

**Staff Recognition**  
*Teresa Guaglianone, Assistant Director*

Children’s Aid Society will recognize staff for their years of service on May 27<sup>th</sup>. I feel blessed to work beside these staff every day. This is not just a job to them. They are committed to the children, parents and families they serve. Each of them would do anything they could to improve their quality of life.

Please join with me in congratulating and thanking them for all they do for Children’s Aid Society. Monica Smeal: 31years \ Janet Biss: 29 years \ Rhonda Carfley: 24 years \ Lynda Saggese & Nancy Stone: 22 years \ Bonnie Floro: 21 years \ Teresa Guaglianone: 19 years \ Carole Posanskey: 14 years \ Amanda Clark, Tara Lansberry & Missy Sloppy: 13 years \ Shannon Kelly: 11 years \ Jim Mattern, Christina Woodel & Tammy Young: 8 years \ Jasmine Klett & Joyce Stubbs: 7 years \ Brittany Blackburn & Jennifer Teats: 6 years \ Lisa Buchwitz, Sarah Hale, Danielle McKnight, Stefanie Richtscheit & Marsha Shimmel: 4 years \ Courtney Hildebrand & Colleen Rumery: 3 years \ Danielle Boyles, Megan Fannin, Bethany Folmar, Brittany Graham, Krista Kolesar, Jordan Luzier, Taylor Park & Caitlin Turner: 2 years \ Cindy Babcock, Lori Baronak, Valerie Beers, Rhonda Dressler, Rachel Dunlap, Sherry Hess, John Jacob, Dan Kennard, Jessica Kling, Jessika Mann, Mandy McCracken, Harry Myers, Alyssa Palmer, Timothy Pleacher, Aleah Schwiderske, Jynell Smeal, Tracy Thacik, Veronica Wendel & Kate Wood: 1 year \ Kayla Curry: 3 months \ Caitlin Anderson: 2 months



**Thank you to the Glenn and Ruth Mengle Foundation and Brad & Lynnanne Baumgardner for making our sidewalk paving project a reality!**

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Call us at 814-765-2686 or email us at [marketing@childaid.org](mailto:marketing@childaid.org)

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1004-1008 South Second Street  
Clearfield, PA 16830

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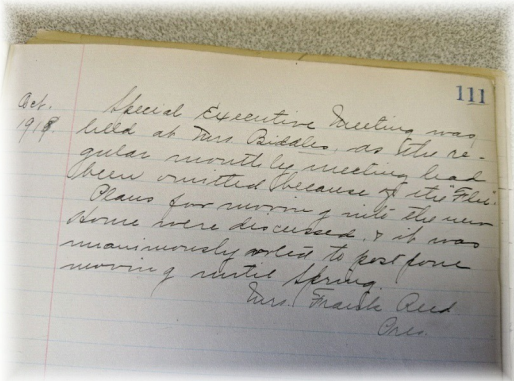
1004-1008 South Second Street  
Clearfield, PA 16830

May 2020

Phone: (814) 765-2686

**Make it Through, a Second Time Around**  
*Bonnie Floro - Executive Director*

Being in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic and spending weeks overlooking an empty playground from my office window turned into a time of reflection for me on the long history of Children’s Aid Society. My office closet contains hidden treasures – books of handwritten minutes dating back to 1891. Knowing of the role our agency played in another pandemic, I found this entry from October 1918 -*“Special Executive Meeting was held at Mrs. Biddle’s as the regular monthly meeting had been omitted because of the Flu. Plans for moving into the new Home were discussed. It was unanimously voted to postpone moving until spring”*. During the previous meetings, the members talked about touring the wonderful new Children’s Home and making plans for furnishing the home as they prepared to open it up to for children. The opening was delayed as we became an emergency site to house patients during the devastating Spanish Flu outbreak. Despite disappointments and setbacks, and dealing with the Board of Health to get the building back into its original condition following its use as a hospital, the agency continued their work and carried on, eventually opening the home to children the next year. There is hope in this history – things may be postponed, but we will once again make it through.



**National Foster Care Month**  
*Krista Elensky - Foster Care Program Manager*

In May, we get to celebrate National Foster Care Month! Each and every day we strive to be an agency that is able to help all children in need of a loving and caring home. During this month, we would like to send our appreciation to the families that are currently working with children and also want to reach out to families that may be looking for more information about becoming foster parents themselves. Our agency is looking to expand to families that are able to work with all children, but families that are willing to take in older youth are especially needed. To help celebrate, we have compiled a list of tips for new foster parents to help them get through the initial transition.

