

HOME INSIDER

September 2022



A LEGACY OF HEALING & HOPE

By: Emily Mantelman, Development and Public Relations Associate

On January 21, 1847, a group of women from Poughkeepsie churches met to form the Female Guardian Society to help the poor and neglected in the village. Our history tells us, "Two by two they went into the highways and byways, the garrets and cellars; feeding the hungry, clothing the destitute and providing employment and protection for the friendless and exposed." Just like our community friends today, our founders wanted to help community children and families that needed their help the most.

Their road wasn't without obstacles.

Our first building was dedicated on February 23, 1857, ten years after we were established. The building had no water except from rain, no blinds, no means of meeting expenses, and a mortgage of \$2,000. In June, the ladies held a strawberry festival to finance the blinds, with entertainment provided by the children and Matthew Vassar gave \$1,000, the first contribution to a permanent endowment. During the first year, 30 children were cared for, 40 the second, and 55 the third. In 1859, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel F. B. Morse donated \$500 for a well and plumbing so that the children could access clean water.

In the 1880s, the Hudson Valley faced drought and hunger. Despite all odds, generous donors gifted the Home with a 36-acre farm. The children grew and gathered enough food to last through the winter - 1,000 ears of corn, 685 cucumbers,

10 bushels of tomatoes, plus beets and turnips.

In the early 1900s, scarlet fever, diphtheria and tuberculosis took many lives and caused widespread economic hardship. In response, the entire summer of 1912, the Home put up tents and camped out - first at a berry farm near Freedom Plains, and later along the Wappingers Creek in Rochdale. Friendly neighbors responded by throwing ice cream parties and taking kids for their first ever automobile rides! They donated bushels of apples, corn and potatoes. The kids played in the sunshine and learned to swim.

World War II caused considerable economic adversity for the Home and

an earnest effort was made to raise funds from the community. In 1951 the Home instituted its first annual fund appeal. In the following years, the Home moved to a care based approach of child welfare and providing social work. Children now not only came from Dutchess, but Putnam, Orange, Ulster, Sullivan, and Westchester counties as well. The Home received the American Legion's 1959 award for "outstanding contribution to the welfare of the community."

In the 1970s, the Home faced new challenges as it found itself supporting an increasing number of older children. In response, an off-campus cottage was opened where 6 girls could live with house parents to learn homemaking and family skills to prepare for independent life in the community. Changes in the law freed more children for adoption, and the Home responded by initiating a program to recruit and prepare families for adoption or long-term foster care. Family therapy, parenting education, and aftercare were provided for children

continued on page 7



MISSION STATEMENT

Dedicated to providing a safe and nurturing environment that improves lives and empowers at-risk children and families in the Hudson Valley and surrounding communities.

STAY IN TOUCH

Children's Home of Poughkeepsie
10 Children's Way
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
pr@childrenshome.us

childrenshome.us



GIVE A GIFT OF HEALING & HOPE



Dear Friends,

I hope you are well and enjoying the sunshine and warmth of early fall. I saw a billboard in Rhinebeck announcing the 176th annual Dutchess County Fair and I thought, wow, the Fair has been around a LONG time. And then I thought, wait, I remember reading in our history documents that the kids would go by horse and buggy to the County Fair in the 1890s. I am often struck by just how long the Children's Home has been providing services in our community, 175 years this year, almost as long as the Fair! While our means of travel may be different, our kids visiting the Fair each year remains the same. In fact, thanks to the generosity of community friends, our kids were able to enjoy the Fair again this year.

Our history is full of stories of hope, healing and generosity. Earlier this summer we hosted our Open Your Heart Cocktail Concert and 175th Anniversary Celebration. The last time we gathered for this event was in 2019. Our history display at the event, the anniversary film that we shown and the many stories we revisited over the last year have been an incredible reminder of why the work done at the Children's Home is so vital to the lives of children and families in our community.

While we may have gathered together in late June, we are still dealing with the effects of the pandemic. Summer is usually bustling with volunteer groups visiting with the kids, playing games and hosting picnics. Our posture is still one of caution. We have been able to host a few small groups to do outside service projects on the campus. The health and safety of our kids, staff and families remain our top priority, but to say we aren't missing the steady stream of in-person volunteers is an understatement.

