

# NEWS

## Summer Fun... And So Much More

Over three thousand young people from The Children's Aid Society's camps return to school this month with heads full of more than just fun summertime memories: these children also spent the summer learning and growing. CAS' 17 summer camps, located at our schools and community centers in Manhattan, the Bronx, Westchester and Staten Island, offered a wide variety of activities and



At Wagon Road Camp, children master a rock-climbing wall and learn to work collaboratively at the same time.

experiences, including the arts, learning-based projects and trips to cultural attractions.

"These camps provided new ways of learning that are both fun and educational and allow for year-round instructional opportunities," said Phil Coltoff, CEO of Children's Aid. "They also provided traditional camp experiences – cookouts, canoe trips and horseback riding – that were new to many inner city children."

Campers eager for outdoor amusements found them at Wagon Road Camp in Chappaqua and Osborn Day Camp at Goodhue Center on Staten Island. Wagon Road featured a theater project, cooking classes and physical challenges (including a rock-climbing wall) designed to build teamwork. In August, a special week for disabled children gave their caregivers a badly needed respite and gave the kids, many in wheelchairs, a real camp experience.

Vaudeville is an old theatrical form but it's new to our kids. This year, Advantage Theatre summer program at community school I.S. 90 in Washington Heights tackled this unique form of performance. Students learned acrobatics, trapeze, juggling, magic, claymation, improv comedy and classic vaudeville routines and eventually created their own sketches. They also took trips to The

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*Child. Family. Future.*

## From the CEO



*Staying  
on Track in  
Summer, Too*

**Adults' fond summer memories** often include swimming, fishing, sports and relaxation. But as the article next to this one on the front page makes clear, learning can be a big part of summer fun and earn a place in children's happy memories.

In addition to the creative learning opportunities presented by our summer camps, Children's Aid offers a wealth of programs in the summer months that help keep youth engaged and on track during the rest of the year. Here are more highlights from CAS' summer programs:

**Teens Trekking To Germany:** Sixteen teens from our Hope Leadership Academy, aged 14 to 19, traveled to Germany in August as the guests of the Atlantik-Brücke EV Foundation, which sponsored a similar group of teens last summer. Teens from CAS foster care, community schools, juvenile justice and other programs met with political leaders and local officials and toured extensively while maintaining the relationships with local youth that were established during last summer's trip. The German youth, who consider themselves our Hope Germany program, were extremely excited about another visit by New York teens. Understanding of other cultures is enhanced by contact.

**New Teen Center Was Planned:** This summer, a working group of staff and teens met repeatedly to design a comprehensive program for youth who "age out" of fos-

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# *Intensive Academic Support For Middle School Students Injected Into Community Centers*

*Nearly two years ago, Children's Aid received an extraordinary pledge of just over \$1 million from two families to support an intensive academic program at our three Harlem community centers (Dunlevy Milbank, East Harlem, Frederick Douglass).*

The Simons and Magerman families were not new to our CAS centers; they both supported our technology programs. But when one of them wondered why the children were not engaged in more sophisticated activities on the computers, they learned that many of our children are very behind academically. The families reacted almost immediately; they wanted to fund an academic initiative. With their generous support, we developed MASPAS, the Magerman and Simons Program for Academic Success.

MASPAS works with 75 students in the 5th – 8th grades, with the aim of promoting their academic success and getting them on a strong high school track. MASPAS provides what many of our children desperately need: academic enrichment during the after-school hours. With a staff to student ratio of 1-to-4 and proven curricula selected by our director of educational services, Sarah

Jonas, these children receive the help they need to master their subjects.

"Thanks to this generous support," Jonas says, "we are able to offer intensive, small-group tutoring in literacy and mathematics that goes way beyond what we could otherwise offer in a large-group afterschool 'homework help' session.

"MASPAS participants are individually assessed and have the opportunity to build the skills that directly reinforce what they are learning in school. This program also enables us to provide the tutors with high quality curricula and monthly training sessions, led by New York City Department of Education literacy and math coaches. It is this combination of a low staff/student ratio, high quality resources and ongoing professional development for tutors that makes MASPAS so beneficial to our center youth," she said.

Another important feature of the program is scholarship assistance to parochial schools that is provided to a limited number of children. While many of our children struggle, we have others who are not challenged in their public school settings and are more likely to thrive in a more rigorous setting.

Participation continued into the summer with the Junior Apprentice program. During the first two weeks of August, the students were organized to work in teams and design an educational and fun children's television show. Teams created the show's name, concept, format and content and pitched their ideas to a panel of judges on the last day of the program. To help them prepare, we provided workshops on presentation skills and workplace etiquette in addition to trips to Fisher-Price and Thirteen/WNET.

