

## Sue Henry

By anyone's estimation, Sue Henry has had a life full of challenges. But with some help along the way, and her own strong sense of determination, she's overcome the odds and grown into a happy, confident and successful person.

The youngest of seven children, Ms. Henry was born to an impoverished family. Her father and mother divorced when she was only 11 months old, and another family tragedy occurred when she was almost 6. Her older brother suffered a seizure and died suddenly. Ms. Henry's mother, caring for a large family, and overwhelmed with grief, never fully recovered. "My mother did the best she could at the time," says Ms. Henry. "But growing up, we never had a lot of structure or supervision."

In 1982, when Ms. Henry was 15, she became pregnant. She knew if she stayed with her mother, she would have to quit school and work to support the baby. A good student, she was determined to finish her education. At the hospital where she was receiving her prenatal care, she spoke to a social worker about her dilemma. The social worker contacted



Sue Henry  
with daughter  
Danielle  
in 1983.

## Full Circle

Children's Aid and Family Services, which had a program at the time to help young, single mothers care for their babies and finish their education.

Young women and their infants in the Mother Daughter Program lived with foster families who taught parenting skills to the mothers, as well as provided food and housing, enabling the mother to continue her education. Ms. Henry was interested in the program, but first her mother would have to relinquish her parental rights. "My mother didn't want to sign the paperwork, but she knew how important it was for me to continue school," says Ms. Henry. "It was really hard for her, but in the end she did it."

Ms. Henry's daughter, Danielle, was born in April 1983, and she and her mother moved to Montclair to live with their foster family. "My foster parents renovated the third floor of their house so Danielle and I would have a big bedroom and our own bathroom," recalls Ms. Henry. "Although I was nervous, I was also really excited. I'd never had my own room before or lived with a mother and father."

At an age when most girls' biggest decision is picking out a prom dress, Ms. Henry was

See **Full Circle** on Page 5



*There's No Place  
Like Home*

## Save the Date

Mark your calendars for the journey home! Our signature fundraising gala is on Friday, March 27, 2009 at the Hackensack Gold Club in Oradell, NJ. This event will benefit the vulnerable children and families in our shared communities. More exciting details to come.



These days, the economic downturn has been dominating the headlines and having an effect on just about all of us. Similarly, we are seeing the impact at the agency, with an increasing number of families struggling to make ends meet and turning to us for help. We're seeing more families with infants unable to provide the essentials and, thus, reaching out to the Baby Basics program for vital supplies. There are more working families in need of subsidized child care at the Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center. And, we are serving greater numbers of infants and children with severe medical challenges and special needs.

As always, it is only with your support that we can help the increasing number of vulnerable children and families in need. Whatever you can do to help – leading a Baby Basics drive, mentoring a child, volunteering or making a donation – is even more important to the agency in today's economic climate.

I thank you for your valuable support and commitment to the agency. I also wish you and your family a happy holiday season.

**Bob Jones, Ph.D.  
President & CEO**



(l. - r.): Bergen County Executive Dennis McNerney, Bob Jones, Ph.D., President & CEO of the agency, and Joseph Rutch, Director, Bergen County Division of Community Development at the Building Futures Awards.

## Agency Receives “Angel in Adoption” Honor

Children’s Aid and Family Services was recently selected as a 2008 Congressional “Angel in Adoption.” The awards are sponsored by the Congressional Coalition of Adoption Institute (CCAI), a non-partisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness about the tens of thousands of foster children and orphans in the United States — and the millions of orphans throughout the



(l. - r.): U.S. Rep. Steve Rothman and Bob Jones, Ph.D., President & CEO of the agency.

world — in need of permanent, safe, loving homes through adoption.

Each year, members of Congress select individuals, families or organizations from their home state that

have demonstrated a commitment to improving the lives of children in need of homes. U.S. Rep. Steven Rothman (D-NJ) nominated Children’s Aid and Family Services for the “Angel in Adoption” award, which was presented to Bob Jones, Ph.D., President & CEO of the agency.

## Community Leaders Recognized

Children’s Aid and Family Services recently hosted its sixth annual Building Futures Awards. The awards recognize individuals, groups, and corporations that contribute to building futures for children, families, and communities in northern New Jersey. Honorees included:

- Government Leadership Award
- The Bergen County Division of Community Development
- Business & Labor Leadership Award
- Paramus Park Shopping Center
- Corporate Leadership Award
- Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey
- Small Business Leadership
- Ulrich, Inc.
- Community Leadership Award
- The Audrey Hepburn Children’s House
- Non-Profit Leadership Award
- Hoop-a-Paluzza, Inc.
- Individual Leadership Award
- Lolly Burgin
- Lifetime in Leadership Award
- John Kandravay
- Elsie B. Schlivek “Help Realize a Dream” Award
- Sue Ann Kogan

# The Turrell Center: The No. 1 Choice for Infant Care to Kindergarten

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.



