FOR A CHILD’S SAKE
SUMMER 2020

AMAZING CORPORATE, FOUNDATION AND DONOR SUPPORT

We would like to personally thank AvalonBay Communities, Bristol-Myers Squibb, New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Group, Community Foundation of New Jersey NJPRF, Harold Kramer Foundation, MacMillan Family Foundation, Princeton Area Community Foundation and Reinvestment Fund for their substantial donations to our agency!

We are so grateful for the ongoing support we have received. Hunger is overwhelming our children and families. Corporations, Foundations and Donors who found it in their hearts to support our agency have touched the lives of so many of our at risk children and families by making it possible for us to give out emergency food and support in counseling services. Our essential child care and WIC food services have never stopped. With generous support, we have received the ability to give out nutritious food boxes for a week of groceries, gift cards for local grocery stores, electronic needs and internet connections so that we never lost contact with the children and families we serve. In total, 1,805 new families began services since CHSofNJ went virtual.

Being able to stay in constant contact with our children and families allows us to be there for the trauma, anxiety and depression they are experiencing. Our families are not only stressed by the Coronavirus (COVID-19), but also worry about food, losing their jobs, paying rent and medical bills. Such worries greatly increase the likelihood of child abuse, domestic violence and depression as they are confined to their apartments and houses. Your loyal support makes it possible that together we can save children’s lives and build healthy families.

COVID-19, RACISM AND INJUSTICE CHALLENGES

The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey mourns the death of George Floyd. We mourn the deaths of all who have died before him without justice. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice.” We recognize with deep sadness that throughout our agency’s 126-year history, there has never been peace. We stand with and support our communities and colleagues as we listen and learn. We hope that in some small way our work will help in the struggle toward equality and justice.

Values We value services that work, that are all evaluated, and that help children, youth and parents to help themselves. Our services are delivered with dignity, cultural sensitivity and respect for our clients. We value the passion, dedication and training of our staff and the strong support and stewardship of our Board and Auxiliary.

CHSofNJ, a social service agency that has assisted at-risk children and families for 126 years, shares an important message with New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania residents. CHSofNJ is passionate about its mission: Saving Children’s Lives and Building Healthy Families. We are driven by our values: In our country, every child has a right to be loved, protected and respected, no matter his or her race, religion, country of origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, abilities or disabilities, or whether an urban or rural resident. Every child has a right to be all that he or she can be and to grow up with a permanent, loving family and in a society that treats them with respect and equal justice.
In honor of Black History Month, The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey Mercer County WIC program held a fun and informative breastfeeding event at our main office in Trenton, NJ on February 25, 2020. The event focused on the importance of breastfeeding with its health enhancing benefits for newborns and as preventative care for mothers. Speakers highlighted racial disparities in health outcomes and access to quality WIC healthcare. Those who participate keep their baby healthier.

Participants were informed of recent evidence which revealed that women of color are more likely to experience high blood pressure and cardiac events. However, the longer a woman breastfeeds the lower her chances are of suffering from hypertension and cardiac issues. Women of color tend to have very low rates of breastfeeding, especially exclusively. This evidence proves that supporting women of color in their breastfeeding is not only crucial for the health of their babies, but also for their own future health outcomes.

During the course of the event, some women took the time to share their personal stories and were recognized for their breastfeeding knowledge as they played educational games. In addition to enjoying healthy snacks, these pregnant and nursing mothers participated in raffles to win baskets full of nursing and baby products, wraps and other breastfeeding-friendly items. Our Mercer WIC program is dedicated to providing all women with the knowledge and resources needed for themselves and their babies/toddlers to live a healthy and happy life!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AUXILIARY OFFICERS

The CHSofNJ Auxiliary Board has been deeply committed to our foster babies for 57 years, raising an amazing $500,000 to date! We would like to thank these dedicated ladies for their support, friendship and hard work as volunteers. We congratulate the 2019-20 Officers, who were announced at the Virtual Auxiliary’s Installation. In attendance: CHSofNJ President & CEO Donna Pressma, Former CHSofNJ Board Chair Kati Chupa and Agency Liaison, Angie McManimon.

