This past June, twenty three 3 and 4 year old children with special needs from our Head Start/Early Head Start of Trenton program were invited to lead the Parade of Olympians in the torch bearing ceremony of the Special Olympics New Jersey 2016 Summer Games Young Athletes™ World Series, held at The College of New Jersey. We could not be more proud of our youngest medal-winning athletes!

CHSoNJ’s HS/EHS Disabilities Coordinator Elaine Rodriguez and two of our little Olympians eagerly await the event’s torch bearing ceremony.

This July, CHSoNJ held our 4th annual Father Daughter Dance to celebrate the importance of a positive father/daughter relationship and its impact on a child, her family, and the larger community.

Board Chair Timothy Ryan and his daughter, Daire.

Fathers and Father figures danced the night away with these beautiful princesses at our Annual “Dance with my Hero” event at CHSoNJ.
Thanks to the generous support of our staff, community partners and donors, The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey’s 122nd Anniversary Gala at the beautiful TPC Jasna Polana of Princeton was a remarkable success! Under the creative leadership of Trustee and Gala Chair Jennifer Pizi, this year’s Board-hosted fundraiser featured some exciting technology which allowed guests to place auction bids through their mobile devices and monitor items of interest, leading to some friendly competition that truly raised the bar for the children and families we serve. In total, this year’s gala raised just over $100,000 for CHSoNJ’s life-saving services throughout New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania!

Bank of America/Merrill Lynch was honored as CHSoNJ’s 2016 “Champion of Children” for its ongoing commitment to our community’s most vulnerable babies, children and families. Here, BOA/ML employees pose with CHSoNJ Chairman Timothy E. Ryan (far left) on the grounds of TPC Jasna Polana, Princeton.

Trustee and Gala Chair Jennifer Pizi and her daughter Taylor Landis-Miller pose in front of the beautiful flower wall donated by A Garden Party Floral & Event Design.

GUESTS ARRIVE AT TPC JASNA POLANA

THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 GALA SPONSORS

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MUSLIMS FOR PEACE HONORS CHSofNJ AT INTERFAITH CONFERENCE

CHSofNJ President & CEO Donna C. Pressma was honored to accept a Muslims for Peace Humanitarian Award on behalf of the agency this past spring at The 9th Annual Prophet Muhammad(s) Interfaith Conference. Donna, accompanied by our Director of Corporate Development & Volunteerism Pamela Cipriano, attended the conference and shared our agency’s mission of saving children’s lives and building healthy families with attendees and a diverse group of New Jersey and New York faith and community leaders. She told the story of how Muslims for Peace had recently held an exceptionally meaningful holiday party for 150 of our at-risk Trenton children and families this past December.

CHSofNJ serves over 40,000 at-risk babies, children, youth, and families from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds through our nearly 50 unique programs. We are proud to partner with Muslims for Peace members because together we can make miracles happen right here in New Jersey for our most vulnerable children.

CORPORATE PARTNERS & FOUNDATIONS

We thank the following corporate partners and foundations for gifts received between February 1, 2016 and July 30, 2016:

- AT&T Mid Atlantic Region $15,000.00 School Based Programs (Go Getters)
- Bristol-Myers Squibb Company $10,000.00 STEM Student Mentor Afterschool Program
- Bunbury Company Foundation $10,000.00 TEDI
- Capital Health System $50,000.00 CUNA
- Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation $35,000.00 TEDI
- Investors Bank $1,000.00 TEDI
- Kinder Morgan Foundation $1,500.00 TEDI
- Mary Owen Borden Memorial Foundation $8,000.00 CUNA, Body & Soul
- The Nicholson Foundation $51,725.00 GrandFamily Success Center
- Rite Aid Foundation KidCents $5,000.00 Unrestricted
CHSofNJ WELCOMES OUR NEWEST TRUSTEES

We proudly welcome **Mustafa Abdi**, who brings over 15 years of experience in financial analysis, business development, and financial data analysis of diverse industries to our dedicated Board of Trustees. Mustafa has held key positions for AT&T and Telephone Systems International before settling into his current position as Financial Manager for Com-U-Max. In addition to his impressive financial industry experience, Mustafa also serves on the Muslims for Peace Executive Team, helping to foster tolerance and understanding while helping all children and families in our community. One such example of Mustafa’s kindness and generosity is the wonderful holiday party Muslims for Peace gave 150 of our Trenton children and parents this past December, complete with delicious dinner, beautiful gifts, crafts, songs, and even a visit from Santa Claus himself!

