



## In The News

CHILDSPAN's recent Infant and Toddler Bilingual Institute was an unqualified success! A wide-ranging group of 140 infant and toddler professionals—including head teachers, home visitors, family child care providers, mental health clinicians, and program directors—gathered at Bryant University to increase their knowledge via a variety of workshops as well as network with professionals to strengthen the care and services they offer to infants, toddlers, and their families.

Nationally known infant and toddler expert Janet Gonzalez-Mena delivered a powerful keynote speech focusing on: intentional caregiving, cultural awareness, and the essential and multifaceted role that infant and toddler professionals play in the lives of young children and families. One participant summed up the day very well on her evaluation form: "Thank you for this opportunity. I leave here with an open mind, and will use everything I learned here (today) in my profession". We at CHILDSPAN feel the same way!

## Child and Adult Care Food Program

In addition to providing financial reimbursement to family child care providers who offer nutritious snacks and meals for the children they care for, the CACFP offers free training, quarterly newsletters and networking opportunities. Over the last quarter, CACFP case managers provided professional development opportunities for child care providers on topics including Taxes and Record Keeping, Challenging Behaviors, and Lead Hazard Awareness.

## Making Connections

In April 2008, CHILDSPAN began its work on the implementation of the Making Connections Professional Development Initiative which is a collaboration with El Club de Proveedoras Infantil de RI and Children's Friend. The goal of the initiative is to provide consistent high quality training to child care providers in Rhode Island. Thirty family child care providers will receive pre and post environmental observations using the Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale (FCCERS). Providers will also receive training in each of the domains measured on the FCCERS. Additional training, in collaboration with the Child and Adult Care Food Program, may be developed based on provider needs. The ultimate goal is for five family providers to be trained to administer the FCCERS, thus allowing them to evaluate and train others throughout the state. There are currently twenty one family providers enrolled in this initiative.



## on the calendar

- **2008 Statewide Afterschool Conference**  
Friday, October 17, 2008 7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Providence Marriott Downtown Hotel, Providence

THEME: Investing in Children and Youth: Building Our Future  
This conference is co-coordinated by CHILDSPAN and the RI Afterschool Plus Alliance (RIASPA). It will include an advocacy and celebratory breakfast followed by a diverse array of workshops to promote best practice strategies for school-age and youth practitioners and administrators. The keynote speech will be delivered by Erin Gruwell, author of "The Freedom Writers Diary" (chronicled in the Hollywood motion picture Freedom Writers).

- **CHILDSPAN's Keys to Quality Conference**  
Saturday, November 15, 2008  
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Site to be announced

THEME: Nature: The Epicenter of Your Classroom  
This annual, intermediate-level conference will be of interest to early childhood professionals serving children ages three to six. Workshops will focus on respecting and preserving nature, extending outdoor learning opportunities indoors (and vice versa), and transforming classroom environments to include elements of nature.

**CHILDSPAN a program of Children's Friend**  
Rhode Island's Child Development and Education Training System  
500 Prospect Street Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860  
401.721.6400 [www.childspan.net](http://www.childspan.net)  
email: [childspan@childspan.net](mailto:childspan@childspan.net)

## Making a difference is what it's all about!

Your gift has a significant impact on Children's Friend's ability to support children and families in need. Here are just a few examples of how your donation can help:

- ☀ Craft supplies, crayons, and paint for child care activities (\$100).
- ☀ Emergency heating assistance for three families in need (\$250).
- ☀ Smoke detectors to make 63 homes safer for children (\$500).
- ☀ Emergency grocery assistance for 40 families (\$1000).

Yes, I would like to help families in need with a contribution of:

\$100  \$250  \$500  \$1000  \$

Payment method:

Check enclosed  Circle one: MC Visa Amex Discover

Card number: ..... Exp. ....

Name on card: .....

Signature: .....

Name: .....

Address: .....

City, State, Zip Code: .....

Email: .....

Home Phone: ..... Business Phone: .....



Every dollar contributed to Children's Friend goes directly towards helping children and families thanks to an endowment that covers administrative expenses.

Please complete and return to:  
**Children's Friend**  
153 Summer Street, Providence, RI 02903  
Thank you!

