

www.childaid.org



Winter 2020/2021

1004-1008 South Second Street  
Clearfield, PA 16830

Phone: (814) 765-2686

## CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY . . A SWAN AFFILIATE AGENCY

Shannon Kelly - Adoption Manager



The Adoption Program of Children's Aid Society in Clearfield County is a SWAN affiliate agency, but for many people in the community, they don't know what this means or the services we provide children, youth and families throughout Central Pennsylvania.

The Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN) is a network of public and private agencies and organizations that have a common goal of improving the opportunity for permanency for Pennsylvania children. SWAN provides direct services to children in out-of-home care and the families who serve them and include Child Profiles, Child Preparation, Child Specific Recruitment, Family Profiles, Finalization and Post Permanency Services. So what exactly are each of these service?

**A Child Profile** is a written, comprehensive summary of the child's life history, current functioning and special needs. A Child Profile assists in identifying connections and supports for a child by reviewing past and existing relationships. For older youth, the profile summarizes the timeline of their time in out-of-home care.

**Child Preparation** is completed to help children and youth transition to the permanency option selected for them. The preparation work explores core issues of children and youth in out-of-home placement and utilizes techniques such as Lifebooks, timelines, genograms and support through individual sessions. This service is child and youth focused and driven, with the goals "Give Children a Voice," "Honor Children's Past," "Answer the Questions," "Create Connections" and "Look to the Future."

**Child Specific Recruitment (CSR)** is requested for children who have no identified family resource or permanency connections. CSR can help identify and develop connections and supports for children and youth. Our goal is to develop an adoptive family and other individuals who can serve as permanent connections.



### 18TH ANNUAL SHOOT FOR THE MAGIC SPORTING CLAY'S COMPETITION

June 11, 2021  
Warriors Mark Wingshooting Lodge  
in Houtzdale (Ginter), PA

#### HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

**Bring a Team:** 4 Member Team \$1,100 (\$650 tax deductible)  
Registration includes practice, lunch, a 100 target competition, ammo (12 gauge), appetizers, and prime rib dinner.

**Become a Sponsor:**

**Gold Corporate** —\$3,000 (\$2,550 tax deductible)

**Silver Corporate** —\$2,000 (\$1,550 tax deductible)

**Pavilion Sponsor** \$200 (\$200 tax deductible)

**Station Sponsor** \$150 (\$150 tax deductible)

**Donate a Live Auction Item:** After the shooting competition, participants have an opportunity to throw in bids on our Live Auction Items. All auction items come through donations.

#### CONTACT US



814-765-2686 x239  
mentoring@childaid.org  
www.childaid.org

PROCEEDS BENEFIT:



Youth Mentoring

Registration & Sponsorship  
Deadline June 4, 2021  
Major Credit Cards Accepted

**A Family Profile** is the strengths-based social study and preparation of an individual or couple who wishes to provide permanency. The purpose of the document is to determine the individual or couple's ability to provide safety, nurturing and commitment to a child.

**Finalization services** begin after the placement of a child, sibling group or youth into a pre-adoptive home. Supportive services, reports and home visits, as well as work with attorneys and courts, are included.

**Post Permanency Services** are available to any family who has adopted and lives in Pennsylvania, whether or not they adopted their child from foster care, and to those families who have provided permanency to children from the foster care system through permanent legal custodianship or formal kinship care. The services are part of a continuum of services that strengthen and support families and assist in strengthening the special needs adoption community at the local level.

For more information on SWAN, please visit [www.adoptpakids.org](http://www.adoptpakids.org).

For more information on how you can begin the process to adoption, please contact Shannon Kelly at (814) 765-2686 ext. 205 or [adoption@childaid.org](mailto:adoption@childaid.org)



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





## HEROES

### Teresa Guaglianoe - Assistant Director

The heroes in most stories are easy to pick out. The police officer stopping the robbery, the firemen putting the fire out, the doctor saving the patient's life are just a few examples of heroes we see every day. Since the COVID-19 Pandemic started, these types of stories have been all over the news and Facebook. These are amazing stories of people sacrificing their life to help their neighbor in need. Over the past eight months, I have seen stories of heroes unfold at Children's Aid Society. These stories may not be as glamorous as the ones in the news or on Facebook, but they are just as inspiring.

