



HILLSIDE HELPS JA'KASIA GROW FROM DISTRUST TO OPTIMISM

For most of her 19 years, Ja'Kasia has not been able to depend on her family. After spending the first six years of her life with her grandmother, Ja'Kasia went to live with her mother, who was abusive, and her father, who was not very involved in his daughter's life. "He tried when he was young," says Hillside Children's Center Care Coordinator Jamie Wrotniak, "but he was going through a difficult time and he couldn't handle it."

When she was just seven, Ja'Kasia was sexually abused by a family friend in her parents' home. She entered the child welfare system at the age of eight and was put into foster care. After about a year she returned to her mother's home briefly, and then went to live with her aunt. Because of her aunt's involvement in drugs, Ja'Kasia soon had to return to foster care.

Ja'Kasia's situation reached a crisis point when she ran away at the age of 10, took a car, and was involved in an accident. She was hospitalized at BryLin, a private psychiatric hospital, followed by a brief stay at Children's Psychiatric Center.

By the time Ja'Kasia was discharged to a Hillside Children's Center (HCC) group home in Rochester, she was distrustful and angry and she found it difficult to adjust to the calm environment of the group home. "I had lots of trouble and fights," she says. "I was fighting with everyone." The staff worked with her and Ja'Kasia gradually began to feel close to them. At the age of 13, she was discharged to Tuckahoe, a less strictly supervised group home in Williamson.



Ja'Kasia is attending college classes and is looking forward to a career that will allow her to help people.

At 15, she went into foster care with a couple who wanted to adopt her, but Ja'Kasia was resistant. "I decided to leave when I was 17," she says. "I figured my two-year period was up. I was used to only staying somewhere two years. It seemed like only a matter of time before they said they didn't want me, so I just left instead."

In October, 2009 Ja'Kasia entered HCC's Therapeutic Foster Care program in Buffalo, where Jamie Wrotniak was assigned as her Care Coordinator and Melinda Majchszak was assigned as her skill builder. "I was just out of school, starting my second career," Jamie says, "and I called myself 'super social worker.' I was trying to do everything I learned in school. Ja'Kasia was 17, she wasn't going to school, and she had no job," Jamie says. "Our goals were to keep her safe, keep her healthy, get her into school, and get her into counseling."

Working with Ja'Kasia proved to be a formidable challenge. "She was testing the relationship because she didn't trust people," Jamie says. During one especially heated argument, "Ja'Kasia yelled at me and called me a mean old troll. That was our final test. After that, she knew I wasn't going away."

Jamie soon began to see the positive side of Ja'Kasia's strong-willed nature. "She didn't want to go to school," Jamie says. "I finally gave her a choice: go to school or get a job." Ja'Kasia did both. She started to work on her GED and she got a job at Wendy's. Melinda ensured that Ja'Kasia succeeded in these efforts.

Jamie started the Family Finding process in January to help Ja'Kasia develop a network of adults to provide ongoing support for her. As a result, Ja'Kasia has reconnected with several relatives, including her grandmother and her father. She is now

continued on back page

INSIDE

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS
Highlighting the people who share their time and talent to make a difference

2



DONORS IN ACTION
See how individuals and organizations have creatively helped raise funds for Hillside

4



GIFTS FROM THE HEART
Memorial and tribute gifts from friends of Hillside

7



AROUND HILLSIDE
A sampling of programs and people in the news and our community

9



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS IN PROFILE



NAME > Leaders in Training participants from Camp Stella Maris

VOLUNTEER SINCE > Summer 2011

REASON BEGAN VOLUNTEERING? >

The Leaders in Training (LIT) program at Camp Stella Maris, which teaches youth the fundamentals of leadership and encourages youth to become active in their community, includes a day of community service. Three LIT groups did their community service work at Hillside's Camp Possibilities over the summer.

TYPICAL VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES >

The volunteers led teambuilding games for Hillside youth and helped out with fishing.

WHAT VOLUNTEERING GIVES BACK > According to Camp Stella Maris summer staffer Laura Kriegel, the LIT participants "got a different perspective on their privileged backgrounds" and the fact that many youth do not have the same advantages in life. "The Hillside staff was so supportive," Laura says. "We felt very welcome and appreciated." Camp Stella Maris Director Adam Bell adds, "It was a great experience and tied into the LIT program very well. It's our hope that our campers will take what they learned and apply it in their community."

ADVICE TO THOSE CONSIDERING VOLUNTEERING >

Laura recommends that everyone consider volunteering for Hillside. "It was an absolutely wonderful experience," she says.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A VOLUNTEER MENTOR? >

Send an e-mail to hvandyne@hillside.com or click on the "Volunteer" tab at hillside.com for more information.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

Hillside's volunteer program has received national recognition from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs. Volunteer Coordinator Heather VanDyne and two Hillside volunteers were interviewed in preparation of an organizational profile on the CNCS Web site. The site also promotes Rochester, NY as one of the top five cities in the United States for volunteering.

The recognition came about as a result of a recommendation from the United Way of Greater Rochester. "It's wonderful that United Way recognized how well Hillside's volunteer program is

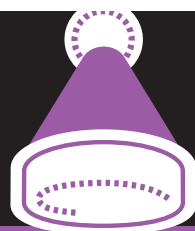


working in the community," Heather says. "The CNCS Web site also shines a bright light on Rochester and that will help all local organizations recruit more volunteers." Heather

feels the CNCS recognition will be increasingly important as Hillside continues to grow. "Our volunteer needs will continue to increase. This recognition tells people that if they want to have a great volunteer experience, they should call Hillside. I hope it will help us grow and strengthen our volunteer program."

You can see the Hillside profile on the CNCS Web site at <http://volunteeringinamerica.gov/highlights.cfm>.

SPECIAL



SANTAS

CALLING ALL HILLSIDE SPECIAL SANTAS



Hillside Special Santas

Without the generosity of our many Hillside Special Santas, the upcoming holidays would be an especially difficult time for the youth and families we serve. With your support, we will once again provide three gifts for each child and a modest grocery card to help our families make ends meet this year.

Hillside Special Santas works youth by youth, family by family. Each year you help us make the holidays brighter for them by adding a youth to your shopping list, supplying gifts for an entire family through your office or church, or contacting us to find the greatest needs of the families we serve. Families, office groups, churches, student groups, and classes come together and add meaning to their own holidays by becoming Hillside Special Santas.

May we count on your support again this year?

