

NEWS

Children's Aid Becomes Good Neighbor in the Bronx



CAS' Bronx Family Center is housed in a new building in the South Bronx.

The Children's Aid Society (CAS) has become a trusted neighbor in a number of New York's neighborhoods over the past 150 years, from providing housing and supportive services in lower Manhattan in 1853 to establishing community centers and schools that thrive in Harlem and Washington Heights today. But in only the past two years has CAS become an important neighbor in the South Bronx.

"The South Bronx is now one of the many New York neighborhoods we can call home," said Philip Coltoff, CAS Chief Executive Officer.

Two years ago, we recognized the South Bronx as a community with many strengths, though burdened by its struggles. In 1977, Jimmy Carter declared the area one of the worst slums in America. The 2000 U.S. Census documented that the South Bronx community has the highest concentration of children living below poverty and the lowest concentration of adults

with full-time jobs in all of New York. This bleak picture became even more ominous when we recognized that there were few supportive services in the community, especially in the field of children's services.

"It was not a matter of *whether* to establish community-based services in the South Bronx, but *when*," said Coltoff.

CAS established its Bronx Family Center in March 2000 and developed Bronx community school partnerships in addition to several other CAS services, including preventive, foster care and adoption, early childhood services, health and mental health services.

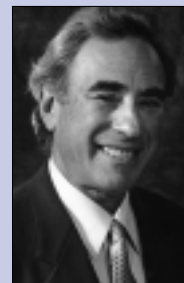
Now a trusted neighbor in the South Bronx, CAS believes the community is on the brink of renewal. A visitor might see blight and poverty, but will also see pockets of pristine, newly built and renovated homes where President Carter stood and an increasing number of retail businesses.

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Visit www.childrensaimsociety.org often!



From
the CEO...



*Children
and
Trauma*

Every day, talk of volatile situations abroad as well as intimations of new terrorist threats to the United States and to New York in particular create stress and anxiety, especially when we have been admonished to "prepare" for attacks here at home.

There are two things we need to keep in mind in this environment: first, the impact of all of the above on children and youth, particularly those who have suffered trauma in their lives before 9/11, and those who suffered as a result of 9/11. Children of all ages feel fearful and stressed by the war talk around them and will have different responses to the news and the conversations of adults based on age.

Children's Aid has made accommodations to help children at its centers and schools cope with this age of anxiety. Our professional staff is trained to help children cope with feelings of fear and denial. CAS has trauma workers in place in our centers, and is convening support groups in the schools with children, teachers and staff.

Children's Aid's Hope Academy (read the latest about Hope elsewhere in this issue) is designed to help adolescents who have experienced trauma at home or in their families, in their communities and in schools, and then again on 9/11.

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CAS To Provide More Summer Jobs Despite Tough Economic Climate and Reduced Government Funding

This year, government funding for subsidized job programs has been sharply reduced and many corporations are facing a difficult economic climate and are unable to offer youth internship opportunities. For example, the New York City Summer Youth Employment program that was able to offer 36,000 summer job placements last year has announced that only 5,600 youth can be placed this summer.

Despite the economic difficulties, The Children's Aid Society (CAS) will continue to develop meaningful summer job opportunities for teens. There are several different job programs within CAS, providing youth with work experience and training opportunities in a variety of settings.

CAS itself will once again be a major youth employer. Hundreds of youth will be placed as assistant camp counselors, assistant lifeguards and office workers throughout CAS centers and day camps. Through its Neighborhood Youth Employment Program, CAS will

locate and develop jobs for youth in CAS foster care, community re-entry and City Challenge programs.

In addition, we will try to place teens in jobs outside of CAS.

For youths interested in a specific career path, CAS tries to locate summer job opportunities that offer industry exposure. A worksite agreement has recently been signed with an Off-Broadway theatre that will offer jobs in set design and production as well as in the theatre office. And for the first time, youth interested in a dental career will have an opportunity to be exposed to that line of work. Three teens will be selected for clerical and technical jobs at a dental office.