Adoption and foster care staff continue to meet with families and children. Visits are held either virtually or in-person to ensure nothing stops these children from achieving permanency. Child Care staff come back day after day to care for children so their parents or caregivers can do what they need to during the day. Pre-K Counts staff ensure the children in their classrooms continue to receive their education as well as breakfast, lunch and snack daily. In-Home Services, Parents as Teachers and Triple P - Positive Parenting Program put together care packages for the families they work with to ensure they do not go without anything. Visits are also held virtually and in-person in order to continue providing the skills they need to strengthen their families. Real Relationships held classes virtually and in-person to provide high school students, individuals and couples with the tools needed to strengthen their relationships. Youth Mentoring holds social outings for matches to provide them with a safe environment to spend time together. Administrative staff make sure the resources are available to provide services to families and children and help whenever needed.

One definition of a hero is someone who shows great courage. I have seen great courage from all the staff at Children's Aid Society since March 13, 2020. At the beginning of the pandemic, they were uncertain, but worked through that uncertainty to provide the families and children they work with the services they need to improve their quality of life. I am blessed to work among these heroes.

## WE'RE ALL IN THIS... TOGETHER!

### Bonnie Floro - Executive Director

I'm not telling you anything new when I say that 2020 has been one of the most challenging years for our world, our country, our state, our communities, and the families and staff at Children's Aid Society. But as this unpredictable year comes to a welcomed close, I have to say that the gray cloud of 2020 has also had some silver linings.

Despite a short closure this spring, we managed to keep our doors open and were able to keep serving children and families throughout this pandemic. We were fortunate to receive COVID-19 related funding to continue to make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Next, we received notice in late September that our application to the US Office of Family Assistance for a Healthy Marriage Promotion and Responsible Fatherhood Grant was approved, replacing the previous grant that funded our Real Relationships program. This grant amounts to \$2,885,000 over a five-year period and will once again allow us to focus on strengthening families in our communities.

The new Together Project will provide marriage and relationship education and skills activities for adult couples in Clearfield County and eight surrounding counties. We will offer PREP 8.0 relationship education classes along with supplemental parenting and financial education programs through Nurturing Parenting, The Triple P - Positive Parenting Program, and Foundations in Personal Finance. The tagline of this program could never be more relevant than it is for all of us today: Children's Aid Society's Together Project - a Foundation for Strong Families. Because we're all in this together.



## Together

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

- You may 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

- ☐ 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



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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.



## HELLO FROM FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES!!

**Christina Woodel - Family Support Services Manager**

It has been a difficult year for all of us with everything going on with the world. I would like to take this time to introduce our new staff and tell you a little bit about their programs. Kristina McCracken is our new Parents as Teachers home visitor. Kristina started at Children's Aid Society on October 12th and has been busy learning about us and her new program.

Parents as Teachers is in the second year of a three year grant from Children's Trust Fund. Parents As Teachers is a home visiting program that works with parents of children from pregnancy to age 5. Kristina will be getting trained in the model for Children 0-3 in December. We will both be attending the 3-5 training in the new year when it is offered. Parents as Teachers works with the parents to do assessments to check the development of their child or children, helps them with ideas for developmentally appropriate activities for their children, and gives them community information and appropriate referrals. In addition to home visits, we also offer group connections and have guest speakers. This program is free and open to families in Clearfield and Jefferson Counties.

Keirstin McGary is our new In-Home Services caseworker. She has been with the agency since September 10th and has been making herself an essential part of the team. In-Home Services is a program that works directly with children, youth and families of Clearfield County to provide drug tests, supervised visits, and other services as directed by CYS.

Lisa Buchwitz has been with the Triple P Program since our grant in Jefferson County and is now working on the second year of a two year grant in Centre County. Due to COVID-19, a lot has changed in the delivery of PPP, as families now have the option of virtual visits. However, the program is the same. Lisa is trained in several tiers of PPP, Standard (2-12), Group, Teen (12-18), Pathways (anger management), and Enhanced (mental health) and Transitions (divorce). Triple P works with families to create healthier relationships with their children while reducing unwanted behaviors.

Any questions or referrals can be directed to Christina Woodel at 765-2686 ext 239

## PRE-K COUNTS GOES VIRTUAL

**Tara Lansberry - Child Care Director & Pre-K Counts Program Manager**

Our Pre-K Counts school year 2020-2021 has looked a little different this year. We began offering a virtual option for families due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With this option, parents can still enroll their child in our Pre-K Counts program and get the same learning content that other children get during a school day. Virtual learners log in to Zoom meetings with the teacher during two 15-minute learning times and have assignment suggestions that parents can post directly back to teachers. Teachers have also arranged for phone contacts in cases where parents or children have trouble attending the scheduled Zoom meetings. The Pre-K teachers also upgraded their curriculum to offer more content through the Creative Curriculum Cloud for all learners and parents. Our Pre-K 1 class still has openings for in-person and/or virtual learning for this school year.

