

# Children's Aid Society of Mercer County

350 West Market Street

Mercer, PA 16137

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[www.casmercerc.org](http://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 lifestyles of children and families for the better.



*How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single minute to improve the world.*

-Anne Frank

## Annual Report – 2020

## Mission Statement

Children's Aid Society is dedicated to support and strengthen children, families and communities by providing multiple, creative and collaborative services.

## Vision Statement

Children's Aid Society is a promoter of family permanency and self-sustainability.

## Director's Message

I can say, without a doubt, that 2020 did not go according to plan! However, I am proud to report that even through a global pandemic, Children's Aid Society of Mercer County survived and thrived. We have learned, as an agency, how resilient, resourceful and flexible we can be while still providing quality services to our consumers. Telehealth and various virtual platforms became the norm and staff made several smooth transitions from working in the office to working from home. Fundraisers were cancelled and some funding sources were allocating funds to emergency services only. Although there was concern for the financial wellness of CAS, the agency was fortunate to receive supplemental support through federal Covid-19 funding. Our main concern in 2020 was the overall wellness of our staff and consumers. CAS took all recommended precautions to keep everyone safe and followed the PA Department of Health and the CDC guidelines.

In spite of a pandemic, the Adoption and Permanency Department continued to receive consistent SWAN referrals through numerous counties across the state. Foster care placements increased slightly and the Creating Foundations Mentoring Program increased the number of mentees and mentors by 40%. The Family Based Mental Health Program (Family Focus) continued to serve a consistent full caseload thanks to the approved use of Telehealth. Initially the Jumpstart Daycare was forced to close its doors for a couple of days until it received a waiver from the PA Department of Human Services allowing it to open. The daycare facility remained open with full enrollment for the remainder of the year. Unfortunately, the Family Life Education Program took a major blow when the Mercer County Jail closed its doors to all programming provided by community agencies. The majority of this program's services were provided through the provision of Anger Management, Parenting and Life Skills classes in the jail.

Thanks to a dedicated staff, understanding consumers, and the support of community, CAS survived an unprecedented year. We will take what we have learned about various ways to provide services, flexibility in the workplace and the human experience and forge ahead while always honoring our mission of being "dedicated to support and strengthen children, families and communities by providing multiple, creative and collaborative services." As always, I am proud to be part of an agency that has provide uninterrupted services for over 132 years!

*Deborah Judy*  
Executive Director

Through contracts, agreements and partnerships with several agencies and organizations the Staff of CAS provided services to 2,547 individuals in 2020.

Adoption & Permanency - 687

Birth Parent Counseling, Adoptive Home Studies,  
Independent Adoptions, SWAN Services,  
Search & Reunion Services

Adoption & Teen Groups - 218

Teen Group-second Thursday of each month,  
Family Groups-fourth Thursday and one Saturday per month.

Christmas Family Referral Program – 968

Gifts and food for families in need at Christmas

Creating Foundations - 52

Mentoring for transition age youth

Jumpstart Day Care - 171

Child Care for ages 6 weeks to 12 yrs.  
6:30 AM to 6:00 PM, M-F

Family Focus - 123

Family-based, in-home Mental Health Services

Family Life Education - 216

Anger Management, Life Skills, Parenting,  
Injection Drug Use prevention and intervention.

Foster Care - 43

Foster Care to Adoption Services

SCORE – Students 69

## Funding Sources

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

- Grove City Area United Way
- Beacon Health Options
- Budd Trust
- Donations
- Fundraisers
- Grants
- Karl Smith Trust
- Keystone Stars
- Landis Trust
- Lindsay Trust
- Community/various donors
- Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission
- PA County Contracts
- United Way of Mercer County
- 80% of CAS funding was from county contracts and programs funded by Medicaid



**Revenue in 2020:** \$3,611,687

The Board of Directors and Staff would like to thank all of the donors who have generously given to our programs through 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 children in the community. 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. Please see our website or Facebook Page for the list of donors who made Christmas possible for so many children and families in our community.

## Board of Directors in 2020:

Mr. John Campbell	President
Atty. Brenda McBride	First Vice President
Mr. Hugh Ringer	Second Vice President
Mr. John Harper	
Mrs. Becky May	
Atty. Michael Muha	
Mrs. Edith Myers	
Mr. David Reimold	
Mr. James Sankey	
Mrs. Ann Stranahan	
Mr. Norm Swiger	
Mrs. Patricia Wilson	
Ms. Roberta Miller – Budd Trust Representative	

“A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.”

-Mahatma Gandhi



**Adoption Finalization**

## CAS is a Member/Affiliate of:

- Keystone Stars
- Mercer 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
- Beacon Health Options
- United Way of Mercer County
- Grove City Area United Way
- PA Association of Non-Profit Organizations (PANO)
- Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)
- PA Childcare Association (PACCA)
- Operation Foster Smiles

## CAS is licensed by:

The PA Department of Human Services, Offices of:

Adoption

Child Day Care

Foster Care

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Administration of Private Children & Youth Services



Children from Jumpstart Daycare enjoying an informational day at the Mercer Community Garden.

*Every kid is one caring adult away from being a success story.*

## Staff Members in 2020:

Elizabeth Adams

Susan Adams

Heather Alt

Karissa Armour

Chelsea Bailey

Joe Bowen

Ciara Gee

Susan Bordonaro

Sonia Bradshaw

Ashley Canfield

Leah Christy

Kristina Claypool

Ashley Eck

Kayla Emery

Nikki Greene

Matt Hazi

Deborah Judy

Ken Laaks

Bryn Lindeman

Joe Macri

Susan Morrill

Tina Norris

Emily Palmer

Holly Panazzi

Kristi Pearsall

Cari Prezioso

Dottie Quillen

Becky Rodondi

Patti Ryder

Conor Scullin

Terri Seidel

Tiffany Shatley

Anna Shoaf

Vicki Styers

Kayla Taylor

Justin Townsend

Ashley Uiselt

Don White

Sara Whitman

“We have the opportunity to really shape how someone’s current is and how their future looks. And that’s a pretty amazing power.” Theresa Houk



## Testimonials from Consumers:

“All the teachers were so kind and my kids loved them all so much.” (Jumpstart Daycare)

“Susan is a wonderful counselor; we would not hesitate to recommend her or seek her out in the future.” (Family Based Services)

“The program was very helpful. We appreciate the guidance and support from Conor and Susan.” (Family Based Services)

“I honestly feel this service could not have been better for our family. Thank you! You have helped us more that you will ever know!” (Family Based Services)

“I’m going to miss working with CAS.” (SWAN Child Prep Services)

“Program was excellent.” (SWAN Child Prep Services)

“I feel the program is beneficial, the staff works to provide discussions that are relevant and helpful. I feel supported by the staff and other families.” (Adoption and Permanency Support Group)

“Leah has done a good job. A match was made and my mentor helps me with things.” (Creating Foundations Mentoring Program)

“I loved learning a better way of doing things with my kids.” (Parenting Class)

“Very educational. Not only learned about parenting and children but about myself.” (Parenting Class)

“Thank you for helping me grow as a man and father.” (Anger Management Class)

“Great activities and training!” (SWAN Adoption Training)

“I appreciate CAS for everything they did for me.” (Creating Foundations Mentoring Program)

“I really enjoyed the class and learned a lot about parenting techniques and a ton about myself and how I need to better take care of myself so I can take care of my daughter.” (Parenting Class)

“We’re not in it for the income; we’re in it for the outcome.”



A successful Mentor/Mentee match

*“A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself.”*

-Oprah Winfrey