



Children's FRIEND

summer newsletter



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10th Anniversary

The Children's Friend 5k Walk & Run sponsored by Panera Bread

Carousel Village at Roger Williams Park was the place to be on Saturday, June 16, as we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Children's Friend 5K Walk & Run sponsored by Panera Bread. There was music, great food, fun activities for the kids and even dancing in the park!

This year's Walk raised over \$100,000 to support the work we are doing on behalf of young, vulnerable children and their families. Fundraising events like our 5K Walk & Run are critical during times of economic uncertainty.

In honor of Father's Day weekend, three outstanding dads were honored in the "My Dad Makes a Difference" competition. Gary Contois, Maurice Cusick and Manny Garcia were on hand with their families to receive the awards they were nominated for by their children.

Over 1,000 walkers and runners completed the 3.2 mile route and enjoyed the festivities with family and friends.

It was a great day in support of Children's Friend! We couldn't have done it without your help. As always, we thank you for everything you do.



Top fundraisers, team CBS Therapy, kick off the 2012 5k Walk & Run.



Wendy Kopp, Director of Marketing, Panera Bread/HBG, Ltd.; Bahjat Shariff, Sr. VP of Operations and Operating Partner, Panera Bread/HBG, Ltd.; and David Caprio, President and Chief Executive Officer, Children's Friend.



Dads Making a Difference contest winners Maurice Cusick, Manny Garcia, and Gary Contois. Also pictured are their children, who nominated them for the award. Timothy Goudreau, Andrew Garcia, and Nicole Contois.

Thank you to our many sponsors!

See inside for more photos from the Walk, or visit us online at childrensfriendri.org to see our photo album.





Bahjat Shariff, Senior Vice President of Operations and Operating Partner, Panera Bread/HBG, Ltd. and Congressman David Cicilline.



First place runner Randy Wolfe crossing the finish line.



Runner Susan Capobianco poses with MetLife's Snoopy.



Paws from the Pawtucket Red Sox poses with one of the super-cute kids at the Walk.



Rhythm Room gave a great show. Walk attendees were so excited they were dancing to the music.



Volunteers spent the day painting children's faces and helping with other kids' games and activities.



LETTER from the PRESIDENT

*David Caprio
President and Chief Executive Officer*

We began 2012 with a new strategic plan, continuing our commitment to providing innovative and effective services to our state's most vulnerable young children. This plan also challenges us to become a leader in advocating for the policies and services that best support those we serve.

In May, we celebrated the expansion of the Dads Making a Difference program. The program provides home visits and group services that give dads encouragement, guidance, and education on childhood development, family-friendly routines and age-appropriate discipline, as well as ideas for fun ways to interact and play with their children. Thanks to new federal funding, we have expanded Dads Making a Difference so that we have the ability to

help dads with education as well as training and job placements. We continued the celebration of dads at our 10th Annual 5K Walk & Run at Roger Williams Park Carousel Village on June 16. We are thrilled that over 1,000 walkers and runners came out to support dads and Children's Friend, helping us raise over \$100,000. We are, as always, grateful for your support.

This summer we are also celebrating the expansion of another program: the Children's Friend Summer Learning program, which will be growing this year to 200 kids. This is more than double last year's participation.

The summer program is essential to providing kids with a safe, productive summer - keeping them away from the risk factors and stressors that could prevent them from retaining information learned at school over the last year.

These successes would not have been possible without your continued support. We hope to make the second half of 2012 even better than the first. Thank you.

David

READ *Across America*

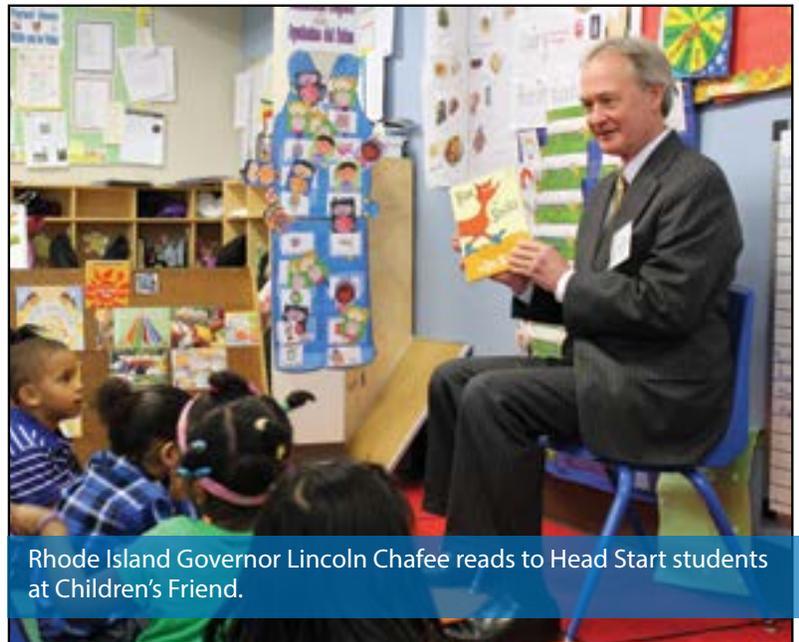
Congressman David Cicilline, Governor Lincoln Chafee, Attorney General Peter Kilmartin, Providence Mayor Angel Taveras, and other distinguished government, business, and education leaders came to Children's Friend Head Start classrooms on March 2, 2012 to read to students and celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Children's Friend organized this event as part of the National Education Association's Read Across America Day.