GIVE A GIFT, GET A GIFT

Become a Hillside Special Santa and Superior Wood Furniture (469 Ridge Road West in Rochester) has a gift for you. Bring in any donation to Hillside Special Santas (cash, gift card, or gift) and receive an extra 5% off sale prices. This special offer is valid throughout the holiday season.



TOP GIFT WISHES FOR 2011

- Sports balls—soccer, football, or basketball
- Jewelry, sports watches, necklaces, earrings, and bracelets for girls and boys
- Duffle bags, drawstring bags, sports bags, and purses
- Cologne, body sprays, and body kits for teenage girls and boys
- Lotions, make-up, and hair supplies for teenage girls
- Hoodies/logo sweatshirts for all ages
- MP3 players
- Learning and building toys for younger children
- Books for all ages
- \$25 grocery gift cards

Gifts need not be extravagant, just heartfelt—so nothing over \$25 in value. New, unwrapped items only, please.

GIFT DROP OFF LOCATIONS

Hillside Special Santas Headquarters

Crestwood Children's Center
2075 Scottsville Road
Rochester, NY 14623

Hours: Weekdays starting Monday, 11/28 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, 12/10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday, 12/17 and Sunday, 12/18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Or drop your gifts at one of our Community Partner locations:

In the Rochester area:

Canandaigua National Bank
Leaf & Bean Coffee Co.
Bagel Bin Cafe
Fairport Country Max
Ontario Country Max
Railway Station Diner*
Superior Wood Furniture*
Lyons National Bank

In the Syracuse area:

Aspen Athletic Clubs
Driver's Village
Participating Tim Hortons

In the Buffalo area:

Key Bank
Buffalo Athletic Club
Aspen Dental

*New Community Partners joining us this year.

For more information

Visit us online today at www.hillside.com.

Or call (585) 256-7630 (Rochester area), (315) 258-2191 (Syracuse area), or (716) 848-6416 (Buffalo area).

Or follow us on  @specialsantas.



DONORS IN

ACTION

FORMER BOARD MEMBER LEAVES A LEGACY OF INSPIRATION

David Cleary was only nine years old when his mother, Carol Rees, joined the Hillside Children's Center board of directors. He can't remember how she became involved with Hillside, but he has always known how important it was to her. "There was a real sparkle in her eye when the discussion came around to Hillside," David says. "She was very touched by the kids at Hillside and it meant a lot to her. Hillside's programs and services changed quite a bit over the years, but her passion for what they do and the kids they serve never changed."

Carol's dedication to Hillside was inspired by her love of children. "She thought that those kids had not been given a fair shake in life," David explains. "She felt that supporting Hillside was the least she could do." Carol served on the Hillside Children's Center board from 1967 to 1981. She then served on the Hillside Children's Foundation board of trustees from 1982 to 1999. She also served on a number of committees, including the System of Care Committee, throughout the years. Carol was also a loyal donor to Hillside. In 2004 she became a member of the Pinnacle Society



Carol Rees was a devoted Hillside volunteer and donor for more than 40 years.

when she made provisions in her will for a bequest to Hillside Children's Center.

Carol, who passed away in 2010, left another important legacy to Hillside. "She was always telling me what a great organization Hillside was and encouraging me to get involved," David says. He and his wife Wende own Storybook Childcare Centers, so he felt that his experience in early childhood education would be most helpful to Crestwood Children's Center. David joined the Crestwood board in 2007 and has also been a loyal donor. Crestwood President Barbara Conrath says that "David has been a wonderful friend to Crestwood. He is a committed and enthusiastic board member who cares deeply about the wellbeing of the children served by Crestwood. He has also been a strong and persistent advocate that staff receive the support they need to do their jobs."

"She inspired me and I hope to inspire others to get involved," David says. "All of us should be aware of the needs in society and step up to the plate to do what we can. Just as my mother encouraged me, I encourage the next generation to recognize that there are people who need our help."

A GREAT DAY ON THE GREENS AT THE BELIEVE IN KIDS GOLF CLASSIC



The Believe in Kids Golf Classic at Irondequoit Country Club in June raised more than \$82,000 to benefit Crestwood and Hillside Children's Foundations. Pictured is the winning team from partner event sponsors Canandaigua National Bank and Trust and Genesee Valley Trust Company.

CHESHIRE AUDIO VISUAL CUSTOMER EVENT SUPPORTS HILLSIDE

The fact that Cheshire Audio Visual is a family business may explain the company's longstanding commitment to Hillside. For the last 10 years the organization has been donating proceeds from their annual barbecue to benefit the youth and families of Hillside.

According to Director of Sales and Business Development Justin Cheshire, the barbecue is a customer appreciation event. "We hold it on the first Thursday of August and we invite everyone to relax and enjoy some barbecued chicken." The company has been doing the event for 13 years.

Ten years ago they decided to turn it into a fundraiser. "We gathered prizes from vendors and friends," Justin says.

"We've raffled everything from digital cameras to Darien Lake tickets, restaurant gift certificates, and all sorts of things."

Justin says that Hillside was the obvious choice to receive the raffle proceeds because the company had provided AV services for Hillside's General Staff Meeting for a number of years. "Growing up in the business, I sat through those meetings," Justin explains. "I saw the success stories and I heard Dennis Richardson talk about how Hillside is helping children and families. You can't help but get involved when you hear that. We get hit up for lots of donations, but we're committed to Hillside because of the great work they do."



The annual Cheshire Audio Video Barbecue has supported Hillside Children's Foundation for 10 years.

Since starting the raffle in 2001, the company has donated a total of more than \$7,000 to Hillside. Hillside Children's Foundation President Tom Hildebrandt says that donations from third-party events such as this are critical to Hillside, but "very few third-party events have had a 10-year history. We're especially grateful to Cheshire Audio Visual and their customers for their loyal support."

THANK YOU

FOR BELIEVING IN OUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

With appreciation from Crestwood and Hillside Children's Foundations

A. Thomas Hildebrandt, President

GRANTS

APRIL 1 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2011

AdoptUsKids for support for Hillside Children's Center's Adoption program

Buffalo Bills Youth Foundation for funding bikes for Hillside Children's Center's Residential Treatment programs

Dreyfus Foundation for a grant to Skip Generations of Family Resource Centers at Crestwood Children's Center

Herb Block Foundation for a grant to Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection—Prince George's County

JPMorgan Chase for a grant to Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection

Paychex for support for Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection—Rochester

Rochester Area Community Foundation's Early Childhood Fund for a grant to Family Resource Centers at Crestwood Children's Center

Rochester's Child for funding the Summer Pre-K program at Family Resource Centers of Crestwood Children's Center

INITIAL HILDEBRANDT FAMILY FUND DISBURSEMENT BENEFITS FAMILY FINDING

The Hildebrandt Family Fund recently made its initial disbursement of funds in the form of a \$15,000 grant to support Family Finding services within Hillside. The monies will also be used to create video Chronicles of disconnected youth in the Family Finding process. The Chronicles will help to engage family members and encourage them to reconnect with youth and become part of their lifetime network of support.

