIKS teaches prevention techniques and skills to resist drugs and alcohol, to resist violence and gang affiliation, to avoid teen pregnancy and the development of conflict resolution skills.

Based on this philosophy, the goal for the KIKS program is use interactive group process, which is based on action, social emotional learning to stimulate students to avoid self-destructive behaviors and cope in positive ways to personal and social problems.

**Programs & Services**

The KIKS program and the local school district mutually assess the distinct and unique needs presented by that school district, and thereby determine the site(s) and grade level(s) in which the KIKS program will be implemented.

- The unique quality of this service is it is incorporated into the school’s curriculum schedule. Each session is 40-45 minutes in duration within a classroom provided by the host school.
- Weekly after school Peer Leader meetings and Varsity Club meetings.
- KIKS students participate in a variety of community service initiatives.

Currently KIKS is offered at:

Joyce Kilmer Middle School, Trenton, NJ
Cranbury School, Cranbury, NJ

**Prevention Is The Key**

Our children are our future, yet so many are lost to serious problems such as violence, substance abuse, suicide, teen pregnancy, gangs, delinquency and school dropout. Some young people are impulsive and do not think ahead to see possible consequences. The youthful and emotional energy of adolescence needs proper guidance at home and school. Very often, though, this guidance is blocked by stress, confusion or anger. KIKS provides a safe and open environment in which to learn and repeatedly practice positive decision-making and develop strong character. Students need a place to ask candid questions, knowing that they will receive correct information and KIKS is that place.

**OUTCOME MEASURES**

Outcome evaluations of KIKS participants, showed positive effects such as:

- Prevention of teen pregnancy
- Prevention of gang affiliation
- Prevention of use of drugs & alcohol
- Conflict resolution skills & resistance to bullying
- Increase in decision making skills