

Annual Report 2025

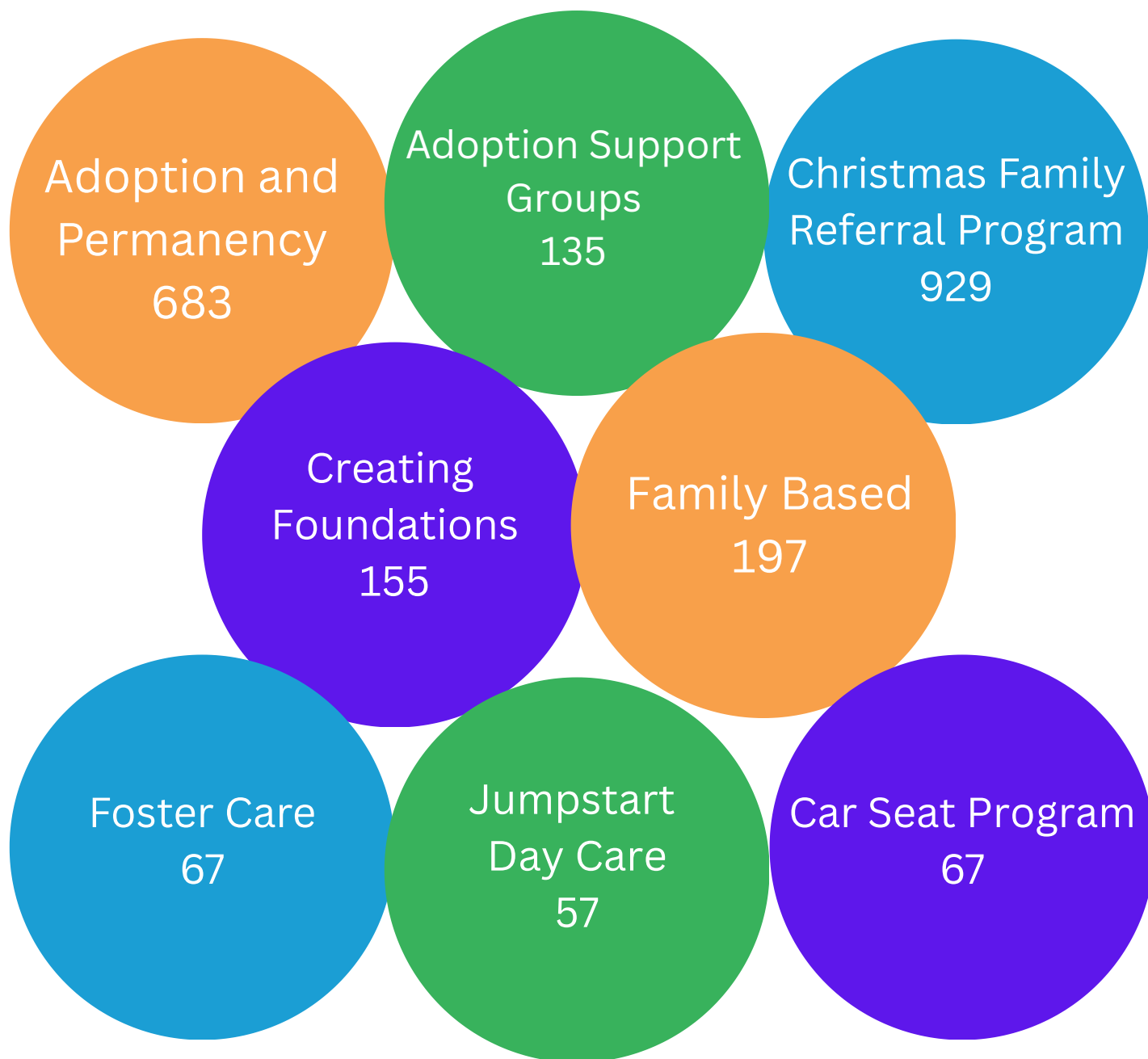


Children's Aid Society of Mercer County
350 West Market Street
Mercer, PA 16137
724-662-4730
www.casmercerc.org



Children's Aid Society of Mercer County (CAS) is a private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) multi-service agency whose programs are designed to change the lives of children and families for the better.

