



The Children's Aid Society Foundation

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Message from the President:

Robert C. Miller, Jr.
President

We so often hear the phrase “lifelong learners” – such a simple phrase but oh so important to instill in children. Very little, if anything, can be accomplished in life without learning being involved. Discovering and internalizing the value of being a lifelong learner is a critical lesson for children. It will help assure success and enjoyment throughout their lifetime.

The Children's Aid Society Foundation loves to support learning initiatives. Programs and services which promote learning, make learning fun, and teach valuable skills like solving problems and critical thinking. These are essential for our children especially those who experience disadvantages. One such program is the Children's Aid Home Programs which operates (5) five classrooms for children of various ages.

With the help of the community and the Foundation, these classrooms are equipped with the latest software and technology along with books and other resources. Most importantly, they are facilitated by passionate staff who make learning creative and fun.

In addition to these classrooms, the Children's Aid Home Programs provides a Reading Enhancement Program. This program has been successful in helping children, often several years behind grade level, not only catch up but surpass their grade level. During all of their teaching and tutoring, the staff works to instill a love for reading.

This summer the Children's Aid Home Programs is planning several “summer camps”. These “camps” will provide creative and fun activities to further enhance learning with the children during their summer off from school.

I hope this provides a small glimpse into the work of our Foundation – namely to support programs helping children be both happy and successful. Be assured that your generous contributions are being put to good use for children's well-being. We thank you for caring about the children and their futures.

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“Our Children – Their Future

THE FOCUS ON CHILDREN -

Please continue reading the information on “STEAM” included in this issue - our charitable events this summer will benefit STEAM Camp and the Children's Literacy Enhancement Program – we are always striving to build on enriching children's lives with your help.



“What is Steam?”

STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. Each of Steam's five subjects share a common approach and focus. They require gathering and using evidence to create knowledge or solve problems. STEAM learning happens naturally as children explore, play, and try new things. STEAM learning is very important because these five disciplines are used in everyday activities. They promote problem solving, and creative and analytical thinking.

The future is here

The call for STEM/STEAM learning began in earnest in the early 2000s, and it rallied educators and policymakers to see the need for today's students to be prepared for a technology-based future and a changing workforce. According to the Smithsonian Science Education Center, “Four billion people on the planet use a mobile phone, while 3.5 billion people use a toothbrush. In the past two years, 90% of all of the world's data has been generated. NASA plans to set foot on Mars in the next 20 years, and driverless cars are already being tested in Europe. The future is here, and it requires a citizenry fluent in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).”

From STEM to STEAM

Using art in STEM projects harnesses the power of STEAM, which helps students understand how varied and impactful the arts are. STEAM projects help students discover how the arts are an integral part of processes and products that involve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The arts can also help increase engagement since students can connect artistic mediums that they enjoy (like visual arts and music) with more technical projects that may seem daunting at first, such as building an app or programming a robot. They're able to combine the familiar with the unfamiliar, acquiring new skills and discovering the world of artistic innovation.

Today's innovators are creative, working collaboratively in open workspaces, sharing ideas globally with other thinkers, and combining their STEM powers with some killer STEAM talents. Today's Google workers aren't just software engineers or coders sitting in dark rooms lit only by computer monitors. They're design-thinkers who spend 20% of their time developing passion projects. (Check out the The20TimeProject.) But a crucial step in their creative process involves inquiry, and that's why an inquiry-based approach takes STEAM to the next level.



Our Community Focus - Mobilization

How is it that there are vulnerable children? Poverty, abuse, lack of education are all contributing factors to this problem. Children benefit long-term when in the care of a protective and permanent family. Improving the lives and future prospects of children growing up without family care means mobilization from those of us that care about our community to take action to support them. Support comes in many forms – families can have options, whether it is providing regular school support to a child in foster care, giving grandparents raising their grandkids a break from the daily grind, helping a child obtain additional education after completion of their studies are just some of the ways that Children's Aid Home Programs and the Children's Aid Society Foundation strives to better aid our children, all with the help from our caring community. The results are improved physical growth, higher IQ scores, less grade repetition, increased school completion, decreased future criminal activity, less drug use/abuse, fewer teen pregnancies, and higher earning potential.