Recruitment and retention have also been top of mind for our administrative team. Just like many of our human service peers, we have struggled with vacancies and turnover. This is due in part to the pandemic and the lag in funding streams that hinder our ability to pay competitive salaries. Our Board and senior leadership continue to work with state and local officials to push for rate increases and fair wages.

Our Community Based Services programs are flourishing, as we continue to write a new chapter in our history. We are now serving 400 children and families in their homes and communities. Youth in our Nuevas Alas/New Wings program have been keeping busy too, attending sporting events, local parks and hosting picnics and ball games.

As always, we thank you for your continued support of the mission of the Children's Home and the work we do with children and families. It's because of friends like you that we can provide healing and hope to those who need it most.

Sincerely,

Walter J. Joseph
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer



The Children's Home hosted an information booth at the 2022 Dutchess County Fair. Pictured here is ToniMarie Zeyher, Care Manager Supervisor, Community-Based Services.

CHILDREN'S HOME WELCOMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**By: Erin Cafarelli,
Chief Development &
Public Relations Officer**

The Children's Home Board of Directors is composed of generous community members who have been selected for their knowledge, expertise and commitment to our mission. With the start of a new fiscal year underway, we are delighted to welcome two new board members to our Board of Directors and a new slate of officers.

The two newly elected board members are:



Lorenzo L. Angelino, Esq. is a general practice attorney with a focus on business law, estate planning, liquor licenses and real estate. Lorenzo is also an adjunct professor at Dutchess Community College. A life-long resident of Dutchess County, Lorenzo devotes countless hours towards community based volunteering in the Hudson Valley. He is a co-founder of "Foodstock" an annual charity concert to benefit the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess Outreach and he serves on the Board of Directors at The Art Effect. Lorenzo is a graduate of SUNY Albany and Albany Law School.

Currently, he is a member of the New York State Bar Association, the Dutchess County Bar Association, and the Southern Dutchess Referral Team BNI Chapter. In 2012 he received the Forty Under 40 Shaker Award from the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce.



Jason "J." Dewey is the Associate Vice President of Marketing and Development at Cornerstone Family Healthcare. He has worked in the fields of nonprofit social services and healthcare for underserved populations for his entire career. J. was an adjunct professor of multimedia design and English at the College of Westchester

for nearly ten years. He holds an M.A. from SUNY New Paltz in Literature. He lives in Beacon with his husband and two sons, who they adopted through the foster care system.

The newly appointed Executive Committee includes: President – Maureen Crush; First Vice President – Patricia Goodemote; Vice President, Governance – Alicia Dean; Vice President, Investment – Christopher Downey; Vice President, Program – Mary Lou Davis; Vice President, Resource Development – Alicia Dean; Secretary – Amy Dittmar; Treasurer – Valerie Murphy; Assistant Treasurer – TBD.

"As we emerge from our world of virtual events and meetings over the course of this upcoming year, I am excited to continue the mission-driven work of the Children's Home with these newest talented Board members in the mix. I am also so grateful for the wisdom and passion of our collective Board of Directors," said Maureen Crush, President, Children's Home of Poughkeepsie Board of Directors.

Thank you to all who serve.

Children's Home 2022-2023 Board of Directors

Maureen Crush, *President*
Patricia W. Goodemote, *First Vice President*
Vice President in charge of:
Governance: Alicia Dean
Investment: Christopher Downey
Program: Mary Lou Davis
Resource Development: Alicia Dean
Amy Dittmar, *Secretary*
Valerie Murphy, *Treasurer*
TBD, *Assistant Treasurer*

Lorenzo Angelino
Alyssa Bowers
Matthew Cruz
Jason Dewey
Catherine Forbes
Rochelle Friedman
Sean Manna
Patrick Meaney
Vanessa Rice
Jessica L. Vinall

Walter J. Joseph, *Executive Director and
Chief Executive Officer*



AN EVENING OF OPEN HEARTS

By: Erin Cafarelli, Chief Development and Public Relations Officer

On June 30 we hosted our Open Your Heart Cocktail Concert & 175th Anniversary Celebration at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie, NY. Guests joined us along the Hudson River for an evening of fabulous food, friendship, and a celebration of hope.

