

NEWS

Community Schools Approach Provides Needed Student Supports



Children need additional supports and expanded learning opportunities to meet new academic standards.

The Bush Administration's proposals for improving our nation's schools rest on the twin pillars of high academic standards and regular student testing. These national proposals build on local and state efforts over the past decade, a period during which America's citizens and elected officials have grappled with the failure of our public schools to adequately prepare about half of our young people for productive adulthood.

In response to this realization, 49 of 50 states have agreed on higher academic standards for students, which provide useful guidelines in clarifying what students are expected to know.

But only raising the bar for students and employing annual testing as the central accountability measure constitute insufficient remedies for the troubling situation that confronts us. *What's also needed is a set of commensurate reforms that raise the level of supports*

and opportunities so that students are prepared to meet these new standards.

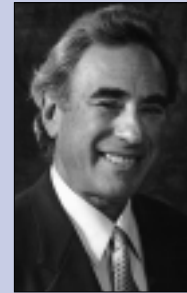
Research is abundantly clear about the three key ingredients that must be in place. These three elements are also called a reform triangle.

- A strong core instructional program designed to enable all children to succeed academically;
- Student and family support services (such as medical, dental, mental health and social services) designed to reduce barriers to learning; and
- Academic and cultural enrichment designed to expand students' learning opportunities and to build their engagement and motivation.

Research is also clear that where key developmental influences work together, positive

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From the Executive Director...



Helping Adjudicated Youth

At a time when more and more states are sentencing juvenile

offenders as adults, New York State offers an approach that seeks to better reintegrate youth into community life as a way to reduce recidivism. A new partnership between the New York State Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, of which The Children's Aid Society (CAS) is a member, and the state Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), will provide a carefully developed re-entry program for adjudicated youth returning from upstate residential facilities operated by OCFS. Set to kick off this spring, this community re-entry program has been designed to encourage and enable these youth to become positive, crime-free, contributing members of their communities.

The youth who will participate in this program typically are 14 to 18 years of age, and have been sentenced to serve 12 to 18 months for their involvement in anti-social behavior. They will have served at least six months in a residential facility, and then will be returned to their homes and communities to complete the remainder of their sentences in day placement if they've been deemed suitable for this program.

Wraparound services to compliment OCFS case management will be provided by the Boys & Girls Clubs/CAS. Children's Aid's Dunlevy Milbank Center in Harlem will serve as a welcome center, the first stop for youth who live in Manhattan and the Bronx after they are sent home from the OCFS facilities.

For two weeks, The Children's Aid Society will provide medical, dental and mental health services, education evaluations using the computer center at

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Students in the Newspaper Group after-school program at I.S. 218, one of CAS's nine community schools, proudly display their results.

Community Schools *continued from page 1*

youth outcomes are improved. A 13-year study by Francis Ianni and his Columbia University colleagues in 10 varied communities found that child and adolescent outcomes were enhanced in communities where key influences – home, school, community resources – combined to provide consistent messages, opportunities and supports.

Youth serving agencies, including The Children's Aid Society (CAS), have much to contribute to this national conversation and to the resulting action agenda — especially an action agenda that involves this reform triangle. While responsibility for the core instructional program clearly rests with schools and school districts, youth services agencies (including ours) can maintain a strong advocacy position around the importance of placing a qualified teacher in every classroom, reducing class size, maintaining safe, clean facilities and ensuring equal access through equitable financing. And we can speak from our direct experience about the other two sides of this reform triangle because of our decades of work in providing the very kinds of supports, opportunities and services that have been shown to reduce barriers to, and expand opportunities for, children's learning and development.

CAS model offers enriched experience

For the past 10 years, CAS has demonstrated the feasibility and effectiveness of this reform triangle by working in a long-term partnership with the New York City Board of Education through an effort called community schools.

This new approach extends the hours and services of public schools, involves families as full partners in their children's education and engages students as active agents in their own learning. The CAS community schools, all located in low-income communities in northern Manhattan, East Harlem and the South Bronx, are the result of written agreements involving CAS, the New York City Board of Education and three of the city's local school districts. Unlike most traditional public schools, these community schools are open up to 15 hours a day, six days a week, all year long. The resources we bring provide a wide array of enriched learning experiences



Academic enrichment is one of the resources community-based organizations can add to community schools.

before and after school, on weekends and holidays and during summer breaks, including visual and performing arts (dance, chorus, string orchestra, jazz band), chess clubs, recycle-a-bicycle workshops, ecology clubs, community service projects, museum visits and other field trips.