According to Family Finding Practice Leader Tess Mahnken-Weatherspoon, "Video Chronicles have proven to be an effective way to find adoptive families for older youth. They can also be used to introduce or re-introduce youth in our care to extended family members who may not know the youth or who have not seen them for a long period of time. I am excited and energized by the difference this support can make in the lives of the children and families we serve."

The decision to support Family Finding was simple for siblings Tom and Mary Hildebrandt. "I remember seeing a video of a youth in the Family Finding process and it just blew me away," Mary says. "Coming from such a close-knit family, there was a huge impact to see a child with no one, no close connections. Everybody should have that." Tom adds, "It's so compelling when we hear the Family Finding stories. Everyone embraces the concept of being reunited with their family."

The Hildebrandt Family Fund is part of long legacy of family support dating back to Tom and Mary's grandfather, Augustus Hatch. Even though Mary now lives in Massachusetts, she is still a staunch Hillside supporter. "Hillside has put together an excellent set of programs that really work and the people are so dedicated," she says. "Hillside truly is a family and that speaks to us as a family."

Non-traditional giving benefits donors as well as Hillside

The Hildebrandt Family Fund, one of Hillside's largest donor-directed funds, was established in 2009 by members of the Hildebrandt family. It has grown rapidly since then, thanks to creative methods of giving. Austin "Ozzie" Hildebrandt created a Charitable Lead Trust that began making quarterly payments to Hillside after his passing in April, 2010. In creating the trust, Ozzie not only provided a significant financial gift to Hillside, but reduced his estate taxes as well.

The Family Fund received significant additional money when Tom and Mary decided to donate Ozzie's home, which had been willed to them, to Hillside. "It was really a relief for us," Tom says.



Hillside Family Finding *Creating lifetime networks for disconnected youth*

"We grew up in that house and there was so much emotion attached to it. Everywhere we looked there were memories." Donating the home also eliminated agonizing financial decisions resulting from the soft housing market. "You want to sell the house," Tom explains, "but you don't want to diminish the memory of your parents and your childhood by reducing the price. Giving it to Hillside took the emotion out of it for Mary and me." "It helped us both to know that people we knew and trusted were taking it over," Mary adds. It was also comforting to the family to know that Hillside sold the home to a growing family. "Our parents would have loved the idea," Tom says.

The Hildebrandt Family Fund has also benefited from other types of gifts, including donations of stock and more than 100 honorarium or memorial gifts from friends and family members. Tom and Mary hope the fund continues to grow over time so that more disbursements can be made to support new initiatives and keep Hillside at the forefront of services for youth and families.

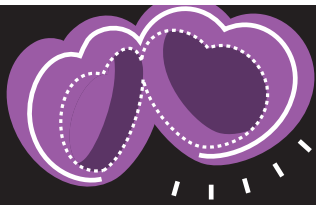
As President of Hillside Children's Foundation, Tom wants prospective donors to know that there are many ways gifts can be structured to benefit donor and recipient alike. "There are creative ways to meet many different objectives for donors," he says, "and lots of ways to benefit organizations that are dear to your heart."



CRESTWOOD AND HILLSIDE CHILDREN'S FOUNDATIONS

- Backpacks
- Tickets to: sporting events, museums, theatres, and youth-friendly events
- New or used musical instruments

The above items may be brought to the offices of Crestwood and Hillside Children's Foundations at 1183 Monroe Avenue, Rochester. For more information, call (585) 256-7515.



GIFTS FROM THE HEART

MEMORIAL GIFTS

CRESTWOOD CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Vincenza and Joseph Vasile
Dr. Joseph S. Vasile, MBA

Mr. Julius Conradt
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Beck
Mr. & Mrs. Henry L. Boesch
Mr. & Mrs. Peter J. Bohne
Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Carr, Jr.
Ms. Barbara J. Conradt
Ms. Maria Cristalli
Mr. & Mrs. John E. Curran
Ms. Carol Deinhardt
Ms. Nancy J. Fella
Mrs. Deborah K. Green
Mr. & Mrs. A. Thomas Hildebrandt
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Hutchings
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Kinsky
Mr. & Mrs. George P. Klee
Mrs. Jeanne Y. Klee
Mr. & Mrs. Daryl D. Knapp, Jr.
Landry Mechanical Contractors
Mr. Dale G. Lindsay
Mr. Frederick H. Metildi
Ms. Patricia Muir
Ms. Beatrice O'Brien
Mr. & Mrs. Edward L. Orlando
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pigage
Ms. Patricia A. Powell
Mr. & Mrs. Roger P. Ranalletta
Ms. Anne Renaldi
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis M. Richardson
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Schaffer
Ms. Sally G. Seymour
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne S. Sherman
Ms. Valerie G. Smith
St. Mary's Church
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Sylvester
Mr. & Mrs. Walter J. Tapp
Ms. Rosemary Vargas
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald H. Way

Mrs. Sarah S. Clapp
Mr. & Mrs. Peter E. Baltzer
Mr. Bruce B. Bates
Mrs. Gayl L. Belcher
Ms. Charmaine R. Blaakman
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred G. Boylan
Brighton Town Council
Mr. & Mrs. Frank A. Cimino
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald R. Clifford
Ms. Barbara J. Conradt
Ms. Stephanie Eisenschmid
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Garrett
Mrs. Ann S. Garrett
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred M. Hallenbeck
Ms. Elizabeth A. Hanshaw

GIFTS FROM JANUARY 22 TO JULY 31, 2011
Through gifts in memory of friends and family or in recognition of special events and accomplishments, you can honor loved ones while providing hope and care to children and families. Our thanks go out to each and every Hillside friend who has made a memorial or tribute gift.

