You may remember meeting baby Trent a few years ago through one of our “Little Red Stocking” holiday appeals. When we shared his story, Trent was just adopted by his loving family and was a happy, healthy, smart, incredibly sweet boy, and we are pleased to say that not much has changed! Now 6 years old, Trent still holds all of those wonderful qualities, and we can add generous to the list! Recently, Trent was helping his parents Christine and Greg clean out their playroom of the toys he had outgrown. One toy that had always been a favorite of his was his play kitchen, but since he had outgrown it, Christine and Greg asked Trent if he would like to donate it. Trent knew he had other big boy toys to play with, so he thought about the children who would really enjoy his play kitchen and thought of CHSofNJ!

Trent has lots of great memories with CHSofNJ and our staff, so he was excited to share his special toy with other children who were being adopted or visiting with our caring counselors. Our hearts melted when Trent came into the agency, with that infectious smile we all remember so well, to donate his favorite toy to our children. We all knew the day we met baby Trent, that he was something special, and it warms our hearts to be reminded of just how right we were.

If you would like to read more about Trent and his journey with CHSofNJ, visit our website at http://www.chsofnj.org/meet-our-children/.

**CHSOFNJ’S MERCER WIC PROGRAM EARNED FEDERAL RECOGNITION**

Under the direction of WIC Program Administrator Joan O. Martin and CHSofNJ Director of Maternal/Child Health, Family & Community Support Services Maritza I. Raimundi-Petroski, our CHSofNJ Mercer County Women Infant & Children (WIC) nutrition program for low-income families has been awarded The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service’s Loving Support Award of Excellence – Gold for its multi-layered support of breastfeeding! We are so proud and our staff is truly excited to continue the great work that led to this federal recognition of our outstanding outcomes. To learn more about CHSofNJ’s Mercer County WIC program’s breastfeeding support and other services, visit www.chsofnj.org/mercer-county-wic-program.
Together We Rise (TWR) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization comprised of motivated young adults and former foster youth who work to improve the lives of foster children in America. TWR collaborates with community partners across the country to bring resources to foster youth and use service-learning activities to educate volunteers on issues surrounding the foster care system.

TWR works with hundreds of foster agencies, social workers, Court Appointed Special advocates, and other partners to bring their programs to foster youth across the nation. Their foundation has partnered with AIG to provide 100 new bicycles and 150 “Sweet Cases” to CHSofNJ children. We are tremendously grateful for TWR and AIG’s generosity and dedication to helping foster children like ours across America. Jose and Ary, two middle-school students from our 21st Century Positive Impact program, were beside themselves with excitement when they received their bikes. Neither boy had ever owned a bike before, but now they spend every minute they can riding- even in the rain!

Pictured Above (standing far left): Danny Mendoza, Gianna Dahlia, and Geraldine Burrola (seated far right) of Together We Rise present hundreds of donated bicycles to (clockwise from center standing) Craig Hutton, Donna Pressma, Angie Giacolona, Tara Rivas, Dolores Ijames-Bryant, Valerie Fiorentino, Brenmarie Rentas, and Karen Courtney of CHSofNJ.

Donor Spotlight: Together We Rise

After 30 years of dedicated service to not only our children and families but also to our staff and Board, we wish one of our dearest friends and Director of Administrative Services Florence Paric nothing but the best as she begins her newest and most exciting job; retiree! Since 1986, Florence has been the oil that has kept the wheels of CHSofNJ running, which makes her leaving especially bittersweet. But if anyone deserves a little rest and relaxation, it is surely Florence.

It did not take long for Florence’s relationship with her supervisor, CHSofNJ President & CEO Donna Pressma, to evolve beyond merely colleagues. Donna raved about her friend, saying, “Florence’s sage advice and uncanny insight has played a great part in the success of CHSofNJ, and in my personal successes as CEO. I am eternally grateful to her for her professionalism, her dedication, and her friendship.” We wish Florence exciting travels and meaningful visits with friends and family, which we hope will include her CHSofNJ family, as she will truly be missed.