On Tuesday, June 9, 2020, we did a virtual Auxiliary installation of the new officers. Michele Krasny who recently served for two years, passed the new presidency role to Maureen McGovern. Maureen has been a long time member of the Auxiliary and can’t wait to take the lead. Heidi Musick, who is new to her role and was introduced to our Auxiliary through Debbie Musick, CHSofNJ Board Trustee, will now take the role as our Vice President. Heidi, running several small fundraisers and assisting the board in moving towards new ways to fundraise, has been a great leader and her extensive fundraising experience will bring about positive change to our agency. Our former Treasurer Kate McGrath, who has been in this role for decades, has now resigned from her position and is passing the role to Morgan Cole. Kate’s years of hard-work and dedication in her role maintaining the auxiliary accounts has been greatly appreciated. Ana Benalcazar continues her role from last year as Corresponding Secretary and Kristin Hartig as Recording Secretary. Parliamentarian, Marilyn Carroll and a new role for Heather Martinez, as our Project Director. We are proud of our Auxiliary members and their dedication the CHSofNJ.
HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START VIRTUAL LEARNING

Our Head Start/Early Head Start teachers have found new and creative ways to engage with their 3 and 4-year-old students despite the temporary closing of their school. We have dedicated a section of our CHSoFNJ website to give updates on our new virtual way of teaching. Weekly circle time sessions are held using Zoom, which gives the teachers and their students the opportunity to see each other in real time to sing songs, answer questions and share their thoughts and feelings.

Teachers are also using YouTube as a way to connect with students by uploading sing-a-long and read-a-long videos for them to access at any time of the day. Students were given an indoor scavenger hunt video and list of items to find such as a toy with wheels, a stuffed animal or a book with numbers, as a fun activity for them to enjoy while at home.

Each day teachers upload a “question of the day” and students are encouraged to send their teachers a picture of them answering the questions. One of the popular questions of day was “How many times do you think our class pet, Hermit, eats?” Several children uploaded their pictures from home with big smiles, holding up their fingers with the answer to the question.

These are just some of the many creative and fun ideas that our Head Start/Early Head Start staff has come up with to stay connected with their students. Although schools are closed it is important to us that we show our children and families that we care and we are here for them through this challenging time. We want to thank all of our hard-working Head Start/Early Head Start staff for their dedication to our programs and families!

MERCER COUNTY WIC PROGRAM RECEIVES ARAMARK & AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION GRANT

Our Mercer County WIC program received a $2,500 grant award from Aramark and the American Heart Association’s Healthy For Life initiative. Healthy For Life is an evidence-based community nutrition and well-being program that empowers people to make healthy food, nutrition and lifestyle choices. This grant will help our WIC program improve the health of the babies, children and families we serve by prompting our community to learn how healthy food can help them accomplish their goals and live a healthier life. In addition to working with our community to share and build knowledge of food literacy, our WIC employees will work to increase the skills and confidence around preparing and cooking healthy home-cooked meals. They will be conducting educational sessions that focus on healthy cooking demonstrations, and nutrition and heart healthy workshops!

CHSoFNJ believes in keeping our community safe and healthy! We are beyond delighted to take part in such an important and fulfilling initiative. Thank you, Aramark and American Heart Association!

Kinship has moved to 635 South Clinton Avenue, Trenton NJ 08611

Mercer County WIC has moved to 1440 Parkside Avenue Ewing, NJ 08638
In March our 21st Century Students along with Director of School-Based Programs, Louise McCants, partnered with The Rodriguez Family Foundation to collect backpacks and school supplies for children of Puerto Rico after the recent earthquake. The island was left in such bad condition that the children couldn’t attend school indoors.

The Rodriguez Family Foundation came up with the idea to get involved and help make a difference in the lives of many families who are struggling to get back on their feet. When told about the school supplies drive, our 21st Century students were so eager and excited to help out other students. They collected over 200 backpacks, pens, pencils, notebooks and supplies and worked together to stuff each backpack with such necessary school supplies for 5th graders in Puerto Rico that must go to school outside as their school was so badly damaged by earthquakes.

We are so proud of our 21st Century Trenton students and to be able to partner with The Rodriguez Family Foundation to make a difference in the lives of children in Puerto Rico!

The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey (CHSofNJ) was awarded a $10,000 COVID-19 Emergency Meal Grant from NJ Child Nutrition Fund (NJCNF) in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. The NJCNF provides capital funding and technical assistance for federal nutrition program sponsors, sites, and meal vendors to expand the availability of fresh and nutritious food to children across the state of New Jersey. CHSofNJ in receiving this grant has been able to get nourishing food to many families with children who are most in need of food.

The NJCNF is using their resources to offer $450,000 in COVID-19 Emergency Meal Grants which will be available to support organizations that are addressing rising food insecurity among children and families in New Jersey. Prior to the public health and economic crisis, The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey provided breakfast, lunch and snack to 298 children attending our Head Start/Early Head Start programs at five locations across Trenton.

