FOR A CHILD’S SAKE
SPRING 2021

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE COURAGE, RESILIENCE AND HOPE

The Board of Trustees cordially invites you to join us for an evening celebrating courage, resilience and hope. On Saturday May 15, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey will hold its 127th Anniversary Gala, “Building a Bridge of Hope,” hosted by Co-Chairs James T. Shea and Sheri Levine-Shea. The virtual program will include a compelling video premiere focused on furthering our mission of Saving Children’s Lives and Building Healthy Families. The event will feature guest appearances by our Master of Ceremonies and board member Cordelia Stanton and by the at-risk children and families whose lives have been uplifted by our programs and services. We will recognize and honor the generosity and achievements of Bloomberg and Bristol Myers Squibb, whose caring, dedicated employee volunteers generously give their time to help further our mission.

While there is no admission charge, we would appreciate your donation of any amount to assist our children and families who have been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. To contribute, please go to www.chsofnj.org/gala-2021.

Don’t forget to purchase tickets for the Golden Ticket 50/50 Raffle (email Jocelyn Rock at jrock@chsofnj.org for more information). Our Greater Giving 2021 Online Silent Auction features spectacular auction items that will be posted on our website beginning the end of April at https://chsofnj2021.ggo.bid. Our Gala video will premiere on May 15 at 7 p.m. at https://chsofnj.ejoinme.org/gala2021.

THE BLACK IVY LEAGUE, LOCAL NON-PROFIT, PARTNERS WITH THE CHILDREN’S HOME SOCIETY FOR COMMUNITY NEEDS

The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey is excited to have formed a promising new relationship with a local non-profit organization, The Black Ivy League. Based out of Trenton, NJ, The Black Ivy League is a newly founded community-based organization that was established in 2019. Organized by four compassionate philanthropists with diverse educational and occupational backgrounds, their mission is to uplift the community by hosting fundraising events, participating in service projects and providing the opportunity for individuals who lack resources to aid in self-development for a better future.

The Black Ivy League has hosted two fundraising events for our agency. In December 2019, their organization hosted a Holiday Party/Toy Drive where attendees each brought a toy to gain entry. In addition to the many toys they were able to collect, they also raised $1,000 of general funding for our agency! Not willing to let the current pandemic stand in the way of our children having a special holiday season, The Black Ivy League hosted an outdoors Toy and Winter Clothing drive in December 2020 that brought in 6 large boxes of toys and accessories for our families!

We are extremely grateful to be able to partner with local organizations who believe in the work that we’re doing in our community and support us in our mission of saving children’s lives and building healthy families! To learn more about The Black Ivy League and all that they do for the community of Trenton, you can check out their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/BlackIvyLeague4.
The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey proudly celebrated Black History Month through a **Virtual Black History Month Program** created and hosted by **Shahera N. Hutchinson**, Women’s Health Advocate and Parent Educator for the Maternal Child Health Team. After having to cancel last year’s Black History Month Program due to the current health pandemic, Shahera did not want to let another year go by without celebrating Black history and culture. In brainstorming her program, Shahera wanted the information provided in the program to reach all people, no matter the city, state or country. As our world has become primarily digital, she believed that having a virtual program was the most successful way for her to reach a larger audience and share the knowledge of Black history.

The Virtual Black History Program highlighted various topics and discussions ranging from healthcare, fashion, grief and loss, self-care, entrepreneurship and pregnancy from the perspective of several African-American guest speakers who volunteered their time to participate in the program. Shahera held a total of 8 virtual sessions throughout the month of February where the guest speakers shared stories and experiences that aimed to inform her audience of black history, culture and the many wonderful achievements happening within the black community. Additionally, this Virtual Black History Month Program served as a way to uplift our communities and better understand one another. In such unprecedented times, we believe that a strong sense of community and togetherness is more important than ever as we work with one another to get through the current health pandemic.

We are so proud of Shahera for successfully putting together a much-needed, informative and engaging Virtual Black History Month program for all people and all communities to experience. We are also thankful for the amazing volunteer speakers who dedicated their time to share their stories on our platform. Below is the list of Speakers and Topics featured in the program; we encourage you to view any of these virtual discussions at [Maternal Child Health Program of The Children’s Home Society of NJ](www.facebook.com/MCHTRENTON/) to learn more about the guest speakers and their experiences.