Many of the jobs that CAS is able to offer come via our Corporate Advisory Council, which works to secure summer job placements. The Corporate Advisory Council includes HBO, JPMorgan Chase, Booz Allen Hamilton, Scholastic and AOL/Time Warner, all

companies that have previously offered summer job opportunities to CAS youth.

As part of the year-round Workforce Investment Act (WIA) project, a federally-subsidized education and employment program, CAS will place 110 teens in subsidized employment this summer. Younger teens will be placed in jobs such as snack aides or maintenance workers at CAS centers. In order to instill a stronger work ethic, WIA teens are placed at CAS centers where they have not previously participated.

Older teens are often placed in corporate jobs or in office jobs at Children's Aid. Throughout the duration of the program, the teens maintain contact with a CAS staffer who monitors their success and meets regularly with the job supervisor to ensure that the teen is working appropriately.

To prepare teens for work in the corporate world, CAS offers an eight-week

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CAS Urges Reduction of Documentation Requirements to Ease Access to Public Health Insurance

The Children's Aid Society (CAS) has held a leadership role in facilitated enrollment in public health insurance in New York State for five years. In that time, CAS has not only helped enroll thousands of children and families, but has gained critical knowledge and understanding of the difficulties that the uninsured face in actually obtaining insurance.

In its new report, *Reality Check: A View From the Front Lines of Public Health Insurance Enrollment*, CAS highlights the significant barriers to enrollment experienced by eligible poor working families who seek coverage for their children or themselves. The report states that the onerous documentation requirements posed by New York State are a major barrier. "... The very life circumstances that create the need for

public health insurance often keep people from getting the documentation needed to prove their eligibility," the report states.

Kate Lawler, director of CAS' facilitated enrollment, or Health Care Access Program, wrote the report, which was released in time for "Cover the Uninsured Week," an effort to publicize the plight of the millions of Americans who lack medical coverage. *Reality Check* was made possible by a grant from the United Hospital Fund (UHF) as a part of its Special Recovery Initiative. UHF was a major participant in "Cover the Uninsured Week."

Case histories in the report illustrate the difficulties New Yorkers have encountered when applying for insurance. Illness, loss of employment, divorce and separation often create the need for

public health insurance, and at the same time, make it difficult, sometimes impossible, for applicants to supply the required documents.

The case histories also detail the stories of families that lost insurance, have not been able to regain coverage and have suffered illness or anxiety as a result.

In the report, The Children's Aid Society recommends that New York State eliminate documentation requirements not mandated by federal law, allow applicants to self-attest to many requirements and shift the burden of proof off the shoulders of applicants.

The report can be downloaded from www.childrensaidsociety.org or requested from the CAS Health Care Access Program at 212-503-6804.

Bronx Family Center

In 1999, New York City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS) voiced a need for foster care services in the South Bronx community that generated more than 50% of ACS foster care referrals each year. The problem was that foster care children from the Bronx often were placed with foster families in other boroughs, creating a distance between the child and his birth family.

"If they are placed in another part of the city, it makes it that much harder for foster children to feel connected, to keep their bearings," said Alirio Guerrero, Director, Preventive Services Program, who has worked in the Bronx Family Center since its opening.

The Bronx Family Center was conceived as a model of a community-based approach. But our foster care and preventive programs, which work with parents who are at risk of having their children placed in foster care, were only the beginning of a comprehensive approach to serving families with a range of needs in the South Bronx.

The center-based medical and dental clinics provide comprehensive primary health care to children of all ages, many of whom are enrolled in foster care and other CAS programs in the South Bronx. The clinic provides pediatric examinations, immunizations, acute care (sick visits), services for pre-teens and teens, reproductive health care, dental services, health education and counseling, both during the day and in the evenings.

"Patients tell me all the time that they're so happy that their doctor is right in their neighborhood," said Beverly Colon, Director of CAS' Health Services.

Gradually, CAS has extended other critical programs to the Bronx Family Center. Its Early Childhood Center, which opened in November 2001, provides a safe, educational and nurturing environment to 100 children ages 2½ to 6 years old, and the Family



Dental services are among the many health and preventative services provided for children and teens at the Bronx Family Center.

Wellness program provides support to all members of a family affected by domestic violence.

