



Children's FRIEND

2013 Autumn Newsletter

Support Families In *Need* This Holiday Season

For many, the holiday season is a time of joy and giving. However, with a continually strained economy and recent federal budget cuts, many families are experiencing severe hardship this year. At Children's Friend, 96% of our families live below the poverty level – for a family of three, that's a yearly income of \$19,530.



Our children and families face many obstacles in their lives– from poverty to language barriers to a lack of education or access to health care. At Children's Friend, we support our families and help them to overcome these hurdles.

Imagine not being able to provide warm clothing or even the simplest holiday gift for your children, or worse– having an emergency when there's no safety net to catch you– an illness or fire that displaces you. Such a situation would be difficult for anyone, but when a family is so close to the edge, these situations create an immediate need.

You can make a real impact in the lives of Rhode Island's most vulnerable children.

Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive

The **Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive** provides holiday gifts and basic necessities during the season of giving. Sponsoring a family during the holiday season has become a meaningful tradition for many families, co-workers, and friends alike. Thanks to our many sponsors and donors, the **Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive** provided holiday gifts for 1,129 families last year. Your participation really makes a difference! This year, our goal is to serve 1,200 families.

The 2013 Holiday Drive is held in memory of Joseph Silva, a dedicated Holiday Drive volunteer who passed away this year. Thanks to Joe's leadership, thousands of books, toys, clothing, and household goods have been donated to families in need for the past twenty years, greatly impacting the communities we serve.

Emergency Crisis Fund

The Emergency Crisis Fund is where our families can get immediate, vital help with essentials such as housing, food, baby supplies, and medical assistance when no other community support is available. Donations to this fund help families who experience a crisis during the year such as, a house fire, an illness, or a death.

These services rely on the generosity of donors like you! During this season of giving, we hope that you'll think of Rhode Island's most vulnerable children as well.

Other Ways to Help

- **Make a Donation to the Holiday Drive:** Monetary donations or gift cards are used to provide gifts for families that do not get matched with a direct sponsor.
- **Support Our Programs:** 100% of your donation goes directly to our programs. Yearly disbursements from the Children's Friend Endowment cover all administrative costs for the organization, so that your gift has a significant impact on our children and families.
- **Volunteer Your Time and Talent:** Volunteers are needed every day and Children's Friend offers multiple volunteer opportunities. Please contact Sarah Martone at smartone@cfsri.org for more information.



LETTER from the PRESIDENT

The holidays are such a special time for families. This is the time of year to hold our loved ones dear and be thankful. This newsletter is dedicated to families—from your own family, to our Children's Friend family. Your support allows us to make a positive difference for the families we serve every day.

I ask that you keep our most vulnerable families and children in mind as you gather with your own family this holiday season. Your support and participation is essential to all we do. Thank you for your generous support of Children's Friend this year. May you and your family have a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year!

David

Celebrating 179 Years of Service

On June 6th, Children's Friend hosted its 179th Annual Meeting at the Rhode Island College Donovan Dining Center. Over 300 staff, Board, Policy Council, and friends gathered to celebrate the agency's long history of supporting Rhode Island's most vulnerable children and their families. In addition to honoring longtime employees for their service to the agency, two very special awards are given out each year.

The 2013 Appreciation Award was presented to the family of Joseph Silva, a longtime Holiday Drive volunteer who passed away in February. The Michelle Norris Award, the agency's highest honor, was awarded to Doris Stearn Donovan, a longtime Board member of Children's Friend. Doris has been involved in the community since 1962 as a teacher, evaluator, researcher, planner, grant maker, and administrator. Doris was elected to the Board of Directors in 1994 and has served Children's Friend well as a member of the Board, and as President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Doris' involvement and care of the children and families we serve is truly a testament of her generous spirit.



Doris Stearn Donovan accepts the 2013 Michelle Norris Award from Children's Friend President and Chief Executive Officer David Caprio.

Her advocacy efforts and leadership here since 1994 has strengthened Children's Friend, and because of her work Children's Friend is a stronger agency than when Doris first came to us.

The Children's Friend Sk Walk & Run

sponsored by Panera Bread



Over 1,000 friends and supporters gathered at Roger Williams Park on a beautiful spring morning, April 27, to walk and run the 3.2 mile route in support of our most vulnerable children. Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, runners, walkers, and teams, nearly \$100,000 was raised to support essential services for our families.

As always, it was a great day to get out and enjoy the music, fun kids' activities and delicious food provided by Panera Bread. What a great day to celebrate Children's Friend and support a great cause!

Join Us in 2014 and Save the Date
Saturday, April 26, 2014 – Roger Williams Park



Thank you to our 2013 sponsors!



Spirit of Giving HOLIDAY DRIVE 2013

in memory of Joseph Silva

Become a Holiday Drive Sponsor!

Each year, Children's Friend provides gifts of clothing and toys to make the winter holidays a special time for Rhode Island's most vulnerable families.

Sign up online!

Visit spiritofgivingdrive.org to use our quick, easy online sponsorship form. Or contact Sarah Martone at 401.276.4346 or holidaydrive@cfsri.org.

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Be a Champion for Children



Karen Davis, Vice President of Community Relations of Hasbro, Inc., Inés Merchán, Grant Programs Officer, Human Services of The Rhode Island Foundation, and David Caprio President and Chief Executive Officer of Children's Friend.

On Thursday, October 17, Rhode Island corporate, civic and community leaders, gathered for the Children's Friend 11th Annual **Investing In Our Children Luncheon** at The Rhode Island Convention Center. Thanks to the generosity of corporate sponsors and

donors, nearly \$100,000 was raised to support Rhode Island's most vulnerable children and families.

Children's Friend honored The Rhode Island Foundation with the 2013 Friend of Children Award in recognition of their commitment to Rhode Island's most vulnerable children. The Friend of Children Award is presented annually by Children's Friend at its **Investing in our Children Luncheon** to an organization that continuously makes an investment in this community.

"We were thrilled to honor the Rhode Island Foundation with the 2013 Friend of Children Award," stated David Caprio, President and Chief Executive Officer. "As a philanthropic leader in Rhode Island, their investment in Rhode Island's most vulnerable families is inspiring."

Children's Friend would like to thank all Champions for Children who made the event so successful!

Thank you to our sponsors!

Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Leave a Legacy – the Harriet Ware Society

Bequests have made it possible for Children's Friend to serve Rhode Island children and families faithfully for nearly 180 years. Invest in the future of our children and help us to provide these essential services for another 180+ years. For more information regarding our planned giving program, please contact Stacy Couto, Vice President External Affairs, at 401.276.4306 or scouto@cfsri.org.