



Blossoming Like *Flowers*



A Mother and Daughter Care for Medically Needy Children

“Do you see the butterfly?” Doreen asks her 3-year-old foster son, Thomas, as they look out his bedroom window. “I see a butterfly and a lady bug,” he replies excitedly. Doreen smiles at this conversation; she remembers it was only two months ago that Thomas did not speak. Now, like a typical toddler, he chatters nonstop.*

Doreen has always loved children, and while growing up in Jamaica, her house was usually full of kids. Her mother, Eileen, cared for relatives’ little ones when their parents emigrated to other countries. “Whenever there was a baby at the house, I remember I couldn’t wait for school to end so I could go home and play with him,” Doreen says.

Doreen always wanted a large family, and through the years, she often thought about becoming a foster parent. She finally pursued her dream after visiting a friend’s office and seeing a poster for the agency’s Medically Needy Infants and Toddlers Foster Care program. This program serves children ages newborn through 4 years who suffer from the effects of premature birth and a variety of medical conditions.

At about the same time, her mother moved in with her and wanted something meaningful to do. After contacting the agency and learning more about its foster care programs, they both decided to become foster parents. They spent approximately one year undergoing training by the agency and becoming licensed by the state, and have been fostering for the past year. They have cared for 10 children



Mother and daughter foster parent team Eileen and Doreen.



Thanks to you, many of the children in our care enjoyed an exciting, fun summer. This year, we sent 28 children to camp, where they swam, played sports and made new friends. They had a great time simply being kids!

Many of you have also responded generously to the Thomas R.S. Burgin Parents Fund fundraiser. There are 18 adolescents accessing the fund this fall for expenses related to transitioning into independent living. This is a record number of teenagers depending on the fund, and your continued generosity is crucial to their future success.

Again, I thank you for all your generous support and deep and abiding commitment to helping the vulnerable children we serve.

Robert B. Jones, Ph.D.
President & CEO



Thanks to Ridgewood resident Pamela Christian and her children Jessica, Alex and Michael, who donated a water sand table to the kindergarten class at Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center.

Agency Accreditation Renewed

Recently, Children's Aid and Family Services earned the honor of national re-accreditation by the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services. This is a rigorous, year-long process that assures the quality of the agency's services, best management practices and ethics.



The re-accreditation process occurs every four years and involves an in-depth examination of the agency's compliance with best practice standards. The Council on Accreditation is an international, independent not-for-profit accrediting body of social and behavioral healthcare services.

"I'm so proud of this distinction because it recognizes the hard work of the agency's staff, its board and volunteers and their commitment to the vulnerable children and families we serve," says Bob Jones, Ph.D., president & CEO of the agency.

What Your Help Makes Possible

Your donations to the Thomas R.S. Burgin Parents Fund, which is used by adolescents who are transitioning into independent living, are making an incredible difference. Here is one recipient's thank-you note to the agency.

Hello Everyone 😊
 Just wanted to let CAFS know that I appreciate everything that was done for me within the two years I was there. I can honestly say that I have matured a lot and I
How nice of you to be so thoughtful!
 continue to grow each day. I am currently attending Tech Institute as a Cardio Tech. I have a "A" average and will be graduating in late January, early February. Thank You for everything (support, love, a place to stay, therapy, funds, etc)
 Love You Sherry

The Turrell Center: Come See Why We're Different

When it comes to your baby, you want only the best. Before your newborn even arrives, you interview pediatricians, compare car seat safety ratings and take parenting courses. And if you're a working mother, you have the added concern of finding quality child care you can trust.

For more than 30 years, thousands of Bergen County working families have chosen Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center, located at 200 Robin Road, Paramus, NJ, to nurture their little ones. **The Turrell Center serves children ages 8 weeks through kindergarten, and is open 7:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.**



New walkers love the Waddler Room, one of the special extras at the Turrell Center.

The Center offers:

- Top-quality infant care
- Full and part-time schedules
- Enrichment programs
- Freshly prepared nutritional meals and snacks
- Indoor infant playroom
- State-of-the-art outdoor playgrounds
- Large indoor gym for year-round play
- Book and Toy libraries
- Children's garden
- Parenting workshops
- Security and safety

Enroll at the Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center by **October 15, 2009**, and receive **one week free tuition** after three months' enrollment.

Take a virtual tour of the Center at <http://turrell.cafsnj.org> or call 201.261.5970 to see the center in person.



Educational Advisory Committee Formed

The children in our care generally have a history of six to 10 different school placements by the time they come to us. Consequently, the vast majority are more than two years below grade level, and usually have developmental delays as well. Because of these challenges, they often become frustrated with their studies. The sad reality is if they do not have access to a good education, these children will struggle to have a fulfilling future and live independently when they reach adulthood.

The agency recently formed an Educational Advisory Committee to help find solutions to these challenges. The committee recommended a staff position for a director of educational services be created, and a professional in special education subsequently joined our staff. These efforts have been instrumental in helping educate foster parents and agency staff about the special educational needs of the children in our care. We have also obtained independent surrogates, with expertise in special education, to serve as advocates for the children to the area school systems.