The evening's program included a former Children's Home resident who spoke about her time in foster care and

experiences at the Home. Her courage, strength, and determination are truly humbling. Guests also enjoyed a short historical film that showcased the 175-year history of the Home. The film was directed and produced by Forge Media, a youth apprenticeship program at The Art Effect. New York Tenor Christopher Macchio and his band performed to close out a beautiful evening.



"We can't thank our generous community friends enough for the support they showed us this year as we celebrated our 175th Anniversary," said Walter J. Joseph, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer.



We would like to thank our supporters, sponsors, and friends for opening their hearts in support of the mission of the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie and all of the children and families we serve.

Event Sponsors



Performer Sponsors

- Marshall & Sterling Insurance
- SERVPRO of Western Dutchess County
- Dr. Peter and Mrs. Catherine Varunok
- Wendy's

Presenting Sponsors

- Dutchess Community College
- Family Services
- Jackson Lewis PC
- John Webb Family Foundation

- Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
- Small World Wealth Management
- Van DeWater & Van DeWater, LLP

Anniversary Sponsor

- Herbert H. Redl Foundation

Cocktail Station Sponsors

- Rhinebeck Bank
- Anna Carmela Strocchia & Lenore Strocchia-Rivera, Ph. D.
- Vassar College

Dessert Sponsor

- Ulster Savings Bank

“We truly enjoy the opportunity to share the good work of the Children’s Home with those who help to make the work we do with children and families possible.”

Board members Mary Lou Davis and Linda Lurie co-chaired the event. “The board members appreciate the generous support of the sponsors and guests for our Open Your Heart Cocktail Concert and 175th Anniversary Celebration. Our committee, with the help of Erin Cafarelli, planned a wonderful evening to celebrate the Children’s Home and we were delighted to see so many friends join us,” said Mary Lou Davis.

The funds raised from the Open Your Heart event support the programs and mission of the Children’s Home, dedicated to providing a safe and nurturing environment that improves lives and empowers at-risk children and families in the Hudson Valley and surrounding communities.

Signature Cocktail Sponsor

- DSL Financial Services

Friend Sponsors

- Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp.
- Doyle Security Systems, Inc.
- Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services
- Foster Flooring & Carpet
- Marist College
- M&O Sanitation
- Stewart’s Shops
- Williams Lumber & Home Centers

Design Sponsor

- Full Deck Design

SUMMER AT THE CHILDREN’S HOME

By: Chris Murray, MPA, Assistant Executive Director, Child Welfare Programs

“Keep your face to the sunshine and you will never see the shadows.”

— Helen Keller

With a new school year upon us, we are reminded of the many accomplishments of our youth this past school year. The past year was a wildly successful one with multiple youth graduating from High School and moving up from Middle School to High School. A few even attended prom! All of these things represent monumental achievements and milestones for our youth, many of which have faced and overcome tremendous adversity in their young lifetimes.

We are also reminded of all of the wonders that are present around us and all of the opportunities that are available within our community. Over the summer, the youth attended basketball camps, equestrian therapy, expressive arts workshops and an assortment of sporting events throughout the local community. Additionally, youth in our group homes took dance classes and piano lessons. Some of our children were able to attend The Stone Horse day camp, where they learned how to care for, manage and ride horses. The children enjoyed this experience immensely and are working toward going back for a second, magical week at camp.

Throughout the summer, youth have worked with staff and community volunteers to beautify their homes and the campus. They have created and cared for gardens, worked along our nature trail and completed various projects on our campus. A group of 15 kids continue to work with Land to Learn to grow fresh fruits and vegetables. Thanks to a grant from The Felix Organization, this collaboration continues to help the youth learn the virtues of patience, sustainability and responsibility, all of which will help them on their journey back home.

Thanks to the generosity of our community friends, youth have been able to attend baseball games, amusement parks, the Dutchess County Fair, SplashDown Beach, Legoland and an assortment of historic parks in the region. These trips provide meaningful experiences for our children while helping them begin to heal, mature and thrive. We have had countless barbecues, picnics, swimming trips, ice cream trips, and bike rides. The kids have gone to the movies, the zoo, parks and the library. Summer has been a wonderful time for our kids to be kids!

