



HOME INSIDER

September 2023



A Message From

**Walter J. Joseph, MPA
Executive Director & CEO**

Dear Children's Home Friends,

I am so glad to be writing to all of you who support the work of the Children's Home.

We are in our 176th year of caring for and supporting the members of our community. While we started as an orphanage - The Poughkeepsie Orphan House and Home of the Friendless - we have evolved as the needs of the community have changed. In the last 10 years we have advanced at an astonishing pace.

The Children's Home now has contracts with 50 counties in New York State, providing treatment in the only program licensed to serve victims of trafficking or who have complex sexual trauma.

We have two substantial federal grants funding shelter and long term care for unaccompanied youth, primarily from Central America. Program staff provide trauma informed care for these youth, prior to releasing them to a sponsor.


Perhaps the biggest change in our programs is the development of services to about 500 children and families in five counties. These services are delivered in the home or a location chosen by the family at no cost to them.

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Last year we served 1,020 children and families across all of our programs, the most ever in our 176 year history.

I extend my thanks to all our supporters. With your help we are able to be a dynamic and responsive agency serving children and families in the Hudson Valley and beyond. Thank You!

With gratitude,



Walter J. Joseph
Executive Director & CEO

2023-2024 Board of Directors

Jessica L. Vinall, Chair
Valerie Murphy, Vice Chair

Vice Chair in charge of:

Audit – Catherine Forbes
Governance – Patrick Meaney
Program – Patricia Goodemote
Resource Development – Jason Dewey

Amy Dittmar, Secretary
Matthew Cruz, Treasurer

Lorenzo Angelino
Maureen Crush
Mary Lou Davis
Christopher Downey
Rochelle Friedman
Sean Manna
Chintan Shukla



MISSION STATEMENT

Empowering children and families to achieve optimal health and well being

VISION STATEMENT

A world where every child and family have access to the tools, skills and support they need to thrive

Children's Home Welcomes New Slate of Officers & New Board Member

The Board of Directors for the Children's Home comprises a dedicated group of community members who have been selected for their expertise, unwavering commitment, and alignment with our mission of working with children and families.

In March 2023, we welcomed Chintan Shukla to the Board of Directors. Chintan is a Portfolio Manager and Chair of the Investment Committee at Marshall & Sterling Wealth Advisors. A current resident of Fishkill, NY, Chintan moved to Dutchess County in 2019 from Buffalo, NY. He holds an MBA from SUNY Buffalo and is also a CFA Charterholder (CFA Institute). In his free time, Chintan enjoys hiking, reading and listening to music. He is looking forward to sharing his knowledge and resources to help the Children's Home meet its goals.

In July, a new slate of officers took the helm of the Board of Directors. The newly appointed Executive Committee includes: Jessica L. Vinall, Chair; Valerie Murphy, Vice Chair; Catherine Forbes, Vice Chair - Audit; Patrick Meaney, Vice Chair - Governance; Patricia Goodemote, Vice Chair - Program; Jason Dewey, Vice Chair - Resource Development; Amy Dittmar, Secretary; and Matthew Cruz, Treasurer.

With deep appreciation, we bid farewell to Alicia Dean, who dedicated a remarkable 9 years of service on the Board of Directors and now assumes the role of Associate Board member. Alicia's tenure included chairing the Resource Development, Program, Nominating and Governance committees and serving two terms as Board Chair. We truly appreciate Alicia's unwavering commitment to the mission of the Children's Home and her 9 years of dedicated service.

"The Board also appreciates the work and dedication of immediate past chair, Maureen Crush, and looks forward to working with her in the years to come. The new Executive Committee is excited to partner with staff and administration in working on behalf of all of the stakeholder's at the Children's Home to continue the long history of service to the most vulnerable children in our community, now and in the future.," said Jessica Vinall, Chair, Children's Home of Poughkeepsie Board of Directors.

Thank you to all who serve.



Family Opportunity Center to Open in October 2023

We are just a few weeks away from officially opening the doors to our Family Opportunity Center in Wingdale, NY.

The Center, designed for youth and their families, will provide space for literacy enrichment, homework support, sports and games, arts and crafts, cooking, sensory space, toddler activities, and more. There will be services for therapy, support groups and skill building. We will have a community closet too! And in the warmer months there will be outdoor recreation and a community garden. The best part, the center is FREE and open to all for use.

We can't wait to welcome you all!

Community Based Services

*Providing Healing and Hope
Wherever You Need it Most*

When you think about receiving 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, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, and Ulster counties. We strive to provide the highest level of care – care that is centered around your child and accessible to your family. Allowing these services to take place where youth are most comfortable creates the strong rapport that is necessary to facilitate hope and change.

[Learn
More](#)



Open Your Heart Cocktail Concert

On June 1, 2023 the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie hosted our annual Open Your Heart Cocktail Concert at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie, NY. Over 180 guests joined us for a wonderful evening of friendship, food, music and hope.

