#### Annual Report 2004

CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES





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THE MISSION OF CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES IS TO HELP CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES TO HEAL, TO LEARN, AND TO GROW.

sharing enable Children's Aid and Family Services to help people change their lives and futures for the better. dreams dreams realized







### lives changing changing futures

Henrik Tvedt. Jr. Chair. Board of Trustees 2003–04

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

hen it comes to changing lives, no one does it better than you, our supporters. Thanks to you, Children's Aid and Family Service provides a full range of services that touch virtually every aspect of a person's life, and is a source of support, security, and direction for so many.

This year's annual report theme is "lives changing, changing futures." These words capture the essence of Children's Aid and Family Services and the spirit in which you so generously give of your self, your time, and your resources to help change lives. Your efforts showcase that truly transforming a life is no small feat, but one that can be, and in fact is, achieved every day.

Your support helps to bring about real change in people's lives. You make it possible to form families, nurture little ones, help teens overcome the challenges of growing up, repair damaged childhoods, and sort out confusion for families facing a crisis.

Whether you are a donor, volunteer, board member, or employee, you support services that are vital to, and much needed in, the community.

These are some of the highlights of the past year and some of the initiatives developing during the months ahead:

Thanks to a number of generous donors, Turrell Child Development Center now has a new infant room and a toy library. In 2005, two more classrooms and an indoor infant/toddler playroom will open. Additionally, a grant from the Hearst Foundations will fund an important new offering – the "Healthy Alternatives for Little Ones" curriculum – a prevention program that also provides training in early childhood education for parents and childcare providers.

We expanded our capacity to serve children in need of foster home care. We also welcomed young adults to a new transitional living apartment in Newark for those aging out of foster care that would otherwise be homeless. The agency also continued recruitment efforts to find adoptive and foster families for special needs children – a growing challenge nationwide.

For nearly 50 years, Family Counseling Service of Ridgewood has focused on the dynamics of human relationships. Today, fresh approaches are being applied to help children, adults, and families handle life's transitions. One example is the now under-construction healing garden, where Woodlea residents and Family Counseling Service program participants can go for reflection and renewal. Another is the highly effective social skills program for children and teens. In 2005, a family resource room will be opened and several other educational and wellness programs will be introduced.

To honor retiring executive vice president, Tom Burgin, our fund to support college-bound teens in foster care was re-named. In 2005, the Thomas R. Burgin Educational Support Fund will expand to provide a more meaningful stipend to fund living expenses for these students.

During recent months, we made preparations to change the cycle of the agency's fiscal year to one based on a calendar-year period. To accomplish this, a four-month fiscal year was added to our standard 12-month fiscal year. This report includes data from the full 16-month period of September 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004. During 2004, a new strategic plan was finalized, and preparations for re-accreditation by the Council on Accreditation were coordinated, Children's Aid and Family Services is proud to have been an accredited agency since 1997. Accreditation provides an invaluable, wholly objective assessment and verification of the quality of the services and service outcomes that you enable the agency to deliver.

Thanks to you, philanthropic giving to the agency increased last year. Thanks to the landscape project, a number of corporate community relations activities, and the continued growth of our Family Counseling Service Auxiliary, the number of agency volunteers also increased significantly. So many people give of themselves to make a difference in the most thoughtful and grandest of ways. On behalf of the board and staff, we thank you for believing in us and in our mission – and for caring enough to

help change lives and futures.

Chair. Board of Trustees 2003-04

Noht D. Tores

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





## child care care free

To Cheryle Nunez, of Westwood, the Turrell Child Development Center (TCDC) is much more than a safe, high-quality child care center. It's a haven that has helped Cheryle, her husband, Julio, and their three children, Tyiana, 6; Nickolas, 4; and Joselene, 3; juggle work, school, meals, clothes shopping, health care, parenting classes, and budgeting.