Recognizing a Remarkable Member of the CHSofNJ Family

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TWO CHSoFNJ STAFF RETURN TO TEDI

We are excited to announce two new additions to our Trenton Education Dance Institute (TEDI) team who are excited to shake things up and breathe new life into this groundbreaking program; Director of School Based Services Louise McCants Shabazz and Program Administrator Yvonne Diaz! Both women were existing CHSoFNJ managers with deep ties to the TEDI program prior to accepting these promotions, and we are so thrilled to reunite them with a program that has been near and dear to their hearts for decades!

Louise served as the TEDI program’s Administrator in 2010-2012 before accepting a promotion to supervise our 21st Century Positive Impact programs. Even with her promotion, she never fully left TEDI, volunteering her time to help prepare for fundraisers and never failing to spread the word about this important program throughout the community.

Yvonne herself was a TEDI student and knows firsthand the tremendous effects the program has on a child’s confidence, self-esteem, and drive. When asked her how she felt about returning to a program that was so important to her in her youth, Yvonne raved, “TEDI isn’t just dance, it’s a way of life. Somewhere between the journal entries and dance lessons, you create yourself.” As a TEDI alum, Yvonne has already started to engage other TEDI graduates who have grown to become successful young professionals in the Trenton area. We cannot wait to see the creative ideas she and her fellow TEDI alum bring for new generations of TEDI!

HOW ONE CHSoFNJ STAFF MEMBER GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR OUR CHILDREN

Marie Braun has worked for CHSoFNJ since 1988. In that time, she has never failed to involve herself in every aspect of the agency, from excelling in her own position as Intake, Statistics & Client Records Manager/Supervisor, to becoming a key leader in promoting staff morale and even fundraising! Each year, Marie leads the coordination of CHSoFNJ’s fun and safe Halloween trick-or-treating event for the children of Trenton.

She designs and oversees our “Take Your Children to Work” event each year, which is looked forward to by our staff and their children. And in preparation for our upcoming Trenton Education Dance Institute (TEDI) Fall Fundraiser, Marie has outdone herself yet again; she took it upon herself to solicit small staff donations toward a CHSoFNJ Friends & Family TEDI Fall Fundraiser sponsorship, and we are so excited to announce that thanks to her dedication and charm, Marie has met her $1,000 goal!

Marie is a role model for all of us as part of our caring CHSoFNJ professional family. We could not be more thankful for all that she has done and continues to do for our babies, children, and families. To learn more about TEDI Fall Fundraiser, contact our Director of Corporate Development & Volunteerism Pamela Cipriano at 609-695-6274 x168 or pcipriano@chsofnj.org.
“FORE!” NJ & PA’S AT-RISK CHILDREN

Justin Girard (far right) of CHSoNJR accepts a $11,614 check from NAIFA-GP Golf Committee members (left to right) Paul Schaffer (CAPTRUST Financial Advisors), Archie Foor (LMK Insurance), Tony Pettola (A.J. Pettola & Associates), Brian Dobisch (Dobisch Associates), Jerry Redington (Redington Financial), and Gary Armstrong (Gary Armstrong Insurance Agency). This generous gift represents funds raised at NAIFA-GP’s 27th Annual Charity Golf Outing to support the life-saving programs we provide for at-risk children throughout New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania.
CHSofNJ’s Family Success Centers proudly hosted our 10th Annual Latino Parenting Conference, “The Impact of Spirituality in the Lives of Latino Immigrant Families Living in the U.S.” this past September at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in the heart of Trenton. The event was presented in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15), a time when Americans celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors hailed from Spain, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

Under the creative direction of CHSofNJ’s Director of Maternal/Child Health, Family & Community Support Services Maritza I. Raimundi-Petroski, the free community event was a remarkable success with Roughly 225 attendees participating throughout the day. The event included lunch, raffle prizes, special activities for children, cultural and performances. There were thoughtful discussions focused on the impact of spirituality in the lives of immigrant families living here in the U.S., the important role spirituality plays in our ability to parent, the way we perceive discipline, how we promote civic engagement in our children and youth and how difficult or challenging it may be to live with multiple cultural expectations. Attendees learned about a variety of community resources available to them and their families including free health screenings, pre-school enrollment and nutrition through the WIC program.

