

## THE FOCUS REMAINS THE SAME

*Bonnie Floro - Executive Director*

In March the Clearfield Arts Studio Theatre (CAST) chose to designate donations received during their musical production *Oliver* to Children's Aid Society because of our early history of finding families and providing homes for "orphaned or abandoned" children. Preparation for this event had me going through old photos and agency records to see what could be used for a display. I gathered many old pictures of children who lived in our Children's Home during the 1920s and 30s that I was able to share. CAST formed these into a marvelous depiction of history on the interior wall of the theatre. During the project I also found several old pictures of one of our earliest fundraising traditions – The Harvest Moon Ball, held during the 50s and 60s at the Dimeling Hotel in Clearfield. Posting some of these photos on a social media history group brought excitement and delighted comments from people who were either there or recognized relatives at the event. Often I talk about the long history of Children's Aid Society and the dedication of volunteers and donors who have supported us since the beginning and I am thankful those times are not forgotten. Although we no longer call them orphaned or abandoned, we still serve those kids in need of families and families in need of support. Thank you CAST for choosing us and helping us to remember the reason we remain – to improve the lives of children and their families!



## NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

*Brittany Blackburn - Foster Care Program Manager*

Every year, Foster Care is celebrated nationally throughout the month of May. Why do we decide to bring awareness to foster care? Because a child is placed in foster care every 150 seconds. In Pennsylvania alone, there are 14,000 children in foster care. Nationally, it is estimated that there are about half a million children in foster care. Foster care plays a large role in so many lives. So what can you do? If you meet the minimum qualifications (live in Pennsylvania, are over the age of 21, and have income) you can apply to become a foster parent. Many people are unaware that there are other ways to be involved with foster care, and they do not involve being a foster parent. Foster children are almost always in the need of basic day to day items such as clothing, hygiene items, toiletries, or even a blanket or stuffed animal to call their own. Donating tangible items to your local foster care agency is one way you can help. Many foster families are responsible for ensuring they have adequate and age-appropriate necessities for children when they come into their care. Sometimes a phone call to a foster family can happen in the middle of the night, which gives the family very little notice to prepare for a foster child. Donating gently used car seats, baby strollers, pack n' plays, toys, or baby swings to foster families to ensure they are well prepared for any aged child could be a huge help. If you enjoy cooking, preparing a meal for a foster family is always a well-accepted offering. Who can say no to a homemade meal? If you personally know a foster family, offer to run errands for them, arrange a play date, or offer to watch all of their children so they can have time for a little self-care. A lesser talked about part of foster care is helping birth families reach and achieve their goals so their children can return home. You can offer transportation to a birth family to help them attend their required appointments, or you can donate your unused items to a birth family to ensure their home is furnished with bedding, furniture, or even cookware. There are many ways to contribute to foster care and these are just a few of the ways. If you have any questions on how you can have a positive impact, you can always contact our office at 814-765-2686, or email us at [fostercare@childaid.org](mailto:fostercare@childaid.org). If you are wanting to help, but do not know what you have to offer, "do what you can, with what you have, where you are." – Theodore Roosevelt.



## WE ARE PROUD TO BE AN OFFICIAL KIDCENTS CHARITY!

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**For more information visit [kidcents.com](http://kidcents.com)**

# CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY IN CLEARFIELD BRINGS COUPLES TOGETHER!

Leighanne Hutton - Relationship Education Program Manager

Organized in 1890, Children's Aid Society in Clearfield remains true to their mission: To identify and provide services to improve the quality of life for children and their families. The idea of providing a comprehensive relationship-building resource for the local community began when Children's Aid Society received funding in 2006. Today, Together is a healthy relationship education program that focuses on improving the essential components of communication such as problem-solving, discussion, and conflict resolution, as well as positive parenting skills and financial management for adult couples. What better way to improve the quality of life for children and their families?

In addition to Clearfield County, Together serves residents in Blair, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clinton, Elk, Indiana, and Jefferson counties. Workshop cohorts typically complete the workshop over a nine week period. With the intent to serve children and their families, meal and transportation incentives are distributed at each session. By eliminating barriers, Together strives to provide a safe space for couples to learn and laugh with each other while improving the quality of their relationship and home environment.