CAS' Community Re-Entry program, developed through The New York Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs and New York State's Office of Children and Family Services, uses the Bronx Family Center as a hub to serve adjudicated youth of the South Bronx. These youth, ages 14-17, are returning to their homes and communities following release from residential facilities. Seventy percent of the program's participants are from the South Bronx, and are able to take a step in the right direction through the Community Re-Entry Program's after-care supervision and case management, as well as the Bronx Family Center's provision of medical/dental care, mental health services, parent-involvement activities and connection to other youth development and youth employment programs.

With our vast array of services, any family from the community in need is welcomed at our Bronx center and can find a path of success there.

Bronx Community Schools

Walk through the halls of C.S. 61/I.S. 190 on most afternoons and you will find artists-in-training studying Georgia O'Keeffe paintings, beginner readers learning phonics cheek-by-jowl with individual tutors and young dancers choreographing intricate

moves to the latest J. Lo song.

Halfway into our second year in these South Bronx schools, which share a building, CAS offers a full menu of support services: parent involvement programs, after-school literacy and math and science curricula, as well as the ever-popular arts and sports programs. The CAS programs support and enhance the schools' twin themes of art and technology, providing outlets for creativity and achievement that may have been lacking before.

"When we first came to these schools, we discovered amazing raw talent and we designed a curriculum that would build on that," said Sandra Gutierrez, Bronx Regional Director.

The work at C.S. 61 and I.S. 190 created a foundation for our newest partnership, at I.S. 98, an intermediate school with a history of student conflict and staff turnover. In the past six months we have introduced programs that meet the urgent needs of this school, implemented conflict resolution and criminal justice programs along with curricula such as Passport to Manhood and SMART Girls that encourage a sense of community among the student body and self-esteem within individual girls and boys.

Community-Based Continuum of Service

Residents in the South Bronx have multiple needs that often cannot be addressed through one program alone. Our cross-referrals and constant communication have shown the major impact of our work in the South Bronx: linking families with a variety of needs to a continuum of CAS programs.

CAS' newest endeavors in the Bronx include a Youth Leadership Council composed of middle-school students in our I.S. 190, I.S. 98 and Bronx Family Center programs as well as a "Transitions" program that helps children from the Bronx Family Center daycare center adjust to C.S. 61 and helps 5th graders about to enter I.S. 98.

CAS is constantly developing programs to provide a continuum of services that CAS and the South Bronx are both happy to call their own.

Summer Will Sizzle With New Programs for Campers



Summer campers get in the swing with The Children's Aid Society.

This summer promises to be an exciting time for youth planning to attend any one of the 20 summer programs offered by The Children's Aid Society. A major focus will be on project-based activities that will offer kids a sense of continuity and accomplishment, according to Bill Weisberg, associate director of CAS City & Country Branches. Camp staffs have already begun intensive training in how to develop extended projects such as plays, newsletters, archaeology research and cooking activities that will explore the

diversity of tastes on different continents.

The Dunlevy Milbank Center will offer youth the opportunity to study the "Harlem Renaissance" of the 1920's and also meet with the writers, artists and entrepreneurs of today's Harlem.

AileyCamp, located at I.S. 90, will once again offer 11-14-year-old boys and girls without dance backgrounds the opportunity to learn a variety of dance styles in a structured atmosphere that teaches the self-discipline of dance. Dancers in the program will have a chance to participate in field trips that encourage exploration and personal development.

Wagon Road Camp in Chappaqua, N.Y., which added a sparkling new pool last year, will be able to serve at least 100 more children this summer. New groups of teens from CAS community schools and centers will visit Wagon Road daily for the fresh country air, leadership retreats and evening campfires.

Osborn Day Camp, part of the Goodhue Center on Staten Island, will again offer special "senior camps" in addition to its country day camp. Youth in grades 5-7 can choose to focus their activities on sports, arts, theatre or science and technology.

Because of the important role that CAS plays in the lives of families as well as children, several centers will offer family-focused activities in addition to day camp for kids. The East Harlem Center, responding to the community's needs for services for new immigrants, will host a series of family events that highlight the neighborhood's vibrant immigrant culture.