In addition, in some of these schools, CAS is able to offer onsite medical, dental, mental health and social services to students and their families.

A key feature of these community schools is the interweaving of the CAS and Board of Education components, ensuring that students have a coherent, integrated experience that is totally focused on their learning and development.

Our local work in New York City has attracted widespread attention nationally and internationally. Our Washington Heights schools have hosted more than 4,000 visitors in less than a decade and, at last count, over 100 schools in this and other countries have

adapted our model. Since 1994, our Community Schools Technical Assistance Center has provided training, resource materials and other assistance in support of these adaptation efforts.

Because we believe so strongly in the power of the community schools approach, last year we launched a public service advertising campaign, in partnership with the Ad Council and the Coalition for Community Schools, to broaden awareness nationally of the potential of this approach for other locales. To us, it is clear that community schools provide America's children with the very kinds of services and opportunities needed if we are truly to leave no child behind.

Two to Watch in Congress

The federal "21st Century Community Learning Centers" program stands out as enlightened public policy. This five-year-old program, which has grown substantially each year with bipartisan support, underwrites the cost of after-school enrichment and other community school components in public schools around the country. CAS has partnered with two local New York City school districts in applying for, and receiving, grants under this program.

Another proposal wending its way through Congress, the Younger Americans Act, is similarly enlightened in that it provides substantial financial support for youth development programs at the local level. These two worthy efforts deserve increased attention in the press and in Congress because they are designed to provide the supports needed by children struggling to meet the new, tougher standards imposed by the states.

New Staff Members Join The Children's Aid Society



Pat Grayson

Patricia M. Grayson, a dedicated member of The Children's Aid Society's Board of Trustees for the past 11 years, has joined our staff as the Assistant Executive Director for Development. Grayson brings

more than 20 years of experience in providing fundraising and public relations counsel to non-profit organizations. In her new role, she will lead the 18-person development department – which includes fundraising, special events and public relations — as it seeks to cultivate new and existing donors and raise the visibility of the organization. Prior to joining CAS, Grayson spent three years as Director of Development at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. She was instrumental in raising over \$8 million annually from foundations, corporations and individuals. Previously, she spent 19 years with National Medical Fellowships (NMF), a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to minority medical students. She served as Vice President of Institutional Support and Vice President of Planning and Development among other roles. Grayson received her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in education from Harvard. Grayson will succeed the current Assistant Executive Director for Development, Truda Jewett, who has served the organization with grace and dedication for more than 18 years. Jewett will remain with CAS in an important executive and community outreach capacity.

Henry Arce has joined The Children's Aid Society as the new Director of our innovative Community Schools program. In this position, Arce will provide leadership and vision for CAS's nine community schools located in upper Manhattan and the Bronx. Raised in East Harlem and the Bronx, Arce has made a commitment to improving the lives of fellow New Yorkers through his work. For the past two years, he worked for the New York City Board of Education as Bronx Borough Deputy to the Chancellor. He served at the NYC School Construction Authority for nine years; first as community relations manager and then as Director of Employment Programs. Earlier, Arce held positions with the city's Human Resources Administration, Transit Authority and the Department of Employment. Working closely with the school site directors, Arce will bring his dedication to improving educational and community services for children and families as he leads this program in the 21st Century. Arce, who lives in Bridgewater, NJ, received his bachelor's degree from the City College of New York and studied at the graduate level at the New School for Social Research.



Henry Arce

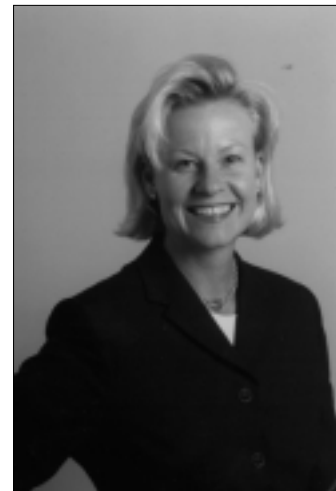
CAS Welcomes New Trustee

Barbara Yastine, Chief Financial Officer for Salomon Smith Barney and Citibank's Global Relationship Bank, joined the Board of The Children's Aid Society as a Trustee this winter.