"Read Across America Day is an important reminder that we should read to children from a young age to help instill a love of reading," Governor Chafee said. "I am excited to celebrate this special day that brings attention to what we should be doing on a daily basis - promoting literacy among the children of our state and our country."

"At Children's Friend we strongly believe in promoting early childhood literacy as an essential skill that helps give children a head start," said David Caprio, President and Chief Executive Officer of Children's Friend. "It's especially important to promote literacy in our programs, and to reinforce the importance of reading at home."

This year marks the fourteenth annual Read Across America Day, which encourages children to read. Research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school.

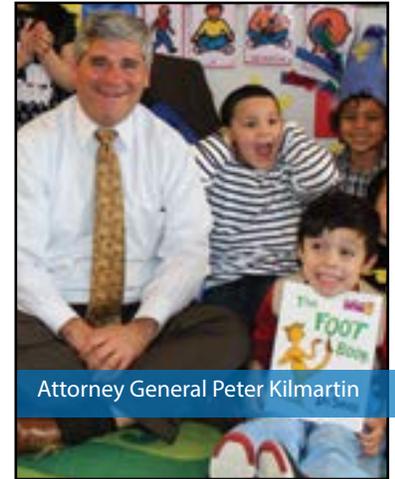
For more photos from this event, visit our website at childrensfriendri.org



Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee reads to Head Start students at Children's Friend.



Congressman David Cicilline



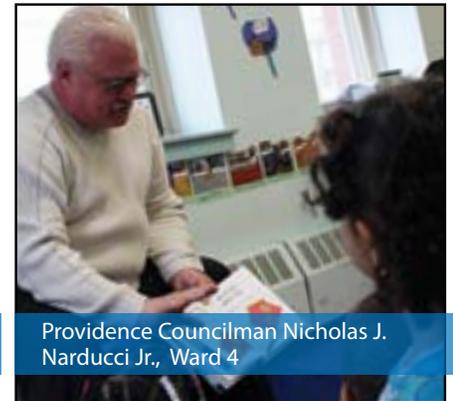
Attorney General Peter Kilmartin



Providence Public Safety Commissioner Steven M. Paré



Providence Council President Michael A. Solomon, Ward 5



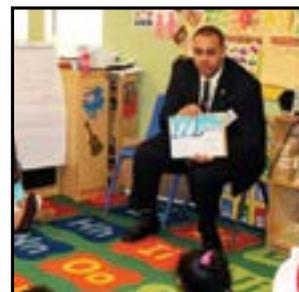
Providence Councilman Nicholas J. Narducci Jr., Ward 4



Providence Mayor Angel Taveras



Providence Councilman John J. Iglizzi, Ward 7



Providence Councilman Davian Sanchez, Ward 11



Central Falls Councilman James Diossa, Ward 4



Verizon Donates \$2,500 to Children's Friend

Providence Mayor Angel Taveras, Children's Friend President and Chief Executive Officer David Caprio, and Providence Ward 15 Councilwoman Sabina Matos join Donna Cupelo, Region President of Verizon Massachusetts and Rhode Island; Susan Retta, Vice President of Verizon Consumer and Business Marketing, and Manuel Sampedro, Operations President of Verizon Massachusetts and Rhode Island to accept a \$2,500 donation from Verizon.

The donation to Children's Friend was part of the grand opening ceremony for a trilingual Verizon store on Atwells Avenue in Providence.

The Pawtucket Red Sox Donate Fun

Over one hundred Children's Friend students in Pawtucket had the opportunity to see a real live professional baseball game!

Thank you, Pawtucket Red Sox, for your generosity! The kids had a wonderful time, and we owe it all to you.



Send In The Clowns!

Clowns from The Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus stopped by the Friendship Center in Providence to give the kids a special surprise.

Grace Church Comes Through For Kids

Grace Church of Providence (through a partnership with their Outreach Ministry and Children's Friend) is supporting vulnerable young children and their families. The parishioners of Grace Church held a drive to collect diapers, baby wipes, baby clothing, and outdoor play toys. The drive was an overwhelming success, with thousands of needed items collected.