The Rhinelander Center's Deaf and Hard of Hearing program, the only one of its kind for teens in New York City, will hold weekly family activities and teen outings throughout the summer months. In addition, Rhinelander will once again offer early childhood summer classes and a mini-camp program for young kids age 3-5 years.

Upcoming Events

As usual, spring will be a busy season at The Children's Aid Society. Here's a sample of what's coming up:

CAS Chorus Spring Concert

"How My Heart Sings," Thursday, May 15, 7 p.m., Marble Collegiate Church, 1 West 29th Street (at Fifth Avenue), NYC. Celebrate the season with the CAS Children's Chorus at their 6th Annual Spring Concert, "How My Heart Sings." Over 200 children will perform, and there will also be a special appearance by the CAS adult chorus. Two new works created exclusively by New York City artists Philip Orr and Robert Convery for CAS will premier. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. A \$75 family package of 2 adult tickets and a chorus tote bag (\$50 tax deductible) is also available. To purchase tickets, call 212-533-1675.

Take NYC Youth To New Heights!

Second Annual New Heights Hoop Challenge (NHHC), 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, June 21, Basketball City @ Pier 63 in NYC.



Showcase your basketball skills and help raise funds to support The Children's Aid Society's New Heights Program for Student-Athletes. NHHC will bring together over 250 amateur players from across the nation to compete and raise funds for programs for CAS student-athletes from disadvantaged communities. Not a basketball player? All are welcome to watch the NHHC and attend the post-tournament party. \$500 per team to enter, men's and women's divisions available. Register now at: <http://www.childrensaidsociety.org/nhhc> or call 212-949-4936.

Walk With Team CAS To End Domestic Violence

Fifth Annual DV Walk, Sunday, October 26, Battery Park City, NYC.

Join Team CAS at the 5K family-friendly walk/run to end domestic violence. Walk begins and ends at the Main Lawn, Battery Park, in lower



CAS Children's Chorus' Spring Concert is May 15th.

Manhattan. As a member of Team CAS, you will collect pledges from family, friends and co-workers who support your participation in this event. Eighty percent of the proceeds raised by Team CAS benefit The Children's Aid Society's Family Wellness Program. To join Team CAS or to make a pledge, please call 212-949-4936.

Children's Aid's 150th Anniversary Off to a Great Start

While the precise date of The Children's Aid Society's 150th Anniversary was February 8th, 2003, our celebrations will last the rest of this year.

Our most significant efforts to mark the occasion were targeted to the public. Children's Aid sponsored Kids See Free Day on March 1st for the children of New York City. Eight New York City museums allowed the first 150 children to enter free, thanks to the generous support of Citigroup Foundation. Newspaper and television announcements helped carry the news and signage at the entry desks at each institution prominently displayed the CAS and Citigroup logos. The museums reported the day a great success.

On February 6th, CAS held a gala cocktail reception at the home of Trustee Christopher M. Jeffries at the new Ritz-Carlton Hotel on Central Park South.

With entertainment by Christine Arand, a star of the cast of *La Bohème*, and the breathtaking view, the evening was a glittering triumph. To further add to the occasion, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg proclaimed the day Children's Aid Society Day, and after sunset, the Empire State Building was illuminated in bright blue and white in our honor.

A brand new public service announcement for television was created by Dalzell Productions, featuring the narration of actor Al Pacino, who received CAS services as a teen. The 30-second PSA succinctly captures the breadth of CAS programs for children, in a fresh, creative film. In addition, our well known and beloved jingle was updated by Scuba/Look and rerecorded by members of the Children's Aid Chorus. It

serves as the basis for a new public service announcement for radio, being played now on stations in New York City.

Ahead will be a special annual report with a timeline highlighting CAS' accomplishments over the last 150 years, a new book by Neil Waldman, a Social Issues fair put on by the children and staff of CAS centers and schools and a special annual meeting.



At CAS' gala 150th Anniversary celebration were, left-to-right, CAS Trustee Anne Jeffries Citrin, CEO Phil Coltoff, Trustee Chris Jeffries, Christine Arand, a star of *La Bohème*.