Mrs. Nunez says having her three children enrolled at the center has changed their lives immeasurably. She points out that it's tough to count all of the advantages she's found – and used – at the center: "There are the healthy meals the children eat, clothes that are donated from volunteers, medical and dental screenings, and the free classes in budgeting and credit that I've taken."

The Nunez family qualifies for subsidized child care, and that, says Mrs. Nunez, has been a godsend. Even with two salaries, the family finds it difficult to afford any extras. That's why they are thankful for all of the comprehensive family-centered services Turrell offers.

Last year's opening of a full-day kindergarten made one more scheduling snafu a little easier. "Without it, I would have had to pay to have Tyiana attend after-school care," says Mrs. Nunez. "At Turrell, she attended a wonderful kindergarten class with teachers who were very experienced. It changed our lives for the better in so many ways."



#### There's Only One TCDC!

Established more than 30 years ago, TCDC enables parents to work – carefree – knowing their children are well cared for. More than 40% of TCDC families receive subsidized rates.

- n Enrollment from 2 months to Kindergarten
- n Meals provide approximately 75% of the children's nutrional requirements
- n Excellent teacherto-child ratios
- n Bright, spacious classrooms
- n Learning through technology, playtime, song, and dance
- n Large indoor and outdoor play areas
- n Open year-round from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.





# empower people people thrive

xasperated with the over-scheduling of children and organized sports' stranglehold on many families' lives, Linda Kotch of Ridgewood says a light bulb went off in her head during a parenting workshop organized by Family Counseling Service at Westside Nursery School. Garland Allen, the director of wellness services for the Ridgewood School System, was the speaker. He discussed how children today don't have enough space and time to just "be kids" and play freely in parks and playgrounds.

"He explained how free play helps children use their imaginations, builds character and leadership skills, and keeps them physically fit," recalls Mrs. Kotch, the mother of Caroline, a first-grader at Ridge Elementary School, and Evelyn, a pre-schooler at Westside Nursery School. "I was inspired and volunteered to be on the agency's Free Play Day committee."

Thanks to the committee's efforts, Free Play Day was begun at Ridge Elementary School's playground every Wednesday after school. From October until the weather turned chilly in late November, 70 to 80 children turned up every Wednesday to simply run around, use the playground equipment, and jump rope. Mrs. Kotch says parents brought snacks, relaxed, and talked with each other and didn't "micromanage" their children.

"It's humbling to be a parent," she says. "We are always learning. I attended all of the workshops Family Counseling Service conducted at Westside and was grateful to gain some outside feedback. For me, it was very important and helpful to be part of a forum that discusses issues and exchanges ideas."



#### Real Life Solutions

Since 1956, Family Counseling Service of Ridgewood has helped children, adults, and families find solutions to their real life issues, supporting families as they navigate the challenges and difficulties that are part of everyday life.

- Educational workshops for parents, children, and teens
- n Support and counseling during times of transition or crisis
- n Elder care services
- n School-based child assault prevention programs





## long journey journey home

ebbie and Mark Khalil, of Old Tappan, planned on expanding their family only temporarily when they signed up as foster parents with the Boarder Babies program.

Baby Isaiah quickly changed those plans. Born January 3, 2002, he came into the Khalil family three weeks later and stole their hearts. "The longer he stayed, the more we wanted to adopt him," says Mrs. Khalil. "He made it so easy to fall in love with him."

Thanks to help from the agency's social workers, the Khalils made the move to adopt Isaiah. He officially joined the family on September 17, 2004. Even though he was born to a drug-addicted mother, Isaiah has not suffered any ill effects. He enjoys playing with his new train set and watching "Thomas the Tank Engine" and "Sesame Street." His favorite character is Elmo.

Isaiah also loves spending time with his 10-year-old sister, Zoe. Both like singing, and often perform as a duet for their parents. "Isaiah always likes to sit close to Zoe on the couch, and she reads him a bedtime story each night," says Mrs. Khalil.

Because Isaiah is of a different race than the rest of his family, Mr. and Mrs. Khalil make it a point to introduce him to different cultures and teach him about his African-American heritage.