1. **Make-Up & Skincare, and Being an Entrepreneur**: A Discussion with Body & Soul Graduate, Marquita Taylor.
2. **Healthcare Bias in the African-American Community**: A Conversation with Body & Soul Graduate, Jasmin Holmes & Her Fiancé Jamil Hutchinson.
3. **Breastfeeding in the African-American Community**: Ms. Latasha R. Johnson Shares Her Experience.
4. **Fashion Design**: Interview with Fashion Designer, Shontay RaQuel.
5. **Dealing with Grief at the Loss of a Pregnancy**: Mrs. Tosha Hutchinson-Johnson Shares Her Story.
6. **Fashion Merchandising**: Following Your Dreams After Losing A Parent. Interview with Amirah Ty'Rese Hutchinson.
7. **Coping with Hope: Raising a Child with ACC**: Mrs. Mia Mathis Shares Her Story.
Trenton Education Dance Institute (TEDI) students have been dancing since school started in the fall of 2020 and never stopped, Covid-19 time included. TEDI Artistic Director, Kayla James, and Music Director, John Williams, have developed an interactive format on Zoom that is surprisingly successful. “Making students feel seen and heard, even from miles away has done wonders for breaking down barriers,” says Kayla. “Take Kareem. He was one of the first to sign up—even though a lot of boys think dancing is a ‘girl thing.’ But he was shy about dancing and speaking in front of others, even on Zoom. He asked a lot of very detailed questions about the process. John and I drew him out in the discussions, and as Kareem gained confidence, he let us see him dance. Now he is one of the first in class and has even invited members of his family to the camera to meet his dance buddies.”

The Trenton Education Dance Institute was founded in Trenton in 1989 as an independent organization, but affiliate of NDI, by Richard Bilotti and Carol Belt. In 2011, TEDI joined The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey as an important part of its School-Based Youth Program. With the help of CHSofNJ Director Dolores Ijames-Bryant, and CHSofNJ Director of School-Based programs Louise McCants Shabazz, the two separate organizational cultures were blended seamlessly into one cohesive unit joined with The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHSofNJ). Today TEDI is creatively thriving and is actually growing under its remarkable Artistic Director, Kayla James and engaging Music Director, John Williams who tune in to what their TEDI students most need in a MOST challenging time in the world.

TEDI ascribes to the National Dance Institute’s (NDI) pedagogy and the art and discipline of dance to help 5th graders who often continue in 6th to 10th grade reach their full potential, allowing us over the past 32 years to inspire a total of more than 6,000 adolescents living in Trenton where there is disproportionate impact by poverty.

As we all know, COVID-19 took a toll on the holidays last year. But Kayla was undaunted. She decided to celebrate the holidays with Kareem and the other students by dropping off gifts on the doorsteps of their homes and smiling and waving at them through her car window. “It’s so important for them to see that I am a real person, not just an image on their screens,” she says.

Dancing Together in Separate Spaces

“The most important element of a remote classroom experience is creating a setting where everyone feels comfortable, and doesn’t require a lot of space,” says Kayla. “Every class starts with a warmup. We alternate between activities that require sitting, standing, using the corners of your own square, blacking out the camera, and more. Each session introduces new steps that build on the previous ones. We can spotlight a solo as well as create small groups that rehearse together. John provides the live music and keeps students on their toes by playing various instruments, styles and tempos. We take frequent breaks for discussion and games, such as asking students to draw an emoji that describes them. We’ve even had a scavenger hunt where we asked students to find an object at home they particularly like and talk about it to the group.” TEDI students responded enthusiastically to these assignments.

TEDI Talks

We have learned that we can deliver the magic of TEDI in unique ways. At the end of every dance class zoom session, Kayla asks the group a question, such as: “If you could make one wish that would help others, what would you wish for and why?” Every student who wants to speak has a chance to answer. Among the 5th graders’ responses were: “Make people less hungry”; “Help people feel a sense of security”; “Help people to be happy and laugh more.”

CHSofNJ is grateful to the many major funders, sponsors, Trenton school faculty and community donors whose continued support has enabled us to serve the young people of Trenton for 32 years. Thank you for your partnership in touching the lives of so many students.
THE COVID PANDEMIC DIDN’T STOP SANTA FROM COMING TO THE CHILDREN’S HOME SOCIETY

We were worried. Santa had been coming for brunch to The Children’s Home Society for 56 years. But the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, and we were wondering if he would be able to make it.

To the rescue! The Auxiliary Board of The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey, which hosts Brunch with Santa, refused to give up.

After a consultation with Mr. Claus himself, the members of the Auxiliary Board arranged the first ever Virtual Brunch with Santa, held on Zoom. Santa’s Wonderland, the 57th annual event, held on Saturday, November 28, 2020, was attended by 40 children and their families.