CAS Leadership Academy and New Beginnings Program Offer Hope to Youth

The Hope Leadership Academy, part of CAS' initiative to help adolescents develop leadership skills and self-confidence, is nearing the conclusion of its program year for a second group of teens and is beginning recruitment for the third. This year, 85 youth participated in the Academy, exploring complex issues such as conflict and victimization in a supportive environment that encourages positive responses. As the majority of Academy members are young men, recruitment efforts are focusing on involving more young women with the program.

Peer education is a vital part of the Academy's programming, and the ability to give presentations, work together and manage groups of people is key to the development of leadership skills. A recent Open House for new recruits reinforced the peer-to-peer element that is at the core of the Academy's structure. Youth already involved in the Academy provided an overview of the program and discussed leadership skills developed through participation in the Academy. New recruits were asked to deliver a one-minute extemporaneous

speech on a topic chosen by the youth-adult selection committee.

The facility housing the Academy, in our Taft Learning Center, is solely dedicated to youth in the program, as well as to their parents. Adolescents are provided with educational and developmental opportunities as well as space where they can feel a sense of ownership. The Academy is equipped with a computer lab, a kitchen and a large open space where youth-initiated activities take place.

Many of the youth feel such a strong sense of belonging that they use the facility's kitchen to prepare dinner and eat together with other Hope Academy members. The Academy is a safe place, with strict rules, weekly debriefings with CAS social workers and many developmental opportunities for youth.

A retreat for new Academy members, which will be led by this year's Academy participants, is slated to take place at Wagon Road Camp this spring.

New Beginnings at CAS

The Children's Aid Society is one of 10

agencies chosen by the New York City Department of Education and The After-School Corporation to run a "New Beginnings" center for high school students who have presented behavioral and academic difficulties that have impeded their success in school. The main goal of the program will be to decrease problematic behavior while helping students develop practical work-readiness skills, improve self-awareness and build pride in their community.

CAS' New Beginnings program will operate daily, and will offer students a highly-structured and supportive environment with a staff to student ratio much lower than traditional classroom settings. Students will receive instruction in literacy and numeracy, and mental health counseling, if appropriate. Our partner school for New Beginnings is Morris High School in the Bronx, alma mater of both CAS CEO Philip Coltoff and Secretary of State Colin Powell.

In order to maintain continuity of care, students will be attached to various CAS centers following completion of the New Beginnings program.

Wagon Road Camp Still Heals and Delights

As it nears its 100th birthday, our historic Wagon Road Camp remains a favorite day- and country camp destination for children looking to escape New York City's summer heat for a few weeks. But few of our summer campers realize that the camp operates throughout the year, continuing its long history of offering recreation to children enduring a variety of ills and respite to their caregivers.

In 1911, CAS acquired 52 acres in beautiful, then-rural Chappaqua, New York and established a 100-room convalescent home for children. Those suffering from the afflictions of the day – tuberculosis, anemia and cardiac illnesses like rheumatic fever – journeyed to Wagon Road to recuperate. With the advent of sulfa drugs and antibiotics, however, the need for this kind of home diminished. So, in the early 1950's, CAS restructured the camp to create a

place for children with multiple disabilities who were not eligible to be admitted to other summer programs.

Wagon Road's respite camps now run year-round, offering children with disabilities and chronic illnesses a break

from the city over long holiday weekends. Thanks to the addition of a new swimming pool last year as well as extensive renovations, hundreds of additional children will be able to enjoy the camp's facilities each year.

Our dedicated staff members introduce campers to a wide variety of fun activities not often available to children with disabilities, such as swimming, horseback riding and camping under the stars. This past winter, while many New Yorkers were shoveling snow and wishing for spring to come, respite campers were thrilled by their first sleigh ride down our gently sloping hill.

C. Warren "Pete" Moses, CAS' Executive Director, said, "Wagon Road is a place that transforms people, staff as well as children, by giving them opportunities to do things they never imagined they could."



Girls still wet from their swim dine al fresco under the trees at Wagon Road Camp.