Ms. Carol K. Hardy
Mr. & Mrs. Mark C. Hargrave, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Hargrave, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. A. Thomas Hildebrandt
Mr. & Mrs. John Lazor
Ms. Joan R. Libby
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Luellen, Jr.
Mrs. Gibson Lunt
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred M. Lutvak
Mr. & Mrs. Milton H. Lutvak
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Mindlin
Mrs. Ann M. Mulligan
Ms. Brenda J. Northrup
Mrs. Virginia Pacala
Ms. Martha E. Quinn
Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Rae
Mr. & Mrs. Mark A. Richards
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis M. Richardson
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Robbins
Mr. & Mrs. James P. Robeson, Jr.
Mrs. Bernice Rosenberg
Mrs. Joan Sibley
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Siebert
Ms. Patricia G. Sladden
Ms. Suzanne M. Spencer
Ms. Elizabeth P. Stewart
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Thoman
Mr. & Mrs. H. Scott Thomas, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Townson
Mrs. Schuyler C. Townson
Mr. Walter H. Wells
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest C. Whitbeck III
Ms. Karen E. Winterroth

HILLSIDE CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Mrs. Shirley Baker
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Kavanaugh

Ms. Lydia Block
Mr. Keith Abel &
Mr. Robin A. Fisher

Mr. Edward Braband
Mrs. Rita M. Dendler

Ernest "Tuffy" Burgess
Ms. Kathryn Fisher

F. Leslie Dollinger
Mr. & Mrs. Terrence Davin

Mr. Richard Eisenhart
Mr. Jack R. Orben

Mr. Donald C. Estey
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce A. Biggrove
Mrs. Joan L. Sibley

Mrs. Elizabeth Fenton
Mr. & Mrs. John D. Athans
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Bailey
Mr. Yuhchayou Chen
Ms. Mary F. Clark
Mr. David E. Crocker
Mr. John E. Diehl
Ms. Ayala Dvir
Mr. & Mrs. Scott W. Elkovitch
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob N. Finkelstein
Mr. Thomas Foster
Mr. & Mrs. Edward E. Holtz
Mr. & Mrs. John Hotchkiss
Ms. Patricia Houlihan-Sipple
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Howell
Ms. Amy K. Huser
Ms. Leslie James
Mr. & Mrs. Mohammad Kiani
Mrs. Whitney Kollar
Ms. Wendy Malorzo
Mr. & Mrs. Landis Meeks
Mr. & Mrs. Glen E. Miller
Ms. Sally Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Gary F. Nicastro
Mr. Michael K. Obanion
Mrs. Lori D. Polesnak
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Robbins
Ms. Maureen N. Schnegg
Mrs. Kari A. Sheldon
Dr. Jane Spooner
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Steinfeld
Ms. Nancy M. Strong
Mr. & Mrs. Scott S. Sutherland
Mr. & Mrs. Steeven Swarts
Ms. Debra J. Trione &
Mr. Paul Okunieff

Ms. Susan A. Vadney
Ms. Elizabeth R. Waite
Ms. Roxanne P. Willard
Dr. Jacqueline P. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Shimin Zhang

Mr. Donald Geiser
Mrs. Louise Geiser

Mr. Michael Harrigan
Mr. Pete Arguien
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis H. Gorman
Mr. & Mrs. H. Daniel Halloran
Mr. & Mrs. George Huther
Ms. Renee Keaton
Mrs. Marcia A. Miller
Ms. Pamela L. Nichols

Mr. Austin E. Hildebrandt
Ms. Mary G. Hildebrandt
Mr. & Mrs. A. Thomas Hildebrandt
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Wallace

Mrs. David Hoyt
Ms. Louise H. Klinke

Mr. Robert M. Johnson
Dr. Karen Warren

Ms. Shelia Kleinstein
Mrs. Sheila Weinbach

Clarence Lucas
Americans For International
Aid & Adoption
Ms. Deanna J. Oakes
Ms. Heather Rubinstein

Cal Miller
Mr. Keith Abel &
Ms. Robin A. Fisher
Gleason Works
Elder Statesmen Club
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Newman

Mr. Donald P. Moose
Gleason Works
Elder Statesmen Club

Mr. John Seebach
CBL & Associates
Management, INC.
Mrs. Nancy DeLuca
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick D. Erdle
Mrs. Shonna McAleer
Ms. Patricia M. Stark

Mrs. Helen Simms
Mr. Keith Abel &
Ms. Robin A. Fisher

Mr. Andy Spencer
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis M. Richardson
Mr. & Mrs. Levi H. Weaver
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Perrotto

Mrs. Jayne Summers
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher E. Holliday
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis M. Richardson
Mr. & Mrs. Paul S. Speranza, Jr.

Mr. Sam Urzetta
Mr. & Mrs. Terrence Davin

Mr. John Edward Wise, Jr.
Mrs. Marie Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. Richard D. Rosenbloom
Mr. & Mrs. Donald B. Rubens
Mr. & Mrs. Edward W. Schubert
Mr. Yuri Schwartzman
Mr. & Mrs. Vito J. Sciscioli
Ms. Hermine A. Silver
The Elmore Law Firm, P.A.
Ms. Janette A. Walley

Paul Testa Athletic Fund

Mrs. Eileen Jones
Mr. James A. Jones

Mr. Gabe Nahmias
Mrs. Carolyn G. Pardo
Mrs. Eileen Testa

Louis & Paul Testa
Mrs. Eileen Testa

Morris Herman
Mrs. Eileen Testa

Fred Conklin
Mrs. Eileen Testa

Continued on page 8.



TRIBUTE GIFTS

HILLSIDE CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

In Honor of Mr. Al Antonez
Dixon Schwabl Advertising

In Honor of Ms. Charmaine R. Blaakman
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis M. Richardson

In Honor of Ms. Crystal Blodgett
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Blodgett

In Honor of Ms. Noreen Deming
Ms. Evelyn E. Barnard

In Birthday Honor of Dr. Paul Ferber
Mr. & Mrs. Charles K. Szabo

In Birthday Honor of Ms. Essie Germanow
Ms. Ann Germanow

In Birthday Honor of Ms. Carole Gordon
Ms. Linda M. Lakeman

In Honor of Mother & Father's Day: Joy & Gordon Heiser
Mr. & Mrs. Nicolas E. Lanthier

In Honor of Mr. Pete Henderson
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Schaller

In Honor of Mr. Jay T. Holmes
Mrs. Susan Dellilgatti

In Honor of Keybank Clients
KeyBank National Association

In Honor of Ms. Suzanne Kittlinger
Mr. & Mrs. Bernie Metzger

In Birthday Honor of Ms. Alexandra Lakeman
Ms. Linda Lakeman

In Birthday Honor of Mr. Charles D. Lakeman
Ms. Linda Lakeman

In Birthday Honor of Ms. Tara Lakeman
Ms. Linda Lakeman

In Honor of Mother & Father's Day: Mr. & Mrs. Jack Lanthier
Mr. & Mrs. Nicolas E. Lanthier