Mrs. Khalil says, "We're so grateful to have Isaiah in our lives now and can't imagine what life would have been like without him."



#### A Place Called Home

For more than 100 years, Children's Aid and Family Services has cared for vulnerable children who have no family to call their own.

- n Finding loving foster and adoptive families for babies, children, and teens with special needs
- n Helping children heal from traumatic childhoods through our five group homes and treatment foster home families
- n Preparing teens aging out of foster care to live independently
- n Counseling and other support services for those touched by adoption
  - Adoption search and reunion



#### highlights





Elaine Adler at the opening of the toy library at TCDC.

Class of 2004: TCDC's first kindergarten graduates.

#### 1 TCDC Expands!

A flurry of activity marked 2004 for the Turrell Child Development Center (TCDC). A much-needed expansion added one new infant room, opening up 16 new slots for babies up to age 1.

Bergen County's only toy library – The Elaine Adler Toy Library – debuted at the center in November. Named for its major benefactor, co-owner of Myron Manufacturing in Maywood, the toy library operates just like a book library: Children learn about responsibility as they check out toys, play with them for a week at home, and then return them to borrow other toys. In addition, the library provides access to educational toys for children whose families have limited resources.

#### 2 Our First Graduates

Turrell Child Development Center graduated its first kindergarten class in 2004 with a traditional cap-and-gown ceremony. The kindergarten was opened in response to requests from parents who desired a high-quality, full-day program for their youngsters.

#### Real Life Solutions

Family Counseling Service of Ridgewood refocused services in 2004, offering programs that everyone can use to face life's small and large challenges and transitions. In 2004, the Social Skills program held 160 groups that were designed to help build a child's confidence and self-esteem.

The fourth annual Ready, Set, Relax! Ridgewood Family Night helped participants set aside their everyday activities to reflect on what matters most to them and to make better choices, not to mention slow down and enjoy fun time with their families.

Working with the Somerville School, Family Counseling Service arranged an educational program for parents on bullying and taught them strategies to help their children handle and/or avoid being bullied. A support group for these parents is being planned for 2005. Three parenting workshop series were held at the Westside Nursery School; topics included "Healthy Sports," "Child Development," and "Peer Relationship Skills." More will be conducted at other child care centers in 2005.

Workshops were held on grief and loss for divorcing parents, and a substance abuse prevention program was offered to parents of middle school-age children. The agency's elder care services helped 292 individuals handle transitions that occur as a loved one ages.

#### 4 Our Community Cares for Us

Turrell Child Development Center is fortunate to have many community volunteers and organizations that donate their time and talents to the center. A group of graduate master gardeners from Rutgers University created an outside children's garden that is now regularly maintained by our youngsters. The children delight in planting and tending their own flower garden and then enjoying the rewards of their hard work!

Among the many other volunteers were Enterprise rent-a-car, which sponsored a holiday celebration for all the children at TCDC, and volunteers from the Todd Ouida Children's Foundation.

#### **Digging in to Help Others**

Family Counseling Service of Ridgewood broke ground for a major landscaping project spearheaded by the Ridgewood A.M. Rotary Club and the New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association. Peter Kikot, from Jacobsen Landscape Design, led the efforts with unfailing enthusiasm and energy.

When completed in late summer 2005, the project's "healing garden" of pathways, benches, reflecting areas, and a labyrinth will wind through the property to the Woodlea residence. The beautiful grounds will provide a peaceful place for clients of Family Counseling Service and girls living at Woodlea to relax, meditate, and soothe their souls.

The "healing garden" has a retail value of \$400,000 in donated labor, building supplies, and landscaping materials and is being constructed entirely by volunteers.

#### 6 Education for Life

Turrell Child Development Center enhanced its educational programs and services for children enrolled at the center, offering an after-school Girl Scout Daisies program, music and gymnastics classes.

The fire truck that visited from the Paramus Fire Department during Fire Prevention Week was a big hit, bringing along firefighters who shared fire safety tips with the children.