Amid the pandemic, The Reinvestment Fund recognizes that families in our community have deep concerns about their ability to access healthy food. This Emergency Meal grant will help support the purchase of food supplies from our stores, to be distributed to families in and around the City of Trenton who do not have food. Funds will also allow us to provide covid safety needs of masks and gloves for staff as they prepare bags of food and distribute them to families. The grant provides storage bins to keep food safe. Families will be able to pick up food from the agency main office at 635 South Clinton Avenue in Trenton or the food will be delivered directly to the doorstep of some who cannot get out to pick up food at our Trenton sites.
KIDS HELPING KIDS

Here at The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey we are always thrilled to highlight children who go out of their way to make a difference in our community. In February we had the pleasure of meeting Sienna Hernandez, an enthusiastic dancer, who partnered with Donate 2 Dance to provide our agency with dance costumes, dance wear and dance shoes which will help support our Trenton Education Dance Institute as well as our Halloween Event.

Sienna has been dancing since before the age of 3 and is a current dancer in the teen squad at In the Spotlight located in Waldwick, NJ. For her upcoming Bat Mitzvah, she decided to focus her Mitzvah Service Project on a non-profit organization – and we were the lucky recipients of her generous costume drive. Sienna wants all children who love to dance, just as she does, to have the same opportunity to have beautiful and new costumes to dance in!

Sienna your thoughtfulness will put smiles on so many of our children’s faces when they see your beautiful costumes! Thank you for caring about us, we are so grateful for your support.

OUR HERITAGE NORTH FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER CELEBRATES CARING CAPITAL HEALTH SYSTEM STAFF

The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey is proud to share that our Heritage North Family Success Center (HNFSC) staff has partnered with Madame Cupcake Shop in Princeton NJ to give a big Thank You surprise to local healthcare workers with tasty treats during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Madame Cupcake Shop’s founder and member of our Parent Advisory Committee, Tatiana Tedesco, donated 600 cupcakes to our HNFSC staff to give to healthcare workers at Capital Health Medical Center in Hopewell, NJ. It is during times like this, that we rejoice in the simplest forms of kindness being spread throughout our community. We appreciate all of our healthcare workers who are on the front line working tirelessly, and putting their lives at risk, to keep us all safe and well during this outbreak.

Thank you to Aniela Brzoza, our CHSofNJ HNFSC Coordinator, our HNFSC staff and Anna Wojciechowska, our Leader Mom of our Parent Advisory Committee for coordinating this special event. A very big thank you to Tatiana Tedesco at Madame Cupcake Shop for supporting our event and caring for our brave healthcare workers with her generous donation. We are so very grateful to be able to support our community and show our appreciation to caring essential workers in such a challenging time.
Our State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) has been awarded a $40,000 grant from New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Aging Services (DoAS) to support the Medicare Improvements for Patience and Providers Act (MIPPA).

SHIP is a statewide program that provides free, objective, confidential help to New Jersey Medicare beneficiaries who have problems with, or questions about Medicare Insurance. MIPPA provides federal funds to states to help low-income Medicare beneficiaries become aware of and apply for programs that make Medicare affordable, and encourage all Medicare beneficiaries to utilize the free Medicare preventive benefits.

This grant award will help to provide outreach and application assistance to increase the number of low-income Medicare beneficiaries in New Jersey who know about and apply for Medicare as well as increase beneficiaries’ awareness and use of free and reduced-cost preventative benefits covered by Medicare Part B. SHIP employees will receive additional training and conduct a minimum of 20 community presentations and enrollment events in target areas. Additionally, employees will develop and distribute brochures, fact sheets, flyers and other materials to promote benefits to targeted populations.

SHIP and their highly trained volunteer staff help thousands of Mercer County citizens navigate Medicare each year across Mercer County and across the USA. We are fortunate to have a team of 11 experienced SHIP volunteers from a range of backgrounds who freely offer their time and proficiency, especially in this time of great uncertainty. Recipients are so grateful to our SHIP volunteers who continue to keep our program running efficiently!

SHIP advice is always free, confidential and impartial – contact Mercer County SHIP coordinator Cathy Forbes by telephone 609-273-0588 or by email at cforbes@chsofnj.org to set up your own confidential appointment with one of our committed volunteer counselors.

HERITAGE SOUTH FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER FOOD DRIVE

As the worldwide public health Pandemic continues to alter the lives of many across our nation, food insecurity continues to be the number one issue impacting many of our families in the City of Trenton. Our agency has been doing everything we can to address as many needs as possible across many of our programs and our Heritage South Family Success Center (HSFSC) is no exception.