It is so heartening when we receive a gift from a generous donor or local organization that allows us to say “yes” to one more child or family who needs our support. We are proud to lend help to other local non-profit organizations partnering in their services through grants.

More children than ever need the strength and comfort of important services that our organizations provide. Because of you, our donors, The Children's Aid Home Programs and the Children's Aid Society Foundation can open the door to deserving children facing so many hardships. Your gifts will be used wisely so that these needs may be met and we are sincerely appreciative.

EVENTS HAPPENING WITH OUR CHILDREN:



A huge thank you to the donor whose contribution is making possible a summer camp experience for the children at the Children's Aid Home. In an effort to promote learning, activity, and most importantly fun, the staff of the Children's Home are planning a summer filled with activities. The activities will include letter writing to troops, reading and field trips, science experiments, LEGO engineering projects, art and photography projects, a community service project, fitness activities and games, and good old fashioned cookouts.

In keeping with the mantras of "Life Long Learning" and "Making Learning Fun", staff will create an environment of learning, teamwork, problem solving, and enjoyment. The hope is to provide the children with skills and knowledge that will serve them well both in the upcoming school year and throughout their lives. The plan is to share the results of these activities in future newsletters as well as through displays and "galleries" at the Children's Home.

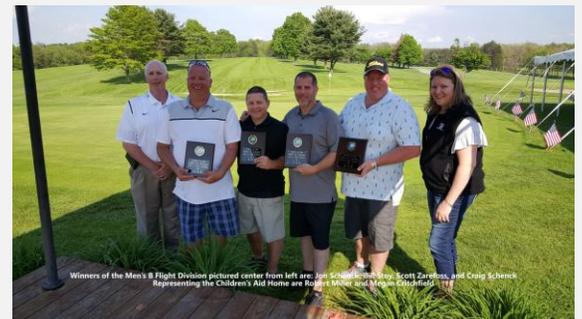
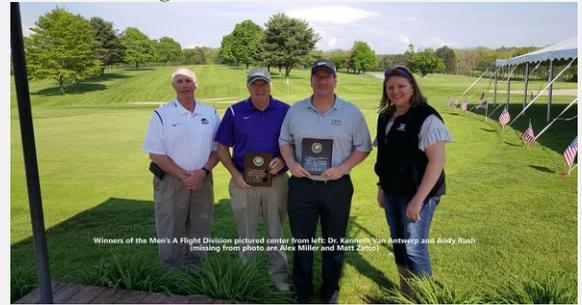
Our hope is that the children will begin to internalize a love of learning that will benefit them the rest of their lives. There is nothing more satisfying than learning a new skill, solving a problem, and successfully completing a big project. While achieving all this, they are experiencing fun and excitement as well as growing and developing. Children deserve nothing less.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Children's Aid Home 35th Annual Memorial Golf Scramble held at the Somerset Country Club Saturday, May 18, 2019

Benefitting the Reading Literacy Program at the Children's Home and summer camping for the children. This year's sponsor was UPMC and the event was a huge success – below are the winners!





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HIGHLIGHTS:

- School is out and summer programs begin for the Children's Aid Home Programs.
- The Golf Tournament was a huge success. The "way too early" save the date" for next year's tournament is May 16, 2020.
- Children's Home Improvement – summer driveway repaving to begin in July – always working to keep the Home looking great and in good repair.
- August is just around the corner meaning "back to school" preparation.
- Stay tuned for licensing reports for all the services provided by the Children's Aid Home Programs. – Hint – they are great!
- We continue to work to build our Endowment at the Foundation to better serve the children. What will your legacy be?

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY FOUNDATION

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