

## PRE-K COUNTS PRESCHOOL

Tara Lansberry - Child Care Director / PKC Program Manager

Our Pre-K Counts program is winding down another school year and already beginning to plan for the next. As with most schools, our year started with some uncertainty about COVID requirements and how a new year with these concerns would look. Our teachers have managed to have face-to-face instruction the whole year with only minor COVID interruptions. We truly believe that our Pre-K Counts, and in-person instruction, prepares children for future experiences and has led to Kindergarten success. This has encouraged us to keep looking ahead. In a short time, we will say good-bye to 19 of our 28 Pre-K Counts students and they will enter Kindergarten this fall. In March we sent out 15 applications for our fall class and have received three back. We look forward to filling our classrooms with returning and new learners and are still accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year.

Pre-K Counts is a free, state funded, preschool program for children ages 3 to 5 who meet certain guidelines. The program offers a high quality full-day educational experience with a curriculum aligned to the PA learning standards, planned daily lessons, and quarterly progress reports. The teachers are state certified and have annual training to enhance skills. For more information, please contact Monica or Tara at 814-765-2685 or you can visit our website at [www.childaid.org](http://www.childaid.org) and use the "Programs" dropdown menu.

### 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 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

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.

YOU CAN ALSO DONATE ONLINE AT [WWW.CHILDAID.ORG](http://WWW.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)



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Children's Aid Society  
1004-1008 South Second Street  
Clearfield, PA 16830



[WWW.CHILDAID.ORG](http://WWW.CHILDAID.ORG)



SPRING/SUMMER 2022

1004-1008 South 2nd St  
Clearfield, PA 16830

Phone: (814) 765-2686

2 E. Long Avenue  
DuBois, PA 15801

## WORK HERE - WE'RE TRYING!

Bonnie Floro - Executive Director

If you've been on social media or Indeed.com lately you may have noticed that, like a majority of businesses, Children's Aid Society has also been struggling with staff resignation and recruitment. At the time of this writing, we have several open positions. Most of our colleagues report they are operating in "emergency mode" and, like us, wondering if anyone out there is even looking for steady employment?

As you will see later in this newsletter, we have many dedicated staff who have been with us for 10, 20, even more than 30 years, which makes us think we must be doing something right. Well, maybe. Although we have a great mission and always assumed we were doing our best to recognize and reward employees, we spent this past year trying to do even better. Increased wages, signing, referral, merit and attendance bonuses, flexible scheduling and remote options, additional holidays and paid time off were some of the benefits staff have gained, and it doesn't stop there. From food trucks and team lunches to gift cards and free fancy drink Fridays, we continue to search for ways to let staff know they are valued and even invaluable to us. Will it help them stay? We hope so! One quality employee retained means one less to recruit, a task that seems almost impossible these days.

## SAVE THE DATE

Centre Gives Online Event

Centre Gives is an annual online giving event designed to encourage community giving and to support the great work of Centre County nonprofits during 36 hours – starting at 9:00 am on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 and ending at 9:00 pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

During Centre Gives, donors may visit [CentreGives.org](http://CentreGives.org) to make secure donations to their favorite local nonprofit organizations. The minimum donation is \$10, and every dollar donated to participating nonprofits goes further thanks to the Centre Gives stretch pools provided by Centre Foundation and the Hamer Foundation. Your gift could also help qualify your favorite nonprofits to win additional cash prizes!

We are asking for your support by going to [CentreGives.org](http://CentreGives.org) and finding Children's Aid Society as your nonprofit. Your donations will help our programs that are in Centre County such as Adoption, Foster Care, Triple P, and Together.

This exciting community giving event is hosted by Centre Foundation and supported by our community impact funds and partnerships with local businesses.



## "EACH NEW DAY IS A NEW BEGINNING. A CHANCE TO LIVE, TO GIVE, TO LOVE, AND TO GROW."

Jennifer Teats - Foster Care Program Manager

Did you know that there are currently 13,000 – 15,000 children in foster care in PA? Did you know that each one of these children has had a chance to experience new beginnings while being provided opportunities to help them heal and grow due to being placed into loving and nurturing foster homes? In 2021, Children's Aid Society in Clearfield County was fortunate to give 38 children/youth the opportunity to live, love, and grow in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment. Six of those children/youth became permanent members of the family they were placed with. In addition, 10 children/youth began the process of becoming permanent members of their foster families. In 2021, Children's Aid Society had 10 families complete the home study process in order to provide foster care services for children and youth. Sadly, the number of children/youths who are awaiting to experience a new beginning with a foster family continues to far out exceed the number of families currently available to provide and care for children/youth.

## CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE

Become a Foster Parent

If you have ever thought about becoming a foster parent, now is the time! Not only is Spring a time for new beginnings, but May is National Foster Care Month! Children's Aid Society will be hosting a Foster Care Information Event on May 21, 2021 at Presko's café in DuBois, PA. from 10 am to 2 pm. The Children's Aid Society Foster Care staff will be available to answer all your questions. If you are unable to attend and would like more information, please feel free to contact us at (814) 765-2686 ext. 249 or email us at [fostercare@childaid.org](mailto:fostercare@childaid.org).