Before assuming her current professional position, she was Chief Auditor of Citigroup, Inc., and prior to that was Chief Administrative Officer

of the Global Consumer Group at Citigroup, overseeing mergers and acquisitions, finance and accounting, business analysis, audit, rating agency relations, and treasury functions.

Ms. Yastine's career at Citigroup, the global diversified financial services company formed in 1998 by the merger of Citicorp and Travelers Group Inc., began when she joined Primerica (a predecessor of Travelers Group) in 1987, and was appointed Vice President of the Corporation in 1991. Earlier, from 1982 to 1987, she held various communications and investor relations positions at W. R. Grace & Co. Ms. Yastine holds a B.A. in Journalism from New York University and an M.B.A. in Finance from the New York University School of Business Administration. She lives with her husband in Stockton, NJ.



Barbara Yastine

Neediest Cases Sets New Record



The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund completed its 2000-2001 campaign with contributions totaling a record-setting \$8,033,582. This exceeds the previous record, established during the 1998-99 campaign, by more than \$1.3 million.

Jack Rosenthal, president of The New York Times Company Foundation, which administers the fund, attributed the record to a "confluence of factors," including the generosity of The Starr Foundation, with its record single gift of \$1 million, as well as the largest donation ever raised

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The New “Big Blue:” Bigger and Better (But Not Blue)

Coming soon to the streets of Washington Heights and Harlem is a new, state-of-the-art mobile dental van, operated by The Children’s Aid Society (CAS) in collaboration with The Columbia University Community DentCare Network. The two agencies cut the ribbon to inaugurate the new van in February at a Head Start site it will serve in Harlem. The van will replace the ever-popular “Big Blue,” CAS’s existing mobile dental unit, in providing needed dental services to children in low-income neighborhoods.



The new Children’s Aid /Columbia University dental van has two dental chairs, to provide more services to more children.

The Children’s Aid Society received major donations for the new van from the Starr Foundation and The Kauffmann Foundation, with additional operating support from The Metropolitan Life Foundation, the GAP Foundation and the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Ltd.

The new 38-foot-long white and blue van, built by Midwest Mobile Technologies of Ohio, is adorned with The Children’s Aid Society and Columbia University logos and features a soothing light blue interior. A festive dinosaur border runs throughout the entire van to keep young eyes engaged. The new van is specially equipped with the latest dental technology and includes a new handicapped lift, which will give us the capability of serving youngsters in wheelchairs.

The van’s most important new feature, however, is its two dental chairs, represent-

ing a doubling of mobile dental capacity. Two chairs will allow us to serve more youngsters and to see them more quickly. CAS’s 10-year veteran “mobile dentist,” Dr. Elvir Dincer, will continue to staff the van; a new dental fellow from the Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery will join him.

“We are very excited about this new collaboration with Columbia. With the addition of its dental fellow, we can now serve more children more completely in areas where quality, comprehensive dental services are scarce,” said Dr. Joseph McManus, Director of Dentistry for The Children’s Aid Society.

As yet without a nickname, the new van will continue to travel to Head Start, family day care and elementary school programs to

provide onsite dental services to children, without requiring that their parents take time off for dental appointments. This ensures that the children receive dental services they need but otherwise might not get.

Many of the children who visit the van have had little or no access to dental care and the van visit is often their first encounter with a dentist. Of the children who visit the van for the first time, the dentists typically see not just one but multiple cavities as well as more severe dental problems that often require emergency attention.

The dentists will provide a wide range of preventive and restorative dental services including cleanings, fluoride treatments, fillings and oral home care instruction. They will continue to stress prevention and education, promoting early dental instruction to young children, training parents in preventive care and proper dental hygiene and helping children establish the habit of seeing a dentist every six months. In addition, the new van includes space for a Health Care Access Program (HCAP) enrollment desk.