<b>Rally the troops and get your support system ready.</b>	<b>Brush up on your technology skills.</b>	<b>Know what you can handle.</b>	<b>Stick to a routine.</b>	<b>Don't be afraid to show some love.</b>
Being a foster parent isn't easy. When they say it takes a village they weren't kidding. Make sure you have prepared yourself and your supports for the incoming kiddos that could be coming your way!	Kids are smart! Make sure you do your research on the new apps and schooling techniques that kids are using. You will also want to look into parental controls for your devices.	There are plenty of times when your caseworker might call to talk to you about a possible placement that does not really fit your ideal fostering situation. Know what you can handle and what would just be too much. Don't be afraid to pass on a situation that you aren't comfortable in.	Like all children, kids that are in foster care do best with structure. Make sure that you make a daily routine that you follow pretty closely. Knowing what your next step is each day, can make a world of a difference.	For some children, being in foster care is brand new and they aren't going to be accepting of new things. Being able to show the kids that you care about them and won't give up on them is the key to a successful placement. Sometimes it is as simple telling them you care and other times it is showing them you care through your actions multiple times. Don't be afraid to work with kids on basic emotions and how to handle feelings appropriately.

MAY is *National* FOSTER CARE MONTH

YOUR FEAR OF GETTING "TOO ATTACHED" PROBABLY MEANS YOU'D BE A GREAT FOSTER PARENT. *do it.*

- JASON JOHNSON



## Reflecting on our Health Practices amid Covid-19

Tara Lansberry

Coronavirus has changed and will continue to change the way that our society interacts and operates. The closure of many businesses, including our childcare, was a blow to our small community. It became a time for self-care and reflection. After my own reflection, one thing that really stood out is what we do on a daily basis in our childcare to prevent the mass spread of illnesses. Granted, in close quarters and group settings, illnesses do spread quickly; however, we have many measures in place that limit and stop the spread of illness and disease.

Every child that is enrolled with us has clearance from a physician to be in the group setting. Next, we ask that ill children be kept at home or have alternate care when recovering before reentering our group. We do know that some families have a hard time with this rule, so we have other means to cut the spread of unwanted germs. We wash our hands and the children's hands all the time: when we enter each day, before and after meals, after using the restroom or changing each diaper, before and after water/sand play, after any messy crafts or play, after outdoor play, after handling body fluids, and any other time we need to remove germs. That is a lot! We also have fresh sanitizer and disinfectant made daily for each classroom. Staff clean with soap and water then must either sanitize or disinfect. Sanitizer is used for any mouthed toys, sanitizing surfaces after sneezes and coughs, cleaning tables, and other general sanitizing in the classroom. The disinfectant is used on restroom surfaces, handles, and after every diaper change. We also teach children about personal space. With this also comes teaching about covering coughs and sneezes. Teachers notify parents at the first signs of illness in their child.

We all do our best daily to make sure we are not spreading germs. When we are able to resume normal routines, we do know that these general health practices will not change for us and may become more intensive. In light of the changing times, we will ensure that all staff have a chance to meet and review any former practices as well as any new guidance. One thing is for sure, we will still provide the same quality care for children and their families.

## Reaching for Success in Difficult Times!

Dan Kennard

Youth Mentoring has had a wonderful start to the 2020 year. Our Community Based Program has 3 new matches participating. Due to these uncertain times, our mentoring relationships look much different than usual. Youth Mentoring recognizes that just as adults are stressed and scared, so are our youth. Continuing mentoring relationships is still as important as ever, if not more. Many matches have adapted by having virtual outings on video chat, phone calls, and even sending letters.

School-Based Mentoring went well with 11 Mentees and 10 Mentors. This group of High School Mentors went above and beyond to create meaningful relationships with their mentees. Although our year came to an unexpected early end, we are proud to see the great work that was done this year.

Finally, Youth Mentoring has made some changes to it's fundraiser dates. Shoot for the Magic Sporting Clay competition has been moved to August 28th, 2020. Mentor Bowl has also been postponed to a date later to be set.

For any further details regarding our program and/or fundraisers, please call (814) 765-2686 EXT: 239 or email us at danielk@childaid.org.



## Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP)

**R** Are you raising your grandchild or the child of a relative? You're not alone. Grandparent-headed households are the fastest growing type of family in the United States with more than 6 million children nationwide living in a household headed by their grandparents or other relatives.

**A** If you are raising a child from your extended family in your home, you are doing an important and challenging job. Fortunately, you don't have to do it alone. Children's Aid Society has the Relatives As Parents Program, also known as RAPP, to provide support! RAPP includes a monthly support group where grandparents and other relative care providers can share their struggles, setbacks and successes of parenting a second time around; learn, receive and provide support to and from families similar to theirs; and gather information about available community resources. Support group meets the third Monday of every month at 6 p.m. at Children's Aid Society. Child care is available and a light dinner is provided.

