Children’s Aid Society provides services to children in crisis without regard to their family’s ability to pay for services. We are able to do so because of the donations made by generous people in our community who care.

Mark Your Calendars!

April 29, 2014
23rd Auction benefiting the Lehman Caring Center
At 4-H Center in York

June 26, 2014
Franklin County Golf Tournament
At Chambersburg Country Club

August 9, 2014
FORE Children Golf Tournament
At Hanover Country Club

Visit us at www.cassd.org

2012-2013 Annual Report
Dear Friends of Children’s Aid Society,

What a milestone – 100 years of service for thousands of children and families. This past year at Children’s Aid Society has been one of triumph and struggle. We celebrated a milestone for our organization – our 100th year of service. Thanks to a special Centennial Committee that included Ellen Arnold, Pat Carey, Warren and Theresa Eshbach, Joe Kochansky, Karl and Shari Lehman, John D. Miller, and Christian Miller, our year included some very special events. In October 2012, we held our annual dinner at the Valencia Ballroom in York. In January 2013, we rebranded our agency with a new logo and new names for our centers – the Nicarry Caring Center, the Lehman Caring Center, and the Leiter Caring Center. In April, we hosted an event with author Paul Young at Messiah College. In May, we began construction of our Healing Garden, a greenhouse that will be used as a therapeutic setting for children coming to our Nicarry Caring Center. In June, we broke ground on the Children’s Garden, a memorial garden dedicated to our supporters, also located at the Nicarry Caring Center. Throughout the year our friends and donors made special contributions and joined us in celebrating our milestone.

While the year was characterized by celebration, it included some struggles. At each of our centers waiting lists became necessary as the number of children needing our help exceeded our ability to help them all. Our Leiter Caring Center and our Lehman Caring Center are both located in older buildings that require constant upkeep. Our technological resources are out of date complicating our ability to share information between our centers. Our phone systems at the Nicarry Caring Center and the Leiter Caring Center passed the point of being updated and maintained.

Our leadership team of board members and staff responded to our year of celebration and struggle with a renewed sense of dedication. The challenge before us is to start Children’s Aid Society on the road to its next 100 years of service for thousands of children and families. While we wish that our mission to help children and families build stronger, healthier lives had an end in sight, the reality is that more children need us today and more will need our services in the years to come. We thank all of you who will be our partners as we move forward into the first year of our next 100 years.

Warm regards,

[Signature]

Christian Miller
President, Board of Directors

Robert A. Witt
Executive Director

---

The artwork on the front of our 2012-2013 annual report comes from a collage of art work drawn by children helped at Children’s Aid Society. Their art work commemorates our 100th year of service to children and families.
Two Brothers in Need of Help

For brothers ages four and six, a lifetime of witnessing abuse from their father had already taken its toll on how they interacted with others. Jeffrey, age 6, displayed extremely aggressive behavior, similar to his father. He did not comply with his mother’s requests and treated her in a very disrespectful manner. Jeffrey also bullied his younger brother Jack, age 4, who was very passive and submissive.

Finally the boys’ mother had enough and she left her abusive husband. She had no place to go so she went to a shelter. While she was at the shelter she received support services from a community organization and through that organization, was referred to Children’s Aid Society’s Leiter Caring Center. Both children began child-centered therapy to cope with the abuse they had witnessed and experienced.

After five months of therapy our therapist met with the boys’ mother to discuss their progress. Their mother was pleased to announce that she and the children were no longer staying at the shelter. She was able to find employment and a home for her and her boys.

The boys have also made significant progress. She reported that there is less conflict between the brothers and that they are now both following rules at home. Jeffrey is less aggressive while Jack is learning to become more assertive and stand up for himself. Jeffrey is no longer bullying his brother and there is less conflict between them. Today, Jeffrey is a much more loving and affectionate child, and is actually seeking out hugs. He has also begun to be a big brother and helps his mom with his younger brother.

Jeffrey and Jack are lucky; their mother is a very involved parent and is committed to providing her children with a safe and loving home environment. With the help of the staff at Children’s Aid Society and the play therapy program, these children are showing significant progress in coping with the early abuse they experienced and they will continue to thrive.
Caring for Children for 100 Years

On October 29, 1913 the Children’s Aid Society committee presented its prepared constitution to the conference. Our mission was to rescue neglected, dependent and orphaned children in the Southern Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren.