The new van will allow “Big Blue” to begin serving an entirely new group of children within the city who have not previously been visited by the mobile van, or perhaps, a dentist.

Gates Gives Big Boost to Boys & Girls Clubs

Smiles were broad in early December when Microsoft chairman Bill Gates visited our Dunlevy Milbank Center to announce a \$100 million gift to Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). This gift, the largest given by Microsoft to date, will go far to help Boys & Girls Clubs, of which CAS is a member, establish state-of-the-art computer centers that will help thousands of children acquire critical computer skills. Joining CAS executive director Philip Coltoff (standing) at the podium were, left to right: Congressman Charles B. Rangel, Senator Charles E. Schumer, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Nyasia Bowles, the CAS/BGCA Youth of the Year, Bill Gates, and Roxanne Spillet, president, Boys & Girls Clubs of America. After the speeches, Mr. Gates and Senator Clinton toured Milbank’s Technology Playground, a state-of-the-art computer learning center, where several children from CAS programs gave the VIPs a virtual tour.



New Community School Focused on Health Opens in East Harlem

With support from The Mulago Foundation, The Children's Aid Society (CAS) has opened its ninth community school in New York City, P.S. 50 – The Vito Marcantonio School.* This undertaking is based not only on a partnership with the New York City Board of Education, but also upon an expanded partnership with Mt. Sinai Medical Center to address the dire health needs in the East Harlem community.

P.S. 50 encompasses the best of the community school model – extended-day, weekend and summer programs; medical and dental services; cutting-edge school-based mental health programs; and strong parenting programs – plus the best of the Mt. Sinai Children's Community Health clinics, to assist a community in extreme need of enhanced educational and medical services.

The school serves nearly 700 students, pre-K through 6th grade. These children exhibit tremendous medical needs, particularly with asthma treatment, management and prevention. In fact, a large number of students from P.S. 50 miss as many as 40 days of school each year as a result of this illness. One of our immediate aims, therefore, is to combine Mt. Sinai's expertise in asthma management and health education with CAS's skill in integrating supportive services in schools and involving parents to drastically reduce these absences and improve overall child and family health.

In line with the CAS community school

model, the school-based health center will operate 12 months a year to provide comprehensive community health and education interventions. The school medical team will be fully incorporated into the fabric of the school and will work closely with staff, parents and students on health education and prevention.

Children's Aid has also brought its HCAP (Health Care Access Program) to P.S. 50; our staff helps enroll families with uninsured children in either Medicaid or Child Health Plus and helps them access the health services their new insurance provides.

In addition to specialized workshops for parents and children covering topics such as nutrition and anti-violence, after-school and summer programs will include fitness activities such as volleyball, aerobics and dance to combat obesity and offer a healthy outlet for energy and aggression. The academic curriculum for the after-school program will also be health-focused, with programming created to address community health and community service.

The level of enthusiasm among school personnel, students and parents has been extremely encouraging. In fact, parents and grandparents have been involved from the start and have shown an unprecedented level of participation. With the hard work of parents, community members and school staff, we have created a Parent Resource Center – a beautiful room that is rapidly becoming the

center for parent and community activities.

Construction for the medical clinic began in December and ended early this spring. It will include a full- and part-time pediatrician, a pediatric nurse practitioner, a part-time psychiatrist, a social worker and a full-time office assistant. The school staff is also developing; a Community School Director, health educator and outreach worker are already on board. We hope to have the community school program fully operational this spring.

In addition, and absolutely key to a community school's success, we have the backing of the district superintendent, Evelyn Castro, as well as the full support of the principal, Renee Pollard. Recognizing the dire need among her students, Ms. Pollard welcomed the concept of integrating a wealth of health and social services into her school.

With Children's Aid's proven history of serving children and families in low-income neighborhoods, and Mt. Sinai's medical expertise and shared commitment to improving community health, a strong base for Community School P.S. 50 has been established.

** Vito Marcantonio was a Congressman from Harlem from 1935-1950. He was an ardent supporter of civil rights and civil liberties before the civil rights movement. He was a protégé of Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, and was a leader of both the Fusion and American Labor Parties.*

New Book Looks at the Orphan Trains



A fascinating new book, *Orphan Trains*, weaves together the story of CAS founder Charles Loring Brace with the history of the Orphan Train movement he created to take street children out of New York City's slums and into the homes of farm families across the nation.

