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SPRING / SUMMER 2024

814.765.2686

1004-1008 S 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Clearfield, PA 16830

## Our Parents as Teachers Program Receives National Award!

*Bonnie Floro - Executive Director*

In January, we were thrilled to find out that our application for a \$25,000 Parents as Teachers 2024 Challenge Grant was approved and will help us improve our services to local children and families! The initiative, entitled "Investing in the Power of Families", consisted of \$1.75 million in grants to affiliate agencies. This international initiative is part of Parents as Teachers' (PAT) ongoing commitment to providing quality early childhood services, engaging families, and building stronger communities.

Under the grant category "Workforce Development", our agency will use the funds to provide opportunities that will raise the professional level of our parent educators in our local PAT program. This will include increased professional development for staff, an opportunity to attend the PAT 2024 International Conference, and new technology to improve the effectiveness of home visits. Additional money to market our services was also included. As a nonprofit agency located in an economically disadvantaged community, adequate funding to invest in these areas is always scarce. We thank the PAT National Center for the opportunity!

To learn more about our Parents as Teachers program visit our website or email Kara McGary at [karam@childaid.org](mailto:karam@childaid.org).

## Recognizing those who make a difference!

*Brittany Blackburn - Foster Care Manager*

Spring symbolizes a time of rejuvenation and new beginnings, representing rebirth, renewal, growth, and development. This spring, we would like to recognize three of our foster families who have had this opportunity through foster care. They say good things come in threes and through foster care, three of our foster families adopted three sibling groups of three! Although the main purpose of foster care is to provide a temporary living situation for youth, sometimes foster families can turn into lifelong families. Our Hartzfeld family has been a foster family since 2017. They have fostered 12 youth over those years and adopted three. Our Harpster family has been a foster family since 2021 and have fostered five youth and adopted three. Our Lopez family also became a foster family in 2021. They also fostered five youth through our agency and adopted three. We would like to send a special recognition to all our foster families. Throughout 2023, we were able to help 45 children through foster care, and nine of those children were reunited with their birth families. We could not make a difference in the lives of children without our amazing and dedicated foster families!

"Foster Care – Because a child can never have too many people to love them..."



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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 IN 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/childaid)

It's an easy process. We thank you in advance for your support!



VIEW OUR CHILD CARE  
REGISTRY HERE



VIEW OUR ADOPTION AND  
FOSTER CARE REGISTRY HERE



VIEW OUR FAMILY SUPPORT  
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VIEW OUR YOUTH MENTORING  
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## Why Volunteer in our Community?

Mary Beth Geppert - Youth Mentoring Caseworker

Many of us are searching for greater wellbeing right now. We're booking those overdue vacations, scheduling massage appointments, returning to the gym, and hitting that meditation app hard. Those are all marvelous things. On LinkedIn, Laysha Ward is asking us to prepare for **the Great ReConnection** – an overdue rekindling of our relationships and a renewed focus on community – why not make service in our community part of how we reconnect?

### A Potential Volunteer May Ask: "What's in it for me?"

**1. Service is good for your health.** We don't acknowledge this fact enough; volunteering is good for you. According to one survey of 158 research papers and reports on volunteering around the world, "there is high quality evidence that volunteering is positively linked to enhanced wellbeing, including improved life satisfaction, increased happiness, and decreases in symptoms of depression."

**2. The more you need, the more you receive.** And while volunteering is often associated with higher economic status, these benefits actually increase for lower socio-economic groups. One U.S. government study showed that volunteering increased chances of employment: people who volunteer were 27% more likely to find work than non-volunteers.

**3. Service reduces social isolation in your community.** In an era of pandemics, racial inequity, COVID, and loneliness—volunteering has a profound role. Simply the presence of non-profits—as a measure of social cohesion—correlates with reduced overdose deaths in a community. One study in Detroit found that helping others outside of your home "acts as a buffer" against the negative effects of stress, especially for older adults.

**4. Volunteering creates a bridge across politics, race, and religion.** During an increasingly divided time, Republicans and Democrats serve their community in essentially equal proportions. As in volunteering nationally, all races and religions are represented.

### Why become a Mentor to Clearfield County Kiddos?

**1. It Makes You Feel Good.** Our world is complicated and can feel heavy at times. Knowing how to make a difference can be daunting. Mentoring is a simple and hands-on way to make your mark on the world. Watching a child you are helping develop into the person they are meant to be is deeply fulfilling.

**2. Improve Your Emotional IQ.** Mentoring requires you to be aware of yourself and also to be tuned into the feelings of your mentee. Through this experience self-awareness, empathy and humility grow.

**3. Increase Your Confidence.** Mentoring a child can feel awkward at first. What do you say? What do you do? In time, you get to know your mentee better and become confident in your ability as the relationship grows. This confidence then spills over into other areas of your life.

**4. Deepen Your Skills.** Lessons you have learned over your life are best integrated by teaching them to someone else. The more you recall the important experience, and impart that wisdom onto another, the further it deepens your mastery.

**5. Grow New Relationships.** During a time of disconnection and isolation, we all learned that relationships are some of the most precious gifts we possess. Mentoring youth is also about bringing a new and fun relationship into your life.

**6. Change Your Perspective.** One of the biggest changes our mentors report is that they have a new perspective about people from different races, backgrounds, and cultures. This often motivates mentors to continue to be a part of important social change.



If you would like more information on becoming a mentor, contact Mary Beth Geppert at (814)765-2686, x202 or marybethg@childaid.



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

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

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

- ☐ 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

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)



## Enjoy Summer

Kara McGary - Family Support Services Manager

**S**ummertime is something that is welcomed but can also be dreaded at the same time. We love the feeling of the warm sun, but the question always comes up what do I do with children all summer? Here are some tips that will help you survive summer with children while enjoying the beautiful time of year.

