

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.



"There could be no definition of a successful life that does not include service to others."

President George H. W. Bush

Annual Report – 2021

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.

Director's Message

Although 2021 began with residual Covid-19 restrictions, Children's Aid Society of Mercer County experienced a year of continued growth and an exciting outlook for the future. Not only did our Foster Care, Mentoring and Adoption and Permanency Programs realize an increase in referrals throughout the year but, new staff were hired in these programs to accommodate the growth. Additionally, I am happy to report that our Jumpstart Day Care enrollment also increased, and the center is nearly full. Furthermore, two Mental Health Workers in our Family Focus Family Based Mental Health Program completed three years of training and passed the competencies and final test to become Mental Health Professionals. I am proud that with this continued growth all of Children's Aid Society's programs continue to provide quality services as seen through annual license inspections that resulted in no citations. Unfortunately, our Board of Directors had to make the difficult decision to close the Family Life Program in July of 2021 as a result of a reduction in referrals and an inability to provide services in the Mercer County Jail due to Covid-19 restrictions.

In 2021 we began a push for building updates with a concentration on safety issues that were brought to our attention by a PA State Police Risk and Vulnerability Assessment. We began by installing a keyless entry system, crash bar doors, new network wiring, and new signage to name a few. This process is ongoing as the safety of our staff and clients is a priority. It is with great excitement that I share that in 2021 Children's Aid Society began plans to add another building to our property. With our growth we have realized that we are quickly running out of space. Plans for a new activity center are in the works. This large ranch style building will house a meeting room double the size of our existing room, a smaller conference room for more private meetings and a small kitchen. We are excited to be able to expand our services with the use of this new building.

Through the ongoing encouragement and guidance of a supportive Board of Directors and the dedication and enthusiasm of an awesome staff, Children's Aid Society of Mercer County has provided uninterrupted quality services to the community for over 133 years. We remain true to our mission of being "dedicated to the overall well-being of children and families".

Deborah Judy
Executive Director

Through contracts, agreements and partnerships with several agencies and organizations the Staff of CAS provided services to 2,196 individuals in 2021.

Adoption & Permanency - 838

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

Adoption & Teen Groups - 178

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

Christmas Family Referral Program – 751

Gifts and food for families in need at Christmas

Creating Foundations - 76

Mentoring for transition age youth

Jumpstart Day Care - 163

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

Family Focus - 122

Family-based, in-home Mental Health Services

Family Life Education (Through June 30) 6

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

Foster Care - 62

Foster Care to Adoption Services

Funding Sources

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

- Beacon Health Options
- Budd Trust
- Deitz Family Trust
- Donations
- Fundraisers
- Grants
- Karl Smith Trust
- Keystone Stars
- Landis Trust
- Lindsay Trust
- Community/various donors
- Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission
- PA County Contracts
- PNC Charitable
- Shelburne Trust
- Winner Foundation
- 80% of CAS funding was from county contracts and programs funded by Medicaid

Revenue in 2021: \$2,284,555

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 2021:

Mr. John Campbell

Mrs. Becky May

Mr. Hugh Ringer

Mr. John Harper

Mr. David Reimold

Mr. James Sankey

Mrs. Ann Stranahan

Mr. Norm Swiger

Mrs. Patricia Wilson

Ms. Roberta Miller – Budd Trust Representative

President

First Vice President

Second Vice President

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

-Mahatma Gandhi



A successful adoption

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
- PA Association of Non-Profit Organizations (PANO)
- Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)
- PA Childcare Association (PACCA)
- Manufacturers and Business Association
- 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

*It takes a big Heart
to shape a little
mind!*



Staff Members in 2020:

Susan Adams

Heather Alt

Karissa Armour

Chelsea Bailey

Victoria Beggs

Nate Best

Susan Bordonaro

Sonia Bradshaw

Leah Christy

Kristina Claypool

Jonas Confer

Ashley Eck

Kayla Emery

Jenna Grzesiuk

Matt Hazi

Ieasha Jackson

Deborah Judy

Joe Macri

Nicole Magargee

Susan Morrill

Lexie Orr

Emily Palmer

Kristi Pearsal

Angela Pickens

Chelsea Porter

Cari Prezioso

Dottie Quillen

Becky Rodondi

Patti Ryder

Conor Scullin

Terrie Seidel

Tiffany Shatley

Anna Shoaf

Vicki Styers

Kayla Taylor

Justin Townsend

Ashley Uiselt

Don White

Sara Whitman

“The purpose of life is to contribute in some way for making things better.”

Robert F. Kennedy



A few staff paid to dress as twins/triplets for Charity Day. Proceeds went to a local Charity.

Testimonials from Consumers:

“CAS daycare and preschool was very helpful to me as a single parent.” (Jumpstart Daycare)

“Susan and Becky are caring, thoughtful, and insightful. A true blessing for my family.” (Family Based Services)

“I think the program is excellent.” (SWAN Child Prep services)

“While our children are teens, post-permanency service still provided support which was very much appreciated. I also appreciate how Children’s Aid Society navigated providing these services during a time when some Covid restrictions were still in place.” (SWAN Post Permanency Services)

“Cari and Kristie are great! Energy level and engagement are awesome.” (Permanency Support Group)

“By far one of the best agencies around! Family Based has helped my family SO much.” (Family Based Services)

“I think this program is excellent and has really impacted me.” (SWAN Child Prep Services)

“The staff is genuinely concerned about my family’s welfare and growth. They are always willing to think outside the box.” (Adoption Services)

“This service has been so helpful and the people who run it are incredible.” (SWAN Post Permanency Services)

“Your mentoring program works wonders.” (County agency worker about a youth in program)

“They treated my son like family, and he absolutely loved it there,” (Jumpstart Daycare)

“The program was excellent. It was a good experience meeting and working with everyone.” (Family Based Services)

“They were so nice and helpful, and I wish I could have kept them longer.” (Family Based Services)



A successful Mentor/Mentee match

A mentor is not someone who walks ahead of you to show you how they did it. A mentor walks along side of you to show you what you can do.”