The Outreach Ministry didn't stop there. With a bronze sponsorship of the Children's Friend Walk & Run (see page 1 & 2 for the full story) and a three year commitment to help Children's Friend in our mission to serve the youngest and most vulnerable children in Rhode Island, Grace Church is going above and beyond!





Providence College Supports Summer Learning

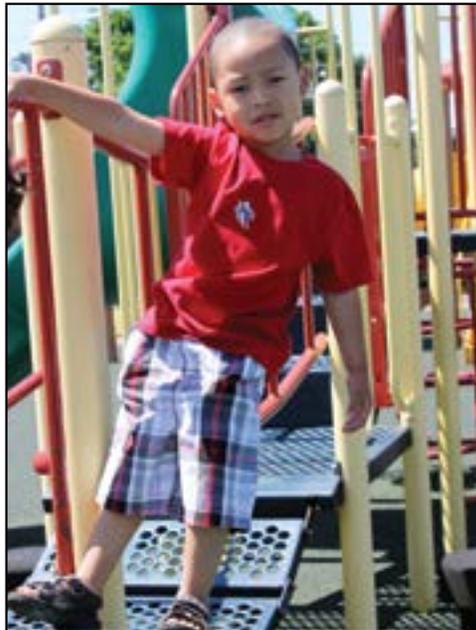
Children's Friend was awarded \$2,000 through the Board of Directors of Providence College's Philanthropy class from the "Making A Difference" fund.

This award will be used toward the purchase of educational materials for our Summer Learning Program to support math, science, and dramatic play activities within the classroom and movement, play, and literacy outdoors.

The Rite Aid Foundation Supports Mental Health

Since 2011, The Rite Aid Foundation has generously donated a total of \$16,000 to Children's Friend to support mental health treatment for uninsured children and their families receiving services through the Family Counseling program.

Jeff Schares, Rite Aid Regional Vice President; and Garrett Cavanaugh, Rite Aid Pharmacy Regional Vice President; met with Children's Friend staff to hear about the agency's programs and the impact of the Foundation's support.



The Summer Program At Children's Friend

Summer is here! At Children's Friend, we're committed to giving 200 at risk children the best summer possible.

Many children in our Head Start program rely on Children's Friend for healthy meals, a safe place to play, a classroom with highly qualified teachers, and the

care of a family support worker and health and nutrition team.

We want to thank our generous supporters who have already helped many vulnerable, young children have access to regular, nutritious meals, educational programming, and a safe learning environment this summer. We are incredibly thankful for this support.

The program may have already started...but it's not too late to help!

Will you support the Summer Program at Children's Friend? Your donation will make sure that poor local children continue to receive a **quality education, safety, care, and healthy meals**. Help us bring these supports to as many children as possible this summer.

Your **entire gift** in support of the Summer Program will go directly to keeping children in our classrooms this summer. This additional time in the classroom improves each child's chances of success in school and in life.

These children deserve the absolute best we can offer. Together, we can make it happen.

A gift of \$125 will fund one child in our summer program for one week. A gift of \$1,000 will fund a child in the program for the entire summer. Your support will provide children with continued access to education, safety, care, and nutrition. Your gift of any amount will help.

You may make a donation with the envelope enclosed in this newsletter, or by visiting Children's Friend online at **childrensfriendri.org**. Thank you.

AUGUST

part 4 in a 4 part series about adoption
by Samantha Hines

I remember in late 2007 when I broached with a colleague the subject of adding a third child to our family. An ever-practical soul, she remarked, "You know, kids are expensive. Maybe you should just stick with two."

She was right about one thing, of course . . . kids are expensive. But every parent or parent-to-be has his or her "magic number"—the number of children that for one reason or another seems right. And for us it was three.

By the end of 2007, Oscar was three years old and Edgar two. It was not lost on us how lucky we were to have two beautiful, healthy boys; but in our hearts, we knew that we were meant to be a family of five.

So, we updated our home study—a fairly easy task as we were moving into veteran status as adoptive parents. And we waited for the call. And in the meantime we watched our boys grow.

Life went along blissfully for some time—and then the call. We thought at the time it was the call, the call that would lead us to our third child. There was a birthmother who was due in late January 2009. She made an adoption plan; she selected our profile. She wanted the adoptive mother in the delivery room.

We met the birthmother—she seemed resolute, intelligent, determined. Her delivery was scheduled. We arrived at the hospital. The anesthesiologist asked who I was; and when the birthmother explained, the doctor said to her, "You are doing a very good thing."

The delivery was peaceful, and I cut the baby's umbilical cord. I was the first to hold him, but not the first to fall in love with him. Because just 48 hours after she delivered, the birthmother changed her mind. Not a long time in the grand scheme of things, but long enough that all our friends and family—including our two young and impressionable sons—had come to believe he was coming home.

