

## A COMMUNITY GIFT AT CHRISTMAS

*Bonnie Floro - Executive Director*

Christmas in the 1920s at Children's Aid Society was a heartfelt celebration, reflecting the community's spirit of generosity and care. Originally established by a group of women with a mission to find homes for orphaned or abandoned children, with the help of local communities, the Society evolved into a nurturing Children's Home where children could find safety and warmth while they awaited reunification or placement with a new family.

During this festive season, contributions played a vital role. Often a local resident would provide a tree, while members of a Sunday school class gathered to trim it with care. Volunteers hung wreaths in each window, adding a touch of holiday cheer. Local auxiliaries made sure each child received a package filled with thoughtful gifts, and others organized drives for toys and books, ensuring that every child felt special.

Traditional donations, such as a turkey and trimmings for the Christmas feast, became a cherished custom. Often, the celebration was further enriched by music from the American Legion band, which filled the air with joy and festive spirit. The minutes from one December's board of directors' meeting highlight the matron's glowing report of the festivities, noting how the children experienced "the nicest Christmas they had ever had".

Although many of these children experienced dire circumstances, Christmas during this era was a time of community, compassion, and warmth for our children, creating lasting memories for all involved. One year, the minutes mentioned a modest gift of \$5 each for two employees, reflecting the Society's acknowledgment of those who spent their days providing care.



We stopped providing a Children's Home decades ago, but our site still houses services for children and families. It's humbling to work at an agency with such a rich history of serving children, but it's especially gratifying during the holiday season. Volunteers continue to help provide for our children as they learn and grow, generous donors still make sure we have the tools needed to provide services, and we still recognize the caring staff who work hard every day to carry out our mission. We send a heartfelt holiday thank you this year to past and present members of our generous communities!



**Walmart**   
Save money. Live better.

**sparkgood**™

**Walmart Shoppers:**  
You can make a difference!

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](#)

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



SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE



VIEW OUR CHILD CARE  
REGISTRY HERE



VIEW OUR ADOPTION AND  
FOSTER CARE REGISTRY HERE



VIEW OUR FAMILY SUPPORT  
REGISTRY HERE



VIEW OUR YOUTH MENTORING  
REGISTRY HERE

## Money Saving Tips to Take into the New Year

Leighanne Hutton - Relationship Education Program (Together) Manager

- 1 Review your grocery budget ahead of time.**  
Budgeting helps reduce unnecessary spending. Decide on a realistic monetary amount dedicated to groceries each month. Divide that total by the number of shopping trips per month to set each trip budget.
- 2 Come up with a weekly meal plan.**  
Meal planning reduces stress and helps a family stick to a budget. This also provides the opportunity to look for cost effective items beforehand.
- 3 Make a grocery list before going to the store.**  
Creating a shopping list helps provide accountability and saves time.
- 4 Use cash for groceries.**  
Research shows that spending is decreased when paying in cash. Try the envelop system.
- 5 Try discount grocery stores.**  
Be mindful of the costs of goods at various stores. Shop around for the best prices.
- 6 Learn the Clean Fifteen and Dirty Dozen.**  
Look for in-season items as they tend to be cheaper. If buying organic is important to you, learn which items are best purchased in the organic section and when to skip organic.
- 7 Buy generic instead of brand-name items.**  
Generic items tend to be cheaper, and studies show that many professional chefs prefer many generic items.
- 8 Buy in bulk (sometimes).**  
Buy items that will be needed and used such as paper products, batteries, etc. Be sure to include the extra cost in your monthly budget when you visit a warehouse store.
- 9 Use coupons.**  
Look for coupons for items that are on the grocery list. Remember, coupons can be a marketing tactic, so make sure that unnecessary purchases aren't a result of using coupons.
- 10 Use fuel rewards to your advantage.**  
Some grocery stores offer fuel rewards on purchases. If the price of goods at the retailer is the best deal, utilizing fuel rewards can add to your savings budget.

To learn more about financial education, enroll in Together today! 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!

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

Cruz, R. (2024, October 28). *How to Grocery Shop on a Budget: 10 Tips to Save Money*. Ramsey Solutions. <https://www.ramseysolutions.com/budgeting/10-easy-ways-to-grocery-shop-on-a-budget>

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



The Rite Aid Healthy Futures team is thrilled to share the exciting news that Children's Aid Society has been selected to receive the 2024 Fall Neighborhood Grant, totaling \$10,000.

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



## Current Learning Trends in ECE

Tara Lansberry - Child Care Director

Early Childhood Education (ECE) has changed in recent years. These days, there is more focus on play-based learning, integrating technology in learning, inclusive practices, and social-emotional learning. All of these changes in education of young children serve to help better prepare them for formal school settings, success at school, and interactions with other people. What exactly do these mean? Each of these are current trends impacting children not only in the preschool setting, but all ages at our center. In play-based learning, children are given the opportunity to develop their current skills while playing in activities of their choosing. Teachers observe play and help scaffold their learning. There is also no doubt the as technology advances, it's beginning to take up a good portion of everyday lives. Although our youngest learners have limited technology in classrooms, the older children have opportunities to interact with technology regularly. Inclusive practices give equal access to learning opportunities to all children, regardless of their ability and current skills levels. Lastly, social emotional practices help children cope with stress and manage their feelings. Group settings offer a different dynamic than children who have only been at home or cared for by family members. Teachers help children identify and work through their feelings in a productive way and find alternate solutions for negative outward behaviors. Our teachers help label feelings as they are happening and give possible choices or solutions for the child. This often leads to empowerment for the child because they control the outcome and learn to identify feelings within themselves. Our teachers work hard to ensure children are learning every day in a structured and caring environment. As times and trends change, our teachers at Children's Aid Society also continue to learn and pass on that knowledge to all our children.