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Providence, RI 02903



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Summer 2008

## One Person Can Make a Difference

In 1834 Miss Harriet Ware set out to start an organization that would serve and promote the welfare of vulnerable children in the City of Providence. The goal of Miss Ware's work was to foster favorable conditions for vulnerable children by providing support to help them reach a healthy adulthood.

With the encouragement and cooperation of several women in the city, a donation of \$500 was obtained in 1835 to open a house for homeless and destitute children. As the agency grew, Miss Ware added assistants and the agency documented its success in the 1836 Annual Report, "The number of children who have been received during the past year is thirty-one; The eldest of whom is eleven years, the youngest eleven months old. The average is under six years".

1836 brought a significant change when the organization applied and received incorporation in the name of Providence Children's Friend Society. The organization became recognized throughout the city as a leader in promoting child welfare. The Society was the only organization in the state making provisions for the support and education of vulnerable children.

Over time the agency has supported thousands of children. One of the many well documented stories that epitomizes the work of Miss Ware was printed years later in a flyer circa 1928. "When Betty came to us at the age of eleven months she weighed only twelve pounds and was in

danger of a serious physical collapse... Several months ago the Society placed Betty in one of our carefully selected foster homes where she is now receiving patient, motherly care and skilled medical attention. The Children's Friend Society is helping her to pass from frail babyhood to sturdy childhood."

1949 brought a merger between Rhode Island Children's Friend Society, formerly known as Providence's Children's Friend Society, and Rhode Island Child Service, formerly known as Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The new organization went by the name of Children's Friend and Service. Many changes have occurred over 174 years to promote permanent, safe, and nurturing environments for children. The number of children we serve continues to grow. In 1830 the population of Providence was 16,836 people, roughly the same number of individuals that the agency currently serves annually.

Even today the dream of Miss Harriet Ware is alive and well at Children's Friend. The groundbreaking work provided by our agency originates from the vision of one individual. This is evidence that one individual can make a difference and impact the lives of children and their families for generations.

For more information about our upcoming Anniversary, contact Nicholas Costa, Development Assistant at 401-276-4366.

Foster Parenting is MORE than Helping a Child ~ It Provides HOPE for their Family

To become a Children's Friend Foster Parent call 401-276-4318



# From David our executive director



What a special time to be associated with Children's Friend. Thanks to you, Children's Friend will be celebrating its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009. We have already begun preparing for our anniversary year.

In addition to the events which we hold each year, our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary year will include an evening gala, the release of a video documentary of our history, a community concert, and many other special events.

Founded by Harriet Ware in the India Point section of Providence in 1834, Children's Friend has always worked on behalf of Rhode Island's most vulnerable children. In celebrating our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will honor that heritage, build upon past accomplishments, and highlight the results of our work.

Children's Friend has long been a pioneer in child welfare and early care and education. The agency is actually written into the general laws of the State of Rhode Island regarding its child welfare work. Children's Friend was a founding member of the

Child Welfare League of America. We recently established the Rhode Island Early Childhood Investment Council to find new insights and supports for our work.

Certainly we are an agency with a rich and long history. However, we have always sought out and embraced new, innovative, and effective strategies to accomplish our mission. We continually evaluate our work and the outcomes achieved. We implement changes and make adjustments when needed to better meet the needs of the families and children we serve.

In this time of frequent changes and unstable organizations, Children's Friend has stayed true to its mission throughout many years and many challenges. Thanks to your support we remain a strong agency today.

I thank you for the many ways in which you provide support to Children's Friend and look forward to celebrating our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary with you in 2009.

*David*

## Operation DOUGH-nation

### Panera Bread Assists With The Sixth Annual Walk for Children

Panera Bread donated over \$25,000 at this year's *Walk for Children*. The donation from Panera was from their countertop collection across all of Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. Money donated by customers was then matched by Panera. Mike Spirdione, District Manager; Wendy Kopp, Marketing Director; and Jim Ramaglia, District Manager presented a check to Children's Friend. Panera also helped to make this year's walk a success. Employees from Panera handed out bagel bites and water in the morning. Wendy Kopp, Marketing Director for Panera Bread, organized the kids race around the carousel, provided prizes for the 5K run, and Panera workers and their families participated in the *Walk for Children*. Children's Friend is grateful for Panera's ongoing support. Thank you Team Panera.