**P** If you are or know of any grandparents or relative caregivers that could benefit from RAPP, please contact Children's Aid Society at (814) 765-2686 ext. 204 or rapp@childaid.org.

## Family Support Services

Christina Woodel

Hello from Family Support Services. We hope everyone is doing well in these unprecedented times. FSS is offering services to support the families we work with although they look different due to government regulations. In Home Services has been keeping in touch with families and guiding them in working on their goals. They have been dropping of resources and supplies on a weekly basis to keep families updated and to help them have activities to do when they get to have virtual time with their children.

Parents As Teachers is also connecting with their families virtually. We are planning several group connections over Zoom and offering a bag of resources and supplies for the activities we do on Zoom. We are planning to talk to parents about how to make homemade cleaners and how to talk to their children about why everyone has to wear a mask.

Triple P is still providing the program virtually. We can hold classes or individual through Zoom, Facetime, or telephone calls. We also know that since children are home from school, there will be interruptions. After intake and assessments are done with a family, they will receive a box of supplies which we hope will ease some of the burden of planning activities while the parents are on the phone. We realize that everything is different right now and hope to support as many families as we can. Triple P and Parents as Teachers are still enrolling families. If you would like more information on either of these programs, feel free to call us at Children's Aid Society phone number 814-765-2686 ext. 206

### There are several ways to help Children's Aid Society serve children and families

- You many donate to a specific program, remember us in your will, or decide to offer an annual gift.
- Consider making a donation through the Clearfield County Charitable Foundation. Call (814) 765-7682 or visit [www.clearfieldcharitablefoundation.org](http://www.clearfieldcharitablefoundation.org) for more information.
- Businesses can donate through the EITC tax credit program by calling 1-866-466-3972.

- ☐ I have enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ to assist in Covid-19 related expenses
- ☐ I have enclosed \$1,000 as a one-time Youth Mentoring match sponsor
- ☐ I would like to sponsor a Youth Mentoring match annually
- ☐ I have enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ as a one-time gift
- ☐ Please contact me about naming Children's Aid Society in my will
- ☐ I would like the funds to specifically benefit the \_\_\_\_\_ program
- ☐ I would like more information on volunteering

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Children's Aid Society - 1008 South Second Street  
Clearfield, PA 16830

Phone: (814) 765-2686

[www.childaid.org](http://www.childaid.org)



The official registration and financial information of Children's Aid Society in Clearfield County may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.

## Adoption Services

Shannon Kelly

**"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." - William James**

The Adoption Program of Children's Aid Society in Clearfield County provides services to children, youth and families in all stages of their unique permanency journeys. We provide services directly to children and youth that have been impacted through out-of-home care through Child Profile, Child Preparation and Child Specific Recruitment services of the Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN). In addition, we provide services to families who are looking to expand and provide a forever home to children and youth in need, whether through the child welfare system, privately, or internationally. We also provide information and support to birth parents looking into creating an adoption plan for their unborn child. Regardless of the type of service provided, our Adoption staff are both passionate and dedicated to the children and families we work with.

Recently I asked each of our staff to share what motivates them and not surprisingly - it all comes down to making a difference in the lives of those we work with. Respect, empathy, understanding, trust, being a voice, and the unwavering belief that each child deserves a home, family and love pushes us to strive our very best each and every day. Because at the end of that day, we *have* made an impact, a difference. One that can last a lifetime.

## Real Relationships

Danielle Boyles

Real Relationships is having a successful year! We are on track to excel once again as the areas go to relationship education. We have built great relationships with our counties and communities we serve. It is sad, that we will be coming to the end of the Real Relationships project this September, but we are excited and optimistic about the next new grant!

We have had great responses to our Marriage Retreats this year. The Clearfield County Commissioners proclaimed National Marriage Week for Clearfield County in February. During National Marriage Week, a Marriage Retreat was held on Valentine's Day at the Dubois Country Club. This was our most attended event of the year!

Currently, we are working on innovative ways to reach participants and serve our community during uncertain times. We will be holding classes remotely in May for qualifying past participants in finance and parenting. In June, we will be providing relationship education to singles and couples. Information can be found at our agency website and Facebook page.

As always, our programs are free and come with so many great incentives! Reach out to us for any questions we are more than happy to get you more information. [RealRelationships@childaid.org](mailto:RealRelationships@childaid.org)

Stay safe and we look forward finishing this successful year!