Our collaboration with Land to Learn and The Felix Organization continued this summer, with youth caring for gardens on our campus.





OFFERING HOPE TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

By: Courtney Doyle, LMHC,
Assistant Executive Director,
Community Based Services

When you think about receiving mental health support services, where do you see yourself? At the park? In a library? On a walk? How about in your own home? These places offer comfort to so many, and our team can meet you there. That's right, in a place where you are most comfortable. Our Community Based programs provide services in Dutchess, Ulster, Sullivan, Putnam and Orange counties to over 400 youth and their families. We strive for person centered care that is accessible to you.

Our staff have been to some interesting places over the last few years! We have visited skate parks, gone on fairy walks, to the arcade, farms, and dance classes, just to name a few. Allowing these services to take place where youth are most comfortable creates the strong rapport that is necessary to facilitate hope and change.

Feelings of nervousness are common for our youth and families, especially when they are new to our program. Our team has the ability to provide services in a way that allows for the most engaging and safe space. Oftentimes thinking "outside the box" to create such an environment with

the youth offers the best scenario. Recently, Shanna needed a little encouragement to open up when she met with her staff Carly. Trying to think of a way to do this, Carly took Shanna on a treasure hunt walk around town. They had fun together, laughing and encouraging each other. This provided Carly with a chance to learn how she could help Shanna the most. Shanna really enjoyed the session and was excited for their future meetings.

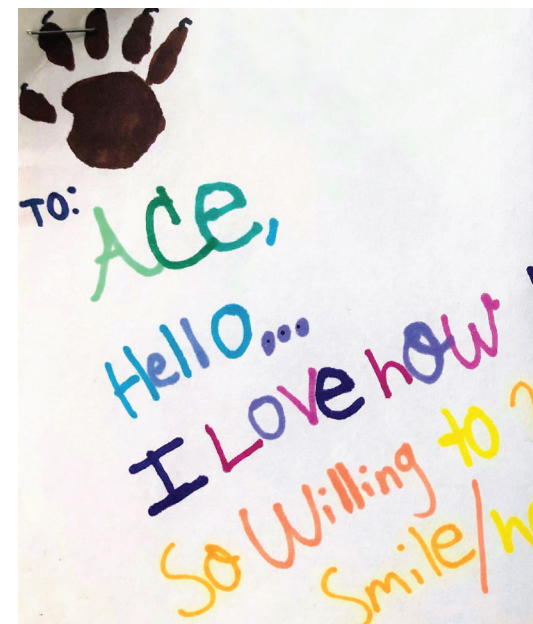
One of our main goals is to help the youth and their family understand that they are the experts in their own care. The youth and family collaborate with our team to identify goals and establish a plan best suited to their needs and where they are most comfortable. The youth and family drive the direction of the services and choose what is most important in meeting their current needs. The youth voice is so vital in the work we do and our team wants to be sure the youth and family feel empowered, like Shanna did.

To learn more about our Community Based Services program and how we can help you or a loved one, visit our website www.childrenshome.us or email cbs@childrenshome.us.

7TH ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING A SUCCESS

By: Emily Mantelman, Development
and Public Relations Associate

"Ace is a symbol of safety to a traumatized child that can discover no words to formulate for the ears of a human recipient." - David A. Crenshaw, Ph.D., ABPP, Chief of Clinical Services at the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie. In the Routledge International Handbook of Play, Therapeutic Play and Play Therapy, Dr. Crenshaw describes what a positive difference it's made for our kids to be able to write Ace letters (and have him respond back!). Along with his fellow 4-legged

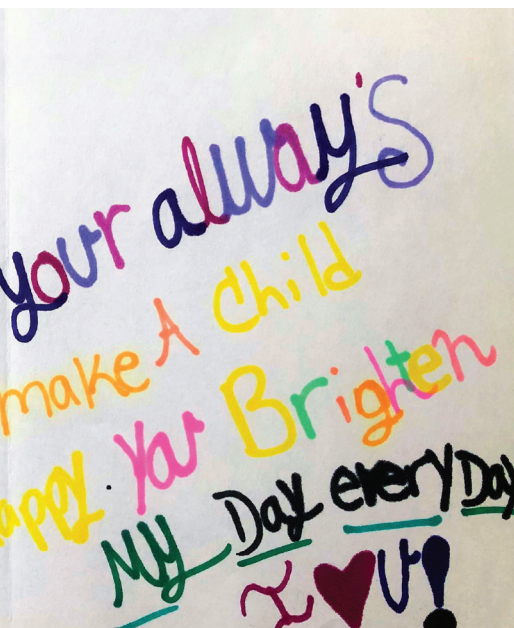


therapists Elvis and Marshall, the Facility Service Dog team gives a sense of trust, belonging and unconditional love that no human can match.