In Honor of Mrs. Mary C. Lyon
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Lyon

In Honor of Mr. Jeff Metzger
Mr. & Mrs. Andy Germanow

In Birthday Honor of Mr. Anthony Oliveri
Ms. Linda Lakeman

In Birthday Honor of Ms. Christine Oliveri
Ms. Linda Lakeman

In Honor of Mrs. Jeanne Shine's 90th Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Chester M. Rubacha

In Honor of The Wedding of Jan & Orelia Shaw
Ms. Christine Ide

In Honor of Mr. Paul Speranza
Nixon Peabody LLP

In Honor of Smith Lumber & Hardware Center
Smith Lumber & Hardware Center

In Honor of Ms. Kate Urbanik
Dr. & Mrs. James W. Kernahan

In Honor of Friendship Ms. Judy K. Zeeman-Golden
Ms. Elissa G. Werner

Paul Testa Athletic Fund

Get Well to Ms. Judith Meltzer
Mrs. Carolyn G. Pardo
Mrs. Eileen Testa

In Honor of Dean Harris 60th Birthday
Mrs. Eileen Testa

Speedy Recovery to Miriam Pardo
Mrs. Eileen Testa

Speedy Recovery to Berna Falkoff
Mrs. Eileen Testa

Speedy Recovery to Michael Zwick
Mrs. Eileen Testa

GIVE TO HILLSIDE'S FALL APPEAL



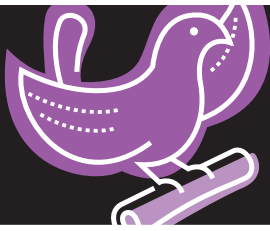
At Hillside Family of Agencies we believe in youth and families and their ability to achieve a better future. Our services help youth and families who struggle with many challenges, including behavioral issues, mental illness, and difficult life circumstances.

Hillside's ability to provide the comprehensive services necessary to meet these complex needs is made possible because of the support of individual donors like you. Gifts benefit youth and families in many Hillside services, including residential services for youth in crisis, adoption, foster care, mental health services, and youth development services.

You can be a part of this important effort by making a donation to Hillside's Annual Fall Appeal. The funds raised through our appeals enable us to meet the growing needs in our community. Consider a donation to Crestwood or Hillside Children's Foundations by using the envelope provided in this newsletter.

You can also choose to donate online by visiting our secure Web site at www.hillside.com and clicking "donate." You will also find information on the Web site about our programs, special events, and other ways that you can get involved.

Thank you for joining us to build better futures with youth and families.



AROUND

HILLSIDE

IMPACT DAY PROVIDES COLLEGE PREP ADVICE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR STUDENTS

Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection staff is always giving students advice on how to prepare for college, but a little reinforcement from recent college graduates never hurts. Ten HW-SC students from Central High School in Prince George's County, Maryland got a wealth of college prep advice when they participated in Impact Day, an event sponsored by World Vision of the Capital Area.

"The idea was to expose our students to young adults who could stress the importance of going to college and tell them what to think about," says HW-SC Manager LaKisha Lacey. Three panels of recent college graduates talked with the students about what courses to take and how to prepare and dress for college interviews. "The students got to ask questions about the college experience and what it's like to live in a dorm," LaKisha says. "One panelist recommended getting involved in extra-curricular activities because it looks good on college applications. One of our students got her name and contact information so she could follow up on that."

The event also gave students the opportunity to give back by helping to sort clothing for World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential.



Ten juniors and seniors from Central High School participated in World Vision's Impact Day.

Participating in Impact Day "informed the students and got them enthused about going to college," LaKisha says. "The panels reinforced what HW-SC staff tells them. When we say it, sometimes it goes in one ear and out the other. Hearing it from recent college graduates definitely helps."

REMEMBERING PETER GOLDBERG

Peter Goldberg, president and chief executive officer of the Alliance for Children and Families, a human services professional organization of which Hillside Family of Agencies is a member, passed away unexpectedly in August. The Alliance, which represents almost 350 not-for-profit organizations that serve youth and families, helps strengthen the capacities of its members and advocate for children, families, and communities. In his more than 15 years with the Alliance, Peter spearheaded a number of important initiatives and constantly challenged member organizations to adapt and change in order to fulfill their mission.

John Barr, Hillside chief marketing officer, has worked closely with Peter as an Alliance committee member. "Throughout the years that I have been honored to engage with Peter, I have been constantly impressed with his vision, energy, enthusiasm, focus,

self-effacing sense of humor, and unending passion and respect for the work of Alliance member agencies," he says. "Hillside and our industry have lost an incredible advocate for children and families."

Dennis Richardson, Hillside president and CEO, adds, "Peter was a very unusual leader for our field. In service to families and children he brought forth his learnings from his remarkable history in the for-profit corporate sector, the foundation community, and the not-for-profit human services sector. He imagined multiple and varied futures based on his enormous appetite for information and ideas. He was a thought and action provoking leader who understood his strengths. Peter used these strengths to influence individuals and organizations in their quest to become high performing and increasingly effective. His impact was particularly significant and his voice will be missed."



Peter Goldberg was a tireless advocate for children and families in his tenure as Alliance president and CEO.

HCC YOUTH CAPTURE THE RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT EXPERIENCE IN SONG

A group of youth from Hillside Children's Center's Varick and Finger Lakes campuses are communicating the experience of being in residential treatment through music. Their musical odyssey began when Behavior Support Specialist Kim Draheim began teaching keyboard music to a youth after hours. Others heard about it and asked Kim if he would work with them too. Before long, Kim had a keyboardist, a guitarist, and a drummer. The group began having weekly jam sessions and Kim suggested that they form a band. When the youth couldn't decide what to call their group, Kim suggested Sadowi Denanijo, which incorporates the first two letters of each band member's name.

The group took their creativity to the next level when Kim suggested that they write a song. "I knew that having them write their own song would be really enriching for them," Kim says. He asked them a series of questions about what it's like to be in residential treatment and helped combine their words and phrases into song lyrics. "One boy's words really resonated with me," Kim says. "He talked about his fear of 'becoming something other than who I really am.' He said that in residential treatment you're working on changing how you think, feel, and behave while trying to hang onto who you are. You need Hillside staff to help you become the best you can be." Those sentiments led to the lyrics and music for *I'm Gonna Be Me*.



The members of Sadowi Denenijo with Behavior Support Specialist Kim Draheim, who helped them write and record their song, *I'm Gonna Be Me*.