Teacher Anne Bondesen soothes baby Colin.

For more than 30 years, thousands of Bergen County working families have chosen Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center 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. It offers full and part-time options. This flexible schedule is especially helpful to mothers who telecommute or work part-time. Moreover, the Turrell Center provides breakfast, a hot, nutritious lunch and two snacks every day, a real help to busy mothers stretched for time in the morning.

The director of child care services, Sandy Richards, has been at the Turrell Center for more than 30 years, and has built a strong team of teachers, many of whom either have associate or bachelor's degrees, with concentrations in early childhood education. The teachers always take the time to speak to parents, answer questions and provide any support they can. For example, every day you can expect an "infant note" telling you how your baby's eaten, diapered and napped.



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

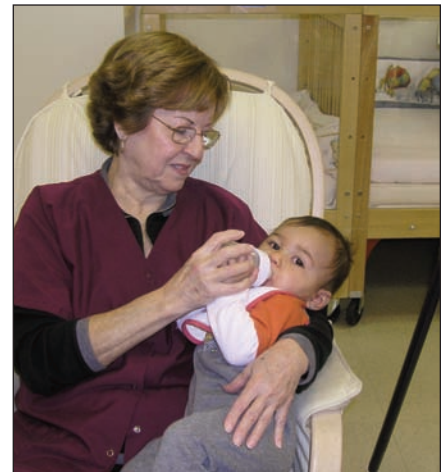
Special extras abound at the Turrell Center to help your child grow and develop. There is a dedicated infant playroom filled with all sorts of fun "softplay" equipment for your eager new walker to safely climb and explore, as well as large indoor and outdoor playgrounds for preschoolers and a toy library brimming with high quality toys for your child to borrow.

Of course, security and safety are of the utmost importance at the Turrell Center. Children are signed in and out as they move from classroom to playground and at arrival and pick-up times. And the staff is well trained in CPR and first aid.

The Turrell Center is conveniently located in Paramus, close to Routes 17 and 4 and the Garden State Parkway.



Little ones thrive in the sunny classrooms.



Teacher Teresa Gonzalez feeds baby Jason.

Enroll at the Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center by February 1, 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 arrange a tour and see the center in person.



## The Thomas R.S. Burgin Parents Fund Helps Create **Brighter** Futures



This year, there are a record number of teenagers “aging out” of the agency and pursuing a secondary education. Of 11 teenagers who have left foster care, 10 are going on to college or vocational school. This is a remarkable testament to the hard work of these young people, as well as their eagerness to set goals and build a strong future.

Even with everything these teenagers have going for them, they still don’t have families to fall back on for help during this important time. To help this situation, the agency’s Thomas R.S. Burgin Parents Fund offers vital support by providing stipends to teenagers that attend college or vocational school to help fund clothing and other day-to-day living expenses that are usually supplied by a parent or family member. This year, the agency was

able to expand the Fund’s reach by supplying care packages that included luggage sets, sheet sets, alarm clocks, storage bins — essential items for anyone starting out on their own — to all teenagers that aged out of our care.

The fund also serves as emergency support for any former client of one of the agency’s foster care programs. Clients have applied to it, for example, to help pay for an emergency car repair, thus ensuring they will have transportation to work.

The Thomas R.S. Burgin Parents Fund relies on your contributions. Please consider making a donation to this critical fund. Call the Development Office at 201.261.2800 or visit [www.cafsnj.org](http://www.cafsnj.org) to donate online and indicate you would like your gift to be designated to this fund.

*Below are excerpts from some scholarship application essays to the fund:*

*I want to become a lawyer to be an advocate for today’s children who are living in poverty. With the help of this scholarship, I can focus on my studies, earn high grades and graduate. Financial burden can weigh someone down when they are in college. I am hoping that this scholarship will ease that burden and will be one less thing I will need to worry about while I am in school. I have traveled a long road to get to this point in my life. - DP\**

*I have been residing at Renaissance Place, a transitional living program and part of Children’s Aid and Family Services. There I have learned different strategies of taking care of myself, mentally and physically. Renaissance Place, and the people who work there, have showed me the vital life skills I need for college. I learned how to get a job, to communicate when I need help, and to trust people a little easier. With my goal to become a massage therapist, the Thomas R.S. Burgin Parents Fund can put me on course. - KA\**

*I have completed my first year at William Paterson University and I realize as a struggling college student, any additional funds would be extremely useful. I do not have family support to help me when things are difficult and I would greatly appreciate any assistance you could provide. Your scholarship would play a vital role in this process by giving me the extra funds to purchase common items needed for daily living. - KM\**

*\*Names are confidential to protect client’s privacy*

completely immersed with the responsibilities of someone years older. Every morning, she would wake up early, dress and feed Danielle, get on her bicycle with the baby, drop her at day care, and then ride to school. When school ended in the afternoon, she would pick up Danielle, go home, care for the baby, do her own homework, and go to bed. Incredibly, she maintained high grades throughout high school, and earned a place on the honor roll while graduating six months ahead of her class.