Young Explorer computers, donated by the IBM Corporation through its Kid Smart program, enrich the center's curriculum. Learning technical skills results in increased educational opportunities for the children as they progress into elementary school, and will give many low-income families access to computers they might not have at home.

Children learn to socalize through play at social skills groups.



Enterprise rent-a-car's Santa received an enthusiastic welcome from TCDC children during the holiday party.



Local Rotarians and members of the NJ Landscape Contractors Association broke ground to create a healing garden.



lives

10 changing changing
futures



The Campbell's home is filled with photos of all the children in their lives – foster, biological, adopted, as well as grandchildren.



Volunteers from Ridgewood A.M. Rotary and the NJ Landscape Contractors Association build a patio for the little girls.



Kudos to all of the residents of our group homes and foster homes who graduated high school this year.

#### 7 Sharing Our Knowledge

Because Children's Aid and Family Services has been involved in child welfare for more than 100 years, we are frequently called upon to share our expertise with the community.

In 2004, Bergen County's Child Assault Prevention (CAP) program was added to Family Counseling Service's program offerings. Our team of trained specialists led workshops for children, parents, and teachers in local school districts on ways to protect children.

Since becoming involved, our abuse prevention workshops have reached 4,624 students, 336 school staff, and 321 parents in 19 Bergen County school districts.

#### 8 Foster Families Mark Milestones

Congratulations to Loretta "Shea" Campbell and Maria and Miguel Perdomo, who were honored for providing loving homes for foster children in our agency's care.

Ms. Campbell received the 2004 Foster Family Award from Foster and Adoptive Family Services and the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services for opening her home to 120 vulnerable children during the past 30 years.

The Perdomos were named the Treatment Homes Family of the Year by the New Jersey Association of Children's Residential Facilities. Since 1997, the Perdomos have shared their home with six foster children. They have two biological children and currently care for four foster children.

#### 9 Easing the Transition

Our transitional living program helps youths ages 17 to 21 make a successful move into independent living by providing safe, supportive homes and services. These young men share a new transitional living apartment at Renaissance House in Newark, supervised by a case manager, job coach, and overnight staff.

#### 10 Patio Brings Fun Outdoors

Thanks to the leadership of the Ridgewood A.M. Rotary Club, the donated expertise of Jacobsen Landscape Design and Construction, and other members of the New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association, girls living at the Pre-Adoption Treatment Home (PATH II) in Ridgewood have a new patio for picnics and outdoor fun. Volunteers built the entire patio in one weekend!

#### 11 Someone to Count On

When a youngster comes into our care, we do numerous things not only to help them recover from their past experiences – but to thrive. One of these is the mentoring program. A mentor in this program volunteers to become a buddy to a specific child in our care. That could mean taking the child to a ball game, helping with homework, talking or playing. It also means making a solid commitment to be someone the child can count on.

Our mentoring program reached an all-time enrollment high with 17 active mentor/child matches. Three of our mentors have been with the program since it began two and one-half years ago.

#### 12 Putting on a Smile

Teaneck photographer Lyn Ofrane volunteered her talents to take photos

of children awaiting adoption and presented each one with a framed portrait. In 2004, she also spearheaded her own fundraiser and donated her fees back to the agency.

#### 13 Happy 30th Birthday to Eastlea

Eastlea group home in Bogota marked its 30th year of providing a safe and nurturing home for youngsters with a history of abuse and neglect.

#### 14 Making Us Proud

Kudos to all of the residents of our group homes and foster homes who graduated high school this year. All of these courageous young men and women have overcome numerous obstacles to achieve their academic and career goals. We wish Michelle, Melissa, Sha-Nelle, Lamont, LaShawna, Garfield and Annabelle much continued success!

#### 15 FUN-raising at its Best

Guests enjoyed themselves during two big events that raised money for various Children's Aid and Family Services programs. In March, "Mardi Gras at Liberty" – the agency's first gala event at the Liberty House Restaurant in Liberty State Park – was attended by more than 300 supporters and raised funds to benefit programs that find adoptive families for waiting children.