Further, we have hired additional tutors, as it has been identified that all of the children need individual educational support. Some of them currently receive this help from local school districts, however, this does not cover the needs of all the children. Volunteer tutors are critical to meeting the children's educational needs. Please contact the Development Office at 201.261.2800 to find out more about becoming a volunteer tutor.

during this time, some for as little as one month and others for up to six months. They are currently fostering brothers who are 8 months and 3 years old.

“My mother and I see these children make so much progress in such a short amount of time,” she says. “Although it’s busy taking them to their doctor and therapy appointments, it’s very rewarding. We make a difference to them and let them know people really do care about them.”

Doreen’s face lights up with a broad smile when she talks about the positive changes she has seen in the children. For instance, 3-year-old Thomas didn’t know his name when he came to her home. Now, after speech and occupational therapy – in addition to hugs, kisses and playtime – he talks, sings, helps dress himself and is beginning to toilet train. Eileen and Doreen take him to the local library for story time, and he’s even starting to socialize with other toddlers.

Doreen describes another toddler, Antonio*, just 15 months old, who could not walk or eat solid food when he arrived. Eileen, whom he

affectionately called “Mimi,” sat patiently with him every day, gently coaxing him to try new foods. Antonio developed a healthy appetite, and with the help of physical therapy, he quickly began to stand, climb and eventually take his first steps.

Doreen says the hardest part of fostering is when the children leave. “I still listen for the babies’ cries at night, and then realize they’re gone,” she says. “It’s hard for my mother, too. She goes out on the days they leave so she doesn’t have to see it. But it’s just amazing to watch them change for the better so quickly. With care and love, they blossom like flowers.”

**Names changed to protect clients’ privacy.*

Children’s Aid and Family Services is seeking foster and adoptive parents for the children in our care. Prospective parents will be helped every step of the way. Support services include a monthly stipend and medical coverage for the child, case management by a social worker, comprehensive training programs and monthly family group meetings. For more information, call Eileen Jones at 201.226.0300.

Help Wanted: Professional Foster Parent



Are you or someone you know passionate about helping vulnerable children and looking for a unique employment opportunity? Children’s Aid and Family Services is seeking committed couples who want to serve as role models and make a positive difference to teenagers in foster care by serving as “Professional Parents.”

Our professional parents live in an agency-owned home, and provide a stable, nurturing environment to the teenagers in their care.

For more information, call our recruitment specialist at 201.226.0300.

Become a *Fan* of the Agency

Children’s Aid and Family Services is now on Facebook, the popular social networking website. Be sure to keep up with the latest agency happenings by visiting our events section, photo albums and cause page.



The Community Helping Vulnerable Children

Our community partnerships were in full swing this summer with several supply drives benefitting the agency.

Does your child need a community service project for school or the Scouts? Are you planning a birthday party for your son or daughter and want him or her to learn the important life lesson of giving to those less fortunate? Is your company seeking to get more involved in the community? Are you hosting a Halloween party for your friends and looking to help others at the same time?

These are just a few creative ways for you or your children to lead a supply drive on behalf of the vulnerable children and families the agency serves.

Supply drives are critical to the foster children in our care, many of whom often come to us with their meager belongings stuffed in a plastic bag. A project centered on raising funds to purchase luggage, duffel bags, towels, twin sheet sets and comforters and gift cards to large retailers such as Target or Kohl's, would be a huge help to the children in our group homes.

Baby Basics is another program in need of product donations, particularly during this difficult economy, when more families than ever are being served. This program helps low-income families with children ages 2 and younger by providing free nutritional formula, diapers and other baby essentials.

The Read Now! program provides books to disadvantaged young children in and around Paterson, and is always in need of books.

For more information on how you or your organization can get involved, please call the Development Department at 201.261.2800 or visit www.cafsnj.org.



1). Members of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. collected a mountain of baby products to benefit Baby Basics. 2). Ramsey resident Olivia Frazier celebrated her birthday party by asking her friends to bring donations to the Baby Basics program. 3). Charlie Wohlleb and Patricia Paris of Sigma Group with a donation of school supplies. 4). Karen Winick, volunteer and community relations manager, accepts back packs and school supplies collected by Quentin LaLama and his colleagues at United Water. 5.) Agency friend Keisha Moye donated to a Baby Basics drive while attending a summer barbecue. 6). Kerry Guerriero and Eileen McHale of the Hertz Corporation delivered school supplies collected by them and their co-workers to the agency.

Fine Wine, Delicious Food, Fabulous Silent Auction

Join us For a Wine & Food Tasting Evening

Saturday, October 24, 2009, marks the the return of the agency's popular Wine & Food Tasting Evening at St. Leon's church in Fair Lawn, NJ. This fun event will feature an assortment of wonderful wines and a wide selection of delicious food from some of the area's finest restaurants.

