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SPRING 2011



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OUR MISSION

Children & Families First helps families develop solutions to meet challenges and embrace opportunities.

OUR VISION

Communities where children are nurtured and safe, individuals are valued, and families are strong.

CORE SERVICES

- Healthy Babies
- Early Childhood
- Positive Parenting
- Supporting Teens
- Family Resources
- Workplace
- Older Adults



JOHANNA & JEREMY

A BRIGHT NEW FUTURE

Johanna Santiago wants what all caring parents want – to provide her son with whatever he needs to be safe and healthy, with a future filled with promise. And she is determined to make this happen.

But Johanna's life wasn't always so focused. She stopped going to high school in 11th grade, choosing instead to work during the day while taking GED courses at night. She began working part-time at a day care and took classes sporadically, but eventually grew disinterested in completing her education. In order to make ends meet, full-time employment became the priority.

At age 24, Johanna found out she was pregnant. While her day care experience had given her some idea of what to expect as a parent, she still felt unprepared. She was referred to our Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program, and began working with Tanya Allen-Simpson, one of six NFP nurses statewide, last spring. Tanya and the other nurses provide a delicate balance of encouragement, mentoring, education and "real world" guidance to their clients. Structured home visits include health checks for both mom and baby, education on parenting and developmental stages, and hands-on training.

Johanna admits that she was hesitant to join the program at first: "I thought Tanya was going to come into to my house and tell me exactly how to raise my baby. But she respected me from the beginning and helped me make the right decisions along the way for me and my baby." Today, Johanna is a motivated, proud mom of 6-month-old Jeremy, a bright-eyed, energetic bundle of a boy. She will complete her GED this spring and plans to take evening courses in the fall towards the Training for Early Care and Education certificate program. Certification will mean increased opportunities for employment and self-sufficiency.

Some weeks, Johanna admits, the schedule of work, school and single motherhood can be overwhelming. That's when she relies on support from family members and Tanya's regular visits to make it all work. But it is clearly her motivation from within that keeps her focused on achieving her goals so her son's future has potential. "Having Jeremy changed my life. I always thought I would go back to school one day, but now I have the inspiration. Tanya gave me the encouragement I needed and I realized I had no more excuses for not getting my education. I know I need to take better care of myself so I can provide for my son. This program has taught me not just how to be a better parent, but so much more."

For more information on how the Nurse-Family Partnership program helps first-time moms, visit <http://www.cffde.org/services/healthybabies/nursefamilypartnership.aspx> or call (800) 734-2388.

SAVE THE DATE FOR
A TASTE FOR ART
OF SOUTHERN DELAWARE

A UNIQUE CULINARY AND CREATIVE ARTS EXPERIENCE! SAVOR signature dishes showcased by local restaurants. MINGLE among the works of local artisans. RELAX among friends. The place to be for a PERFECT evening!

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 21, 2011
BAYWOOD GREENS

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (302) 604-6277

A TASTE FOR ART



to benefit
Children & Families First



SNAP SHOTS

On March 5, 2011, supporters both new and old joined Children & Families First at its fourth Taste for Art at the Greenville Country Club. Guests enjoyed high end comfort foods prepared by student chefs from St. George's Vo Tech, Del Tech, Delcastle, and Howard High. More than 20 local artists displayed their works and donated 25% of their sales to Children & Families First. We thank the many sponsors and donors who made the event possible, our enthusiastic event committee, and everyone who attended.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Secretary Alan Levin, Governor Jack Markell, CFF Board Member Janice Rowe Tigani, Esq., and guest David Baylor

GET INVOLVED

THERE ARE MANY WAYS
YOU CAN SUPPORT
CHILDREN & FAMILIES FIRST:

DONATE CRITICALLY NEEDED ITEMS SUCH AS:

Diapers | Baby formula | New baby clothes
New toys | New/gently used children's bicycles
New elementary school uniforms (sizes 5-14)
for the Eastside Community School project
Shirts (polo or button down, in white or navy blue)
Pants/shorts/skirts/jumpers (in navy blue)
Sweaters (crewneck, v-neck, or cardigan, in navy blue)

DONATE TO OUR ANNUAL FRIENDS CAMPAIGN,

which directs your gift dollars
to where they are needed most.

FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.CFFDE.ORG

SUPPORT THE UNITED WAY DESIGNATE A GIFT TO C&FF THROUGH:

- UNITED WAY OF DELAWARE: #299
(PARTNER AGENCY)
- UNITED WAY OF SOUTHEASTERN PA: #1466
- COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN OF DE: #50028
- STATE EMPLOYEE CHARITABLE CAMPAIGN: #50300

GIVE THE GIFT OF TIME!

Become a Children & Families First volunteer!
Our team of volunteers is made up of people
like you, who give the gift of time to help us
help Delawareans in need.

**OPPORTUNITIES CHANGE FREQUENTLY,
SO PLEASE CONTACT OUR VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR, KATHIE STAMM, AT
(302) 777-9762 OR KATHIE.STAMM@CFFDE.ORG**

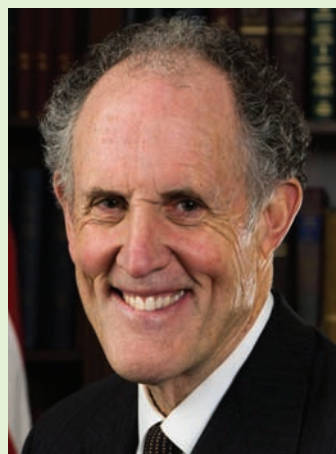
CHILDREN & FAMILIES FIRST WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

GARY GOLDEN is currently the Head of Lending Operations for ING DIRECT focusing on the servicing activities of the Bank's \$40 billion mortgage loan portfolio after joining the bank in March of 2002. Gary has over 25 years of related banking experience, having previously served as Vice President and Department Head in charge of Real Estate and Special Assets for M&T Bank and Keystone Financial among others. While at M&T Bank and its predecessor institutions, Gary utilized his broad management experience to successfully lead his divisions through four separate bank merger and acquisition initiatives. Gary currently serves as a member of the ING DIRECT Management Committee as well as the Lending and Investment, Production and Operations, and Operational Risk Committees. Gary resides in Wilmington with his wife and three children where he has also been an active volunteer in numerous youth sports programs for the last 20 years.