We proudly welcome **Jim Shea** to our Board of Trustees, who we first met in 2015 when he and his wife **Sheri Levine-Shea** began volunteering with CHSofNJ to benefit the at-risk babies, children and families we serve. Jim has worked in Global Finance for twenty-four years with four of the world’s largest financial services companies; JPMorgan Chase, Nomura, Citigroup, and Credit Suisse. His comprehensive knowledge of global trade and finance, investment banking, global capital markets, and his extensive experience in designing business and financial analytics will surely help us plan for the future of our at-risk children and families. Jim also volunteers his services in various capacities to the Children’s Aid and Family Services of NJ.

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RECOGNIZING OUR OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

- **Louise Shabazz** – Director of School Based Services
- **Vilma Aguirre** – Social Service Specialist 1, Maternal/Child Health Programs
- **Nicole Coburger** – Program Administrator for Post Adoption Counseling Services
- **Cynthia Raices** – Coordinator, Kinship Navigator Program
- **Tara Rivas** – Program Development & Grants Coordinator
- **Christina Sweeny** – Executive Assistant
- **Amanda Uhrig** – Coordinator, Ocean Reunification Program
- **Hilda Villanueva** – Family Partnership Coordinator, Early Head Start Home-Based Program

Congratulations to the following employees for successfully completing Mental Health First Aid USA training coordinated by the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Missouri Department of Mental Health:

- **Choresse Chambers**
- **Agata Dziekonska**
- **Socorro Garcia**
- **Natalya James**

**Corey Ingram** has expanded his role at CHSofNJ by accepting the responsibilities of a newly created Fathers Improving Together Coordinator position in our Head Start/Early Head Start program. These duties will be performed in addition to those of his current position of Head Start Transportation Coordinator.

*Keep up the great work team!*
Trenton middle school students Orion Douglas and Bryana Payne joined our President & CEO Donna C. Pressma, V.P. of Community Affairs Cordelia Staton, Director of Maternal/Child Health and Family & Community Support Services Maritza Raimundi-Petroski, and Director of School Based Services for 21st Century Community Learning Center Positive Impact Programs Louise McCants-Shabazz in Washington, D.C. to speak with members of the Senate and House of Representatives about the critical needs of children, youth, and families this past spring.

The group attended a live Congressional Hearing and met personally with U.S. Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman and her Legislative Director Michael Reed to discuss topics that directly affect our agency’s children and the nation’s ability to provide adequate services to youth in America. Orion and Bryana spoke about the need to enhance school-based programs that encourage positive youth development and education, such as our exciting and engaging KIKS and 21st Century Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math (STEAM) program, which have made a meaningful difference in their lives.

Our teens left Capitol Hill informed, involved, and inspired. We are forever grateful to Congresswoman Watson Coleman for once again proving to be a remarkable national role-model and outstanding advocate for New Jersey children, youth, and families.

Trenton Education Dance Institute (TEDI), a program of CHSofNJ, celebrated 27 years of changing students’ lives this past May at Hedgepeth-Williams School in Trenton. The students practiced all school year with Interim Artistic Director Yolanda Drislane to learn dance steps and important lessons that reinforce their classroom learning and prepare them for adulthood. This year’s performance, “Words that Build - Lessons in Character through Dance” featured over 200 Trenton Public School students from grades 5-12. Performances were given for 2800 students from six different elementary schools and one middle school attended the 4 daytime shows (approximately 700 at each show), culminating in a special performance for 800 family, community, and school board members.
UPCOMING EVENTS

10th Annual Latino Parenting Conference  
Saturday, September 17 (Trenton, NJ)

27th Annual NAIFA-GP Charity Golf Outing  
Wednesday, September 21 (Richboro, PA)

‘Holy Acrimony’ Dinner & Interactive Performance by Theater To Go NJ  
Thursday, October 20 (West Windsor, NJ)

Trenton Half Marathon, 10K & 5K Race  
Saturday, October 29 (Trenton, NJ)

TEDI Fall Fundraiser  
Wednesday, November 9 (Hamilton, NJ)

Wenonah Turkey Trot & Drumstick Dash  
Friday, November 25 (Wenonah, NJ)

For more information about upcoming events, visit www.chsofnj.org or call 609-695-6274.