Through contracts, agreements, and partnerships, with several other agencies and organizations, the staff of CAS provided services to 2,332 individuals in 2025:



CAS holds licenses through the Department of Human Services for the following:

Adoption
Child Day Care
Foster Care
Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Administration of Private and Children & Youth Services

Funding Sources

CAS received funding for its programs from various sources including but not limited to the following:

Carelon
Keystone Stars
Community Foundation
Budd Trust
Landis Trust
Fidelity Charitable
Deitz Family Trust
Buhl Foundation
Community/various donors
Fee For Service
Fundraisers
Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission
PA County Contracts
Early Learning Resource Center
Lindsay Trust
Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network
Donations
Grants

61% of CAS funding was from SWAN, county contracts, and programs funded by Medicaid.

Revenue in 2025:

\$2,340,321.42

The Board of Directors and Staff would like to thank all the donors who have generously given to our programs throughout the year. All monetary donations and donations of food, clothing, toys, books, etc. throughout the year have made it possible for our programs to provide extra services to the children and families with whom we work. The yearly outpouring of gifts and donations during the Christmas holidays enabled CAS to provide a very happy holiday for more than 900 children in Mercer County. So many wonderful organizations, companies, churches, and individuals have made it possible for our programs to meet the needs of our consumers and “give a little extra” when needed.

CAS is a Member/Affiliate of:

- Carelon
- Keystone Stars
- Mercer Chamber of Commerce
- Grove City Area Chamber of Commerce
- Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Shenango Valley Area Chamber of Commerce
- The North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)
- Statewide Adoption & Permanency Network (SWAN)
- The Human Services Council of Mercer County
- The Pennsylvania Council of Children Youth and Family Services (PCCYFS)
- The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
- PA Association of Non-Profit Organizations (PANO)
- Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)
- PA Childcare Association (PACCA)
- Manufacturers and Business Association

Board of Directors in 2025:

Mr. John Campbell, President
Mrs. Becky May, Vice President
Mr. Dave Reimold, Second Vice President
Mrs. Kayla Taylor, Secretary
Mrs. Sheila Yatsko, Treasurer
Mr. Norm Swiger
Mrs. Ann Stranahan
Dr. Chelsea Bombatch
Mr. John Harper
Hon. Thomas Dobson
Mr. David Reimold
Mrs. Emily Palmer
Mr. Jake Rickert
Ms. Roberts Miller-Budd Trust Representative



Annual luncheon with our amazing Board of Directors

Administration

Heather Alt-Executive Director
Matt Hazi/Justin Townsend-Human Resource Director
Angelia Sherman-Fiscal Director
Chelsea Bailey-Public Relations Director
Patti Ryder - Administrative Assistant
Joe Macri-Maintenance
Danielle Merenick-Cleaning

Mission Statement

Children's Aid Society is dedicated to the overall well-being of children and families.

Vision Statement

Children's Aid Society is committed to supporting children and strengthening families and communities.



Jumpstart Day Care

Dottie Quillen-Daycare Director
Cindy Kalkbrenner-Group Supervisor
Susan Adams-Assistant Group Supervisor
Karissa Armour-Assistant Group Supervisor
Darcy Branca-Assistant Group Supervisor
Katherine Chesters-Assistant Group Supervisor
Arianna Cook-Assistant Group Supervisor
Isabella Eaton-Assistant Group Supervisor
Anneka Rudge-Assistant Group Supervisor
Katelyn Myers-Teacher's Aide
Terrie Seidel-Assistant Group Supervisor
Vickie Styers-Assistant Group Supervisor
Kristin Swartz-Assistant Group Supervisor



Jumpstart Day Care focuses on the age appropriate skills while aiding in the development of self-control, self-esteem, and independence. Our early learning program also encourages sensory awareness, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, communication skills, listening skills, cognitive skills, and learning sign language. We are a Level Four Keystone Stars Daycare.