Left to Right: David Caprio, Executive Director; Wendy Kopp, Marketing Director for Panera Bread; Mike Spirdione, District Manager for Panera Bread; Jim Ramaglia, District Manager for Panera Bread; Patrice Wood from NBC 10, and Mayor David N. Cicilline.



Staff from Panera Bread Dartmouth attended this year's walk.



Panera distributed bagel bites and water to those who came early for breakfast.

## Sixth Annual Walk For Children

Children's Friend held its Sixth Annual Walk for Children at Roger Williams Park on May 31, 2008. This year's walk was very well attended with over 400 participants. The walk was also host to a variety of new attractions including a USATF sanctioned run, a silent auction, live radio broadcast by Cat Country, stretches by Elite Physical Therapy, performances by the MET school as well as old favorites such as Dan Butterworth's Puppet Show, DJ's Raymond Vargas and Victor Ramos, and chair massages by Relaxation Works.

The generosity of corporate sponsors helped to expand and improve upon last year's Walk for Children. Amica, Collette Vacations, Panera Bread, Washington Trust, MetLife, Partridge Snow & Hahn, Pizza Pie-er and NBC-10 were some of our key sponsors at this year's walk. Special thanks to Chair Mike Spirdione and Co-Chair Mike Dooley and all those who volunteered and donated their time to make this year's walk a success.

While this year's walk is just behind us, it is never too early to begin thinking about next year's walk which will be held on May 30, 2009! For more information and sponsorship opportunities, call Joyce Tormey, Development Assistant, at 401-276-4318.



## Annual Meeting

The 174th Annual Meeting was held on May 13 at the Roger Williams Park Casino. Children's Friend recognized an outstanding group of staff and donors this year. Congratulations to Teri DeBoise on celebrating 20 years of service to Children's Friend.

*This year's annual meeting acknowledged 17 employees who are celebrating their 5, 10, 15, and 20 year anniversary with the agency. Pictured left to right: David Caprio, Teri DeBoise, Caroline Shanti, Susan Kane, Diosa Martinez, Narcisca Sanchez, Carolina Perez, Aurea Rosa, Mina Interiano, Tina Laprade, Joseph Morra, Joseph Capobianco, Joyce Tormey, Wendy Gariglio, Dinora Tangui, Regina Clement, Tracy Blackham, and Carl R. Neal, Board President*



Left to Right: Award recipient Adrienne Mancini, and David Caprio

This year's appreciation awards went to a dedicated group of individuals who have supported the agency in a variety of ways.

Adrienne Mancini received an appreciation award for spearheading the efforts at Bank of America each year for our Holiday Drive. With her leadership Bank of America sponsored 111 families this past December.

Diane Andrew received an appreciation award for volunteering her time at our Pawtucket office helping restructure the CHILDSPAN lending library and materials that are available to child care providers in the state.

Left to Right: Award recipient Diane Andrew, and David Caprio



Left to Right: Award recipient Joe Silva, and David Caprio

Joseph Silva received an appreciation award for coordinating a toy drive for Children's Friend during the holiday season. Additionally, he volunteers every year to lend a hand where it is needed during our Holiday Drive, and is also a frequent donor to our Drop-In-Centers.

This year's recipient of the Michelle Norris Memorial Award, the agency's highest award, was presented to r.j. LaChance Advertising for their financial support, in kind donations, production of agency videos, volunteer time and on going support of the work of Children's Friend.

Left to right: David Caprio, Award recipients, Robert J. LaChance and Nancy LaChance, and Carl R. Neal, Board President.



## Project Connect Goes to Washington

Our Project Connect Program was invited by Pew Charitable Trusts to attend a symposium on preventing child abuse and neglect in Washington D.C. Project Connect has been recognized nationally as a program that is successful in keeping children safe and strengthening families by helping parents achieve a substance free lifestyle and resolve other problems that place children at risk. The staff and clients who attended were given the chance to share their stories of how the Project Connect program supports families that are affected by drug abuse. Legislators appreciated their real life stories and gained awareness of the benefits that the Project Connect program has for children and families. This opportunity also left the staff and clients that attended empowered to make their voices heard.



