

# Children's Aid Society of Mercer County

350 West Market Street  
Mercer, PA 16137  
724-662-4730  
[www.casmercercer.org](http://www.casmercercer.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.



*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" -Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Annual Report – 2022

## **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**

The year 2022 was the beginning of several transitions for the agency. Both our Executive Director, Deborah Judy, and our Fiscal Director, Patti Ryder, had begun planning for retirement. With my transition to Executive Director, the Adoption and Permanency Department needed a new Director (Ashley Eck), and that change initiated additional reorganization within that department. Creating Foundations (mentoring program) and Foster Care, which are both part of the Adoption and Permanency Department, have added a worker to each program due to the increase in referrals. Our Family Based Mental Health Program also experienced a transition to a new Director, Becky Rodondi. Daycare was able to develop a new space for after-school kids, on the lower level, which expanded capacity and enrollment.

In 2022, Children's Aid Society was the recipient of two grants (James F. McCandless Grant and Buhl Grant) that went to support the programs within the agency.

Throughout 2022, we have gained several new staff members, and overall, we have grown as an agency. We were able to make a few small improvements to our facility and look forward to more improvements in the coming year.

Although there have been several major transitions in the past year, I am proud that this agency continues to provide uninterrupted, quality services, as it has for over 134 years, to the children and families we serve.

*Heather Alt*

Executive Director

Through contracts, agreements and partnerships with several other agencies and organizations the Staff of CAS provided services to 2,053 individuals in 2022, listed as follows:

**Adoption & Permanency - 748**

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

**Adoption Support Groups- 132**

*Held the fourth Thursday and one Saturday each month*

**Christmas Family Referral Program - 808**

*Gifts and food for families in need at Christmas*

**Creating Foundations - 100**

*Mentoring for transition age youth*

**Family Based - 141**

*Family-based, in-home Mental Health Services*

**Foster Care - 63**

*Foster Care Services*

**Jumpstart Day Care - 57**

*Child Care for ages 6 weeks to 12 years.  
6:30 am – 6:00 pm*

## Funding Sources

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

- Beacon Health Options
- Keystone Stars
- Deitz Family Trust
- Buhl Foundation
- Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission
- Budd Trust
- Landis Trust
- Buhl Foundation
- Donations
- PNC Charitable
- Lindsay Trust
- Community/various donors
- Grants
- Fundraisers
- PA County Contracts

80% of CAS funding was from county contracts and programs funded by Medicaid.

**Revenue in 2022:**

**\$1,985,234.84**

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 808 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.

**Board of Directors in 2022:**

Mr. John Campbell, President  
Mrs. Becky May, Vice President  
Mr. Hugh Ringer, Second Vice President  
Mr. John Harper  
Dr. David Reimold  
Mrs. Ann Stranahan

Mr. James Sankey  
Mr. Norm Swiger  
Mrs. Patty Wilson  
Mr. Thomas Dobson  
Ms. Roberts Miller-Budd Trust  
Representative



A successful adoption

*“Every child deserves a champion-an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best they can possibly be.” -Rita F. Pierson*

## 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 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



Daycare

*"It takes a big heart to help shape little minds."*

Staff Members in 2022:

Susan Adams  
Heather Alt  
Karissa Armour  
Chelsea Bailey  
Marissa Baker  
Vaughn Barley  
Lauren Belin  
Nate Best  
Susan Bordonaro  
Sonia Bradshaw  
Leah Christy  
Jonas Confer  
Ashley Eck  
Kayla Emery

Jenna Grzesiuk  
Matt Hazi  
Charann Hughes  
Deborah Judy  
Joe Macri  
Nicole Magargee  
Kinsey Masotto  
Cathy Miller  
Susan Morrill  
Emily Palmer  
Kristi Pearsall  
Angela Pickens  
Chelsea Porter  
Cari Prezioso

Dotti Quillen  
Mackenzie Richards  
Becky Rodondi  
Patti Ryder  
Conor Scullin  
Terrie Seidel  
Anna Shoaf  
Vickie Styers  
Justin Townsend  
Ashley Uiselt  
Christina Veres  
Don White  
Sara Whitman



Successful mentoring match

*"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." -Mother Teresa*

## Testimonials from Consumers

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

“Our caseworker was wonderful. We were blessed to have her a part of the process. I believe the program is wonderful!” (Child Preparation Services)

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

“I think you do a wonderful job, and it means so much to us to know you’re only a phone call away. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!” (Post Permanency Services)

“*Our daughter* will love this book when she is older. She loves looking at pictures and will love looking at this book. *The worker* was great at her job but also showed love to *our daughter*, which meant a lot.” (Child Preparation Services)

“It was great relating to other parent situations.” (Post Permanency Support Group)

“We love *our worker*! She made this process so easy for us!” (Adoption Finalization Services)

“The Children’s Aid Society is a very helpful agency that goes to extreme lengths to help out kids.” (Child Preparation Services)

“*Our workers* are really good at their job. They care and act like they care. I would use this team again if I ever needed these services. Thank you.”  
(Family Based Services)