After lots of rehearsals, Kim took the group to a recording studio to record the song. The youth have also performed the song on Hillside's Varick, Fingerlakes, and Monroe Avenue campuses and at a youth conference in Herkimer, NY, where they brought down the house. Thanks to a staff member's connection to a local disc jockey, their recording was also aired on a radio station. "And a YouTube video is coming," Kim says.

Kim believes that being in the band has benefited the youth in many ways. "Music is great creative expression. Music has given

them a voice," he says. "They've also learned about commitment, hard work, and teamwork. And learning to make music with others is quite an accomplishment. It's one thing to play a musical instrument by yourself. Learning to play with others takes time and hard work."

Listen to I'm Gonna Be Me

You can listen to Sadowi Denanijo on the Hillside Web site at www.hillside.com/sadowidenanijo.aspx.

GET THE LATEST NEWS WITH *E-VISION*

Stay up to date on Hillside happenings between print *Vision* issues with our *e-Vision* electronic newsletter. Each issue features short, easy-to-digest articles to enjoy over a cup of coffee, with links to more information if you want it.

To subscribe to *e-Vision*, visit the Hillside Web site at hillside.com, register, and check the box to request updates.



Our *e-Vision* electronic newsletter is a quick and convenient way to get the latest Hillside news.

ANDREWS-TRAHEY PRINCIPAL MAKES LITERACY A HAIR RAZING EXPERIENCE

Earl Farber, principal of the Andrews-Trahey School at Hillside Children's Center's Monroe Avenue campus, believes passionately in the importance of reading. To encourage students to read over the summer, Earl issued a high-stakes challenge: if the youth read more than 375 books, he would shave his head. The challenge was part of a continuing effort to encourage year-round reading after the Andrews-Trahey School library was reorganized and stocked with books for all ages.

More than 50 youth accepted Earl's challenge and, with help from the Brighton Memorial Library's "One World, Many Stories" summer reading program, read 425 books over five weeks. The challenge also required the youth to create an essay, comic strip, poster, poem, or collage about the books they read.



Before...

The students gathered in mid-August to cheer for Earl as co-worker Jermaine Collins shaved his head. "Short, isn't it?" Earl said when his new coif was completed. However, the youths' literary achievements



And after, with student Jeremiah, who helped reorganize the school library.

made his hair razing experience worthwhile. "To see kids pick up books, it is still important," Earl said. "Reading isn't a lost art."

HCC YOUTH ENJOY A DAY OF FISHING

About 50 youth from Hillside Children's Center's Monroe Avenue campus enjoyed a day of fishing at Powder Mills Park, thanks to the Outdoorsmen's Fishing Club. "They've been doing this event for us for at least the last 15 years," says Recreation Manager Claudia Herman. "They plan everything and they take great pride in doing the best possible job for the kids."

Club members arranged to stock the creek with 600 to 700 trout of all sizes. They provided fishing poles and bait,

helped Hillside youth bait their hooks, and even went into the creek to help youth loosen snagged lines. The day also included a hot dog lunch and awards.

Claudia says that the derby is often the first fishing experience for Hillside youth. "The kids love it," she says. "They're really, really excited about it. And when they catch fish, it's incredible. It's amazing to me that kids who have difficulty sitting still will sit for a long time waiting for that fish to bite."

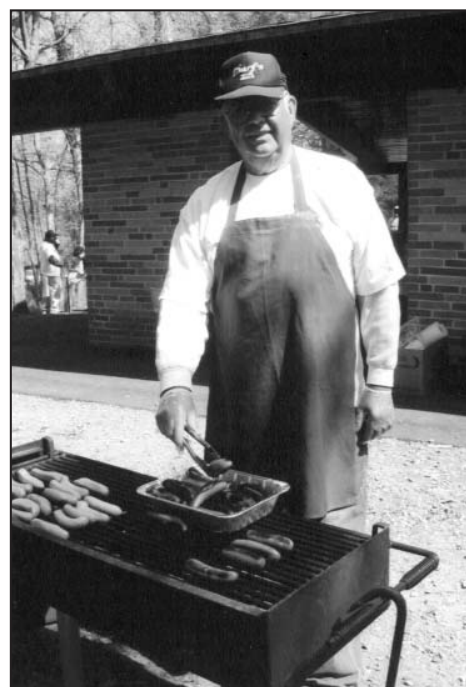
Thanks to the Outdoorsmen's Fishing Club for providing a wonderful experience for Hillside youth.



Volunteers helped Hillside youth reel in their fish.



One volunteer showed the youth how to clean and cook fish.



A lunch of barbecued hot dogs made the Fishing Derby complete.

BASEBALL DAY AT CRESTWOOD IS A “HIT” WITH YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Eighty-five youth and family members enjoyed Baseball Day at Crestwood Children’s Center with the St. John Fisher College Cardinals baseball team, two members of the Rochester Red Wings, and Red Wings mascot Spikes in early May. The event included a barbecue lunch and plenty of time to play baseball, get



Members of the St. John Fisher Cardinals and the Rochester Red Wings baseball teams and Red Wings mascot Spikes made Baseball Day at Crestwood Children’s Center a success.

autographs, and have their photo taken with the visiting players. “The St. John Fisher and Red Wings players had a great time talking with kids and encouraging them on the field,” says Marie Gullo, residential treatment program manager. “The Red Wings told us it was one of the best events they’ve ever done.”

Baseball Day was suggested four years ago by Tody Hayes, youth care provider in Sleepy Hollow Cottage and has become one of the most popular events at Crestwood. “Everybody anticipates this at Crestwood,”



Crestwood youth enjoyed participating in a typical school sports experience.

Marie says. “It gives our kids a sense of normalcy. Sometimes our kids feel a sense of stigma because they’re in a special education school. This is the type of event a public school would put on. On Baseball Day, they feel like other kids.” Marie adds that families enjoy the event too. “We don’t have sports teams,” she explains. “This is an opportunity for families to see their kids participating in sports. When it’s over, the parents take the day treatment students home, just like any family coming home after sports practice.”



Family members and Spikes, the Red Wings mascot, cheered from the sidelines.

HW-SC SYRACUSE HELPS STUDENTS CATCH UP AND GRADUATE ON SCHEDULE

For 130 Syracuse students who fell behind during the 2010–2011 school year, Hillside Work–Scholarship Connection offered a chance to catch up with its first summer school program. Youth who had not passed the Regents exams or English courses required for graduation but did not meet the criteria to attend summer school offered by the Syracuse City School District were eligible to participate.

