

# Children's Aid Society in Clearfield County Annual Report 2015



- Adoption & Foster Care Services
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Clearfield County
- Child Care & Early Learning Services
- Family Support Services

The mission of Children's Aid Society is "to identify and provide services to improve the lives of children and their families"



## PA Department of Human services Licenses:

- Child Care Center
- Adoption Agency
- Foster Care Agency
- Private Children and Youth Serving Agency



Big Brothers Big Sisters



HAGUE ACCREDITED



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Kaitlin Ireland, Big Brothers Big Sisters Manager

Tara Lansberry, Child Care Director

Shannon Kelly, Real Relationships Project  
Manager

26 Full-time and 28 Part-time

## **Memberships**

- North American Council on Adoptable Children
- Clearfield County Collaboration and Prevention Board
- Dubois/Jefferson County Youth Educational Youth Consortium
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Pennsylvania State Association
- Clearfield/Jefferson Drug-Free Communities Coalition
- Pennsylvania Association of Child Care Agencies
- Health and Human Services Council Centre County
- United Way of Clearfield and DuBois
- Clearfield County Children, Youth & Family Services Advisory Board
- PA Family Support Alliance
- Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Agencies
- Clearfield County Local Interagency Coordinating Council
- Clearfield and DuBois Chamber of Commerce
- Cen-Clear Family Centers Parent Advisory Board
- Providers Resource Network
- Nonprofit Networking Committee
- Early Care and Education Consortium

## **About us...**

Children's Aid Society was organized in 1890 to find families for orphaned and abandoned children. In 1918 the agency began operating a "Children's Home" at our current location in Clearfield. When the home closed in the 1980s due to changes in state and federal regulations, we continued to serve families and children through our four major service areas. In 2015, we celebrated 125 years of serving children and families.

In 2015, Children's Aid Society served 1,285 children and adults through four major service areas:

**Adoption & Foster Care Services** which include private and Statewide Adoption & Permanency Network (SWAN) adoption services, international home studies, and foster care.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Clearfield County** including Community-Based and School-Based Mentoring.

**Child Care & Early Learning Services** which include our three-story Child Care Center, after school care at Clearfield Elementary, and a Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts classroom.

**Family Support Services** including the Healthy Relationship Project and Real Relationships, In-Home Services, Nurturing Parenting, Nurturing for Parents and Teens, Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP), and the Triple P Positive Parenting Program.

## Our Services



Children's Aid Society offers a full range of **Adoption Services** in 16 counties in central Pennsylvania and is an affiliate of the Statewide Adoption & Permanency Network (SWAN). Services include:

*Birthparent counseling*

*SWAN orientation*

*Home Study/Family Profile preparation*

*Child Specific Recruitment*

*Post-Adoption Supervision*

*Court Appearances*

*International Placement Help*

*Adoption Classes*

*Child Profiles*

*Child Preparation*

*Matching Services*

*Post-Placement Supervision*

*Finalization*

*Post Permanency Services*

*Birth Family Searches*

*Voluntary Post Adoption Contact Agreements*

*316 children and adults were served in 2015:*

*48 Child Profile referrals*

*12 Family Profiles/Home Studies and updates*

*36 Child Preparation referrals*

*10 Finalization referrals*

*7 Child Specific Recruitment referrals*

*This year we received a record 113 SWAN referrals.*

Our Adoption program is Hague Accredited, which allows the agency to assist prospective adoptive families adopting from countries party to the Hague Convention. Accreditation also allows us to directly facilitate International adoptions in Hague Convention countries. **Foster Care Services** include both traditional Foster Care and services designed to help families who are waiting to adopt become foster parents and eventually adoptive parents for a child.



Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Clearfield County provides children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported 1-to-1 relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

In our Community-Based program, adult volunteers are matched with youth to provide friendship, support and fun activities. In School-Based Mentoring, high school volunteers are matched with elementary students in a weekly after-school program. Through a 2-year evidence based grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), BBBS expanded to focus on matching youth in Southern Clearfield County. No fees are charged for the program and most of our agency fundraising efforts directly benefit mentoring services. BBBS relies heavily on supporters who raise money, donate and volunteer. Our agency holds itself accountable for each child in our program achieving: Higher aspirations; Greater confidence; Better relationships; Avoidance of risky behavior; and Educational success.

Our mentoring programs served 35 matches and touched the lives of 114 people in 2015.



In our PA licensed **Child Care Center**, our highly qualified staff provide loving care for children beginning at 6 weeks of age. We hold a Star 3 rating in the Keystone Stars state quality initiative. Separate rooms and daily curriculum are provided for Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers, and School Age Children through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Our after school program at **Clearfield Elementary** allows school-age children to balance learning and fun through a variety of experiences. From homework help to fun physical activities, our program is designed so that everyone goes home happy. **Summer School Age Care** gives children an active, social, and fun summer by offering a variety of daily activities.

Our child care clients average 75% private pay and 25% subsidized care.

Daily attendance at all sites averaged 60 in 2015.

We also participate in the statewide education initiative **Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts**. In our classroom, 17 children receive the benefits of full-day preschool free of charge 180 days each year. A certified Early Childhood Education teacher leads the classroom. Each year, we receive excellent scores on the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale and state-monitored program reviews.

## FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES:



**Healthy Relationship Project**, funded by a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance, ended its fifth year by reaching all of its grant goals. This grant was replaced near the end of 2015 by the similar, four year **Real Relationships** grant. These projects provide teens, individuals, non-married couples, and married couple's tools to have happy, healthy relationships through fun and interactive classes, workshops and retreats in Clearfield County and eight surrounding counties. This project served 380 people in 2015.



**Nurturing Parenting Program** emphasizes the importance of positive family relationships. The entire family, not just the parents, learn the skills needed to build a happier, healthier family life. Weekly classes are held over 16 weeks and include classes for both parents and children. Also included are fun and interactive activities, quality family time, child care and refreshments. The **Nurturing Program for Parents and Teens**, funded by a 3-year grant from the Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund, targets parents of teenagers and their teens. Both programs served 116 parents and children in 2015.



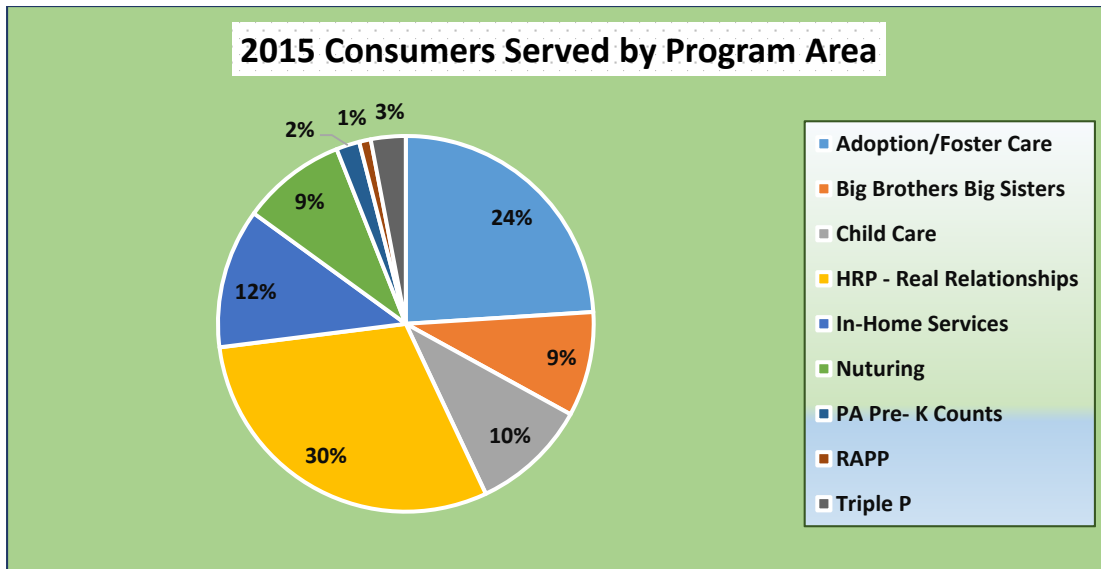
The **Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP)** assists grandparents and other relatives who have taken on the role of primary caregiver for related children. The support group meets once each month. Together, relative caregivers can share their struggles and successes and gather information about community resources. In 2015, 16 participants were served.