The Tee-Tones put on a great show that took us on an exciting musical journey from the 1950s through the 1970s, from DooWoop, to Rhythm-n-Blues, to Motown, and Soul. Our guests took to the dance floor as they danced along to familiar songs. The Grandview did a wonderful job—the food, drinks and dessert were topnotch.

Our guest speaker, Courtney Doyle, Assistant Executive Director – Community Based Services at the Children's Home, really touched our hearts when she spoke about a young woman who transitioned from residential care to independence. She spoke of her struggle to return home, her relationship with her mother, and how she was able to remain connected to support and services at the Children's Home through our Community Based program. In fact, this young woman is now a mother herself and is working hard to break the generational trauma she experienced, and provide her daughter with a safe and healthy childhood.

This work would not be possible without the generous support of a caring community, most especially our generous donors, attendees and sponsors.

To see our complete list of sponsors and to view photos from this wonderful evening, click here.



Save the Date!
Open Your Heart Cocktail Concert
May 9, 2024 | 6 - 9 pm
The Grandview, Poughkeepsie, NY



In August, players and coaches from the Hudson Valley Renegades came to visit our kids. They showed off their versatility and played soccer, basketball, and the most lively volleyball game that's ever graced our campus. The mile-wide smiles on our kids' faces and laughter echoing throughout the gym said it all.

Later that month, a group of 20 youth and staff were treated to a catered suite to watch the Renegades takes on the Aberdeen Ironbirds.

Thank you, Renegades, for helping make our summer sweet - we hope to see you next year!

Each summer our friends from the Hudson Valley Bridge Builders return to our Home to breathe new life into areas around campus that could use a bit of TLC.

This year, the Bridge Builders tackled everything from organizing supplies to completely revitalizing a garden space that had become overgrown. They painted picnic tables and put fresh mulch on our playgrounds. It's safe to say, we are looking forward to welcoming the group back next Summer!



Our kids experienced the magic of summer camp in early August! The CHP youth traveled north to Mills Norrie State Park in Staatsburg, NY for a day of nature connection with Camp Felix Day Trippers.

Our campers stepped outside of their comfort zones in big ways! They built confidence in their ability to navigate the Great Outdoors and walked away with positive memories to last a lifetime.

Thank you to the Felix Organization and DEC - Mills Norrie Staff for a wonderful day of exploring nature, rod and reel fishing, seine fishing, aquatic critters identification, hiking, turtle friends, and more. We learned so much!



KIDS WHO CARE

ICE CREAM WAGON

A Summer of Fun and Happy, Healthy Memories

The sun blazed, the bees buzzed, and our kids soaked up all summer had to offer! The Great Outdoors was the backdrop for an unforgettable summer here at the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie.

Our young explorers ventured off-campus to experience the magic of many quintessential summer activities. They observed wildlife at Camp Felix. They splished and splashed at The Kartrite Resort & Indoor Waterpark and Zoom Flume Water Park. They rode the ferris wheel and ate fried dough at the Dutchess County Fair. And they watched the Hudson Valley Renegades from box seats. Summer was a non-stop adventure!

Back on campus, youth from our Empower Program flexed their philanthropy muscles! They sold ice cream and other treats to staff with all proceeds going to the organization of their choice: Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley. Along with the proceeds, they donated wood-burnings of their artwork and messages of hope. We couldn't be prouder of their efforts.

From delighting in the acts of goodwill extended to them, to stepping up to give back to others, all of these experiences have fostered a deep appreciation for our community. And they've created positive memories that'll last far beyond the last s'more of the season.

Gearing Up for a Successful School Year

The 2023-2024 school year's officially in full swing! As the school bells ring, the youth at the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie are embracing the potential of this new adventure. We extend a heartfelt thank you to our local community for their generous contributions of essential back-to-school supplies. From backpacks to erasers, every single item makes a difference in preparing our kids for a successful year. And wow - we were amazed by just how many supplies came pouring in. With the support of our community rallying behind them, we're excited to witness the incredible strides these young learners will take.

Together, we're empowering them to grow and achieve their full potential. Here's to a year of discovery and enrichment!



CHILDREN'S HOME
of Poughkeepsie
SINCE 1847

WE'RE HIRING!

SCAN ME TO APPLY

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

WWW.CHILDRENSHOME.US



Our friends at Chase Bank - Poughkeepsie organized an incredible donation of back to school supplies for our kids. We are so appreciative!



Students from Vail Farm's 5th Grade Class delivered a massive donation of new stuffed animals, coloring books, stickers, crayons, pencils, erasers, and toys. Their teacher inspired them to start a club where they rallied their classmates to make donations. We are so grateful for their philanthropic efforts. And we wish them lots of success in Middle School this year!



Your Gift of Healing and Hope Can...

- nurture a child
- strengthen a family
- empower a community



Celebrating 176 years of caring for children & their families



10 Children's Way | Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

www.childrenshome.us