## To Grandmother's House We Go!

Ashley Cali - Family Support Services Manager

The holiday season means many more car rides whether it be to the grocery store, going to visit relatives, or even last-minute gift purchases. We spend more time whether it be short or long in our vehicle. Car rides can be torturous no matter the length when traveling with children as everything may take just a little longer. Here are some safety tips from Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) so we all can arrive safely at our destination.



Provide a few traveling rules such as always keep seatbelt on, use a quiet voice, and keep hands to yourself.



Plan ahead: plan some car activities such as I spy, books, a special toy bag as well as plan ahead in picking a departure time (running late can add another layer of stress).



Pick a good time: schedule after a meal or if not pack snacks if needed, keep in mind nap time if children are still young.



Talk about rewards and/or consequences. Be clear on expectations and provide praise for them when they follow the rules.



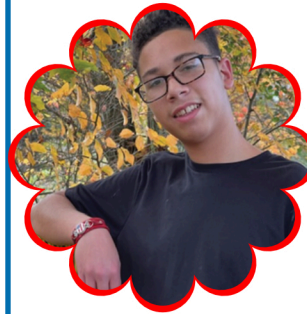
When minor misbehaviors occur try to plan ignore them, listen to music, do deep breathing, listen to an audio book, or even just saying the word Relax can help.

Family Support Services hope these tips help in getting you safely to your destination and enjoying the time with your family and friends.

# HOME for The holidays

Jennifer Teats - Adoption Program Manager

The holiday season ushers in a time of joyous celebrations, cherished togetherness, and the embracing of time-honored traditions. However, for youth who are awaiting adoption, this season can stir up an array of hard to identify feelings. With its focus on familial bonds and social gatherings, the holiday season can become a source of stress and anxiety. The holiday period amplifies the challenges that all those removed from birth families may have with connections and relationships. One of those youth that is waiting for a family to connect with and make holiday memories with is: DAVIONNE



Davi, as he likes to be called, is a sweet-natured 16-year-old boy with a comical personality and an infectious smile! He is very creative and artistic. Davi enjoys dancing, baseball, cooking, baking, playing video games, and riding his scooter. He would love to work in a bakery someday. Parental rights have been terminated for Davi and

he cannot wait to find his forever family! If you are interested in Davi, please contact his permanency worker, Cailyn Leskovansky @ 814-765-2686 x210.

## Together, We Can Make a Difference for Foster Children.

Brittany Blackburn - Foster Care Manager

You might wonder, "How can I help?" It's simple. We need compassionate families like yours to step forward. Becoming a foster parent can be one of the most rewarding journeys you'll ever undertake. It allows you to directly impact a child's life—providing them with love, support, and the stability they need to thrive. These children may have faced hardships that we can hardly imagine. Many of them long for a sense of belonging, a safe space to grow, and adults who believe in their potential. Unfortunately, the demand for foster families continues to outpace the supply of licensed foster homes. Fostering is not just about providing shelter; it's about building a brighter future. If you cannot foster a child at this time, there are other ways to contribute—volunteering, becoming a mentor, or simply spreading awareness. Every effort counts and can help us build a community that rallies around these young individuals. Let's come together to shine a light on the need for foster families.



Follow us on Facebook at facebook/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 decided 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.

- 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
- Send me information on:
  - Being a Youth Mentor
  - Being a Foster Parent
  - Being a Volunteer

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Children's Aid Society  
1008 South 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)



Children's Aid Society  
1004-1008 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Clearfield, PA 16830



NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
HYDE, PA  
PERMIT #12



## HELP US SAVE PRINTING COSTS

RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTERS  
IN YOUR INBOX

CALL US AT 814-765-2686  
OR EMAIL US AT  
[MARKETING@CHILDAID.ORG](mailto:MARKETING@CHILDAID.ORG)

### Youth Mentoring Match Anniversaries

*Teresa Guaglianone - Assistant Director*

9 Years  
Mentor Jendi Baumgardner  
Mentee Liza

5 Years  
Mentor Lisa Bundy  
Mentee Emmalee

3 Years  
Mentor Kelly Shaffer  
Mentee Cole

Mentor Rebecca Shaffer  
Mentee Tia

Mentor Cade Walker  
Mentee Treston

1 Year  
Mentor Mary Beth Geppert  
Mentee Natalie

Mentor Todd Stoltz  
Mentee Shae

Less than 6 Months  
Mentor Naomi Blackburn  
Mentee Ellie



CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY  
**SPORTING CLAY FUNDRAISER**  
FRIDAY - JUNE 6, 2025





**SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION**

- GOLD CORPORATE - \$3,000
- SILVER CORPORATE - \$2,000
- PAVILION SPONSOR - \$200
- STATION SPONSOR - \$100

**REGISTRATION FEES**

- SINGLE SHOOTER - \$300
- 4 PERSON TEAM - \$1,100
- DINNER / AUCTION TICKET - \$50

REGISTRATION INCLUDES  
LUNCH, 100 TARGET COMPETITION,  
AMMO (12 GAUGE) AUCTION, & DINNER

**WARRIORS MARK WINGSHOOTING LODGE - HOUTZDALE (GINTER), PA**

[www.ShootForTheMagic.com](http://www.ShootForTheMagic.com)