Each registered child received an Elf Box, delivered by the U.S. Postal Service, with a coloring book, a personalized ornament, reindeer food and holiday crafts and games. The virtual event included Christmas caroling with the children, a live reading of the children’s book Llama Llama Holiday Drama and a toddler version of The Night Before Christmas. A live play titled “Land of the Candy Canes” starred our Auxiliary board members. After the activities, each child had a chance to meet one-on-one on Zoom with Santa Claus and talk about what they wanted for Christmas.

The event raised $8,000 to support programs and services for at-risk children at the Children’s Home Society of New Jersey. Thank you so much to the Auxiliary Board, to the event sponsors, to the donors and to Santa, all of whom helped make the 2020 COVID-19 Christmas season more special than ever for our children!

STAFF MEMBERS HONORED BY REINAS Y DIAMANTES OF MERCER COUNTY

In honor of Women’s History Month, Reinas y Diamantes of Mercer County chose three staff members of The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey as the recipients of this year’s Mujeres in Power Awards. The award honors exemplary women of character and leadership and recognizes their positive influence in our community. The virtual award celebration took place on Sunday, March 28.

Teresita Carrasquillo is the Supervisor of the AMAR Community-Based Doula Program. In addition to having certifications from CAPPA (Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association) as a doula and childbirth educator, she holds a master’s degree in science and mathematics.

Socorro Garcia is the Coordinator of the Heritage South Family Success Center. She holds a master’s degree in organizational leadership with a concentration in non-profit management.

Evelyn Sellas-Ramirez is the Family Partner Specialist at the Heritage South Family Success Center. She holds a bachelor’s degree in social work with a concentration in education.
### CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS
**MADE BETWEEN 11/1/2020 AND 3/31/2021**

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JMC Management Group, LLC
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Lincoln National Life Insurance Company
Allied Vision Services of Plainsboro
Oxford Communications
Fischer Cunnane & Associates
Milliman, Inc.
M&T Charitable Foundation
The Burke Foundation
G. Whitney Snyder Charitable Fund
EP Henry Corporation
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Rue Insurance Company
USA Architects, Planners, & Interior Designers
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AvalonBay Communities Inc.
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Roundview Capital
Alliant Insurance Services
M&T Charitable Foundation
Betteanne Bertrand Emergency Relief Fund
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AvalonBay Communities Inc.
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Bunbury Fund
Reinvestment Fund
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
Princeton Area Community Foundation
Fund for Women and Girls at the Princeton Area Community Foundation
NJ Pandemic Relief Fund
Meta A. & William S. Griffith Foundation

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Maternal Child Health
Clinical Services
Maternal Child Health
Positive Impact
Maternal Child Health
Maternal Child Health
Gala
Clinical Services
Early Head Start Liberty Center
Maternal Child Health
Maternal Child Health
Family Success Centers
General Operating Support
On Friday, March 26, The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHSoNJ) CEO Donna Pressma was one of 16 nonprofit organizations leaders honored virtually at the first “Hats Off,” Women’s History Month celebration of the prestigious Center for Hispanic Policy, Research and Development of the New Jersey Department of State. Donna C. Pressma, President and CEO of The Children’s Home Society, accepted the award on behalf of the organization, which has a long-standing commitment to addressing the needs of diverse populations. Under Ms. Pressma’s dedicated and passionate leadership, the agency has greatly expanded programs for Spanish-speaking community members, while maintaining and growing programs and services offered in English sensitive to other local immigrant community needs.

Among the programs offered are the AMAR Doula Community Program, which offers support to women and their families during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period, and CUNA, a health education and support program, both created to address the unique cultural and linguistic needs of Latina women, primarily recent immigrants. Other programs are Mercer County WIC, a supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants and Children, Early Head Start and Head Start.

“I am delighted and honored to accept this recognition which reflects the remarkable teamwork of the staff of The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey in providing critical services and programs to our Latinx children and families, who come from 20 Spanish-speaking cultures,” said Ms. Pressma. “I would also like to recognize two of our outstanding staff members whose leadership has been crucial to these efforts, Maritza Raimundi-Petroski, one of our two vice presidents, and Karen Courtney, CHSoNJ chief operating officer. 'Hats Off' to them!”

