



# The Friends' Voice

Quarterly Publication for the  
*Friends of Children's Aid and Family Services –*  
*Volunteers Making a Difference*

Volume 1, Issue 1  
 Winter 2009

## “Friends of Children’s Aid and Family Services” is Launched

Children’s Aid and Family Services kicked off the launch of its newly formed volunteer group, *Friends of Children’s Aid and Family Services – Volunteers Making a Difference*, with an informative and fun evening at Powerhouse Studios in Paramus. The organization’s goal is to support our volunteers and make their experience with the agency both enjoyable and rewarding.

Following cocktails and a buffet dinner, the almost 100 attendees were warmly welcomed by Bob Jones, Ph.D., president and CEO of the agency. “Volunteers are critical to what we do,” he said. “Your efforts help us maintain a high level of service to the vulnerable children and families we serve. We are most grateful to those who donate their time and talent. Anyone who has an interest in contributing in a meaningful way to their community, is invited to come learn more about volunteering with us.”

The *Friends* Leadership Committee laid out the social activities, seminars and training sessions they have planned for the coming year. (See our **Calendar of Events** on pg. 4)



*Friends* Leadership Team and agency staff (l.- r.): Jackie Poritz, Michelle Sherry, Jackie Qualey, Bob Jones, Ph.D., Brigid O’Brien, Madinah Grier, Cyndy Mitchell and Marie Adler-Kravec spoke about the volunteer opportunities within each of the agency’s programs.



Volunteers from the Englewood Baby Basics distribution site (l. - r.): Wendy Tinkoff, Thelma Coxson-Hall, Brenda Leonard and Mary Tucker.

★ Event photos courtesy of ★  
 Timothy Glenn Photographers, Inc.



Caterer Dawn Jaicks, **Read NOW!** Program Director, Lolly Burgin and Leadership Committee member Brigid O’Brien helped distribute literature from each of the agency’s programs.



Agency mentors include (l. - r.): Patrick Christie, Bernice Carr, Gelaye Belaine, John Morris, Jackie Qualey, Michelle and Randy Sherry.

We want to hear from you. Please submit your questions, feedback and stories about your volunteer experiences, to Volunteer Manager **Cyndy Mitchell** at [volunteer@cafsnj.org](mailto:volunteer@cafsnj.org) or call her at **201-261-2800 x222**

## Message from the Volunteer and Community Relations Manager

Welcome to the first official issue of *The Friends' Voice*. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you, our valued volunteer, informed of the events, news, and activities happening at the agency. We value your suggestions and feedback and want to hear from you regarding your experiences with the agency. We know you can choose to volunteer anywhere. Our goal is to show our appreciation to our volunteers and make you feel a part of the Children's Aid and Family Services' family. Please feel free to contact me any time.

Cyndy Mitchell, 201-261-2800 x222  
Volunteer@cafsnj.org



Volunteers from PEARSON EDUCATION in Mahwah visited the daycare center to read and donate books for the "Read for the Record" event in honor of Dr. Seuss. ✧

"One of the things I keep learning is that the secret of being happy is doing things for other people."

~ Dick Gregory ~  
American comedian and civil rights activist



## SPOTLIGHT on Volunteers by Jackie Poritz The Adoptive Parents Committee of New Jersey

Since its inception 12 years ago, the **Adoptive Parents Committee of New Jersey (APC)** has been a friend to Children's Aid and Family Services. Once **APC** decided that all of its fundraising would be used to benefit children who are in residential foster care, the group reached out and developed a relationship with the agency to help identify the specific needs of those in our foster care programs.

Over the past 12 years, **APC** has fulfilled the holiday wishes of the hundreds of children that reside in the agency's therapeutic foster homes and with individual foster families. Each spring the organization generously donates sports equipment and each fall it provides the children with school supplies and backpacks.

**APC** has also made it possible for our children to go out to dinner and the movies and to also take swimming and karate lessons.

Most recently, **APC** sponsored two boys from **PATH I** to participate in a tutoring program run by **Score** in Ridgewood. This curriculum focuses on developing the reading and comprehension skills these boys will need to be more successful not only in school, but also in life.

The **Adoptive Parents Committee, Inc.** is the first formal adoptive parents group to be formed in North America. It was founded in New York City in 1955 by a small group of people united by their shared adoption experience. Today, it has chapters in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut.