An independent evaluator, who looked at the first year of the program, noted that all students report that MASPAS helps them in school. MASPAS offers a supportive environment for learning and is especially useful in providing strategies that students can use to solve math problems in school, the evaluator reported. Some students report that MASPAS helps improve grades. For students who struggle academically, this creative and engaging programming is priceless. We thank the Magerman and Simons families for their wonderful investment in helping our youth achieve academic success.



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The Junior Apprentice team from East Harlem Center presented its winning television concept, "Math World," to a panel of CAS judges as part of the MASPAS (Magerman and Simons Program for Academic Success) summer program. Each of the three competing teams earned a trip to Chelsea Piers.

# Helping Parents Walk The Walk And Talk The Talk—*About Sex*



Jaime and Maria Matos were June graduates of the CAS Parent Family Life & Sexuality Education Program and were its joint valedictorians.

**The Children's Aid Society's** Parent Family Life & Sexuality Education program completed its 19th consecutive year with a graduation ceremony on June 3, 2005 in the Hunter College auditorium. One hundred forty-seven parents and community adults who completed the 45-hour, weekly course were recognized. The principal objective of this innovative CAS program is to help parents become sexually literate and more actively influence the sexual development of their children.

"Parents understand their own cultural beliefs and religious practices and can best communicate those ideals to their children with moral authority once they are fully informed, freed from generations of mythology and in command of communication skills that enable them to express their

“What motivated me to take this course was that my son just reached puberty. **I didn't know how to answer some of the difficult questions he was asking.** I also was concerned about the changes that occur in boys that are different from girls.

**This course impacted me in so many ways. I was not an expert in this matter, but now I feel more confident.** I speak more openly with my sons, in particular with the oldest. The textbook I received has helped me a great deal; I'm able to use it as a guide when in doubt. It has also helped me provide orientation over the phone to my sisters and their children in the Dominican Republic. What I liked most about this course was the information about family planning methods. Developing a 'Personal Chronology' was inspiring and unforgettable. ”

—(J.V., Parent, I.S. 90)

views and opinions to their children appropriately and directly,” notes Dr. Michael Carrera, director of the Bernice and Milton Stern National Adolescent Sexuality Training Center for CAS.

This spirit is captured in the following from a 2005 graduate. “It has helped my wife Maria and me better understand the nature and process of our family life and sexuality. It provided us with the basic knowledge to teach our children, as well as to help educate others regardless of their age.”

The Children's Aid Society and the Annie E. Casey Foundation-supported “Plain Talk” program have been partners in this significant community-based initiative for the past five years. In addition, The Children's Aid Society and The Casey

Foundation are collaborating in continuing the Casey-supported Walkers & Talkers/*Promotoros* program; in that curriculum, parents who successfully participate in the basic sexuality program undergo an additional year of training to prepare them to provide Family Life & Sexuality Education in their own communities.

Thus far, 20 parents (10 men and 10 women)—extraordinarily talented and motivated—are currently teaching in female/male teams in Washington Heights, East Harlem, the Bronx and the Lower East Side. This innovative approach to communicating about sexuality in a culturally appropriate and educationally sound manner reflects the extraordinary collaboration between The Annie E. Casey Foundation and The Children's Aid Society.

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## ***Alex Rodriguez Supports CAS Mental Health Programs***



**Baseball star** Alex Rodriguez and his wife, Cynthia, who holds a master's degree in psychology, donated \$200,000 to The Children's Aid Society's school-based mental health programs at an event at CAS community school I.S. 218 in Washington Heights this spring. Prior to signing a giant check symbolizing his donation, Rodriguez spoke openly to the audience of students and media about his own experiences with therapy and his wish that everyone could receive similar assistance. The funds will support mental health services at five schools that are both CAS community schools and Boys & Girls Clubs. Shown at the check presentation are (left to right): Alex and Cynthia Rodriguez; Ann Fudge, vice chairman of the Board of Boys & Girls Clubs of America; Angela Diaz, M.D., M.P.H., president of the Board of The Children's Aid Society; and C. Warren “Pete” Moses, executive director of CAS.