Children's Aid Sends Youth Of The Year To Regional B&GC Competition



Top candidates joined staff for selection of Children's Aid's candidate for Youth of the Year for the regional Boys & Girls Clubs honor. From left to right: Miriam Edmonds (from Frederick Douglass Center); Kim Hensley (CAS Director, Manhattan Center for Science & Mathematics), William Weisberg (Associate Director, City and Country Branches), CAS' Youth of the Year nominee Anthony Webster (based at Dunlevy Milbank), Leslie Smith (Milbank Youth Employment Coordinator); Lorna Palacio Morgan (Chief of Operations); Kenny Price (based at East Harlem); Marquis Harrison (from Manhattan Center); Martha Cameron (Director, Youth Development Services).

As a founding member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, CAS is proud to nominate some of our finest program participants each year for the Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Award.

Youth of the Year nominees are chosen for outstanding contributions to their Boys & Girls Clubs, community and

family. Winners advance to state and regional competitions and potentially vie for the title of National Youth of the Year, who is recognized by the President of the United States.

CAS nominees this year included: Winner: Anthony Webster (Frederick Douglass Community Center); Runners-up: Miriam Edmond (Frederick

Douglass Community Center), Marquis Harrison (Manhattan Center for Science and Math), Kenny Price (East Harlem Community Center) and Raul Acevedo (I.S. 218).

Each participant gave a presentation and was evaluated by a panel of judges based on his/her achievements. Congratulations to all of them on their outstanding achievements and best wishes for their bright futures ahead.

The event was coordinated by Martha Cameron, who retired this winter after 26 years at CAS, most recently in the role of Director of Youth Development Services. As such she oversaw our College Scholars effort and she continues to work with the Youth of the Year event.

Martha began working with CAS as the Director of Project LIVE and has played a key role in the asset-based and development-based approach of CAS' YDS programs. CAS cannot thank Martha enough for her work over the years with our youth and is very pleased that she continues her work with this extraordinary event.

Pause and Effect

You know about the law of cause and effect, but what about *pause* and effect? Take this scenario, for example. You've always meant to prepare your last will and testament, but never really got around to it. What happens if you delay the process of planning your estate and finalizing your will, forever?

First, the longest pause, i.e., inaction, guarantees that state law will dictate the disposition of your estate. A court-appointed executor will handle the probate of your estate. A stranger may be selected to care for your minor children. Bequests to organizations like The Children's Aid Society will not be made.

Second, failure to complete your will may cause loved ones unnecessary turmoil after you're gone. They will be grieving, and facing the uncertainties and complications involving your estate will only add to their suffering. They will be left to the mercy of the court regarding timing and decision-making. They may have to stand by and see your estate disbursed in ways they know would not meet your approval. Family arguments may erupt.



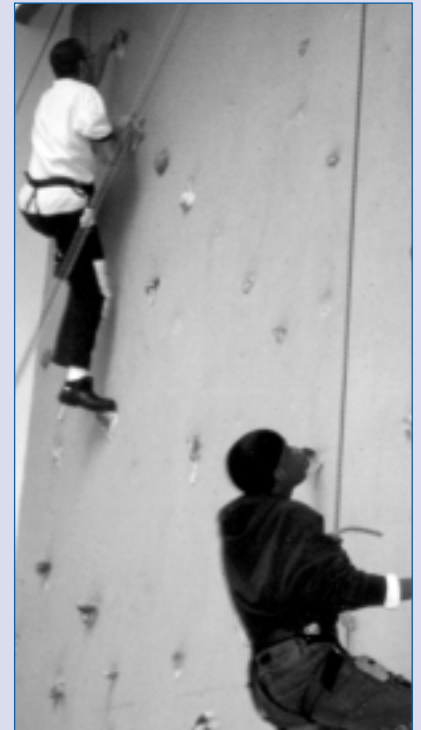
LEAVE A LEGACY™

Third, an infinitely prolonged pause may needlessly reduce the size of your estate. Court costs and other settlement fees can be expensive. Assets may be prematurely sold resulting in unnecessary loss. The estate may also shrink through estate taxes that could have been avoided or lessened with earlier planning.

The best time to avoid the "law" of pause and effect regarding estate planning is to act now. Cause something to happen by contacting an estate-planning attorney today. Schedule an appointment and then get ready to make the most of your meeting.

