

CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

**HELPING OUR
MOST VULNERABLE
NEIGHBORS**



CHILDREN'S AID
AND FAMILY SERVICES, INC.



WE BRING HOPE TO VULNERABLE CHILDREN, YOUNG



CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES



OUR **MISSION IS TO PRESERVE, PROTECT,**
AND WHEN NEEDED **PROVIDE FAMILIES**

Welcome to Children's Aid and Family Services. For more than 100 years, we've helped tens of thousands of individuals — of all ages and from all walks of life — to thrive in their communities in northern New Jersey. **Our mission is to preserve, protect, and when needed, provide families.** Motivated by compassion for vulnerable children, young adults, frail elderly and their families, we provide high-quality and innovative services that meet their social, educational and emotional needs.

Whether we're working with a child seeking an adoptive family, supplying formula and diapers to hardworking families that are struggling financially, providing a low-income family with affordable childcare, helping a teenager resist the pressure to take drugs, providing a mentor for a child in foster care, or offering support to those caring for elderly loved ones, we're helping to build futures for children and families in the communities we serve.



OUR HISTORY

Children's Aid and Family Services was founded in 1899 as a child protection and adoption agency, and for much of our history, we focused solely on placing children in adoptive homes. In fact, we've placed more than 10,000 infants with loving adoptive parents. The agency is a recognized leader in New Jersey in all

aspects of pre-adoption and post-adoption services. These services support children in need of adoptive families, and also serve adult adoptees searching for members of their birth families, as well as those seeking to adopt a child, and anyone else whose life has been touched by adoption.

OUR EVOLUTION

While placing children for adoption is still one of our specialties, we've evolved to keep pace with a changing world. There are more than 140 infants and children in the agency's foster care at any given time, and the needs of the children we treat today have changed dramatically during the last 25 years. Today, they come to us having suffered from more severe physical and emotional abuse and neglect, and having

had less basic care from their families. Many of the children have serious behavioral and mental health issues, as well as social and learning challenges. As a consequence, they need more specialized treatment while living in the agency's group or family foster homes to help them start to heal. The agency's goal is to help them move on to a loving adoptive family, or live independently, with a job and a home to call their own.

WHOSE PARENTS CAN'T OR WON'T TAKE CARE OF THEM.



low-income families

frail elderly

at-risk families

vulnerable children

at-risk teenagers

fragile babies

abandoned children

struggling neighbors

EVERY KID THAT MAKES IT DESPITE THE ODDS AND SUCCEEDS, IN WHATEVER GOALS



CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES



WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP

Today, Children's Aid and Family Services is a premiere treatment agency, serving children in foster care that have histories of severe trauma. Without the specialty services we provide, many would wind up institutionalized — not necessarily lost or forgotten, but unable to receive the type and level of service they need to succeed. These children face challenges that no child deserves. Without support and safety net systems, young people who have experienced abuse may grow into adults that are self-destructive and damaging to our communities. It doesn't have to turn out this way.

For us to be able to give these at-risk children a safe, structured, loving place to call home and to heal in is an amazing gift to both the children and the greater community. And we can't do it without you. Together,

we are able to help many of these children heal and go on to bring joy and fulfillment to a family who fosters or adopts them, to be productive members of society, and to someday have families of their own.

It is a long and arduous process, one that requires enormous investments of time, talent, patience, hope and vision. But the return on investment is invaluable. Every child that is given a chance to be a kid again, to heal, to feel loved and safe, to be able to love, is one less adult that could otherwise end up homeless, in jail, unemployed or increasingly at-risk. Every kid that makes it despite the odds and succeeds, in whatever goals he or she sets, is more than one victory. It's the victory of many — of every person who touched that child's life in a positive way, who didn't give up on them, who saw what could be rather than what was.



HOW YOU CAN HELP... **VOLUNTEER, FOSTER/ADOPT A CHILD OR DONATE**

With facilities located throughout northern New Jersey, more than 250 employees, and 600 community volunteers, Children's Aid and Family Services is one of northern New Jersey's oldest and largest child welfare and family services agencies. Through our array of programs — which include adoption and foster care, child care and early education, community counseling,

eldercare, and help for working poor families with young children struggling to provide the basics — we can and do make a difference every day for the people in our communities. But we can't do it without you — our volunteers, our mentors, our foster parents, our loyal supporters and our friends. **To learn more about our services, call 201.261.2800 or visit www.cafsnj.org.**