After graduating, Ms. Henry worked at a bank full-time and eventually went on to vocational school to study computer programming. By the time she was 19 years old, she was in her own apartment with Danielle. She entered the mortgage industry in 1989, and is now a senior mortgage processor. “My foster parents were wonderful,” she says. “They showed me what it was like to have a structured family, and gave me in two and one-



Danielle and her mother, Sue, today.

After speaking with agency staff, Ms. Henry decided to tap into her many industry contacts and hold a fundraiser to introduce them to the agency’s work and raise money. “We are deeply grateful to Sue for remembering the agency and wanting to get more people involved,” says Bob Jones, Ph.D., president & CEO.

“My foster parents gave up so much to take care of us. And I always thanked God and Children’s Aid and Family Services that I met them and was able to do what I have with my life. I always wanted to find a way to give back because of the help I got.”

half years what I hadn’t had for the previous 16 years. I wouldn’t be where I am today if it weren’t for them.”

While Ms. Henry has remained close to her birth family throughout the years, she has also stayed in touch with her foster parents. They are now in ill health and live in Queens, NY to be closer to public transportation to get to their medical appointments.

While thinking about her foster parents, she recently “googled” the agency to find out how she might get involved. “I called and talked about my experiences, and mentioned that if I had ever won the lottery, I’d give the agency money, but I’ve never been that lucky,” she laughingly says. “So I asked, what can I do to help?”

“My life’s been full of ups and downs, and I don’t take anything for granted,” says Ms. Henry. “I’ve been helped so much by people like my foster parents, and I want to give back.”

*The agency is always seeking to raise awareness of its services. If you, or your company, are interested in hosting a fundraiser or a “friendraiser” to introduce family, friends or colleagues to the agency, please call Madinah Grier at 201.261.2800 x258.*

*Do you have a story to share about having been a client of Children’s Aid and Family Services? We’d love to hear from you. Please call Sheila Riccardi at 201.261.2800 x216 or e-mail [sriccardi@cafsnj.org](mailto:sriccardi@cafsnj.org).*

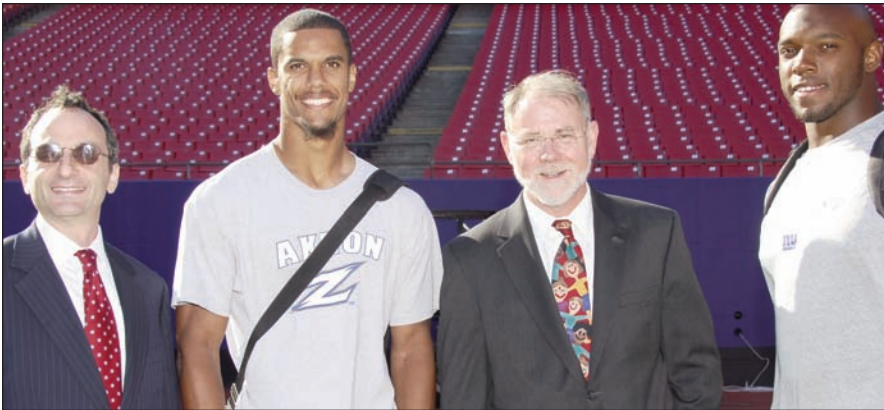
# “Touchdowns for Families” Returns

Once again this football season, the agency will benefit each time a New York Giants player crosses the goal line. That's because Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey is donating \$500 to Children's Aid and Family Services for every touchdown scored by the New York Giants during the regular season.

This marks the second year of the Giants' "Touchdown for Families" program. The donations will be used to provide a range of medical support services for medically needy infants, and children with special needs in the care of the agency. In addition to Horizon BCBSNJ's contributions, the Giants are making a commitment of their own. The team has independently committed an additional \$5,000 to support Children's Aid and Family Services' foster care and adoptive families' recruitment outreach.



NY Giants Jonathan Goff and Domenik Hixon greet some of the children in the agency's care. (Photo courtesy of Horizon BCBSNJ.)



Larry Altman, Vice President of Corporate Marketing & Communications, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey; New York Giant Domenik Hixon; Bob Jones, Ph.D., President & CEO of the agency; and New York Giant Jonathan Goff. (Photo courtesy Horizon BCBSNJ.)