Children's Aid Society looks forward to being able to give more children/youth the opportunity for a new beginning with the help of loving and caring individuals and families like you!



Follow us on Facebook at [facebook/ChildAid.org](https://facebook.com/ChildAid.org)





## RECOGNIZING STAFF

*Teresa Guaglianone - Assistant Director*

Children's Aid Society will recognize staff on July 21, 2022 for their years of service. Over the past year, our staff have faced numerous challenges in dealing with COVID-19, staff shortages and the tasks that come with their positions. Children's Aid Society has been blessed with dedicated, hard-working staff that go above and beyond to ensure children and families receive services that improve their quality of life. Please join with me in congratulating all of our staff on their years of service!

Monica Smeal – 33 Years  
Janet Biss – 31 Years  
Rhonda Carfley – 26 Years  
Lynda Saggese – 24 Years  
Nancy Stone – 24 Years  
Bonnie Floro – 23 Years  
Teresa Guaglianone – 21 Years  
Tara Lansberry – 16 Years  
Carole Posanskey – 16 Years  
Missy Sloppy – 16 Years  
Amanda Clark – 15 Years  
Shannon Kelly – 13 Years

Brittany Blackburn – 11 Years  
Jim Mattern – 10 Years  
Jen Teats – 8 Years  
Sarah Hale – 6 Years  
Danielle Palmer – 6 Years  
Marsha Shimmel – 6 Years  
Cortney Hildebrand – 5 Years  
Brittany Graham – 4 Years  
Lori Baronak – 3 Years  
Rachel Dunlap – 3 Years  
Sherry Hess – 3 Years  
Harry Myers – 3 Years

Alyssa Palmer – 3 Years  
Aleah Schwiderske – 3 Years  
Jynell Smeal – 3 Years  
Veronica Wendel – 3 Years  
Kate Wood – 3 Years  
Amanda Ammerman – 2 Years  
Brandi Billotte – 2 Years  
Kayla Curry – 2 Years  
Leighanne Hutton – 2 Years  
Jordan Luzier – 2 Years  
Taylor Park – 2 Years  
Tonya Richards – 2 Years

Sue Diehl – 1 Year  
Kristen Lanich – 1 Year  
Cailyn Leskovansky – 1 Year  
Kara McGary – 1 Year  
Alora McGovern – 1 Year  
Vanessa Reese – 1 Year  
Gale Schickling – 1 Year  
Melissa Stockwell – 1 Year  
Cindi Weddle – 1 Year  
Allison Graham – 6 Months  
Tara Hale – 6 Months

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY INVITES YOU TO

# TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT

19TH ANNUAL  
DENNY MERREY MEMORIAL  
SHOOT FOR THE MAGIC  
SPORTING CLAY SHOOT  
COMPETITION

JUNE 10, 2022  
WARRIORS MARK WINGSHOOTING LODGE  
HOUTZDALE (GINTER), PA

**Bring a Team** Includes practice, lunch, 100 target competition, ammo (12 gauge) appetizers, and prime rib dinner

**Become a Sponsor** Several opportunities available call to learn more at 814-765-2686 ext 202

**Show your Support** Purchase a meal ticket and enjoy the awards, prime rib dinner, and silent action or purchase a \$10 gun raffle ticket

**Donate a Prize** Donate a prize for our silent auction



Children's Aid Society  
814-765-2686 x202  
mentoring @childaid.org  
www.childaid.org

## MEET THE TOGETHER TEAM

*Leighanne Hutton - Together Project Manager*

Officially halfway through year two of Together, April marked one full year of relationship education workshops held by Children's Aid Society. Not unlike many other agencies locally and around the globe, the Together team was required to navigate unpredictability and unfamiliar circumstances. While taxing at times, the team worked hand-in-hand to problem solve any unforeseen challenges and humbly served over 56 couples since April 2021. Children's Aid Society recognizes the dedication and important role that the staff of Together hold within the agency. We are fortunate for their knowledge and passion to serve those in the community. Please meet the Together team!



*Leighanne Hutton is the program manager for Together. She has been with Children's Aid Society since 2020. She is dedicated to providing a successful, quality, and ethical program for the community.*



*Dedicating over 24 years with Children's Aid Society, Lynda Saggese serves as the intake and enrollment professional for Together. Before transferring to relationship education, Lynda worked within the childcare center and Youth Mentoring. Her primary role with Together is to follow up with inquiries, as well as enroll couples into upcoming workshops.*



*Amanda Ammerman is a Family Support Coordinator for Together and has worked in the relationship education program since 2020. She is passionate about providing assistance and referrals to participants. Amanda primarily coordinates virtual workshops and ensures that each session runs smoothly.*