Written by Stephen O'Connor, the book is the result of four years of research and writing, with much of that time spent in The Children's Aid Society's archives. It intermingles written testimonies from Orphan Train riders with vivid descriptions of 19th century life and Brace's passionate beliefs and prodigious hard work, all placed

within the broader context of the social and political upheavals that led to large-scale child poverty by the mid-1800s.

O'Connor recognizes Brace as "perhaps the preeminent figure in American child welfare history," particularly for his emphasis on a child's need for a family instead of an institutional home. He also details some of the missteps of the early days of The Society. All in all, however, he concludes that Brace's intentions were noble and that the challenges of child welfare today demand equal attention and action.

Orphan Trains by Stephen O'Connor, Houghton Mifflin, \$27.

Warriors Program Puts New 'Spin' on Youth Basketball

At an informal reunion one Saturday morning in 1999, Coach Nick Blatchford discovered a dramatic change in the former stars of his basketball team at I.S. 90, one of The Children's Aid Society's (CAS) community schools.

Of the five original starters, now entering their sophomore years in high school, almost all had failed to balance basketball and school. Two had dropped out to play basketball full time, a third was expelled and a fourth had failed and chose not to return to school.



CAS's Warriors program emphasizes off-court achievement as well as basketball skills.

"They got lost and overemphasized basketball," Blatchford said in a recent article in the *New York Times*. "There wasn't enough of a support system for them that really developed them as complete people, rather than just as basketball players."

Meeting with his former players that morning motivated Blatchford to develop a basketball program that promoted off-court achievement and growth in both school and personal lives. Together with Vince Canziani, the assistant director for community schools at CAS, he developed what would soon become the Warriors Basketball Program.

The program now helps more than 500 students, organized into 12 teams, develop their academic, personal and athletic skills. Each day after school, the classrooms at I.S. 90 are filled with middle and high school students completing homework, attending SAT prep and college prep seminars, meeting with academic tutors and listening to the occasional guest speaker before they suit up and hit the courts for practice. And1, a sports equipment company, has provided vital support to the



Warriors effort.

The program places a strong emphasis on the high school students whom Blatchford feels need the most support. "Junior high is a very nurturing environment, but in high school you are mostly left alone, just when you need support the most," he says. "It is very easy to head down the wrong path and, in many cases, drop out. It's a trend that has frustrated me about all students, not just the ones in Warriors."

The Warriors approach uses a student's love of basketball as a means of connecting with the young athlete. From there the program gives students the structure, supervision, and what Coach Blatchford calls, "a little push" to set them in the right direction. "Admittedly, some of our students are not doing well, but at least they're here and have a better chance of completing high school. We're providing the motivation they need to stay in school."

For many other students, this new direction has meant more than just survival. Several have taken advantage of the SAT and university admissions classes and are now looking forward to preparatory school and college.

Fortunately, the mix of academics and sports has not diluted the teams' ferocity on the court. The Warriors recently added the West 4th Street Tournament to a long list of citywide competitions in which the Warriors have placed in the finals. But Blatchford is quick to remind his players, staff and supporters of the true meaning of the program.

"Although our teams do win championships, what we're really here to do is help kids graduate from high school, get into college and lead lives that do not necessarily rely on basketball."

For more information visit www.warriors-basketball.org.



Profile: Ruben Montilla, age 16

For Ruben Montilla, after school meant hanging out at the corners of 175th and Broadway until nightfall. That was until he joined the Warriors basketball program and began spending his afternoons and early evenings preparing for class, working with a personal tutor and attending regular basketball practice.

Through hard work both on the court and in his books, he earned himself a placement through the Warriors at The St. Albans Preparatory School in Washington D.C., the alma mater of Vice President Al Gore.

Warriors program director Nick Blatchford couldn't be prouder of Ruben's ability to adjust to this new environment. "He has flourished as an honor student and a varsity player as a sophomore."

Ruben is just one of nine Warriors student-athletes to be admitted on scholarship to preparatory schools throughout the east.