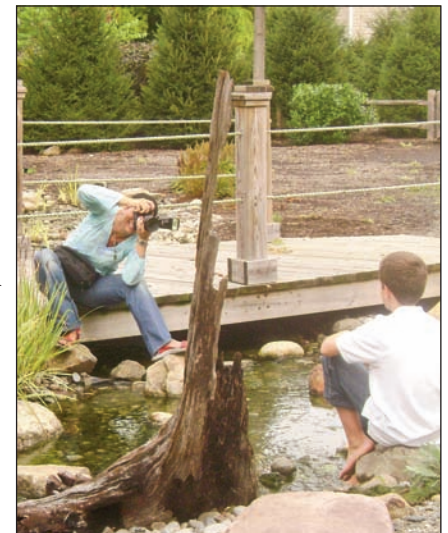
NY Giant Adam Koets signs an autograph for a child in the agency's care.

## Family portraits benefit the agency

Platinum Hospitality Consulting of Ridgewood recently coordinated a day of family photographs at the Healing Garden at Children's Aid and Family Services' Ridgewood office. Prominent family photographer Martha Dickinson of Montclair took photos of local families. Each family also made a donation to the agency for the use of the facility.

"I was looking to bring my special brand of photography to Ridgewood families and those in the surrounding area," says Ms. Dickinson. "When Platinum Consulting suggested we take the shots at the Healing Garden and ask participating families to donate to the cause, I knew it was a winning idea!"

The Healing Garden can be booked as a location for special photographs, such as engagement, wedding, anniversary or family portraits throughout the year. To make a booking, please contact the agency's Ridgewood office at 148 Prospect Street, Ridgewood, at 201.445.7015.



Martha Dickinson taking photos in the agency's Healing Garden. (Photo courtesy of Martha Dickinson.)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Visit [www.cafsnj.org](http://www.cafsnj.org) and click on the Calendar of Events for upcoming 2009 agency events, including:

Friends of Children's Aid and Family Services Launch Event  
January 2009

Annual Spring Fundraising Gala  
March 2009

Monthly Agency Tours  
March 2009

Regular Adoption and Foster Care Orientations/Information Sessions

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*The Staff of Children's Aid and Family Services  
Wishes You a Happy and Healthy New Year!*

## Support Our Holiday Fundraiser

This year's holiday fundraising appeal focuses on the story of Jasmine, an inspiring young lady who is getting ready to go out on her own after several years as a foster child with Children's Aid and Family Services.

Jasmine was removed from her parents' care at the age of 9. As a teenager, she entered the agency's care and lived with a treatment foster family. Jasmine has become a responsible adult, an ambitious college student and dedicated youth leader. She credits the agency and her foster families with helping her to develop the faith, self-discipline and leadership skills to guide her through this critical time in her life.

Jasmine's success is thanks to your support! But the agency needs your help to ensure other children in crisis receive the same chance to fulfill their potential. And this year, we need your support more than ever to help local infants, children and teenagers without families of their own; seniors living below the poverty line; and families struggling to get by.

You can donate online by visiting [www.cafsnj.org](http://www.cafsnj.org) and clicking the donate online button. For more information about the holiday fundraiser and how you can help, call the Development Office at 201.261.2800.



Jasmine



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Large selection of Vera Bradley handbags and accessories.

Every purchase helps a child or family in crisis. All proceeds are donated to Children's Aid and Family Services. Volunteers are always needed. The Depot is an all-volunteer-run store.



CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

## DMC. Hip-hop legend. Loving dad. Adoptee.

Just like me, every child deserves a family.  
There are thousands of children in  
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**Adopt or foster a child. Volunteer. Donate.**



Call 201-261-2800  
[www.cafsnj.org](http://www.cafsnj.org)



CHILDREN'S AID  
AND FAMILY SERVICES

This ad is paid for by an anonymous donor

## DMC Headlines Public Awareness Campaign

Darryl "DMC" McDaniels has partnered with Children's Aid and Family Services to give a voice to the thousands of children currently in the foster care/adoption system in New Jersey. Since discovering in 2000 that he was adopted, Mr. McDaniels has been a strong advocate for adopted children, and received a Congressional "Angels in Adoption" award for his work.

Mr. McDaniels is featured on the agency's website, in a public service announcement, highway billboards, mall advertising displays and newspaper ads seeking foster and adoptive parents for children in the agency's care. Mr. McDaniels was also the featured speaker at the Children's Motivational Awards dinner, much to the delight of the children in attendance. Additionally, he visits the children in the agency's therapeutic foster care residences to speak with them, listen to their concerns and serve as a role model.

*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](http://www.cafsnj.org).*



CHILDREN'S AID  
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