Many generous donors and volunteers helped our staff ensure the Conference was a success. Trinity Episcopal Cathedral donated the use of their church for our event, and CHSofNJ Trustee Eva Alicea Roman co-sponsored the event. Mustafa Abdi, CHSofNJ Trustee and leader of the Muslims4Peace nonprofit organization, provided lunch for all of the children in attendance and brought a number of volunteers from Muslims4Peace to ensure the day ran smoothly. Mansoor Rizvi, also of Muslims4Peace, offered his personal insight to youths attending our event as a speaker in our Youth Panel Discussion.

The conference concluded with the presentation of CHSofNJ’s Ana Belen Angel Volunteer Award to Rosaura Lopez of our South Ward Parent Advisory Committee in recognition of her outstanding contributions as a CHSofNJ volunteer.
OUR EXTRAORDINARY CHSOFNJ VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

RED ROSE DAY

Our Red Rose Day Event with many corporate and individual volunteers that helped in selling over 1000 bundles of flowers.

Muslims for Peace volunteering at our 10th Annual Latino Parenting Conference

Student volunteers and Donors from kindergarten to college have been participating at our events and drives throughout the year

VOLUNTEER WITH US TODAY

To become a volunteer for CHSofNJ like our corporate/business friends from Bloomberg, Bank of America, Avalon Bay, ETS, Kohl’s, Novo Nordisk, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Muslims for Peace and many other individuals and groups, contact Pamela Cipriano, Director of Corporate Development and Volunteerism 609-695-6274x168 or to make a donation contact Marketing and Donor Coordinator Angie Giacolona at 609-695-6274x225.
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Upcoming Events

Red Rose Day
Thursday, March 23 2017, for more information about pre-sales (March 3rd) and day of orders contact Angie at agiacolona@chsofnj.org

123rd Anniversary Gala
Sunday, April 30th, 2017 Doors open at 4:30pm at Cherry Valley Country Club, 125 Country Club Dr, Skillman, NJ

CHSofNJ Auxiliary Board’s Designer Handbag Bingo
Friday May 5th, 2017 Doors open at 6:00pm at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 137 West Upper Ferry Road, West Trenton, NJ

Upcoming Drives

Winter Coat Drive (NEW coats, scarves, hats, and gloves)
Please call to schedule your delivery 609-695-6274x225 or email agiacolona@chsofnj.org, event will take place from October-February

Easter Drive (Easter Baskets & Child- Friendly Items)
Please call to schedule your delivery 609-695-6274x225 or email agiacolona@chsofnj.org, event will take place from April 3rd -April 7th

For more information about upcoming events or drives, visit www.chsofnj.org or contact 609-695-6274.
CHSOFNJ SAYS GOODBYE TO A CARING FRIEND

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to a longtime friend of The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey; Charles L. Rue, Jr. Born in Trenton on July 3, 1927, Charles led a full and happy life before his passing on August 17, 2016. In 1949, Charles wed Mary Alice Probasco and graduated from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. He served as a U.S. Marine during the Korean War, and returned home to his beloved wife, with whom he went on to celebrate 67 years of wedded bliss, enjoying his two children, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Charles excelled in his professional life, having 36 years been a partner and President of Charles E. Rue & Son Insurance, later becoming Rue Insurance, in Hamilton Township, NJ until he retired in 1985.

Charles’ remarkable dedication to the at-risk babies, children, and families we serve began in 1989, and continued for decades to help make meaningful differences in their lives even after he and Mary Ann relocated to Florida in 2001. “Charles Rue lived his life by his values. He was a caring family man. He was respected by all who knew him in the business world, but was known by everyone for his warmest heart for all at-risk children in our community.” said Donna Pressma, President and CEO of CHSOFNJ. Charles’ would be so proud to know that his commitment to our children and youth did not end with his passing; in lieu of flowers, friends and family continued the generosity he always showed our children and families through generous gifts in his memory.

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