There will also be a silent auction chock-full of fun and unique items, including a gift certificate to Town & Country Apothecary and Fine Cosmetics in Ridgewood for pampering spa treatments, a 3-month membership to Ethos Fitness Spa in Midland Park, a gift basket filled with delectable delights from The Melting Pot, tickets to the "Late Show with David Letterman," and weekend getaways to the stately Westminster Hotel in Livingston



and The Sand Castle in Long Beach Island.

Tickets to the event cost \$75. The proceeds from the evening will focus on supporting programs for infants and young children in the agency's care, including Baby Basics and Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center.

Sponsors include Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar, Atlantic Stewardship Bank, Town News and United Water. Additional sponsors are being sought.

To purchase tickets, donate a silent auction item or for more information about sponsorship opportunities, call the Development Department at 201.261.2800 or visit www.cafsnj.org.

2009 Building Futures Awards Honorees

On Tuesday, September 22, 2009, Children's Aid and Family Services will host its seventh annual Building Futures Awards. The awards recognize individuals, groups, and corporations that have made a significant contribution toward improving the lives of children and families in northern New Jersey. The following individuals, businesses and community organizations are being honored:

Senator Robert Menendez for Government Leadership

Whole Foods, Ridgewood for Business and Labor Leadership

Atlantic Stewardship Bank for Corporate Leadership

Jacobsen Landscape Design for Small Business Leadership

Junior League of Bergen County for Community Leadership

Social Service Association of Ridgewood & Vicinity, Inc. for Non-Profit Leadership

Nina Hovey for Individual Leadership

Ralph and Doris Hansmann for a Lifetime in Leadership



Grants News

Children's Aid and Family Services thanks The Giants Foundation, OritaniBank Charitable Foundation, Ronald McDonald House Charities and PNC Grow Up Great for their generous support of the agency's initiatives. The Giants Foundation provided a \$10,000 grant to be used for educational support for the children in foster care, as well as care packages for those "aging out" of foster care. Ronald McDonald House Charities approved a grant of \$11,000 for tutoring and educational support. The OritaniBank Charitable Foundation awarded \$10,000 to the Thomas R.S. Burgin Parents Fund, which provides financial assistance to teens aging out of foster care and attending college or vocational training. PNC's **Grow Up Great program** provided a \$3,000 grant to be used for educational needs at the agency's Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center.



Representatives from PNC Grow Up Great present a check to the agency. (l. - r.) Sue Cohen, PNC regional manager; Rich Soleimani, PNC Mahwah branch manager; Bob Jones, president and CEO of the agency; Sandy Richards, director of Child Care Services; and Pat Kane, PNC client and community relations events manager. They are joined by students at the Turrell Center.

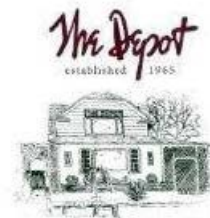
Help Make the Holidays Special

With the holidays approaching, we need your help. Following are some ways you can help make this time of the year brighter for the children in our care:



- **Holiday gift drives** – Ask your friends or co-workers to participate in a gift collection drive for the children living in one of the agency's homes. Some of the items needed include gift certificates, winter coats, hats, gloves and toys.
- **Host a holiday party** for the children in our care. Bring your friends or co-workers to one of the agency's locations and celebrate with our children.
- **Tickets to holiday events** – Many of the children in our care have never been to a holiday concert or show. Your donation of tickets to a family-oriented performance would give our children wonderful memories.

Please call our Development Office at 201.261.2800 to find out how you can get involved and make a difference this holiday season.



*An all volunteer
Craft and Gift Shop
Offering the finest
collection of
Holiday Gifts and
Handmade Crafts*

**22 Prospect Street
Midland Park
(201) 444-6120**

**Starting Wed. Sept 9th
Mon. - Sat. 9:30am - 4:30pm
Thurs. until 7 pm**

The gift that gives twice!



*All proceeds benefit
Children's Aid and Family Services*

Be Part of a Multi-Town Yard Sale to Benefit the Agency

Fall is a terrific time to clean out, “declutter” and organize your home before the hectic holiday season begins. And best of all, by selling your old treasures, you can help vulnerable children and families in the community.

The agency is seeking participants to either hold an individual yard sale at their home or be part of a community sale at Children’s Aid and Family Services’ Riggs House, 148 Prospect Street, Ridgewood, NJ on Saturday, October 3, 2009.



Visit www.cafsnj.org for more details.

The fee is \$25.00 to rent a table at Riggs House or to hold an individual yard sale at your home. The fee includes advertising a listing of your address in the site map.

To print out a registration form, visit www.cafsnj.org. For more information on registering, call Lisa Williamson of Happy Tuesday at 201.251.8011. To advertise in the site map or volunteer at the event, call Mary Pat Boron at 201.261.2800.

The mission of Children’s Aid and Family Services 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. Since 1899, the agency has been recognized as a leader in adoption and specialty therapeutic services for children who have been severely traumatized and abused. For more information, please visit www.cafsnj.org.



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