

Children's Friend

making a difference...one child at a time



Winter 2009

Children's Friend celebrates 175 Years!!!

Children's Friend is preparing to celebrate a grand milestone. This year, the agency will celebrate 175 years of serving children in Rhode Island. Children's Friend holds a **Unique** place as the first organization to serve vulnerable children in the state.

If we examine the agency from a historical perspective, we find that the telephone was only a distant dream, the Civil War was still 27 years away and residents of Providence ratified a city charter only three years earlier in 1831. Even the landscape of **America** was still in its infancy. Andrew Jackson was serving his second term as the seventh president of the United States. Arkansas was two years away from ratification as the 25th state in the Union.

Miss Harriet Ware, our founder, was about to embark upon a mission unparalleled during a time when the Industrial Revolution was in full force and women lacked rights similar to men. The problems that children faced were numerous when Miss Ware set out on her **Courageous** mission to create the first agency dedicated to the welfare of children. Over time, Children's Friend carried on this legacy of being a part of many firsts for child welfare, such as being a founding member of the Child Welfare League of America.

This year we will be celebrating this significant milestone by hosting a variety of events. These events include our annual **Walk for Children, Investing in our Children Luncheon** and our **Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive**. On June 12, 2009, Children's Friend will hold its signature event, **Celebrating 175 years of smiles**, at the Providence Biltmore.

Check inside for more details or on the web at 175yearsofsmiles.org



"...the telephone was only a distant dream, the Civil War was still 27 years away and residents of Providence ratified a city charter only three years earlier in 1831."

Children's Friend is a major part of the history of child welfare in Rhode Island and this history is comprised of many **Unseen heroes**. Whether it was a donation, time volunteered at one of our annual events, sponsoring a family for our Holiday Drive, or caring individuals who decided to become foster parents, you have all contributed to our 175 year history. Children's Friend invites those who have supported us over the years and those who have just recently become familiar with our agency to celebrate and become a part of this exciting year.

175th

Please contact Bryan W. Ferguson, Director of Development and Communications, at 401.276.4323 or bferguson@cfsri.org for more information about our anniversary year.



Save the Date!
Our Annual Walk for Children will be held on May 30, 2009!

From David - our executive director

Happy New Year! I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season. Thanks to you, 625 of our families experienced a more enjoyable holiday season. Your generosity and support provided holiday gifts to a record-breaking number of families in the Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive. Thank you for your unbelievable generosity and kindness.

In these very uncertain times you continue to promote the well-being and healthy development of Rhode Island's most vulnerable children. You are what makes Children's Friend strong.

This will be a very special year at Children's Friend. We are celebrating the 175th anniversary of this great agency. Much of the planning, research, and preparations have been completed. We are ready to celebrate our anniversary with some new events in addition to our annual events. I hope you will be able to join us as we explore and celebrate our rich history and move forward in our work of serving Rhode Island's most vulnerable children and families.

The joy and happiness of our anniversary year stands in stark contrast to the dire economic situation that our state is experiencing. As we take time to recognize our rich history, we will focus our efforts on supporting the growing needs of the community today and into the future.

Thanks to your support we served a record breaking 17,513 individuals in 2008. What an amazing impact we are having through our work together. Because of you, the future for vulnerable children in Rhode Island is brighter.

Thank you for all that you do. I wish you a very happy and healthy 2009.

David



Friends...making a difference

Partners in Philanthropy...

On November 25, 2008, Children's Friend honored Citizens Bank and Textron, Inc. as Partners in Philanthropy at the Association of Fundraising Professionals National Philanthropy Day Luncheon. Michael DiSandro, Senior Vice President, Citizens Bank, Rhode Island and Cate Roberts, Director of Diversity and Community Affairs, Textron Inc., accepted the awards. Both organizations have received our Friend of Children award and have supported Children's Friend in a variety of ways, including financial, in-kind and volunteer support of the agency's work. Both Citizens Bank and Textron, Inc. have considered Children's Friend a philanthropic priority and we thank them for their support!