**1. Keep a routine** – Keeping a structured routine is the number one way to keep your summer cool, calm, and collected. Children love to know what to expect every single day. Having the same bedtime, mealtime, and wake time will make the days go by smoother plus it will ensure everyone is eating and sleeping enough.

**2. Have balanced meals** – As adults we know what it is like to not eat a balanced meal. We get hungry again quicker and we don't always have enough energy to carry us through the day. Same goes for children. Making sure they have protein, vegetables, and fruit for each meal will keep them fuller longer and provide their body with the nutrition that they need. Ensuring your children stay hydrated in the summer heat is important too.

**3. Have activities ready** – It is impossible to be able to entertain your children all summer long. There will be times when you need to get things done so this is when you can have activities ready to go. Activities such as coloring books, Legos, puzzles, and other independent play items work well.

**4. LET THEM BE KIDS** – It is always important to remember that at the end of the day kids will be kids and we as parents need to give them the space to be kids. We need to give them the space to get dirty, be loud, and at times stay up past their bedtimes. It is important to remember to just enjoy your summer and the company of your children because you will only have this summer one time. *ENJOY.*

If you are interested in any of your parenting programs, please contact Kara at 814-765-2686 ext. 250.

## For Richer, For Poorer - Partnering in Money and Marriage

Leighanne Hutton - Relationship Education Program (Together) Manager

**A**ccording to Ramsey Solutions, money is the leading concern for marital disagreements and the second source of divorce among couples. In addition to exploring personality differences and realistic expectations, the relationship education program at Children's Aid Society educates couples on the foundational skills to promote healthy communication and problem solve as a team. Learn how to navigate the difficult seasons of life with your partner, or simply commit one night a week as a date night to nourish your relationship. Upon completion of the main workshop, explore financial literacy even further with our supplemental Dave Ramsey workshop, Foundations in Personal Finance.

### Money and Marriage: 7 Tips for a Healthy Relationship

1. Keep a joint bank account.
2. Discuss your lifestyle choices together.
3. Recognize your difference in personality.
4. Don't let salary differences come between you.
5. Keep purchases out in the open.
6. Set expectations together.
7. Don't let the kids run the show.

Together Workshops are entirely free and are designed for all adult couples, from people in committed relationships, to newlyweds, and couples married for 50 years! It's never too late or too early to focus on your relationship and invest the time into creating a future TOGETHER!



Together

Contact Together Staff at  
(814) -765-2686 EXT 240 or  
togetherproject@childaid.org for  
more information or to enroll now!

Cruz, R. (2024, February, 9). *Money and Marriage: 7 Tips for a Healthy Relationship*. Ramsey Solutions. <https://www.ramseysolutions.com/relationships/the-truth-about-money-and-relationships>

## Child Care or Pre-K at Children's Aid... What's the difference?

Tara Lansberry - Child Care Director

**C**hild Care is a fee-for-service program that serves families in need of child care while they work or attend school and is regulated by the Department of Human Services. Parents choose what days and times they need care in a week and sign a contract agreement for payment. We do accept subsidy payments. Children's Aid Society Child Care is a Star 4 facility, meaning we are held to a higher quality standard and are much more than babysitting or drop-off service. We do separate our enrollments by age with general groupings of infants, toddlers, preschool, and school age. All of our age groups have a weekly theme and use the principles of the Creative Curriculum and incorporate the Early Learning Standards. Each group has a lesson plan prepared by their teacher that is tailored to the group's individual needs.

Although Pre-K Counts is located in our Child Care building, it is a separate program with its own application process. Pre-K Counts at Children's Aid Society is a preschool program that operates 180 days, many of the same as Clearfield School District. It is funded by the state and regulated by the Department of Education. Families at or under 300 percent of the poverty level qualify (ex: \$74,580 for a family of three) for this free preschool program. We have two classrooms, each operating at different times but both are 6.5 hours and children must meet attendance requirements. Wrap-around child care is available for families that need care outside of class times (see child care description). Teachers in Pre-K Counts are licensed by the state and expected to maintain certification. They prepare weekly lesson plans using a variety of resources such as Teaching Strategies Creative Curriculum, Early Learning Standards, and Heggerty. The focus is Kindergarten readiness.

Pre-K Counts is accepting applications for fall. Child Care is still maintaining a waitlist and spots fill on a first come, first serve basis as soon as spots become available.





Children's Aid Society  
1004-1008 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
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### Child Specific Recruitment (CSR)

*Jennifer Teats - Adoption Program Manager*

**C**SR is a service provided through the State Wide Adoption Network (SWAN) which helps children who have no identified family resource or permanency connections. CSR helps identify and develop connections and supports for older youth as they transition into young adulthood. SWAN maintains a waiting child registry, the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange, for children/youth who are waiting for a permanent family. Many of these children/youth have suffered from abuse or neglect and may have one or more disabilities. Like all children, they will thrive in a family who accepts and nurtures them and helps them reach their full potential. At Children's Aid Society, we have experienced permanency workers, who work with these children/ youth to find that special family. Here is just one of the youth we work with:



**MEET BRENTON.** Brenton is currently 17 years old and is at risk of aging out of the system with no supportive family/adult to help him succeed. Brenton is a very intelligent young man who loves to play games such as chess, battleship, and Dungeons and Dragons where it takes having a strategy to win the game and rest assured, **he will win!** Brenton is very interested in pursuing a career in robotics. He has been able to talk to a professional in that field, which just reinforced his choice in careers. Brenton is legally free for adoption!



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#### FEES

Individual \$300 | Team \$1,100  
Registration includes practice, lunch, 100 target competition, ammo (12 gauge) appetizers, and prime rib dinner