CAS Expands Community Health Services Where They're Needed Most

It is one of New York City's many paradoxes that tens of thousands of its poorest residents live within walking distance of world-class hospitals and medical institutions yet lack the access to take advantage of them.

The consequences can be devastating. In neighborhoods such as East Harlem and the south Bronx, where The Children's Aid Society is energetically expanding and deepening its community health services, families may travel an hour or more to find appropriate care. Because of this, rates of serious health problems, especially among children, can run at more than twice the national average.

The Society's new medical/dental clinic in the Bronx and expanded medical facility at Dunlevy Milbank Center in Harlem are working hard to change this reality. In state-of-the-art medical centers and through a synergistic partnership with the Mt. Sinai Medical Center, The Children's Aid Society is using a multi-faceted approach to address shortfalls in access as well as important health issues, such as the alarming incidences of infant mortality, low weight births and birth defects, as well as asthma control and treatment.

Together, the new health centers are extending the Society's patient capacity by 15,000 per year and expanding the range of health services through upgraded technical services and the hiring of new professional staff.



A mom waits as her child is treated at the Milbank/Mt. Sinai dental office.

At our new south Bronx medical center, four months of construction is now complete. Two brand new exam rooms, a dental operatory and an intake room are in place, and a pediatrician from Mt. Sinai Medical Center has started seeing patients. For the 300 Bronx-based CAS foster care children who will come here for medical care this year, the bright purple and orange walls make a visit to the doctor, dentist or social worker enjoyable. For their foster parents, the new Bronx facility means that they no longer have to make the trip to midtown Manhattan for specialized care.

At the Dunlevy Milbank Center, the changes in our medical facilities are just as important. A transition is taking place, from a child health clinic to a fully operational medical group for children and families, with an emphasis on maternal health.

"A woman of childbearing age in the Harlem community," explains Associate Executive Director, Pete Moses, "now can see her own physician during regular visits and has access to routine reproductive health exams, prenatal care, HIV counseling and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases."

For her child, the transformation means that quality preventive health care is available close to home and long before it's time for first shots or to treat the first signs of illness. And if the child is a little older, adolescent health care is provided by professionals from the Mt. Sinai Adolescent Health Center,

offering complete confidentiality for the patient. Children or families who need mental health services or dental care will find full on-site services in these areas as well. Our HCAP (Health Care Access Program) facilitated enrollment staff is there to help families enroll their children, even teens, in Medicaid or Child Health Plus, depending on eligibility, and to work with them to access the health care they need.



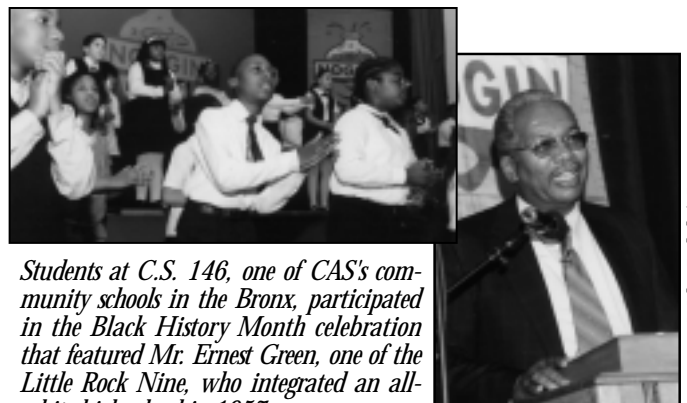
Children wait for care at the newly expanded Milbank/Mt. Sinai Medical Group, which offers many maternal and child health services.

Expanding access to quality health care for all is central to the Society's work today and for tomorrow. This spring a new community school with a focus on health and health careers, equipped with a complete medical clinic, is growing at P.S. 50 in East Harlem, and our new mobile dental van – with two operatories instead of one – will start to make rounds. *(See related stories this issue.)*

Through each of these endeavors, Children's Aid is resolving the health care paradox and opening up access to high quality health care for thousands of families and children in low-income communities.