*Marsha Shimmel is a Family Support Coordinator for Together and has worked for Children's Aid Society for five years. Before relationship education, Marsha assisted those in the community within the In-Home Services program at Children's Aid Society. Marsha primarily coordinates the in-person workshops and also provides guidance and referrals for participants enrolled in Together workshops.*



*Danielle McKnight is the Data Manager and Master Facilitator for Together, and has been with Children's Aid Society for five years. She maintains intricate databases and tracts incentives. As Master facilitator she provides training and guidance to our team members that deliver the curriculum, and ensures that it follows fidelity.*

Other Vital staff for Together include facilitators: Sue Diehl, Kristen Lanich, Vanessa Reese, and Melissa Stockwell, as well as childcare professionals, Brittany Graham and Ally Graham. We are blessed to have our devoted part-time staff that teach workshop material and care compassionately for the children of participants. For more information, please contact Leighanne at 814-765-2686 EXT 232.

## FUN FAMILY ACTIVITY

*Kara McGary - Family Support Services Manager*

As Spring and Summer are coming full swing and with the cost of living on the rise, families may be looking for some different low cost, stay at home activities. Family Support Services have been working with our local families on different activities that families can do within the comfort of their own home. Keeping children's brains active during summer can seem challenging at times. Children's Aid Society and the Family Support Services department have been working on finding ways to get children engaged in other activities outside of screen time.

Growing up everyone remembers playing with chalk. Children will always remember the warm days spent outside coloring with chalk, riding bikes, and playing at the park. So why not grow on that and learn how to make chalk as well. This activity will allow you as parents to be able to spending time with your children, teach them how to follow directions, and measure out different ingredients. Doing activities like making chalk or other crafts also give you and your children a chance to bond, have conversations, and enjoy time with each other.



### MATERIALS:

- ❖Plaster of Pairs (*Never put down your drains*)
- ❖Tempera Paint (*Neon works best*)
- ❖Silicone pop mold
- ❖Wood craft sticks
- ❖Plastic cups and Spoons

Start by cutting your craft sticks in 3" long piece. Fill each one of your plastic cups with 1/3 cup of cold water. This is where you can have fun with picking what colors you would like or even how many different colors you would want.

Next, add 2 tablespoons of tempera paint to each plastic cup. Feel free to make your own colors and explore mixing them up to make colors of your own.

Use the plastic spoons, mix the water and paint together. It may separate or seem chunky but that is okay. It will work itself out later.

Then, add the 2/3 cup of the Plaster of Paris to the plastic cups. You will want to stir until it is thoroughly combined. You will want to it took smooth like pudding.

Next, carefully poor the mixture in the silicone mold. You will want to tap the mold to work all the air bubbles to the surface. After two minutes you will want to put your craft sticks cut side down and continue to let the plaster to get firm.

Then, set them out in the hot sun to allow them to cure quickly. After one hour you will want remove the chalk from the mold and continue to let them dry in the sun. After about 5 hours (or longer).....HAVE A BLAST!!!

While completing the activity always remember to stop and enjoy this time and take a few pictures and just be in the moment with your children. You as parents are creating memories that will last a life time.

If you are interested in enrolling in Parent as Teachers, Nurturing Parents, and Triple P please call Kara McGary at 814-765-2686 ext. 250.

## CHILD PREPARATION:

### A TOOL AND A TREASURE

*Shannon Kelly - Adoption Manager*

As an affiliate of the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN), the Adoption program of Children's Aid Society in Clearfield County provides Child Preparation services to children and youth in the custody of county children and youth agencies through the state of Pennsylvania. So what is Child Preparation?



Child Preparation is a six-month long service that helps children and youth transition to their permanency goal, whether that be reunification with birth parents, placement with kin, permanent legal custodianship, adoption, or another planned permanent living arrangement. The preparation work explores core issues of children and youth in out-of-home placement: grief and loss, abandonment, identity, control, loyalty, attachment and shame. This service is child and youth focused and driven, used in hopes of preventing placement disruption, reducing the time to reach the permanency goal or finalization and providing youth with insights and positive connections to increase their success after leaving placement. The goals of Child Preparation are to "Give Children a Voice," "Honor Children's Past," "Answer the Questions," "Create Connections" and "Look to the Future." Throughout the unit of service, activities are created and completed to achieve these goals, and through the process, a Lifebook is created for the children and youth to keep. A Lifebook is a scrapbook or binder that is a representation of a child's or youth's life that helps them understand what has happened to them during their life. Information and pictures can include birth, birth parents, siblings, extended family, places they have lived, developmental milestones, medical information, educational information, etc.

The Lifebook is both a tool and treasure for children and youth. Should they be returned to birth parents, the children and youth have a record of what has happened during their time in placement, and should a child or youth be adopted, they will have record and pictures of their family and life prior to placement. And for many children and youth, this piece of their past helps them move forward to the future.

# WE ARE HIRING!

ADOPTION SERVICE WORKERS  
CHILD CARE WORKERS  
YOUTH MENTORING COORDINATOR  
BLENDED CASE WORKER  
FISCAL MANAGER

JOIN OUR TEAM TODAY!