This week, FSC staff geared up to sort and assemble food shortages for families in dire need. In addition to non-perishable food items, messages about health and wellness were included in the packages along with family board games to encourage and promote bonding, communication and meaningful parent-child interactions during these difficult times.

These food packages were made available to Family Success Center families and pregnant women participating in our AMAR Community-Based Doula Program in Trenton. CHSofNJ will continue to do all that we can to meet the needs of our babies, children and families during these trying times. Thank you to our hard-working and dedicated FCS staff for always caring about our community!
### CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS BETWEEN 01/16/20-05/31/20

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AvalonBay Communities, Inc. $20,000.00 Unrestricted
Princeton Area Community Foundation $11,200.00 COVID Relief
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company $10,000.00 Unrestricted
Kohl’s National Giving Program $10,000.00 Unrestricted
The Reinvestment Fund $10,000.00 COVID Relief
Princeton Area Community Foundation – Bunbury Fund $10,000.00 Unrestricted
Harold Kramer Foundation $7,500.00 COVID Relief
Astle-Alpaugh Family Foundation $7,000.00 Maternal Child Health
PNC Foundation $5,000.00 Unrestricted
The Codey Fund for Mental Health $5,000.00 Adoption/Counseling
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. $5,000.00 Unrestricted
Stark & Stark $3,000.00 Unrestricted
Alliant Insurance Services $1,500.00 Unrestricted
Capital Health System $1,500.00 Unrestricted
Kaplan Early Learning Company $1,500.00 Unrestricted
Rue Insurance Company $1,500.00 Unrestricted
Delorenzo’s Tomato Pies (Robbinsville/Yardley) $1,000.00 COVID Relief
Blend Bar & Bistro $650.00 Unrestricted
Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign $600.00 Unrestricted
Bob Hope’s Auto Repair $500.00 Unrestricted
Credit Union of NJ Foundation, Inc. $500.00 Unrestricted
Prior & Nami Business Systems $500.00 Unrestricted
Roebling Urban Renewal Associates $500.00 Unrestricted
Stone-Tech Fabrication Inc. $500.00 Unrestricted
Village Office Supply $500.00 Unrestricted

### Individual COVID Relief Supporters

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Kati and Steve Chupa $5,000 COVID Relief
Eva Alicea $1,000 COVID Relief
Bijal Pithak $1,000 COVID Relief
Donna Pressma $1,000 COVID Relief
Anonymous $1,000 COVID Relief
Robert and Burton Sutker $1,000 COVID Relief

### INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER—PASTOR BRIAN JOYCE

The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey is honored to introduce our newest member joining our Board of Directors. **Pastor Brian Joyce** is a dedicated member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Ewing, NJ and is serving in his third appointment as Lead Pastor. He was the Director of the Philadelphia International Children’s Festival at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, which brought 25,000 children and families for five days every year. He is a Founding Board Member of IPAY, the International Association of Performing Arts for Young People, past President of the Association of International Festivals and Presenters of the Performing Arts for Young People, member of the Selection Committee for the SHOWCASE of International Performing Arts for Young People from 1995-2006, and Director of ASSITEJ-USA’s One Theatre World in 1998 and 2002. Pastor Brian Joyce was officially inducted into our Board of Directors in March. We look forward to seeing the new ideas, and knowledge he will bring.
Driscoll’s gave a $10,000 charitable donation to The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey (CHSofNJ) following the cancellation of our annual Strawberry Days fundraisers. For our Strawberry Days event, Driscoll’s and Wegmans partner together to support our agency with their annual Strawberry Days promotion! The 4-day fundraising event is sponsored by Driscoll’s as a way to promote healthy summer snacks while raising critical funds for the life-saving programs of CHSofNJ.

Unfortunately, due to the current Pandemic, Strawberry Days has been cancelled for this year. But our longtime friends at Driscoll’s understand that our fundraisers allow us to provide our essential programs and services to the at-risk children and babies we serve—and so they have granted us a generous $10,000 gift so that we can continue saving children’s lives and building healthy families. Although we will not be hosting this year’s event, please make sure to support Driscoll’s and Wegmans by purchasing delicious strawberry’s this summer.

-126th Annual Seeds To Blooms Gala, Saturday, October 3rd
Event will be held Virtually. Details to follow.
- 31st Annual Golf Outing, Wednesday September 23rd
- Handbag Bingo TBD.
The agency will be hosting this years back to school drive in August. Now more than ever, our children are in need of your help! With the possibility of schools not reopening, our kids will need these supplies available at home. To learn more about participating this year, email Angie at agiacolona@chsofnj.org

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