Over the next forty-seven years Children’s Aid Society sheltered thousands of children first in the homes of church members and then at the Children’s Home in Carlisle.

In the 60s and 70s Children’s Aid Society served in an advocacy role for children’s services including funding organizations such as Camp Eder, Dundalk Youth Services, Child Evangelism Fellowship, mission services in Haiti, and numerous day care centers.

In 1978 Children’s Aid Society hired its first staff person and in the 80s began to again provide direct services to children. Child counseling services were offered at the Frances Leiter Center in Franklin County and the New Oxford Center in Adams County. Child abuse prevention services were offered at The Lehman Center in York.

Today Children’s Aid Society carries on its mission to help children and their families build stronger, healthier lives through compassionate and professional services.

Our Services in the Past Year (7/1/2012 – 6/30/2013)

Last year we helped 987* children by providing them with respite care and art and play therapy. We helped 1,037* adults with family advocacy services and parent support groups. We answered 2,554 hotline calls.

The number of hours of respite care, therapy, family advocacy and parent support our staff provided was a total of 38,022 hours.

The majority of our families, 93%, live below poverty level.

Of the children we helped:

- 55% were under age 5
- 45% were 5 to 18 years old
- 46% were girls and 54% were boys
- 49% were Caucasian, 19% were African American, 13% were Hispanic and 19% identified themselves ethnically as other/mixed.

Our waiting lists averaged:

- 25 children at the Lehman Caring Center
- 12 children at the Nicarry Caring Center
- 5 children at the Leiter Caring Center

*These numbers include children and adults who received multiple services.
A Lifetime With Children’s Aid Society

Dorrie Blacksmith was born in Carlisle. When she was 18 months old her home burned and her mother and four brothers were killed in the fire. Dorrie survived the fire along with one brother, her sister and her father. Dorrie’s father tried to take care of his children but the best he could do was living in their car. Dorrie and her brother and sister were removed from her father’s care and placed in Children’s Aid’s Society’s Children’s Home in Carlisle. She was adopted from the Children’s Home when she was between 3½ and 4 years old. Staff from the Home kept in touch with Dorrie and as a teenager she returned to the Children’s Home as a volunteer.

Dorrie became a LPN. She was a Medical Office Manager for her husband’s practice and she volunteered at the Child Health Center as a nurse and receptionist. She married a family physician and they have three children, two sons and a daughter. She and her husband, Gary, are retired now. In addition to being an active member of the Carlisle Church of the Brethren, Dorrie is also kept busy with her eight grandchildren – four boys and four girls ages 4 through 14.

Children’s Aid Society represents family to Dorrie. From the years she spent at the Children’s Home through a series of tragedies she experienced as an adult, Children’s Aid Society has been there for her. Today she is far removed from being a recipient of Children’s Aid Society’s services but she still considers them her family.

Dorrie was part of the board of directors at Children’s Aid Society when the decision was made to buy the Leiter Caring Center and she helped raise funds for that purchase. She remembers driving through the snow to Chambersburg to sign the purchase agreement to purchase the Leiter Caring Center building. She served on the first Leiter Caring Center advisory committee and she still has a sense of accomplishment in knowing that they continue to serve children in need. Dorrie was on the board of directors at Children’s Aid Society for seven years, serving as board president for six of those years. She continued her involvement and in 2012 helped with the 100th anniversary celebration activities including the anniversary dinner where her story was told in the event video.

Dorrie has always been involved in service to others. She has volunteered with the Red Cross doing CPR training and with the Cancer Society. She is interested in children’s health, which is why she chose the profession of nursing. She feels that families and especially children need to know that someone cares for them and that even small gestures can make a huge difference to a child. Dorrie currently belongs to the Carlisle Civic Club and one of the projects that she is involved in is a reading program in the elementary school.

Dorrie’s motto that she lives by is simple, but profound: “I’ve learned to give not because I have too much but because I have known the feeling of not having.”