## THANK YOU ALL WHO SUPPORTED CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

### 2019 (Since May)

CCCF - Kurtz Community Fund  
CCCF - Ann H. Soult Memorial Fund  
Tom & Brenda Grice  
Jeb & Lisa Soult  
SCI Houtzdale  
William & Joyce Falger  
Mark & Carol Harley  
Marcus & Mack  
Betsy Long  
Gio's  
Glen Richey Sportsmen's Association  
Leslie Bodle in memory of Diane Bodle  
Cynthia Heins  
Clearfield Eagles #812  
Burger King Clearfield  
Kenneth & Amy Lezzer  
Ann & Michael Dotsey  
Curwensville Lion's Club  
Michael & Marianne McCloskey  
Peter Marino  
Pat Errigo  
Joan Shimmel  
Carl & Carol Peterson  
A-1 Janitorial  
Tom & Becky Dotts  
Donald Franson  
Shirley London  
Karen Ferraraccio  
VFW Post #7043  
Cress-Wood Co.  
George Mosch  
Edward & Kathy Proud  
American Legion Aux. Unit #62

### 2020

Brad & Lynnanne Baumgardner  
SCI Houtzdale  
DuBois Rotary Club  
Clearfield Area High School  
Ursula Pinto  
Clearfield Eagles #812  
Clearfield County Career & Technology Center  
Dana Beauseigner  
Eunice Finnigan  
Thomas Dodwell  
DuBois Area Jaycees  
A-1 Janitorial  
Stan & Julie LaFuria  
Kiwanis Club of DuBois, Inc.  
Mosquito Creek Sportsmen Association  
Duane & Terry Dotts  
Calvary United Methodist Church West Decatur  
John Lightner Trust Fund  
Grampian Lions Club  
Grassflat Moose #941





## FAMILY TRADITIONS CANCELED?

Jennifer Teats - Foster Care Program Manager / Adoption Caseworker

At this time of year, families would normally be eagerly awaiting the weekend after Thanksgiving to begin their Christmas traditions. However, this year, due to COVID-19, family traditions may need to be altered or to be canceled altogether. Unfortunately, this seems to have been the situation for many families since the pandemic began in March. Many families have already had to make many adjustments to their lives and routines, and foster families are no exception. In Pennsylvania, there are 15,000 children in foster care on any given day. Foster parents are used to dealing with challenges in meeting the needs of their foster children on any "normal" given day; however, COVID-19 has produced another set of challenges for which foster parents have had to adapt. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in many of these foster parents needing to take on extra tasks and roles, including becoming the foster child's educator. The pandemic has led to many changes in the way children are now receiving services.

For example, the pandemic has meant online schooling for many children, video counseling, telehealth appointments and visiting remotely with their parents, who may be in jail, in a treatment program or working to get their children back. Delays in the court system have meant delays in timely reunifications and permanency for many of these children. During this year, Children's Aid Society foster care caseworkers have worked closely with our foster parents advocating for and ensuring that both the needs of the children and foster parents are being met. As the holidays approach, I would like to take this time to thank all our foster parents for the love, nurturing, and support they have provided for their foster children over the course, of what can be viewed as a very unusual and trying year.

With that being said, over the past few months as court hearings resumed and children have returned to school there has been a steady increase in the need for children to be placed into safe, stable, and nurturing homes. If you have ever considered becoming a foster parent, there is no better time than now to take that first step in opening your heart and home to a child in need. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a foster family, please contact us at (814) 765-2686 ext. 249 or [fostercare@childaid.org](mailto:fostercare@childaid.org)



**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL**

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



We welcomed Leighanne Hutton as the Together Project Manager on November 9th. She earned her undergraduate education (psychology) and graduate education (counselor education) from The Pennsylvania State University. Leighanne has experience working with schools, children, adults, and families across the community within the behavioral health field. She is a licensed professional counselor (LPC), holds a behavioral specialist license (BSL), and is a certified clinical trauma professional (CCTP). She is excited to start her new journey at CAS as the Together Project Manager.



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