To learn more about relationship education through Children's Aid Society in Clearfield, contact Leighanne Hutton, program manager, at leighanneh@childaid.org, 814-765-2686 ext. 232, or visit our website at [www.childaid.org](http://www.childaid.org). We welcome referrals from outside agencies and are eager to tell you more about how Together is improving the quality of life for children and their families in communities!

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Did you know that every time you shop on Walmart.com, you can round up your change and donate it to **CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF CLEARFIELD COUNTY?**

We also have a list of giving registries for some of our needed items. Learn how small acts can lead to big impact at [#WalmartSparkGood](https://www.walmart.com/nonprofits/9eccd33c-58bf-444d-8557-527bf6843b8b/profile)

<https://www.walmart.com/nonprofits/9eccd33c-58bf-444d-8557-527bf6843b8b/profile> or search for our agency at Walmart.com under Services/Community & Giving. It's an easy process. We thank you in advance for your support!

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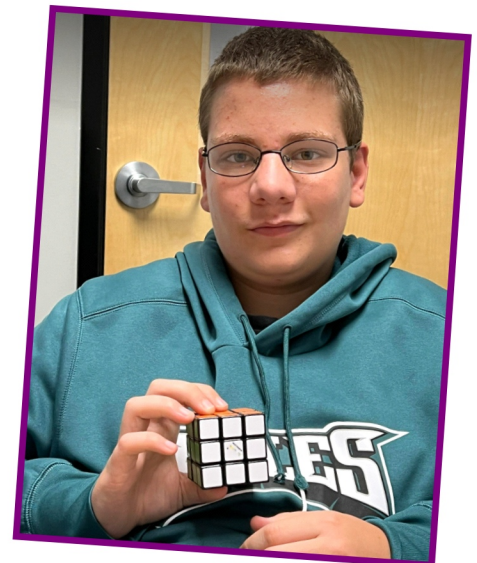
## HOW IS ADOPTION LIKE SPRINGTIME?

Jennifer Teats - Adoption Manager



Adoption is a new beginning. It means a renewed life—a different life—for adoptive families and for children. From flowers to stunning colors, from birds chirping to baby ducks appearing by the lake, from longer days to balmy nights. Adoption is so very much like spring! Adoption certainly has its own ups and downs, but more than anything, life is beautiful and so is springtime. That is a lesson nature teaches us while also presenting us with many gifts, and this time of the year offers us so many of these gifts, but most of all, it surrounds us with love and hope! Adoption breathes its first breath in the homes of parents who wait patiently through the winter and comes to fruition in a new season of life for families. Adoption is the life of a child blessing a family with light after what can seem like a long darkness.

Currently there are 2,500 children/youth in Pennsylvania who are waiting for a new beginning. **MEET SEAN**, one of those youth who is looking for a new beginning. Spring gives Sean renewed hope that he will find a family where he feels he will belong. To learn more about SEAN or any of the other children in Pennsylvania who are hoping that Springtime provides them with their dream of finding a family, you can visit the following website: [Adoptpakids.org](http://Adoptpakids.org). If you are interested in becoming an adoptive family please reach out to Children's Aid Society and our experienced adoption staff will guide you through the process.



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



## 20TH ANNUAL DENNY MERREY SHOOT FOR THE MAGIC SPORTING CLAY SHOOTING COMPETITION

*Teresa Guaglianone - Assistant Director*

The 20th Annual Denny Merrey Shoot for the Magic Sporting Clay Shoot Competition is scheduled for June 9, 2023 at Warriors Mark Wingshooting Lodge in Houtzdale, Pennsylvania beginning at 10:00 a.m. Shoot for the Magic is the biggest, and only, fundraiser for our Youth Mentoring Program. We started Shoot for the Magic in 2003 to help support youth mentoring. There are different levels of participation for interested individuals: standard team registration, gold sponsorship, silver sponsorship, pavilion sponsorship, station sponsorship and general donation. Participants enjoy lunch, a 100-target competition, games, dinner and a live auction. Proceeds go directly toward serving more children with a top priority of ensuring child safety. Clearfield County youth, their families and mentors receive professional agency support to ensure child safety and high satisfaction in their match relationship. Mentor recruitment is increased to secure mentors for the children who are waiting to be paired with a mentor. Supporting this preventative program is cost-effective and yields significant positive impacts on children served. In 2022, twenty-two teams participated in the event and we raised over \$46,000. Our goal for 2023 is to raise \$51,000.