“The staff are wonderful. They worked closely with us our child to help him succeed. Because of them, both of our children were prepared for kindergarten. Our one child was nervous about kindergarten next year. Because of everything the staff did, our child is now excited to be a ‘big kid’”. -Jumpstart Parent

“We have had such a positive experience with Jumpstart. The teachers genuinely love all the children. Our daughter looks forward to “school” every morning. I know she is well cared for and loved while she is there.” - Jumpstart Parent

Adoption and Permanency Department

Ashley Eck-Adoption and Permanency Director
Meisha Alexander-Foster Care Specialist
Jacquelyn Basinger-Permanency Specialist
Jessica Bonetti-Mentoring Specialist
Karli Byerly-Permanency Specialist
Leah Christy-Permanency Supervisor
Katelyn Chiu-Permanency Specialist
Alexandra Denny-Permanency Specialist
Chardenee Freeman-Permanency Specialist
Alyssa Hile-Permanency Specialist
Victoria Paradise-Permanency Specialist
Adrianna Pierce-Permanency Specialist
Chelsea Porter-Mentoring Specialist
Cari Prezioso-Mentoring Specialist
Julia Sheffler-Permanency Specialist
Nikki Smith-Permanency Specialist
McKenna Temple-Permanency Specialist
Ashley Uiselt-Permanency Supervisor



Our Adoption and Permanency Department is comprised of not only adoption services, but also foster care and mentoring.

*“Thank you so much for helping me create memories that I can look back at.”
Child who received Child Prep Services*

Adoption Services

Our adoption program functions as a full-service adoption agency. Permanent homes for children are provided, and comprehensive adoption services are offered to all participants of the adoption process. The program offers adoption groups, adoptive parent training, adoptive family profiles, birth parent and adoptee searches, birth parent counseling advocacy, international agency clients, networking, placement services, post- placement supervision, USCIS assistance, and post finalization services for adoptive families.



"Ever since I've been working with Children's Aid Society, my life has changed a lot. You have brought things into my life that I didn't even know existed. I will always remember you guys and your advice. Thank you for everything." -B, receiving Child Prep Services.

"Really am very appreciative of support from support group." -JS, Post Permanency Support Group.

Foster Care Services

Being a foster parent may seem like an intimidating title, but it's not. Children need parents, no matter what they've been through and where they come from. Foster parents provide for children that can no longer be in their homes and are placed in the custody of Children and Youth Services. There are over 14,000 kids in foster care in Pennsylvania. Anyone can be a foster parent, as long as they are at least 21 years old, have their clearances and pass a medical examination. The children need care, not a perfect house or family situation. They just need a place to feel safe and people that care about them. You can be that person. You can be the difference.



"Foster Care has been one of the hardest and most rewarding things we've ever done. It comes with trauma, heartbreak, sleepless nights, and loving children who may not stay forever. But it also comes with laughter, healing, growth, and watching kids finally feel safe and loved." -CAS Foster Parent

Creating Foundations Mentoring Program

When children in Pennsylvania's foster care system turn 18, they age out of the system. This means they are released to face the world on their own, only now they are viewed as adults. This transition is difficult for anyone, especially those who do not have a family to lean on for support. Bills, jobs, responsibilities – they all add up and can be overwhelming for someone who has not experienced them before. This is where our mentors come in. When everything else runs out, we have a program that helps fill that void and bridge that gap.

Our mentoring program is designed so mentors can meet the youth where they are and help them get where they need to be, while serving as a support system. Whether it is establishing a relationship with a 14 year-old, helping an 18 year-old apply for college, or helping a 23 year-old apply for a job, mentors are needed to prepare the youth for what lies ahead as they transition to adulthood. This program gives young people the role model they may never get otherwise. It helps them with skills, but at the core, it guarantees that they will always have someone that cares about them and that they are not alone.