After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Antioch College, Ms. Pressma obtained a master’s degree in social work from Smith College. She completed her master’s thesis research, which has been published, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is a New Jersey Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Since 1986, Ms. Pressma has been president and chief executive officer of The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey. Headquartered in Trenton, the agency has a budget of $20,000,000 and a diverse staff of 300 multi-disciplinary professionals. CHSoNJ touches the lives of more than 100,500 at-risk children and families in every county of New Jersey and in Eastern Pennsylvania.

**2020 HOLIDAY SEASON DONORS**

Angie Boyer Memorial Crochets and Knit
AvalonBay Communities
Bank of America
Bank of America Merrill Lynch
The Black Ivy League
BlackRock
Bristol Myers Squibb
Central Jersey Community Center
CGL
Christ Church of New Brunswick
Christine’s Hope for Kids Foundation
Church of St. Gregory the Great
Credit Union of New Jersey CyberGrants
DeBow’s United Methodist Church in Jackson
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Princeton Montessori School
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Solebury United Methodist Children’s Learning Center
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Supporters of Maria Mikowski
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TCNJ KDP Gamma Zeta
TGI Friday’s
The Gladnick Family
The Goddard School,
Hamilton 2
The Link Family
The Ryan Family
The University Heights Giving Tree
Thomas Edison State University
Three Bridges Reformed Church
Trenton Fire Department
Villagers of Allentown
Vital Inspection Services, LLC
Volvo Cars USA
Wegmans - Princeton
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.
West Trenton Presbyterian Church
Women’s Club of Matawan
Yoga Sangeeta
KIDS HELPING KIDS

The Central New Jersey Chapter of SEWA International’s LEAD program for high-school students collected and donated more than 500 books to our agency to brighten the holidays for our children. Founded in India in 1989 and active in 20 countries across the globe, the non-profit SEWA International dedicates all its resources to community service. When the youth volunteers heard about the work that we do for families in our communities, they were eager to help!

The LEAD program of SEWA is designed as a socially conscious leadership platform for youth who wish to serve the greater community and experience the joy of giving back. The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey is delighted to have formed a new partnership in our mission of saving children’s lives and building healthy families.

Students from SEWA International’s LEAD program at CHSoFNJ main office in Trenton, NJ.

WHY NOT STAND TOGETHER IN MATCHING SHIRTS?

A first-year student at The Pennington School, Sanjana Padmanabhan, is a Girl Scout who completed her Silver Award by teaching art workshops for children between ages of 8 and 12 at the Heritage North Family Success Center of The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey. But she didn’t stop there. “I wanted to do more,” she said, and decided to raise money by selling T-shirts with the organization’s logo. “It has been a year of COVID-19,” Sanjana said. “Now that vaccines are being distributed, there is no better time to stand together and push through, so why not do it in matching shirts?”

Sanjana Padmanabhan designed the t-shirt shown below.

Sanjana Padmanabhan pictured volunteering with CHSoFNJ children.
GOLF IN FULL SWING: THE 32ND ANNUAL NAIFA-GP CHARITY GOLF OUTING IS ON FOR SEPTEMBER!

The 32nd Annual Charity Golf Outing to Benefit the Children’s Home Society of New Jersey will take place on Wednesday, September 29, starting at 10 a.m. at the Bucks Club in Jamison, PA.

Last year’s event, which was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, was replaced by an online raffle in December, where participants were able to view and drop tickets into various Tricky Tray Baskets. With the help of our participants, donors and sponsors, the 2020 Golf raised a record amount of more than $14,000. Over the past 30 years, the NAIFA-GP Golf Outing has raised more than $300,000 for the at-risk children and families that we serve. For more information, please visit www.chsofnj.org/golf-outing-2021/.

AGENCY EVENTS

32ND ANNUAL NAIF-GP GOLF OUTING
September 29, 2021
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
The Bucks Club
Jamison, PA
In-person event

TURKEY TROT
November 2021
(Time & Date TBD)

BRUNCH WITH SANTA
November 2021
(Time & Date TBD)

TEDI FALL FUNDRAISER
November 2021
(Time & Date TBD)

AGENCY DRIVES

ONGOING
Disposable Diapers of All Sizes
Toddler Pull-Ups
Newborn Clothing, New
Grocery Store Gift Cards,
$10-$20 each
Hygiene Essentials

WINTER ESSENTIALS
Coats, Hats, Scarves, Gloves
October 2021-February 2022

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE
Grocery Store Gift Cards
Non-perishable Food Items
November 2021

HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE
Toys and Gift Cards
December 2021

Please remember our CHSofNJ children in your estate planning. This is a critical way we have raised funds since 1894.