After our experience with our foster son all those years ago, people having the proverbial "change of heart" was nothing new to us. But what was different now was that we were parents. This experience impacted not just our hearts but those of a three- and a four-year-old. We left this scene with equal parts heartbreak and caution.

Then a month later. Another call. This time a baby girl for whom an adoption plan needed to be made. Her birthparents were not in a position to care for her; and though they were seeking some degree of openness, her being available for adoption seemed all-but-guaranteed.



With full speed we jumped back in—this time surrounding ourselves in a sea of pink. A girl. Though we had never stated a preference, after two little boys, the idea of a girl was novel, exciting. Friends with older daughters happily sent tiny skirts and tights and accessories our way. We shopped—and

fast—in the other department at Babies R Us and Baby Gap.

But she wasn't our daughter. The night before we were scheduled to meet to sign necessary paperwork, we received a call. For reasons that had nothing to do with us or Children's Friend and everything to do with an overworked, overburdened system, there was a change made in this little girl's foster placement.

We took a vacation to visit good friends in Virginia; and on the ride home, we repeatedly glanced at the sweet boys in the backseat. We were perfect—just as we were. And we were lucky. We had an appointment with Lisa Granda on the calendar. We decided that at that appointment we would let her know that we were going to withdraw our home study and move on—the very fortunate parents of two perfect boys.

This was at the end of April 2009. And before we had a chance to call Lisa, she called us. She needed to reschedule our appointment. And not wanting to discuss our change of heart over the phone, we agreed to meet her at a later date.

When we did meet—in May 2009, we were prepared to divulge our latest decision—one borne of our recent experiences but one with which we were coming to terms. But before we could, Lisa had one last situation she wanted to discuss. And we found ourselves open to hearing about it. And if we didn't already know that there were forces at work that were much, much bigger than we were and are, we knew it then. There was a young birthmother who needed to make an adoption plan. She wanted to meet us, and she wanted to make a plan for openness, too.

The birthmother said after meeting us that we "were real." High praise from a teenager—and a very accurate reading of us on that day. No one was more "real" than we were at that first meeting. Our egos were gone, our need to impress nonexistent. We were more ourselves than at any other time in our lives. And she noticed. We introduced our third son—in idea and being—slowly to our friends, our family, our children. He came home when we knew—as much as we knew anything—that he was coming home to stay.

"August" means "revered; inspiring respect; noble." And August is all of that and more. August renewed our optimism, our ability to hope, and he completed our family—the family we always knew we were meant to be.

Recognizing Our **UNSUNG** HEROES

Nearly 178 years ago, Harriet Ware began her work in Providence and her vision was simple – to provide a refuge for children in desperate situations. The result of this vision is Children’s Friend. With that said, our role in caring for and supporting infants who do not have a safe place to live... is the enduring thread that has lasted throughout all of these years.

On May 17, in honor of Foster Care Appreciation Month, we celebrated and recognized the foster parents who provide the foundation of care to countless babies.

It was a remarkable event where each parent in attendance received a plaque and a special commendation. It was our small way of sharing the appreciation we have for the work they do on behalf of Children’s Friend, but most importantly on behalf of the young ones they have cared for.

Foster parents are the unsung heroes of countless children. They open their homes and their hearts to these young children every day and provide a refuge that impacts the rest of their lives.



Foster Parents Robert and Joyce Jackson



Foster Parents Jeff Foster and Elaine Gabellieri



It was 1834 when a young, single school teacher arrived in Providence shocked to see overcrowded and dilapidated homes, teeming with unwanted children who were malnourished, filthy and shoeless, some working 14-hour days in one of the many local cotton mills. There was no universal school, no laws regulating child labor, but there was plenty of suffering.

That teacher, Harriet Ware, appealed to churches for donations and asked the community to contribute whatever they could to help. Within two years, she founded The Children’s Friend Society, opened a home for the young with no other place to go, and took in 40 children.

Today, Children’s Friend is serving a record 32,000 people across our small state, 96 percent of whom have incomes below the poverty level and the majority of whom are in extreme poverty.

We have launched a bequest program named for our founder. The Harriet Ware Society will honor those who make bequests to help ensure that we can continue to meet the needs of our state’s most vulnerable children. We appreciate any amount that you can give and believe that Ware will smile every time someone includes a gift to Children’s Friend in their will when they are moved by the work we do.

Bequests have made it possible for us to serve Rhode Island faithfully for over 177 years.

We, and future generations, thank you for your kindness.

For more information, contact Vice President Advancement, Julie Casimiro at 401.276.4359 or at jcasimiro@cfsri.org.



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Children's Friend
Investing In Our Children
Luncheon

*10th
anniversary*

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