Annual Mentoring Picnic

"I had been looking for a program to work with kids in foster care. Your ad was playing every Sunday when I got out of church. I felt like I was being picky about who I would work with but if you saw it that way it was never said. It seemed to take forever to get matched, but it was definitely God's match. I was everything she didn't want. I wasn't sure how our first meeting went but as I was leaving the group home she wanted to know if I'd be back next Sunday. I offered her a hug and she accepted. When Thanksgiving came she came to my house for the whole weekend. I was pretty nervous but it went great. She came back for her whole Christmas break. We had such a great time. We grew very close and I learned to love her. They were trying to find her a family to adopt her. This was my kid. I wanted her so she became my foster daughter. She is like my own kid. She has grown into an amazing woman. When I think about her horrible experiences growing up, she amazes me. Even after she aged out we continued to talk every day and see each other often. Recently she and her boyfriend were in a dangerous living situation. I couldn't let them stay there. I had them move in with me. It is working out well for all of us. I have mobility issues and they have been helping me and they have a home here. Their baby is due in a month. At the baby shower her whole family told me they have seen such a change in her since I've been in her life. I'm so pleased I've been able to help her and she has been the child I never had. She is my Miracle." -R, mentor

Family Based

Becky Rodondi-Family Based Director
Susan Bordonaro-Mental Health Professional
Bethany Collins-Mental Health Worker
Charann Hughes-Mental Health Professional
Jay-Kayla Samuels-Mental Health Worker



These services are designed to work with the whole family to reduce the need for psychiatric hospitalization, enhance parenting skills that will enable parents to confidently care for their children in the home, stabilize the home environment and keep the family together, and empower families to maintain progress independent of service providers. FBMHS are provided at no cost to the families who participate.

"I think this program is wonderful. The staff are always friendly and willing to help in every way." -E., Family Based Parent

"I really liked the program and spending more time with the kids-helped me learn to regulate myself." -J, Family Based Parent

"I love this program! Thank you for all of the information, suggestions, and support in times of crisis." -N, Family Based Grandmother

Fundraising



23rd Annual Golf Outing



Ice Cream Social on the Square



Comedy Show Fundraiser



First Bocce Ball Tournament

Collaboration and Community Support

Common Grounds allowed us to host our Foster Care Recruitment event at their coffee shop in May.



Pizza Joes donated dinner for our Teens one month

Each year, a family from the community purchases Thanksgiving dinners for several of our families.



One of several amazing donations throughout the year.



Sara Anderson donated beautiful luggage filled with essentials for youth who enter the foster care system.

The DeAngio Family was kind enough to pay for our kids who attend Teen Group to go bowling!



Pizza by Marchelonni helped us advertise our foster care, adoption and mentoring services by placing flyers on their pizza boxes.

We posted online searching for someone to embroider names on duffle bags for our kids in care. Maranda Addison not only jumped into help, she found many friends to come together and donate enough money for several duffle bags to get embroidered.



We posted online the need a few new moms in the community needed. Aaliyah Kirchhofer took it upon herself to have a baby shower and raise money and supplies to help the new moms in the community.

Christmas



Several amazing members of our community sent items from our Amazon Wishlist this year.



Christmas time is our busiest time of the year because of our Christmas Referral Program. Thanks to the amazing community that we are so lucky to be a part of, we were able to provide some Christmas gifts to over 900 children this year. It was one of our biggest years yet. We had many people take children's names to purchase for. We also had a large number of individuals purchase items off our Amazon wishlist for children. We would not be able to do this year after year without the support of local businesses and everyone in the community who comes together to make sure these children get Christmas gifts.

Director's Message

Children's Aid Society is celebrating 137 years of uninterrupted services this year. Various aspects of CAS have changed over the years. Many years ago, we were a group home, and now we focus on services serving the surrounding communities. We have seen staff and Executive Directors come and go. Clients have grown and moved on from our services. Throughout all these changes, we have maintained our goal of providing quality services to families and children in the community.

Children's Aid Society is lucky to have some of the most dedicated and hardworking staff. Our employees go above and beyond to meet the needs of the clients with whom they work. They pour their hearts and souls into their work and advocacy. Several children in daycare have learned the skills they will need to succeed in Kindergarten in the fall. The families who work with our Family Based teams were able to connect and learn how to best cope in stressful situations while supporting each other. Many children found their forever families in our Adoption Program, while still many others made a lifelong connection in our Mentoring Program. Several children were provided safe and loving homes in our Foster Care Program until they were able to return to their birth family.

The support we have received from the community continues to be a huge blessing year after year. Each year we continue to serve more and more people. We received several donations and grants this year. Because of these and the many other donors in the community, we have been able to continue providing quality services. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Heather Alt

Executive Director