Adoption Program Takes Home 5 MARE Awards!

The 18th Annual MARE (Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange) Awards Ceremony was held November 3rd. What is MARE exactly about? 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. With that being said, we are pleased to announce that Child & Family’s Adoption Program received 5 awards this year!

“Beyond Borders Interstate Placement Award”
Katelyn Mello - Child & Family Services of Merrimack Valley

“Outstanding Agency Collaboration with MARE – THE WOOD”
Child & Family Services of Fall River

“Outstanding use of MARE Registration and Photo Listing”
Child & Family Services of Fall River

“Outstanding MARE Adoption Party Attendance”
Child & Family Services of Merrimack Valley

“Outstanding Use of MARE Media Campaigns”
Child & Family Services of Fall River

“This past year, our adoption workers helped find families for 41 children who otherwise may not have been able to grow up in a home to call their own,” stated Melissa DaCosta, Director of the Adoption program.

Congratulations to the staff in our Adoption Program for going above and beyond!

Forever Grateful: a note from adoptive parents

The following is text from a card we received during the past Holiday Season from a couple who adopted children many years ago and continue to be grateful for the role CFS played in giving them their family.

“Thanks to Child & Family Services, Barry and I were able to adopt 2 babies - one in 1965 and then again in 1966; first a son and then a daughter! We will be forever grateful to Mrs. Harrop and the agency. We now have 4 teenage grandsons! We also have a wonderful extended family (our daughter’s biological mom and her family)!~ Cam and Barry
Giving Hope for the Holidays

Child & Family Services wishes to thank everyone who contributed to the 365 Days of Hope Gala and Holiday Hope Project. Once again, the great people of this community came together to help a total of 433 children and families have a brighter holiday season. Whether you purchased a ticket, sponsored our event, bought a gift for a child, shopped for an entire family, or volunteered your time, YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE! We are truly grateful for your kindness and support and wish you a Healthy, Happy, and Prosperous New Year!

Sponsors
Leader
Carney Family Charitable Foundation

Underwriters
Macy’s
Paul & Donna Downey
Rockland Trust

Benefactors
BayCoast Bank
BankFive

Friends
Anthony F. Cordeiro Insurance Agency
Clean Uniforms and More!

Restaurants Providing Food
Airport Grille
All Friends Catering Smokehouse
Black Nine Club
Black Tie Cookies
Cakes By Lucy
Cobblestone Restaurant
Fay’s Restaurant
Frontera Grill
Hawthorne Country Club
Jerry Remy’s Sports Bar & Grill
Mary’s Steamed Burgers
Morton’s Fork Catering
Ninety Nine Restaurant & Pub
Not Your Average Joe’s
Panera Bread
Texas Roadhouse
Turks Seafood
Waterfront Grille
Wok Magic

Gala Committee
Nick Petronelli | Chair
Julie Lariviere | Co-Chair
AnneArsenault
Cheri Moorhouse
Fatima Simas

The following groups, along with many individuals and local families, contributed to helping children and families this holiday season:
All Saints Catholic School
Alphagraphics
Anne Whiting Real Estate
Atlantic Light
Babbitt Steam
Bishop Stang High School
Buzzards Bay Rowing Club
Charlton Memorial Hospital
Congregational Church S. Dartmouth
Covanta
Dartmouth High School
Dartmouth Total Fitness
East Fairhaven Elementary School
First Bristol Corporation
First Congo Church of Fairhaven
Gail & Roger Dahlberg
Glaser Glass Corp
Hawthorne Medical Associates
Horizon Marine, Inc.
Jack Conway Realtor
Janet Galipeau
John & Pat Kalisz
Joseph DeMello Elementary School
Ken & Susan Gormley
Kerrin & Ernest Thompson
Lindy & Brandon Frazer
Lockheed Martin
Lorraine & Louis Travers
Lyles & Nancy Bourgault
Mayor’s Office of New Bedford
New Bedford Yacht Club
Northeast Maritime
Old Rochester Regional School District
Panera Bread (Dartmouth)
RA Mitchell Co., Inc.
Smithers Viscient
St. Luke’s Hospital
Tabor Academy
Transit Services, Inc. (Yellow Cab)
Trinity Lutheran Church
Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven

Holiday Hope Project Committee
Karen Almeida | Chair
Fatima Simas | Co-Chair
Anne Arsenaault, Maureen Harrington
Lucy Machado, Nona Sbordone
Special Thanks to Ellen Dingwell

MANY THANKS TO:
Douglas Wine & Spirits,
Hawthorne Country Club,
and Nellie’s Phototainment.

Thank you to all the restaurants and businesses that provided gift certificates and silent auction items for the Gala.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE AT: WWW.CHILD-FAMILYSERVICES.ORG
What is a Mentor?

What exactly is a mentor? A mentor is a person or friend who guides a less experienced person by building trust and modeling positive behaviors. Serving as role models, our mentors teach by example the importance of giving and giving back, of staying in school, and for having respect for family, peers and community.

For children who come from less than ideal circumstances, mentoring can be a critical factor towards positive youth outcomes. “The most powerful impact we can have on a child is giving them the ability to see the potential they have in themselves,” stated Deanna Bodeau, program coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters. “Every child has the ability to be successful, but by having a positive person in their corner encouraging them makes all the difference.” Statistics say that children who have been mentored have better school attendance, better attitudes towards school, and an increased chance of going on to higher education. Studies also show that 53% of students credit their mentors with improving their ability to avoid drugs.

Our Big Brothers Big Sisters program provides mentors to young boys and girls living in the Greater New Bedford area. If you are 18 years or older and would like to be a positive role model in a child’s life, you can be a BIG. You can really change a child’s life.

For more information about our program, contact Deanna Bodeau at 508.742.3950. Make a difference in your life and the life of a child. Become a BIG today!

Hometown Heroes

The Greater New Bedford Community
for their continued support and generosity

The Carney Family
for providing much needed space for the Holiday Hope Project

Christopher Medeiros from South Coast Towing
for holding a fundraising event and donating the $5,000 proceeds to CFS

Mattapoisett Laundromat, Tetreault Family and Trucchi’s Supermarket
for donating warm winter coats, gloves, hats, and scarves

Healthtrax, Holy Name Church, NYE Lubricants, Prince Henry Society, and The Wamsutta Club
for holding toy drives to benefit the children of our Holiday Hope Project

Members of the New Bedford Chamber and the South Coast Young Professionals
for volunteering their time to wrap for Holiday Hope

Get Social.
Lanes are filling up fast. Register Now!

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Child & Family Services presents its 12th Annual Bowl For Kids’ Sake!

This is a great event for family, friends, and coworkers to get together for a fun afternoon of bowling to benefit the children in our Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Not a bowler?
Pledge someone who is, or be a Lane Sponsor. There are many ways you can show your support!

Learn how you can get involved. Contact Deanna at:
(508) 742-3950
dbodeau@cfservices.org