HW-SC decided to offer the summer program to fill the gap by paying certified teachers to offer summer classes in English, algebra, global history, and living environment. Participating students were able to take the required Regents exams at the end of the program.

Without the HW-SC summer program, these youth would have started

the 2011–2012 school year behind in credits and required Regents exams. Executive Director Wayne O’Connor says that some students have reached their senior year in high school with several Regents exams still to be passed before they can graduate. “If they fail,” he says, “they may have to come back for one more semester to try again when the test is offered in January. What I’m really looking to do is to instill in our kids the importance of getting those Regents done when they should be.”

The challenge of completing Regents exams has become more difficult in recent years as New York State has gradually raised the passing score and increased the number of required tests. Students must now pass five Regents exams with a grade

of 65 or better to graduate. “So Hillside has upped our game,” Wayne says.

Shaughn, a student at Corcoran High School, attended the HW-SC summer school to help him pass an English class and three Regents exams. “If I didn’t come here, I’d probably be in 10th grade again,” he said.

Attendance at the first summer school program was good and Wayne expects to offer the program every summer. “I really do believe in the extended school day and the extended school year,” he says. “I want these kids to be on track all the way through. I don’t want to see seniors having to pass one, two, three, or four Regents exams in their senior year. That’s way too much pressure.”

CENTRAL REGION FAMILIES ENJOY SUMMER FIELD DAYS

More than 250 youth, families, and Hillside Children's Center (HCC) staff enjoyed an afternoon of events and activities at the Central Region's 5th Annual Summer Field Days at Onondaga Lake Park in August. Al, the Syracuse Crunch mascot, helped drum up the Field Days spirit. HCC staff led a balloon toss, relay races, tug-o-war, and other games. Several community partners helped to make the day special with a variety of demonstrations and events for the youth and families, including karate demonstrations and instruction by LaVallee's Karate and a lacrosse demonstration, equipment giveaways, and activities by Brine Lacrosse. Representatives from the Liverpool Fire Department had a firetruck on site and let the youth climb inside for an up close-and-personal look. The United States Army once again provided the popular rock climbing wall and helped youth climb to the top. According to Education Specialist Mark Pelligra, "Field Days give the staff an opportunity to interact with families in a fun environment." Program Manager of Customized Community Services Michele Perrin adds that the event also allows Hillside's biological and foster families to



The youth loved Al, the Syracuse Crunch mascot.

see each other in relaxed, non-meeting setting. "The youth are also able to be part of a team when they're playing games with the support of staff." Perhaps most importantly, says Family Advocate Chandra Batchelor, "It's one of the few times I get to see the kids and parents having fun."



Youth got to see a firetruck up close, thanks to the Liverpool Fire Department.



Everyone enjoyed a barbecue lunch.

NEW HATCH ADMINISTRATION BUILDING DEDICATED



The President and CEO's suite in the new Hatch Administration Building on Hillside Children's Center's (HCC) Monroe Avenue campus was named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. August. Pictured at the dedication ceremony are (l. to r.) President and CEO Dennis Richardson, Jean August, Jan August, and Andy August. Andy is holding a paddle that was made and presented to the family by the HCC Boy Scout Troops.



The vestibule was named in honor of Lucius R. Gordon and the support the Whitbeck and McNabb families have provided to the children and families of Hillside over several generations. Pictured at the dedication ceremony are (l. to r.) Dennis Richardson, Ernest C. Whitbeck III, Ryland McNabb, Libby McNabb, Payton McNabb, Marie Whitbeck, Mary Kay Whitbeck, Ernest C. Whitbeck IV, Marie McNabb, and Andrew McNabb.

SNELL FARM YOUTH GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Youth from Snell Farm Children's Center's South unit have given many hours of volunteer time at Caitlin United Methodist Church in Bath in the spring. They spent an evening weeding and mulching the churchyard and cleaning the pews, windows, walls, and floors. They returned the next day to help strip old paint, fill in holes, sand, and paint a room. They also cleaned up the children's area, removed cob webs from the church, and cleaned the reception and men's rest rooms. They finished the day by planting bulbs in the church gardens.

When the youth attended church service the next day, several members of the congregation greeted them and thanked them for their hard work. The boys did a reading during the service and joined the congregation afterward for a thank you reception and cake.

The youth also volunteered at a church dinner in June, when they helped with pre-event cleaning, meal preparation, food service, and cleanup. During the church service the next morning, the pastor shared her life story and talked about the hurdles she had overcome before



Snell Farm youth weeded and mulched the grounds at Caitlin United Methodist Church.



The boys spent a day helping with indoor cleaning and maintenance at the church.

she found her way. When she invited the congregation to come up and share their experiences, two Snell Farm youth got up and went to the front of the church. According to Snell Farm staff member Jessica Lee, "They talked about their past and how coming to Snell Farm has showed them more hope than they could have imagined. They said that their one goal is to help bring the church back to life. They had everyone in tears."

The boys have continued their involvement at the church with more volunteer work, including helping out at a car wash fundraiser. One of the youth asked the pastor to baptize him. As a result of this growing relationship between the youth and the church, the pastor decided to become a volunteer at Snell Farm. "She is touched by the boys," Jessica says, "and she wants the staff to know they are making a difference just by working at Snell Farm."

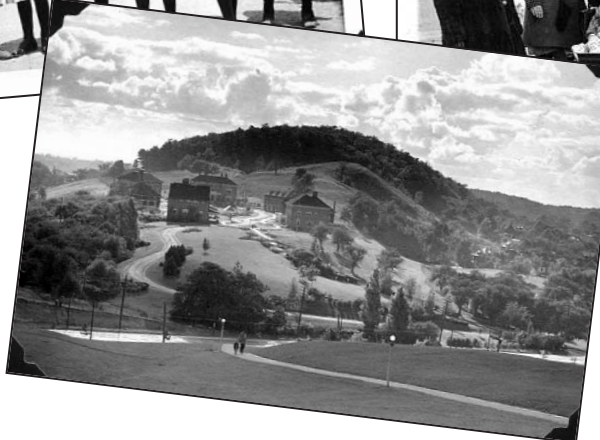
GET READY TO CELEBRATE

In 2012, Hillside Family of Agencies will celebrate 175 years of serving youth and families. We are planning twelve months of celebrations, beginning with the special anniversary insert enclosed in this issue of Vision.

This milestone in Hillside's history would not have been possible without the loyal support of our donors, volunteers, and partners. We hope all of you will join us in remembering Hillside's past, celebrating the present, and looking forward to the future.

Watch for more information on Hillside's 175th anniversary and help honor the accomplishments you have helped us achieve.