Children's Aid has free material to help you prepare for your visit with the attorney. And we would love to know that you have made a bequest to The Children's Aid Society – please give us the opportunity to thank you in person by notifying us. Call Cathy O'Rourke at (212) 949-4937 or complete and mail the form below.

Nike Inspires Youth in Adventuring Revolution



At CAS' East Harlem Center, revolution isn't just the tagline of a Nike ad campaign, it's what program staff see in students engaged in CAS' new adventure program. The center's Adventure Club, a program sponsored by the sneaker maker, engages CAS youth (ages 10-18) in activities such as canoeing, snowboarding, whitewater rafting, rock climbing and hiking.

But there's more to it than a short-lived adrenaline rush, says program director Patricia Crossman. "Initially, it was about getting kids moving and exposing them to things beyond basketball, but there are many layers to this program. They're doing things they've never done before and finding real success. They're building confidence – learning team building, real life skills."

Please complete and return this reply form

Dear Children's Aid:

- Please send me literature about making a will.
- Please contact me about a personal visit.
The best time to call me is: _____
- I have provided for The Children's Aid Society in my will or other estate-planning document.
- Please send me information about the Charles Loring Brace Society for donors of deferred gifts to Children's Aid.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail this form to: The Children's Aid Society
105 East 22nd Street, Room 504, New York, NY 10010-5413

"We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give."
— Winston Churchill

From the Chief Executive Officer...

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Creating a supportive, structured environment for these youth, giving them a safe place to learn together, with expert guidance, is a way to help these teens cope and work out their feelings.

In addition, we have posted on our website, childrensaidsociety.org, a list of high quality resources for parents, teachers and caregivers for talking to children of all ages about their fears and anxieties and helping them cope. In addition, CAS has included resources for clinicians and mental health professionals, who may themselves suffer from "compassion fatigue," or similar stress-related syndromes.

The second idea to keep in mind in this environment is that our kids and families still need our services, no matter what is happening overseas. And many of these services will be harder to provide if even a portion of the budget cuts proposed at the federal, state and municipal levels to Medicaid, education, child care and foster care are enacted. CAS, which provides many of the services threatened with cuts, is advocating at the state and local levels to retain funding for vital services and is working with the Department of Education to retain our vital roles in the public schools.

We will not allow news from Iraq or other troubled areas to deter us from focusing on what CAS must do on our own front lines.



Philip Coltoff
Chief Executive Officer



For details see page 4

Children's Art Shows Flights of the Imagination

On Wednesday, March 5th, The Children's Aid Society (CAS) kicked off its second annual "Children's Art Show," celebrating the imagination of youth enrolled in CAS programs. More than 200 works of art were presented at the show, held at the National Arts Club at Gramercy Park. Approximately 300 artists ages 2-17 who participate in CAS programs throughout New York City displayed artwork in a variety of media – including painting, papier maché, sculptures, sketches, photography and ceramics (some of the works were group efforts). All of the work was professionally mounted and displayed with titles and names of the artists.



Raven Henderson, age 9, Rhinelander, proudly points to her art at The CAS exhibit of children's art at the National Arts Club.

CAS arts committee members Meredith Rugg, Maeve Gyenes, Marty McLanahan and Donna Pressman selected the artwork on display. Artist Rina Banerjee was honorary chair for the event.

The opening reception featured a special auction of 10 original chairs designed by children from 10 CAS sites. More than \$1,400 was raised for CAS art programs, which offer a broad range of activities, including music, acting, pottery, photography and painting.

Parents and guests who attended the art show also enjoyed performances by The Children's Aid Society's Youth Chorus and the Community School I.S. 218 String Orchestra.

CAS To Provide Summer Jobs ...

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program called "Corporate Workplace" at four CAS centers: Manhattan Center for Science and Math, East Harlem, Dunlevy Milbank and Frederick Douglass. The program addresses resume writing and "dressing for success," and provides visits to corporations where youth meet with managers who provide an introduction to life in the corporate world.

It is still not too late to contact CAS with a potential job opportunity for kids who want to overcome obstacles and achieve positive goals. Anyone with a job lead may contact Gloria Daniels at 917-286-1555 or gloriad@childrensaidsociety.org.

NEWS

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