Left to Right: Kim Bennett, Lisa Lavalle, Luchana Barr, and Aimee Mitchell



# Save the Date!

Monday, October 6, 2008  
6<sup>th</sup> Annual Investing in Our Children Luncheon



Photo: Bob Danzig

Children's Friend will hold its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Investing in Our Children Luncheon on October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Rhode Island Convention Center. The keynote speaker will be Bob Danzig, who grew up in foster homes and overcame childhood adversity to become CEO of The Hearst Newspaper Group. Today Danzig is a noted author, motivational speaker and civic leader. He believes that kind words and positive affirmations can influence the lives of children, especially those in foster care. Danzig will focus on the importance of being a champion for others and how each of us can become "Harvesters of Hope". Texttron Inc. will be the 2008 Friend of Children Award recipient. Sponsorships ranging from \$1,500 to \$7,500 are welcome. Individual tickets are \$125. For more information, call Amanda Ball Development Assistant at 401-276-4344.

## CHILDREN'S FRIEND

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Family Support Center  
153 Summer Street Providence, RI 02903  
401.276.4300  
email: info@cfsri.org

CHILDSPAN  
500 Prospect Street Pawtucket, RI 02860  
401.721.6400  
email: childspan@childspan.net

Family Support Center  
621 Dexter Street Central Falls, RI 02863  
401.721.9200 TDD 401.729.5899

The Children's Friend newsletter is published by Nicholas Costa, Development Assistant. Forward your comments to [ncosta@cfsri.org](mailto:ncosta@cfsri.org)

## FRIENDS—Making a Difference

The mission of Children's Friend is to promote the well-being and healthy development of Rhode Island's most vulnerable children by providing flexible, effective and culturally relevant services that support and strengthen families and communities.

### William H. Kennedy

A memorial ceremony for Mr. William H. Kennedy was held on March 20<sup>th</sup> at our Central Falls Family Support Center. He served as a security officer with U.S. Security, working at the Children's Friend Family Support Center in Central Falls. Mr. Kennedy became a loyal and dedicated friend to the agency routinely going above and beyond his daily duties. Mr. Kennedy's family requested that contributions in his memory be made to Children's Friend. The installation of a brick memorializing Mr. Kennedy was donated by EFC Construction at the Central Falls Family Support Center ensuring that his memory will be part of the agency for years to come.



Left to Right: Richard Girouard, Sandra Girouard, daughter of William H. Kennedy, and David Caprio.

### Bryant University and PricewaterhouseCoopers

On Friday June 27<sup>th</sup> at Bryant University in Smithfield Rhode Island, 24 children served by the agency were proud recipients of bikes assembled during the Accounting Careers Leadership Institute hosted by PricewaterhouseCoopers. The program targets minority students providing them exposure to a possible future in the accounting field. As part of a team building exercise, the students assembled bicycles and presented them to children served by Children's Friend. The event was a great success bringing many smiles and happy faces to all the children attending.



### Partridge Snow & Hahn

The generous employees from Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP hosted the annual spaghetti dinner on March 19<sup>th</sup> for our families at our Providence and Central Falls Family Support Centers. Over 100 families attended and received books provided by the Reading is Fundamental program, fire safety information provided by the Providence and Central Falls Fire Departments, and a delicious meal.



Left to Right: Linda Lonczak, Tony Lonczak, Megan Andrews, Charlie Lovell, Melissa Darigan, and Cathy Eastwood.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, Jack Partridge hosted a book signing for his new book "Straight Pool" at the Hope Artiste Village with the proceeds being donated to Children's Friend.



Left to Right: Jack Partridge and David Caprio

### Junior League

Members of the Junior League brought public safety officials together to host a family safety day on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Highlights included finger printing with the Providence Police, a smoke house and smoke detectors that were provided by Providence Fire Prevention, and emergency vehicles by Providence Police and Providence Firefighters. Goodie bags and informational handouts were provided by AAA RI, Lead Safe Kids, Prevent Child Abuse RI, and as pictured "Sparky" the firefighting dog was provided by the RI Fire Marshal.

