



The Children's Aid Society Foundation

Volume 6 – May 2020

Message from the President:

Robert C. Miller, Jr.
President

"Kids Are Amazing"

Suffice to say that the last couple of months have been a stressful and chaotic experience for everyone. The children and staff of the Children's Aid Home Programs are not immune. From closing the Home to visitors, to no on-site education programs, they have had to adapt. From regular cleaning and sanitation, to modified work schedules, they have had to adjust. From finding new ways to occupy time, to completing academics with no classroom, they have had to be creative.

With all this happening around them, one thing has stood out...how resilient the kids and staff are day in and day out. It would be so easy to be down or feel like giving up. Not these kids and staff. They have adapted and embraced the situation with the attitude of "we will find ways to get through this". Over the years I have often been amazed at how the kids have risen to the occasion when an unforeseen or difficult situation arises. Our current situation is another one of those occasions.

It is so rewarding to see staff being creative with activities and the kids laughing and enjoying what they are doing. It's especially great to see them reaching out to the community with cards and notes.

So, the next time you hear someone say, "Kids these days", be sure to say "Yes, aren't they great."



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-Your Generosity at Work

-YOU ARE HELPING MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUNG LIVES



Our Children – Their Future

[Kids and Their Stories- Flying Kites](#)

Recently the kids were able to get outside to fly kites. The following is a message from our neighbor, UPMC Somerset's In Touch Hospice, as shared by Lynne Sablowski, Executive Director of Children's Aid Home Programs.

"The kids continue to do well. I bought them kites last week and was surprised that only one of our kids had ever flown a kite. They had such a great time with this simple activity. The social worker from Hospice called me this morning and said they had a gentleman admitted to Hospice. He was very upset about being there and she was called in to meet with him last evening. While she was talking to the patient, his face lit up and he pointed out the window. He saw the kids flying the kites. She said he was so happy while watching the kids. Her call to me was to share how much she appreciated the fact that the kids made his day. I went back and shared this story with the kids and two of our boys started crying. They then quickly planned their next kite flying activity. Every day has presented new challenges, yet every day the kids give us reasons to smile. I'm so grateful for days like this!"

I hope this little story brings a smile to you as it did for the gentleman at Hospice.

Children's Aid Home Programs latest care statistics....

The Children's Aid Society Foundation's Mission is to develop, grow, and distribute resources which will be used to support, guide, and enhance the lives of children and families in need.

Two of the Foundation's Guiding Principles are:

- 1. We advocate for committed, passionate, and responsible care and services for children and families.*
- 2. We support programs and services for children and families that demonstrate positive and successful outcomes.*

One of the recipients of the Foundation's support and resources is the Children's Aid Home Programs. This organization recently completed its final licensing review of the 2019 year. These five reviews are listed below.

- 1. Foster Care and Adoptive Programs**
 - ◆ Reviewed by the Dept. of Human Services
 - ◆ 100% Compliance
- 2. Partial Hospitalization Program**
 - ◆ Reviewed by the Dept. of Human Services
 - ◆ 100% Compliance
- 3. Options – Alternative Education Program**
 - ◆ Reviewed by the Dept. of Education
 - ◆ 100% Compliance
- 4. Elementary Day Treatment**
 - ◆ Reviewed by the Dept. of Human Services
 - ◆ 100% Compliance
- 5. Residential Program**
 - ◆ Reviewed by the Dept. of Human Services
 - ◆ One (1) Improvement Needed – Fire Drill to be conducted at 11:00 p.m. or later and was performed at 10:45 p.m.

The Children's Aid Society Foundation is proud to support programming that is both quality care and has the best interests of the children at heart.



Job well done Children's Aid Home Programs.



Kids and Their Stories – New Shoes

When the young boy first started coming to school at the Children's Aid Home, he had a pair of worn out black sneakers that his grandma had put Dr. Scholl's inserts in to try and get them to last longer. Grandma bought the inserts because mom couldn't afford to buy them. He would apologize for how his shoes looked.

On his way into school one morning his shoes finally fell apart. The next day he came to school wearing his older sister's shoes. He didn't complain, but I knew they weren't comfortable or warm, and they looked like they were a size too big for him.

We went out and bought him a pair of shoes. It was a shame they didn't fit right, but I'm glad he was honest and didn't take them. We ordered shoes for him online, he was shocked at the price and didn't think we could afford something so expensive. We got the shoes a few days later. He said, "This is amazing! They are really comfortable." In his thank you note he says, "They're comfortable and warm, they're by far the best shoes I've had. It feels like they have a 5-star heater inside."

He wore them that day and since. He took his sister's shoes back home to return to her.



Children's Aid Home Programs

Children's Lives Touched by Our Services

The Year in Review 2018 – 2019

Residential Care

- Served 43 Children for 3,157 days of care

Foster Care

- Served 22 Children for 3,536 days of care

Partial Hospitalization Program

- Served 39 Children for 2,267 days of care

Options Program (Alternative Education)

- Served 16 students (180 day school year) for 2,880 days of education

Elementary Day Treatment Program (Education)

- Served 5 students (180 day school year) for 900 days of education

Adoption Program Services

- Adoptive Family Approvals – 12 families
- Child Profiles – 52 children
- Child Specific Recruitment – 15 children
- Child Preparation for Permanency Services – 49 children
- Finalization – 0
- Private Family Approval – 4
- Adoptions – 1

Total Children Served – 241 Children

Total Days of Care Provided – 12,740 Days

**Our Heartfelt Thank You to Our Community
Friends**

And Now:

Getting back to a normal way of life when restrictions in our state are lifted will be a complicated one at best. Children and staff at the Children's Aid Home Programs will have to adopt safety protocols for healthy living, playing, and working. There are remarkable people who care for our children and their well-being at the Home, everyone from the Executive Director, teachers, counselors, and food service staff. Children are willing to learn and be safe by following the direction and guidance of their care givers.

For all these folks, we at the Children's Aid Society Foundation take this moment to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts.





*Children's Aid Home Programs
Wheeler Campus*

HIGHLIGHTS:

- We continue to work to build our Endowment at the Foundation to better serve the children. What will your legacy be?
- Stories of children and how they impact our adult lives
- Getting life back to normal – a complicated venture
- Coming Soon – New Foundation website offering secure and convenient ways to gift.

Contact Us

Children's Aid Society Foundation

222 West Main Street

P. O. Box 1195

Somerset PA 15501

814-701-2275

Email:

rmiller@casocietyfoundation.org

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY FOUNDATION

222 West Main Street

P. O. Box 1195

Somerset PA 15501

Recipient Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code