In May, "Cuisine for a Cause" lavished guests with fabulous food that was donated from some of the area's finest restaurants. Proceeds were donated to Family Counseling Service of Ridgewood.

#### 16 Young Philanthropists

TCDC was the recipient of more than 400 donated books that were collected by 5th graders from the Edward H. Bryan School, Cresskill. Thanks to the children's generosity, the TCDC library now boasts a wide variety of reading materials for its little patrons.

Guests enjoying the Mardi Gras at Liberty fundraising gala in March.



(I. to r.) – Alana Grayson, Emma Campbell, Haley Harzynski, and Jep Alorro teamed up to conduct a book drive for the children at TCDC.



highlights

#### lifetime

#### Anne Goheen Crane Endowment Fund (and gifts to other named endowments)

Gifts listed within this section represent those made to the Anne Goheen Crane Endowment Fund, the agency's principal endowment fund.

Also included are restricted gifts designated to individual endowment funds established by friends of the agency, including: The Jadrosich Fund, Anne and John Oros Fund, Margaret Pasmantier Community Life Education Fund, and Julie Lynne Zipper Memorial Fund. Donors may establish named funds for commitments of \$20,000 or above.

Gifts made to these endowments during 2004 are also listed within the Annual Gifts section of this report.

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of the agency

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#### THOMAS R. BURGIN **EDUCATIONAL** SUPPORT FUND

In February 2004, the agency launched a new fund to provide financial assistance to teens aging out of foster care and attending college or vocational training. This fund was named in honor of Thomas R. Burgin, the retiring Executive Vice President of Children's Aid and Family Cruz Mejia Services. The intention is to build this fund substantially so that it can serve current and future generations of teenagers in foster care as they transition toward Mr. and Mrs. Philip M. Schoch independent living. The Hollywood William Pat Schuber at Liberty gala in 2005 will raise Rose Marie and Rod Schutt contributions for this fund. Christine B. Sinkhorn

Listed below are those that made a gift to the fund during 2004. Lili and Jerry Binney Barbara Abney Bolger

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#### THE GIFT OF LIFE AMERICA FUND

The Gift of Life America Fund was established in March 2004 by Nicholas Laganella, Jr. and hosted by the new Crate & Barrel Ms. Claudine Callison store in Paramus, New Jersey. The Gift of Life America Fund is a restricted fund, administered by Children's Aid and Family Services. The Fund's mission is to improve the lives of children Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. under the age of 18 who are citizens of the United States of America and are economically disadvantaged, in adoptive or foster care, or awaiting adoption, by filling gaps in public funding for medical, dental or ocular needs and supporting services, and/or by making funding available for other activities, goods, and/or services that will enhance the quality of life of these children. Listed are those that contributed to this fund during 2004.

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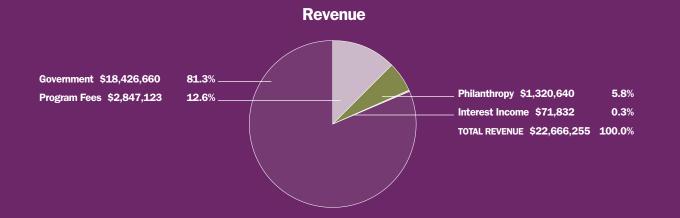
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We also gratefully acknowledge those donors who wish to remain anonymous and our many extraordinary volunteers for their invaluable help and support for agency programs throughout the year.

Financial report for the 16-month fiscal period September 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004.

All figures used are unaudited year-end projections.

#### financial report





The above figures reflect the 16-month period of September 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004. In this period we had a regular fiscal year (September 1, 2003 - August 31, 2004) and a short fiscal year (September 1, 2004 - December 31, 2004) to accommodate the agency's move to a calendar fiscal year going forward.

Annualized revenues would have been approximately \$17,100,000. Annualized expenses would have been approximately \$16,700,000