## Upcoming Events

**September 29, 7:00 p. m. – 11:00 p. m.**

### **Noche Latina—A Celebration of Latin Culture**

Dance to Latin rhythms and enjoy tastings from top restaurants and vintners at *Noche Latina*, the 2nd Annual Children's Aid Arts Benefit, on Thursday, September 29, 2005 at LQ at 411 Lexington Avenue. This event will honor Eddie Palmieri for his 50 years of extraordinary contributions to the music industry. Participants include LQ, Calle Ocho, Caviar & Banana, Havana Central, It's A Dominican Thing, Zona Rosa, Global Wine Imports: Don Cristóbal 1492 and Doña Cristina. Tickets are \$125, \$250, and \$500.

**November 3, 8:00 p.m.**

### **The Woman in White**

On Thursday, November 3, 2005, be among the first New Yorkers to preview Andrew Lloyd Weber's new musical, *The Woman in White*, at the Marquis Theatre. This compelling tale of love, betrayal and greed is already a smash hit musical in London. Adapted from the Wilkie Collins' Victorian thriller, *The Woman in White* tells the tale of a young art tutor to two devoted sisters. Tickets are \$200 for the show and \$350 for the show and pre-theater dinner.

**December 4, noon—5 p.m.**

### **Shopping and Giving**

Save your holiday shopping for Sunday, December 4th, 2005 at the 19th Annual Miracle on Madison Avenue. More than 125 retailers on Madison Avenue between 57th and 86th Streets will donate 20% of every purchase to benefit Children's Aid's health care programs for children.

To purchase tickets to a Children's Aid event or for more information, please visit [www.childrensaidsociety.org](http://www.childrensaidsociety.org) or call 212-949-4936

THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

# NEWS

The Children's Aid Society  
105 East 22nd Street, New York, New York 10010

Edgar Koerner, *Chairman*  
Angela Diaz, M.D., M.P.H., *President*  
Philip Coltoff, *Chief Executive Officer*  
C. Warren Moses, *Executive Director*  
Patricia M. Grayson, *Asst. Executive Director for Development*

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## Summer Camps...

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Museum of the Moving Image, the Coney Island side shows, amusement parks and several Broadway shows.

The Planet NYC program introduced campers at C.I.S. 166 in the Bronx to a wide array of New York City's cultural activities through research, trips and writing. Campers were divided into three groups, each studying a different topic:



Visual Arts, Film/Media and Music/Dance. At the end of the summer, the students began producing a youth guide to the city's attractions, to be distributed free to other youth in the community.

AileyCamp, a partnership between CAS and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater designed to empower young people and help develop a strong sense of self-esteem and self-expression, celebrated its 15th anniversary this summer. Ailey dance professionals taught lucky participants the basic techniques of ballet, modern dance, jazz and tap. Campers staged a much-anticipated final performance for family and friends in a huge theater in late summer.

Teens, many from CAS' foster care program, participated this summer in the Bronx Hope Leadership Academy, CAS' peer education and youth development program. They received peer leadership training and made recommendations for the development of a future Children's Aid teen center. The center's programs will specifically address issues teens face as they age out of foster care, as well as provide services to all teens.

Summertime often holds a special place in a child's memories. For the youth involved in Children's Aid's summer camps, the season holds both fond memories and proof that new skills and confidence can be acquired even while having fun.

## From the CEO...

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ter care at ages 18 or 21. Independence is especially daunting for these youth, who have experienced instability and often have no family to fall back on. Thanks to the generosity of CAS Trustee Rosalie Stahl and her family, CAS aims to improve their odds by providing a rich menu of supports and services for them under one roof. As important as the programs will be the sense of connectedness to a place, our Teen Center, and to our caring staff.

**Obesity Was Fought:** Paying attention to nutrition and fitness are year-round endeavors and our Go!Kids early childhood obesity prevention program staff make learning about food and exercise fun. Major support from the Picower Foundation enabled us to expand this innovative preventive program this year to three Head Start centers. Parents are also active participants in Go!Kids. At the Head Start "Moving Up" ceremony at P.S. 8 in August, the kindergarten-bound children sang the new "Go Foods" song for their parents, a song that has taught them about the foods that make them *go* versus the foods that make them *slow*.

Shortly after you receive this newsletter, executive director C. Warren "Pete" Moses will succeed me as Chief Executive Officer at our annual meeting on October 20. My tenure with Children's Aid has been both an honor and an enormous challenge, full of opportunities to serve the children and families of New York. Children's Aid has given me a chance to help make our society and institutions work better for those they serve, especially children. I'm very pleased to hand the reins over to Pete, whose vast knowledge of the agency, his experience and his innate understanding of the needs of children and youth make him the perfect choice to lead Children's Aid into the 21st century.



Philip Coltoff  
Chief Executive Officer