Thanks to you, Ace, Elvis and Marshall continue to offer valuable therapy to children and families that need it the most.

On May 18, the Children's Home celebrated the seventh annual Hudson Valley Gives Day (#HVGives) by fundraising for Ivy's Fund, which supports the board and care of the dogs and training of the Facility Service Dog team. This virtual celebration encourages Hudson Valley residents to "give where you live". What makes #HVGives a success? You. This year, we set a \$10,000 goal and were overwhelmed to receive a \$10,000 match thanks to a generous anonymous donor. We spent the day sharing the essential work our Facility Service Dogs do, and by 4:00 pm, our community had already raised \$16,400. The excitement continued and in total, we raised \$21,540, over 215% of our goal!

We're so grateful for our community's generosity and support of our Facility Service Dog Team this and every #HVGives. Thank you to everyone that shared and supported the essential work that Ace, Elvis and Marshall are doing to help our kids and families heal and find hope.



continued from front cover

with their own potentially viable families. The Home added a full-time psychiatrist as Director of Clinical Services, and a psychologist as well.

At the end of the year 2000, current Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Walter J. Joseph took the helm. Changing priorities in New York's Office of Children and Family Services reduced referrals to the traditional Campus Residential program and in the years that have followed many programs have been opened and closed as emerging needs for at-risk children and families have shifted.

The story doesn't end there. It continues to be written.

Throughout our 175 year history there have been many hurdles and triumphs. Our history is filled with caring people that have left a lasting impact on our Home and the lives of the children and families we serve. Today, thanks to our founders' foresight and the love and dedication of

Did you know? The Children's Home Board was an all female board until 2012 when the Board of Managers voted to change its charter, becoming the Board of Directors, and opening membership to men and women. Among our female leaders was Mrs. Isaac Roosevelt, grandmother to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

our community which spans generations, over 10,000 children have been cared for at the Children's Home.

THE GUARDIAN SOCIETY

Have you heard about The Guardian Society, named in honor of our founders The Female Guardian Society? Over the past 175 years of the Home's history, many caring individuals have left a portion or all of their estates to help ensure the future of our mission by leaving a lasting legacy. If you have questions or have included the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie in your estate plans and want to join The Guardian Society, please contact our Development Office at 845- 452-1420, ext. 177 or email pr@childrenshome.us.



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEWBURGH, NY 12550
PERMIT NO. 1260

10 Children's Way
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
childrenshome.us

A place of healing and hope since 1847.

HOME RECEIVES ACCREDITATION

By: Deborah J. DiMicco, Chief Compliance Officer

The Children's Home of Poughkeepsie's Quality Assurance and Improvement Department's role is to plan, assess, measure, and implement performance improvement in the systems and processes which affect the quality of care and services provided to our youth and families. The Department strives to continuously improve the quality of care and services in a multidisciplinary team approach. This process includes the review, evaluation and improvement of operational, programmatic and functional systems.

We are pleased to report that we have received accreditation from the Council on Accreditation, as we have since 1980. Just this year, the Council on Accreditation, along with the Alliance for Strong Families & Communities, have joined forces to form Social Current, whose combined mission is to advocate for and implement equitable solutions to society's toughest challenges through collaboration, innovation, policy, and practice excellence. We are looking forward to working with them to provide the best care and services to our children and families.



WE'RE HIRING!

SCAN ME TO APPLY

**FULL TIME | HEALTH INSURANCE | WEEKLY PAY
4 WEEKS VACATION | EDUCATION ASSISTANCE
EMPLOYEE REFERRAL PROGRAM**

WWW.CHILDRENSHOME.US

Please consider leaving a lasting legacy by remembering the Children's Home in your will or estate plans.