If you have Hillside photos or memories you would like to share in celebration of our 175th anniversary, please email them to Jennifer Lesinski, director of marketing, at jlesinsk@hillside.com.





FAMILY FORUM

Hillside's monthly radio discussion program

HILLSIDE FAMILY FORUM PODCASTS AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD

Hillside's award winning radio show, *Hillside Family Forum*, is now available anywhere and any time. Podcasts can be downloaded from the Web site at hillside.com. You can play the podcasts on portable music players and most computers. You can also burn them to CDs for convenient listening at home or in the car. Podcasts are also being added to iTunes. Just search for *Hillside Family Forum*.

The latest podcasts

CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE? THE IMPACT OF PARENTAL ADVOCACY

How to be a good advocate on issues affecting your family. How to raise an empowered child.

YOUTH SUICIDE

How to recognize the warning signs and prevent your child from becoming a statistic.

COPING SKILLS 101

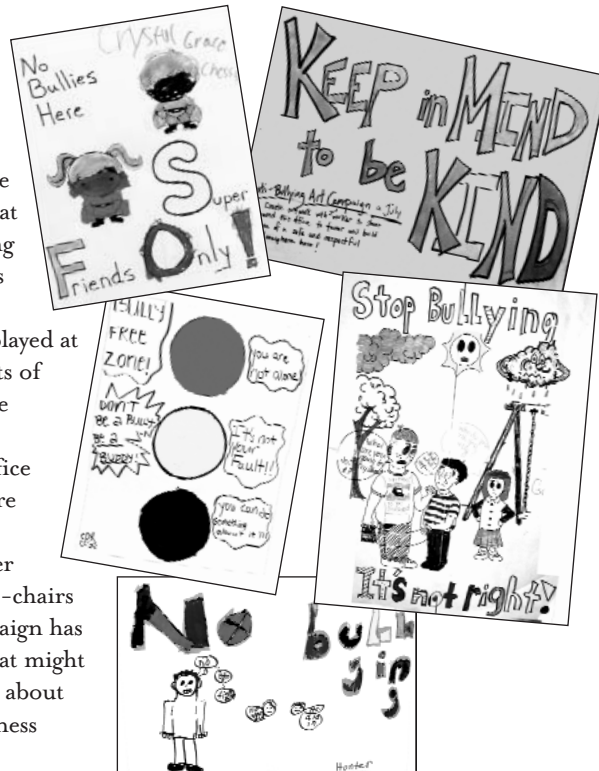
Tips on raising resilient children who can handle loss, rejection, and change.

Visit the Web site at hillside.com and go to the News page to access the complete library of *Hillside Family Forum* podcasts. Have a topic you'd like us to cover in an upcoming podcast? Use the feedback form in the podcast section to send us your ideas.

CENTRAL REGION YOUTH LEARN ABOUT TOLERANCE

Hillside Children's Center (HCC) youth throughout the Central Region have been participating in an Anti-Bullying Campaign to help create a safe haven for youth, families, and staff at all locations. Youth were asked to sign a pledge to use safe language that is not hurtful or insensitive to others. During July youth created artwork, including posters and poetry, focusing on the anti-bullying theme. Their finished works of art were displayed at all Hillside offices. Youth also created cutouts of their hands labeled with their names and one thing they plan to do to make Hillside a safe haven. The hand cutouts are displayed in office foyers to communicate to visitors that they are entering a safe space.

According to Assistant Program Manager for Waiver Service Yvette Borne, who also co-chairs the Cultural Diversity Committee, the campaign has helped the youth recognize things they do that might hurt others. "People are thinking differently about what they do and how they will act if they witness bullying in the future," she says.



FALL 2011



Family of Agencies

VOL. 39, NO. 2
FALL 2011

EDITOR:
Jennifer Lesinski

WRITERS:
Sarah Clapper; Shelby Tomaszewski

PHOTOS:
Jennifer Lesinski, John Prior

LAYOUT/GRAPHICS:
Adam Communications

PRINTING:
Canfield & Tack

Hillside Family of Agencies serves families and children through its not-for-profit affiliates: Crestwood Children's Center, Crestwood Children's Foundation, Hillside Children's Center, Hillside Children's Foundation, Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection, and Snell Farm Children's Center.

PRESIDENT & CEO:
Dennis M. Richardson

CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER:
John Barr

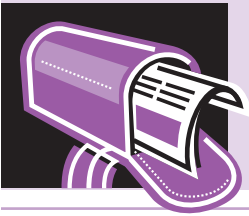
hillside.com



1183 Monroe Avenue
Rochester, New York 14620-1699

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ROCHESTER, NY
PERMIT NO. 1037

BUILDING BETTER FUTURES WITH YOUTH AND FAMILIES



If you receive more than one copy of Vision or you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please send an e-mail to hcf@hillside.com or a written request to: Crestwood and Hillside Children's Foundations, 1183 Monroe Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620.

HILLSIDE HELPS JA'KASIA GROW *continued from front page*

in regular contact with them. "She also got on track with counseling," Jamie adds, "and she completed her GED in February. When Ja'Kasia puts her mind to something, she will do it."

Ja'Kasia learned that she was pregnant last spring. Her foster family wasn't able to accommodate a baby, so Jamie researched supervised independent living programs and found one she thought would be perfect. "She was resistant at first," Jamie says, "but she liked it a lot when she saw it." Ja'Kasia moved into a two-bedroom apartment in June. She enrolled in Erie

County Community College in August and wants to become a helpline professional or a social worker. "I'm used to social workers," she says, "and I like to help people."

As she prepares for the birth of her baby, Tyler Michael, in November, Ja'Kasia says, "I hope his life is different. Foster kids have to test people, to see what they can get away with. Instead of testing limits, I hope he'll just listen. I don't want him to have my attitude."

Ja'Kasia is doing more listening herself these days. She has several family

members to whom she can turn for advice. She also continues to rely on Jamie and Melinda. "We're so proud of her for being dedicated and taking our advice," Jamie says. "Even when she didn't want to listen, something in her would hear us. She's done a lot and she's on her way to being a success. It may take a while, but she will do it. We will be here to support her."

Ja'Kasia still has difficulty with trust, but "I still always think there's good in people," she says. When asked to describe herself in one word, she thinks for a moment and says, "Optimistic."

"We're so proud of her for being dedicated and taking our advice. Even when she didn't want to listen, something in her would hear us. She's done a lot and she's on her way to being a success. It may take a while, but she will do it. We will be here to support her."

—Jamie Wrotniak