The **In-Home Services** provides intensive, supportive services to families referred by Children, Youth & Family Services. These strengths-based interventions address challenges, link families to supportive community services, stabilize families and enhance family functioning in order to assist families to remain intact or reunify. In 2015 we began including truancy intervention/prevention as part of our services. These combined served 151 children and adults in 2015.



Funded through a two-year violence prevention grant of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency awarded in 2015, the evidence-based **Triple P – Positive Parenting Program** builds positive relationships, teaches discipline strategies, offers parenting support, and fosters healthy childhood development. This program is carried out in the community through weekly home visits.



### FUNDING SOURCES

Our agency has a wide variety of funding sources including federal, state and local grants, donations, private fees, etc. In 2015, we were members of the Clearfield Area United Way and DuBois Area United Way. Money from the United Ways directly helps sustain our programs and is often used as a required local match. We appreciate their support!

#### 2015 Grants, Fees and Allocations

	<b>Amount</b>
Statewide Adoption Network and Private Adoption Fees	\$428,401
Dept. of HHS, OFA, Healthy Relationship Project Grant	\$263,120
Real Relationship Grant	\$63,095
Child Care Private Pay and Subsidized Fees	\$312,829
PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning Grant – Pre-K Counts	\$131,062
Clearfield County Children, Youth & Family Services	\$76,644
PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency Grant, Southern Clearfield County	\$38,827
Triple P Positive Parenting Program	\$30,444
Pennsylvania Children’s Trust Fund Grant	\$53,150
PA Dept. of Education Child and Adult Care Food Program	\$34,308
Keystone STARS – Child Care Program Award	\$23,010
Lightner Trust Fund	\$3,000
Clearfield County Charitable Foundation	\$500

#### 2015 Fundraising

	<b>Net</b>
Shoot for the Magic	\$26,662
Bowl for Kids’ Sake DuBois	\$11,019
Bowl For Kids’ Sake Clearfield	\$4,476
Child Care Fundraisers	\$698
Family Support Services	\$2,224
Pin Ups	\$3,277
Oldies Dance	\$1,718
Miscellaneous	\$1,252

<b>United Way Funding</b>	
Clearfield Area United Way	\$6,300
DuBois Area United Way	\$4,740
Centre County United Way	\$845
Other United Ways	\$2,269



The lists on these pages do not include the many dedicated sponsors and generous contributors to our annual Shoot For the Magic, Bowl For Kids' Sake, miscellaneous fundraisers and Big Brothers Big Sisters Christmas Program. Those names have previously been recognized.

Please forgive us if we have inadvertently missed your name.

### **Generous Donors**

Lightner Trust  
Dubois Business College  
Polish Citizens Club  
SCI Houtzdale  
Wal-Mart Foundation  
Mark & Carol Harley  
Glen Richey Sportsmen Association  
Eagles 812  
Robert & Marilyn Kurtz  
Bill & Joyce Falger

### **Non-Monetary Donations**

WOKW, Wal-Mart Distribution Center  
Tom Grice, John Peck, McDonald's  
Jan & Raymond Schneider

### **Other Kind Donors**

Curwensville Area Lutheran Church  
Real Realtime, LLC  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of America  
Clearfield Lions Club  
VFW Post 1785 Clearfield  
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Veteran Gold Stripe Club  
Dubois Rotary Club  
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## **Children's Aid Society**

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