More information about the competition can be found on Shoot for the Magic ([shootforthemagic.com](http://shootforthemagic.com)). If you would like to be a sponsor or register a team, please contact Teresa at (814) 765-2686 x204 or [mentoring@childaid.org](mailto:mentoring@childaid.org).

Pictured is the 2022 High Overall Team from Lee Industries consisting of John Keisiewicz, Mick Markel, Don Wagner and Cody Snyder.



## EQUIPPING CHILDREN FOR A LIFETIME OF LEARNING

*Tara Lansberry - Child Care Director*

As another Pre-K Counts school year winds down, we start to reflect on what we've done over the past year and what children have learned. Our teachers recognize the need to build relationships with children, and their families, first. Building rapport and trust is the foundation if we want children to learn from us. Our staff offer a meet and greet before the school year starts and then spend time getting to know the children before diving in to specific lesson plan topics. Although the daily structure stays the same, our teachers learn what each child in their class needs in order to do their best. We recognize that each child learns at a different pace and sometimes in a different style. Our teachers have become experts on delivering lessons with activities that are meaningful to the children and that they can link with their everyday play and routines. The teachers don't just teach letters and numbers; they dig deeper into the ideas of literacy, math, writing, science, health, social studies and being a good student. By the time children are ready to transition, teachers have prepared them for what comes next. Our Pre-K children have learned to function in a group setting, cooperate with peers, and how to share an adult with many other children. Our Pre-K children have learned skills that will only enhance what teachers will deliver next. We can't forget the early learning and early childhood experiences are the basis for all other learning. Teachers give the children the tools they need to succeed, it's up to the children to use those tools to build as they move on. We are proud to deliver preschool services to young children that will equip them for the future.



To learn more about our Pre-K Counts program, contact Tara or Monica at (814)765-2685 or [childcare@childaid.org](mailto:childcare@childaid.org).

### 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 \$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)**

# YUMMY FAMILY ACTIVITY: NO-BAKE HONEY PEANUT BUTTER BITES

Kara McGary - Family Support Services Manager

The sound of birds chirping, daffodils blooming, and the start of spring has us all getting excited for summer and looking forward to fun times with family – until everyone gets bored! Parents are then stuck trying to find different ideas for the rest of the summer. Summer activities don't just have to focus on traveling or being outside because we all know those rainy days are coming. So, let's cook a yummy snack everyone will enjoy.

No Bake: Honey Peanut Butter Bites:

All you will need is:

- 1 cup of smooth honey peanut butter
- ¼ cup of honey
- 24 pretzels
- ¾ cup of chocolate chips
- 1 tbsp coconut oil
- ½ cup of sprinkles

Now let's get started:

1. In a small bowl, stir together honey and peanut butter.
2. On a parchment-lined cookie sheet place a dollop of the mixture on top of 12 pretzels.
3. Top those 12 pretzels with a second pretzel to create a sandwich. Then set aside.
4. In a microwave-safe bowl, melt chocolate chips and coconut oil in 20 second increments. Stir every 20 seconds until the chocolate is smooth.
5. Dip each pretzel sandwich into the melted chocolate, dunking half of the pretzel. Transfer back to the lined cookie sheet. Add sprinkles before the chocolate cools.
6. Once pretzels are dipped and sprinkled, place in the refrigerator until chocolate is firm.
7. THEN ENJOY If they last long enough save them in an airtight container in the fridge.



Cooking together is a great way to bond with your child and teaches them to follow directions. Children thrive on time spent as a family doing different activities and one-on-one attention.

Are you interested in learning more about activities for you and your children to do? Are you wanting to improve parenting skills to help create better relationships? Children's Aid Society offers many services that promote parent-child bonding such as Triple P, Nurturing Parenting, and Parents as Teachers. Please contact Kara McGary at 814-765-2686 ext 250 for more information. It may just save your summer!

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