**APC** offers adoption information, education and support from the time people first consider adoption until their children are grown. Members can take advantage of the expertise of adoption professionals, who speak at meetings and conferences, as well as other **APC** members who have experienced adoption. Members are supported through their journey toward adoption by a network of caring people who are available to answer questions, lend a sympathetic ear and a strong shoulder on which to lean.

**APC** never forgets the children who are spending part of their childhood in foster care, waiting to be adopted. Children's Aid and Family Services is extremely grateful to have such compassionate friends as **APC** whose members care deeply about children and continually reach out to help. ✧

# Help Wanted: Volunteer Opportunities

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

**Baby Basics Program** provides free diapers and formula to low-income families in Bergen County and is seeking:

1. Office assistant to help out twice a week from 10 am - 2 pm at the Ridgewood office;
2. Volunteers to conduct diaper and formula drives in their community.

**Elder Care Program:** (locations in Midland Park, Garfield, and Hackensack)

Volunteers are needed to:

1. Conduct an exercise class
2. Help with Internet research
3. Assist in the office with light clerical work at the Midland Park location.



## SUPPORT SERVICES

**Administrative Office Assistance:**

1. Development Department (200 Robin Road, Paramus) is seeking help with department projects.
  - \* College student or someone interested in PR/ Journalism/ Communications. Flexible hours.
  - \* College student or someone interested in Web Development. Flexible hours.
2. Riggs House, Ridgewood office needs receptionist help from 10 am - 3 pm, several days a week.

**Special Events:** Volunteers are needed for **The Barclays PGA TOUR, August 25 - 30, 2009** at the beautiful new Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City, NJ

If you'd like to help, please contact **Cyndy Mitchell, Volunteer Manager** at [volunteer@cafsnj.org](mailto:volunteer@cafsnj.org) or at [201-261-2800 x222](tel:201-261-2800)



### "UNITED AS ONE"

Volunteers from UPS came out once again this past fall to prune and lay mulch in our Healing Garden behind Riggs House on Prospect Street in Ridgewood.



## Frequently Asked Volunteer Questions

### ★ What are the age requirements to volunteer?

You must be 20 years old or older to work in any of the therapeutic foster homes. Mentors must be 21 or older. High school students can volunteer for community service projects at the Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center, The Depot gift shop in Midland Park, or the Baby Basics program.

### ★ What is the time commitment for volunteering?

We ask that you commit to at least one year depending on the program. Some projects are short term and others may require a longer commitment. Volunteer contact information will remain in our database. We will be sending updates in monthly email communication regarding volunteer opportunities as they become available.

## *Friends Calendar of Events*

**Spring Gala “There’s No Place Like Home”**

For more information and to register to attend  
Log onto our website: [www.cafsnj.org](http://www.cafsnj.org)

**Agency Overview for New Volunteers**

Learn about all of CAFS’s volunteer opportunities  
**Call 201-261-2800 x222** to register  
Wednesday evenings at 6:00 - 7:00 pm

**Agency Tour**

**Call 201-261-2800 x225** to register  
9:30 am. - 12 noon

**CPR & First Aid for Infant/Child/Adult**

*Class is free to volunteers*  
**Call 201-261-2800 x229** to register

**Dates:**

Fri., March 27

Wed., April 8

Tues., March 31  
and  
Wed., April 29

Fri., June 12

**Where:**

Hackensack Golf Club  
Soldier Hill Rd  
Oradell

200 Robin Road  
Paramus

200 Robin Road  
Paramus

240 Frisch Court  
Paramus

An old man walked along a shore lined with thousands of starfish, beached and dying after a storm. A young man was picking them up and throwing them back into the ocean. "Why do you bother?" the man scoffed. "You're not saving enough to make a difference." The young man picked up another starfish and as he threw it back into the water, he said, "Made a difference to that one!"

*You make a difference in the lives of our children and families! Our sincere thanks.*



*Friends of Children’s Aid an Family Services –  
Volunteers Making a Difference*

200 Robin Road  
Paramus, NJ 07652  
[www.cafsnj.org](http://www.cafsnj.org)

**Leadership Committee**

Chair: Marie Adler-Kravec  
Brigid O’Brien  
Jackie Poritz  
Jackie Qualey  
Michelle Sherry

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

Madinah Grier  
**Director of Development & Communications**

Mary Pat Boron  
**Assistant Director of Development & Communications**

Cyndy Mitchell  
**Volunteer & Community Relations Manager**

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