A Safe Ride...

Partridge Snow and Hahn, LLP has continued its donation of baby-starter kits to assist families who were expecting new arrivals.

Each kit included wipes, lotion, bottles, formula, diapers and a car seat. An expecting mother served by our Family Support Staff and a mother who utilizes our Child Care services were the proud recipients of the kits. Another car kit was provided to a mother who was in need of a car seat to take her newborn home from the hospital.



Thanks to Partridge Snow and Hahn for providing a safe ride for these newborns.

Back to School...

Once again, the children we serve started off the new school year well prepared to go back and hit the books.

Thanks to MetLife, East Greenwich United Methodist Church, Providence Plantation Lions, Recycling for Rhode Island Education and the Citizens Bank program 'Gear for Grades,' the children we serve received everything from pencils to backpacks to assist them when going back to school.



Celebrating a Milestone

In celebrating 175 years of effectively serving the needs of the most vulnerable children in Rhode Island, Children's Friend seeks to honor our heritage by **celebrating** throughout the year with a variety of anniversary events.

We have begun to examine our archives dating back to our founding in 1834. Taking advantage of our written and photographic treasures, Children's Friend is developing a **lecture series**, **photo exhibit**, and a **documentary** about the history of child welfare in Rhode Island.

The documentary will be officially premiered at our event, **celebrating 175 years of Smiles**, to be held at the Providence Biltmore on the evening of June 12, 2009. The documentary produced by Nancy LaChance of r.j. LaChance Advertising/Tin Can Alley will highlight the changing views and state of child welfare over time and how the state of Rhode Island has evolved to meet new challenges. This documentary will lend itself to a bigger discussion about the state of child welfare with the hope to educate the general public.

With the help of Sandra Enos Ph.D., associate professor of sociology, at Bryant University, we will **educate** the general public about the rich history of child welfare in Rhode Island with a lecture series and photo exhibit supported by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities to be featured at Slater Mill, Providence Public Library, Rhode Island College, and Bryant University. Check out 175yearsofsmiles.org for more information.

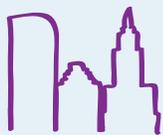
Children's Friend plays a vital role in bringing **families** and communities together. In July 2009, we will be hosting a special concert and **festival** for the Central Falls community. Local musical acts, radio stations, and businesses will come together to provide a stimulating afternoon of activities for **children** and their families. We will also incorporate a 175th theme into our annual events such as; Walk for Children, Investing in Our Children Luncheon, and the Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive.

Contact Bryan W. Ferguson, Director of Development and Communications, at 401.276.4323 or bferguson@cfsri.org for more information.

Anniversary Year Events

Annual Meeting—May 13, 2009

Walk for Children—May 30, 2009
Roger Williams Park



Celebrating 175 years of Smiles
June 12, 2009 - Providence Biltmore

Concert & Festival—July 2009
Central Falls



Investing in our Children Luncheon
October 2009

Who's excited? Honorary Committee

The Honorable Scott Avedisian
Nick, Ron, and Pete Cardi
Stephanie D. Chafee
Lisa G. Churchville
The Honorable David N. Cicilline
Robert A. DiMuccio
Thomas F. Gilbane, Jr.
Rabbi Leslie Y. Gutterman
Juana Horton
The Honorable Patrick Kennedy
The Honorable James R. Langevin
Anthony Maione
Joseph J. MarcAurele
Patricia Martinez
Bernard G. Mondor
John A. Mutter
John J. Partridge
James E. Purcell
US Senator Jack Reed
Pablo Rodriguez M.D.
Merrill W. Sherman
John C. Warren
The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
The Right Reverend GERALYN WOLF



Who's helping out? 175th Anniversary Committee

Doris Stearn Donovan
Alfred K. Potter II
William J. Allen
David Caprio
Julie Casimiro
Nicholas Costa
Mary Cram
John D. Cregan
Gina DiSpirito
Rosemary Dwyer

Bryan W. Ferguson
Eva C. Hulse-Avila
Nancy LaChance
Joseph P. Moran III
Eduardo E. Naya
Carl R. Neal
Richard Schwartz
Bahjat Shariff
Laurie White



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Executive Director of Children's Friend

David Caprio



Please direct any questions or comments about the Children's Friend newsletter to Bryan W. Ferguson, Director of Development and Communications

Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive

Once again, thanks to the generosity of individuals throughout Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts, Children's Friend was able to fulfill the holiday wishes of the families we serve.