TED KAUFMAN

rejoins Children & Families First's Board after serving in the U.S. Senate, where he took the seat of Sen. Joe Biden upon his election as Vice President. During his time in the Senate, Ted was a leading voice in the financial debate. As the Senate's only member to have worked as an engineer, Ted was especially active in promoting the expansion of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education. Ted began working full-time for Biden in 1973, and three years later, became his chief of staff, a job he held for 19 years. From 1995 until 2008, Ted



was a Board member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG). Ted and his wife, Lynne, have been married since 1960 and reside in Wilmington. They have three daughters and seven grandchildren.

JAMES KLABE currently serves as Marketing Administration Division Manager at Wilmington Trust, a position he has held since 2006. In his role, he is responsible for management of creative and production services, website, corporate events, tradeshow and research support. Prior to joining Wilmington Trust in 1998, Jim worked at PNC Bank for more than 20 years in a variety of capacities, including Vice President for Sales Management. Jim is a graduate of the University of Delaware and the Stonier Graduate School of Banking. He serves on the board of SOAR (Survivors of Abuse in Recovery) and is a past board member of Junior Achievement of Delaware. Jim and his wife, Shelly, live in Pike Creek and have three children.



WILMA MISHOE, Ed.D. recently retired from Delaware Technical & Community College, Terry Campus in Dover, where she worked for more than 30 years, most recently serving as Dean in the Office of Instruction. She served in a variety of positions at Del Tech, including: Dean of Student Services; Admissions, Marketing and Recruitment Coordinator; and Affirmative Action Officer. Before joining Del Tech, Wilma served as Dean of Students and Director of Financial Aid at Wilmington University. Wilma received her B.S. and M.Ed. from Howard University, and her Ed.D. from Temple University. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of Wilberforce University in Ohio, and has been active on the Boards of VSA Arts of Delaware, and Aid in Dover. In 2011, she was nominated by Gov. Markell and confirmed by the Delaware State Senate to be a member of the State Public Integrity Commission. She is a member of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, and a prior member of the Delaware Foster Care Review Board.



WELCOME!



POSITIVE PARENTING STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Parenting is hard work. In fact, it's one of the toughest jobs there is. We strive to give parents the supports they need to build strong relationships with their kids.

CFF is a certified provider of training for Separating & Divorcing Parents. Our Delaware Cares workshops are designed to strengthen parent/child relationships, and to help parents develop skills to solve problems and handle conflict. Divorce can be one of the most stressful experiences a family will go through, but we are there to help. We have recently reduced our rates for Delaware Cares to \$75, in order to ensure that the training is affordable to anyone who needs it.

The Strengthening Families Program (SFP) is a research-based family skills training series, based on studies that show that kids grow up best when parents offer emotional support and practice consistent discipline. Each session begins with parents and children enjoying a meal together. Parents and children then break into separate groups, with the children divided by age. Families then come back together to practice the new skills they've learned. Our SFP program is having great success, working with families who have a whole host of challenges – histories of abuse and neglect, poverty, and more. Analysis of our 2010 data by the SFP developers showed that in most cases, our parents demonstrated larger changes from the pre- to the post-test than seen in national SFP data.

And while we know that data is important, we also believe in the power of each family's story. CFF Senior Program Manager (and Parent Education expert) Wadine Toliaferro's eyes light up when she talks about our successes: "I am thrilled when parents tell me they've used their new skills to deal with their child's unwanted behaviors and have discovered that the skills actually work. I know then that we have done our job well."

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR PROGRAMS
FOR PARENTS, PLEASE VISIT
WWW.CFFDE.ORG/SERVICES/POSITIVEPARENTING/INDEX.ASPX.

DEAR FRIENDS,



In spite of the decidedly un-Spring-like weather, my heart was warmed to see so many faith leaders, politicians, advocates, and friends come out for the April 1st kick-off of Delaware's 2nd Annual Blue Bow Campaign, in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Our Blue Bow Interfaith Prayer Breakfast was graciously hosted by our neighbors at Hanover Presbyterian Church. Speakers included Rev. Andy Jacob of Hanover, Rev. Terrence Keeling from Central Baptist

Church, Rev. Dr. Lawrence Livingston of Mother African Union Church, and Rabbi Michael Beals of Congregation Beth Shalom, who shared their views on children & families through the lens of their faith traditions. In addition, Attorney General Beau Biden, Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn, Governor Jack Markell, and Sen. Tom Carper spoke about the great work that individuals, agencies, and advocates throughout the state are doing to keep children safe. And the 7th Grade Vocal Majors from Cab Calloway School gave a heartfelt performance that included a touching rendition of "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother."

I was struck by the words of Frederick Douglass, shared by one of our speakers: "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." This is at the heart of what Children & Families First is trying to do, in so many ways...like our Nurse-Family Partnership and Resource Mothers, the Strengthening Families Program, and more. We envision a community where children are nurtured and safe, individuals are valued, and families are strong. We thank you for all you do to help us build that community.

Leslie



LEFT TO RIGHT: Senator Tom Carper welcomes Lt. Governor Matt Denn to the podium at the Blue Bow Interfaith Service