Overcoming Adversity

This is Gabriella's story. She is the oldest of 3 siblings from Puerto Rico and a mother of four girls. Gabriella's mother brought her family to New York to get away from a domestic abuse situation involving her father. It was not until the family moved to New Bedford that she truly felt safe...or at least she thought.

While living in New Bedford, Gabriella dreamed of finishing school but had to work to assist the family with paying the bills. When she finally was able to go back to school to obtain her GED, the mental health and well-being of her family began to fall apart. Gabriella's eldest was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease that caused her to have alopecia. Being seven and having alopecia was traumatizing. Her daughter recalled the day she was being teased about her condition where another student pulled a handful of her hair out and threw it on the floor. Her daughter was so distraught, she picked up her hair and put it in her pocket. When she got home, she showed Gabriella what had happened at school. Gabriella explained how people can be cruel but what matters most is she is loved by her family just the way she is.

There has also been great tension because Gabriella's father has tried to gain access back into the family. Gabriella's second child, who suffers from selective muteness, has struggled even more so with the actions of her grandfather. Recently, he tried to break in to the house. As a result, they had to get a restraining order. With the help of their Parents As Teachers (PAT) worker they also made a safety plan which helped to empower them.

Through all the trials and tribulations, Gabriella has managed to gained control of her life and has been a caring and devoted mother to her children. Her daughters are now involved with a therapist as well as groups in school. Gabriella also has a better understanding of what her children need medically and emotionally. She recently shared, while holding back tears, how thankful she was for the support she received to help her through the difficult times. Her plans are to re-enroll in school to finally get her GED to make a better life for her family.

To find out more about our Parents As Teachers (PAT) program, visit our website https://child-familyservices.org/parents-as-teachers-program/

“Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.”
-Mahatma Gandhi
Holiday Hope: It Takes a Village

Where there is the presence of giving, there is HOPE. It is truly amazing to see first hand a community coming together for the holidays. This year, a total of 509 families/individuals received gifts/food cards for the holidays through our Holiday Hope Project.

As we watched the packages unload, we noticed such enthusiasm and excitement from sponsors; how proud they were of their gifts and how happy they were to give back. The hard work and effort that was put in to organizing, shopping and wrapping showed instantly by the presentation of their beautiful gifts. Seeing the families pick up their gifts was just as heartwarming as they could not believe the generosity of sponsors who gave so much to their children.

Thank you to all who helped out a family or individual; you have not just given a gift, but you have given HOPE! Many thanks to all our hard working volunteers, both new and seasoned, who help make the process run smoothly. We always need all the extra hands and muscles we can get! Thank you!

ABOVE and BEYOND
We appreciate everyone who sponsored a family or an individual and want to also give recognition to the following groups/individuals who went above and beyond:

Tabor Academy 19 Families / South Dartmouth Congo Church 35 individuals / Merrow Manufacturing 20 Individuals / Charlton Memorial Hospital 6 Families / Linda Gonsalves 2 Families & 12 Individuals

View a full list of our sponsors on our website: https://child-familyservices.org/whats-happening-3/

Restaurant Vendors
- 99 Restaurant - Dartmouth
- Brazilian Grill
- Cakes by Lucy
- Fay’s Restaurant / Knotty
- Pine Catering
- Lebanese Kitchen
- Morton’s Fork Catering
- Not Your Average Joe’s
- RW Catering
- Seaport Inn Grill
- Texas Roadhouse
- Topshelf Bar & Grill
- Turk’s Seafood
- Wok Magic Catering

Thanks to all the restaurants and businesses that provided gift certificates and silent auction items.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors, restaurants, volunteers and guests for helping us make the Gala a success!
South Coast Towing Raises $13,250

Question: What do you get when you have a determined group of people who want to better the lives of those suffering from mental health issues?

Answer: Christopher Medeiros’ annual Care For Kids event! This year, they raised a total of $13,250 to support mental health programs at Child & Family Services; bringing their overall total to $43,250!

“A donation of this magnitude goes a long way to enhance our programs that provide direct services to those in need,” stated Susan Remy, Director of Development. “We are honored that Mr. Medeiros chose to support the vital work we do in the community to heal and strengthen the lives of children and families.”

Adoption Recognition Awards

Our Fall River and Lawrence staff walked away with several awards at the 21st Annual MARE (Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange) Awards Ceremony. This event recognizes the exceptional work done by agencies and individual social workers to accomplish a common goal of finding permanent families for waiting children.

The winners are:

Fall River Adoption office: Outstanding use of MARE Media Campaigns Award

Lawrence Adoption office: Outstanding MARE Family Resource Collaboration Award

Elizabeth Bolt from our Lawrence office: Outstanding Dedication & Commitment to Waiting Children and Families (Individual Worker) Award

We would like to recognize the following for their generous funding of our programs:

Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation $4,000 to Caring Network Program

Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts - Acushnet Foundation Fund $10,000 for General Support

Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts - Hawthorn Medical Associates Charitable Fund $5,000 to Caring Network Program

Dean Foundation for Little Children $12,000 to Caring Network/Adoption Programs

Leonard & Hilda Kaplan Foundation $10,000 to Caring Network Program

Ludes Family Foundation $500 for General Support

Maureen Wilkens Charitable Fund $2,000 for General Support

Robert F. Stoico Foundation $500 to Caring Network Program

Rotary Club of Fall River $850 for Smart Room materials

Target $4,500 to Caring Network Program

The Norweb Foundation $500 for General Support

United Way of Greater New Bedford Community Impact Grant $20,000 to Caring Network Program
Monthly Giving Program

Right now...

...a child is getting bullied at school and is considering suicide
...someone is suffering with a mental illness
...a child needs a permanent home
...someone is a victim of violence
...someone has lost all hope in life

Would you like to invest in a cause that can truly change a life for the better? By becoming a monthly donor, you will be part of our exclusive 365 Society, investing in the work that we do to 365 days a year. Your contribution will have a meaningful impact on the children and families that receive crucial services from us each and every day. All funds received through our Monthly Giving Program will go directly to support the work we do to heal families affected by mental illness, violence, and trauma.

With your charitable monthly donation, you are choosing to make a remarkable difference. Your ongoing support will not only bring Hope, but will Help, Heal and Strengthen the lives of children and families. Thank you!

Learn more online: https://child-familyservices.org/monthly-giving-program/

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Get Social.  

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CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Susan Remy
Brittney Carvalho

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Our Mission

“...to heal and strengthen the lives of children and families.”

or current resident