A Living History Lesson

A highlight of Black History Month at The Children's Aid Society was the selection of one of our community schools, C.S. 146 in the Bronx, for a visit by Mr. Ernest Green, one of the original Little Rock Nine. Fourth- and fifth-grade students participated in the event, which was taped by Noggin, an educational television and online network; Noggin brought Mr. Green to the school as part of its Black History Month programming. Documentary footage of the Little Rock Nine, who were African-American students who integrated an all-white high school in 1957, was shown as part of the program. C.S. 146 is one of nine community schools run as a partnership between The Children's Aid Society and the New York City Board of Education.



Students at C.S. 146, one of CAS's community schools in the Bronx, participated in the Black History Month celebration that featured Mr. Ernest Green, one of the Little Rock Nine, who integrated an all-white high school in 1957.

Mike Relph/Noggin

From the Executive Director...

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Milbank as well as the Taft Learning Center, and parenting supports for the families of the program's youth. The parents will be involved with the program for one month prior to the children's release.

This two-week period will be crucial in the lives of these children. After this orientation, provided they do well, they will be assigned to one of four Boys & Girls Clubs where they will be involved with a mentor, participate in a gang prevention program, enter a job readiness program, engage in personal and social development, perform volunteer work in their communities, and receive parenting education.

For The Children's Aid Society, participation in this program signals a new and larger involvement with the juvenile justice system in New York State. In addition, we are strengthening our ties with Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

The recidivism rate for adjudicated youth in New York State is a horrifying 80 percent. Programs dedicated to lowering this rate, such as this Boys & Girls Club/Children's Aid Society initiative, could make a critical difference in the lives of thousands of young people.

Philip Coltoff
Executive Director

NEWS

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Published by the Office of Public Relations

Design: Harper & Case, Ltd.

Wills and Wishing Wells



Toss a coin in a fountain and make a wish.

If you're thinking about your future and what might happen when you pass away, you could say: "I wish that my brother, Tom, would handle my estate." Or perhaps, "I wish Aunt Gertrude would take care of my daughter." You might also say, "I wish to give a portion of my estate to The Children's Aid Society and other charities I care about."

Wishes – that's all they are, unless you change them to certainties by preparing a will or other appropriate estate-planning document.

In a will, you state what you want to have happen: Who represents you through the process of probate, who will care for any minor children, who will look after any trusts, who will receive your estate, or what charities will benefit from your estate. They are all pre-determined by you and legally binding.

A will, properly prepared, lets you sleep better at night. It helps your family rest better, too.

Wishing wells may be fun for some things, but not when it comes to estate planning. When you're dealing with estate assets and various responsibilities, it's far better to "toss a coin" toward a qualified attorney who can help you do things the right way. Granted it will take more than a penny or two, but the certainty and satisfaction you receive will far outweigh any cost.

At The Children's Aid Society, we want you to have a will that is valid and consistent with your wishes. In fact, we have an excellent brochure on basic estate planning that we can send you free. If you would like to receive this brochure or would like other help in planning your will, our Director of Planned Giving, Cathy O'Rourke, would be happy to help you. You can reach her at (212) 949-4937 or cathyo@childrensaidsociety.org.

If You Research Children's Aid Online ...

Many donors like to research charities before they give. We are proud to say that The Children's Aid Society (CAS) meets all standards of the various charity watchdog agencies. Our administrative costs (including fundraising) totaled only 8.1% in fiscal 2000. That means almost 91.9 cents of every dollar raised is going to help needy children.

But since our services are delivered only in the New York metropolitan area, CAS is not usually considered a "national" charity, and our name does not appear on the national listings.

Find us in the Better Business Bureau of New York's 2001 *Giving Guide* (on-line at www.newyork.bbb.org) or Philanthropic Research, Inc.'s site at www.guidestar.org.

Neediest Cases...

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by a Wall Street fundraising group, \$229,716. In addition, gifts were made online this year via CharityWave.com, and larger gifts were received from trusts, estates and foundations.

The Children's Aid Society is one of seven charities to benefit from the Fund, which was established by Adolph S. Ochs in 1912. The articles showcased many of Children's Aid's programs, including facilitated health insurance enrollment, mental health services, homemaker services, Warriors basketball, our deaf and hard of hearing program for teens, and AileyCamp.

To Mr. Rosenthal, Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, chairman emeritus of the Times, and Aaron Donovan, who wrote almost every story of the campaign, our heartfelt thanks for this critical source of assistance for our families.