This year, our Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive was a huge success. **625 families** received help making their holiday wishes come true! This year's theme, "Going Back to Basics" helped our agency make sure the basic needs of the children we serve were met even under the tough economic conditions. Children from our agency received jackets, warm clothing, and toys to make the holidays a little brighter.

Did You Know?

The artwork on this year's holiday drive thank you cards was created by a four year old girl who attends our Central Falls Child Care Center.

Thank you Brenda for your lovely drawings!

A special "thank you" goes out to all of those who donated toys and clothing, sponsored a family, and to over 50 volunteers who helped out in our holiday room.



Thank you to Citizens Bank, Bank of America, Cox Communications, McLife, Panera Bread,

and the Knights of Columbus, Lions Club of Providence and all the other organizations and individuals who sponsored a family!!!
 care, the Administrative office of the Vice President of the University of RI,

Teknor Apex, Ross Simons, WB Mason, St. Margaret's Parish, East Greenwich Methodist Church, Munroe Dairy, the families of Stork Nest Child

Making a difference...
 one child at a time.



CHILDREN'S
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Spotlight on Service: Our Project Connect program works with high-risk families who are affected by problems of parental substance abuse and involved in the child welfare system. All of the children born while their parents were participating in the program were born substance free.

CHILDSPAN

In The News

The Making Connections professional development initiative, which began in April of 2008, was successfully completed on December 31, 2008.

The initiative, a collaboration between El Club de Proveedoras Infantil de RI and Children's Friend, was intended to train five family providers in the use of the Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale (FCCERS).

Twenty-six family child care providers completed the program and received pre- and post-environmental observations using the FCCERS. Each family child care provider experienced a significant improvement in their child care home environment.

The program was so successful that six providers are now prepared to continue the program by teaching others throughout the state how to administer the FCCERS.



on The Calendar

March 3-April 7: Family Child Care A-Z
(Classes in English and Spanish, 7 classes)

Course approved by the RI Dept. of Children, Youth, and Families, for all interested in opening a licensed, family child care business. This is a soup to nuts investigation of professionalism and quality care in the home.

March 4-April 29: CDA Core Components, Child Development Associate (Classes in Spanish)

Eight-week series will help child care providers understand developmentally appropriate practice as it applies to the CDA functional areas, including language development and literacy, social and ethical responsibilities, individualizing curriculum, and recent early childhood research. Participants also receive advisement.

March 16-30: Brain Development Basics
(Classes in English)

Discover the science of brain development and how it affects learning and teaching young children. Figure out what's nature and what's nurture. Find out what the elements are of a healthy, successful child, and learn to use that knowledge to maximize opportunities in the classroom.

March 16-30: Learning with Nature (Classes in English)

Look back at your own experiences in childhood and learn how to inspire kids today with all the things you thought you'd forgotten! Explore a pocketful of great, nature-based activities and ideas for inspiring young minds, and find out how to adapt your lessons to meet their ever-changing needs.

March 18-April 26: Engaging Activities: An Activities-based Series Just for Teachers
(Classes in English. Spanish to come in May)

Is your bag of tricks running low? We have just the series for you! Come get involved in this six-part "activities" training to reignite your fervor in the classroom. From cooking to card-making, nature walks to art projects to cooperative games, we've got it all! Don't miss this one!

CHILDSPAN

Rhode Island's Child Development and Education Training System
is a program of Children's Friend

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