UPCOMING DRIVES

Please Contact Angie Giacolona at 609-695-6274 x225 / agiacolona@chsofnj.org to schedule your delivery for the following drives:

Coat Drive
(NEW coats, scarves, hats, and gloves)  
Collection ends Friday, February 25th

Thanksgiving Food Drive  
(unopened food and drinks)  
Collection ends Friday, November 18th

Holiday Gift Drive
(NEW, unwrapped gift and gift cards)  
Collection ends Friday, December 16th

For more information about upcoming events, visit www.chsofnj.org or call 609-695-6274.

CHSofNJ WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START SERVICES IN TRENTON

It is with great pleasure and excitement that we welcome Isaac Dorsey as our new Head Start Executive Director. Isaac brings over 20 years of successful experience being the Director of Head Start programs that were both Center Based and Home Based in New Jersey, Arizona, and South Los Angeles, California. After serving 3 years in the Army Signal Corp., he graduated from Rutgers University with a BA in Urban Planning & Political Science and with a Master’s in Public Administration. He is further credentialed in Advanced Management from the Head Start Johnson & Johnson Management Fellows program at UCLA. Most remarkably, Isaac Dorsey is himself, a Head Start child who will be a role model for our children and parents.

Isaac looks forward to working with staff, Policy Council, Board, and the community. He is a nationally recognized Head Start teacher and consultant, and he has had many years of collaborative experiences with local community partners, schools, and agencies.

FOR A CHILD’S SAKE NEWSLETTER

Donna C. Pressma, President & CEO  
Dana Johnson, Editor

Justin Girard, Layout, Design, Editing  
Angie Giacolona, Contributor

To learn more about CHSofNJ, visit our website at www.chsofnj.org
DONOR SPOTLIGHT

In 2010, 22 year old Christine Gianacaci and several of her classmates traveled to Haiti on a charitable mission. Tragically, Christine, three of her classmates, and two of her professors were killed on January 12 in a massive earthquake. Christine’s mother, Jean Gianacaci, determined to carry on her daughter’s legacy of kindness, created Christine’s Hope for Kids Foundation in her honor. And since 2014, these wonderfully caring friends have gone above and beyond for our babies and children! From pajamas to backpacks to holiday goodie bags, Christine’s Hope for Kids Foundation works tirelessly to ensure our children never go without.

(From left to right) Jean Gianacaci and Sherry Friedman of Christine’s Hope for Kids Foundation deliver dozens of backpacks to CHSoNJ’s Marketing & Donor Coordinator Angie Giacolona as part of our agency’s 2015 backpack drive.

OCEAN COUNTY’S DAY IN THE SUN

CHSoNJ partnered with Casino Pier again this past June to highlight our Ocean County services at the Seaside Heights boardwalk! Presale wristbands entitled guests to four hours of ride time at Casino Pier, and through our community outreach table we were able to connect with new friends and supporters from Ocean County and across the state. Pictured from left to right: Marissa Haines (Community Health Worker, IPO Ocean), Slider (Casino Pier & Breakwater Beach mascot), Maritza Raimundi-Petroski (Director of Maternal/Child Health, Family & Community Support Services), Dana Johnson (Communications & Funds Development Specialist), and Isaira Rosario (Human Resources Assistant).

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AUXILIARY BOARD OFFICERS

President & CEO Donna C. Pressma (far left) and Trustee & Vice President of Community Relations Cordelia Staton (far right) install 2016 Auxiliary Board Officers (left to right) Samantha Sciarrotta, Kristin Hartig, Kate McGrath, Michele Krasny, and Joy Ann Lowery. Cordelia addressed the Auxiliary, calling all 30 members, “The most dedicated, caring women, whose ceaseless energy ensures our babies survive and thrive.”
SWEET SUPPORT FROM DRISCOLL’S AND WEGMANS

How sweet it is to celebrate our 10th year partnering with **Driscoll’s** and **Wegmans** to bring you **Strawberry Days**! For each carton of Driscoll’s strawberries sold at participating Wegmans stores throughout New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania during the three-day promotion, Driscoll’s pledged fifty-cents to CHSofNJ. Thanks to the participation of friends like you and the generosity of these wonderful corporate partners, Driscoll’s has donated $20,000 to help our babies and children!

*Our CHSofNJ adoptive parents, foster parents, and Trustee Alan Zulick, Esq. gather to say thank you.*