

children's hope INITIATIVE

A COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS OF SOMERSET COUNTY YOUTH, INC.

Newsletter—Fall 2017/Winter 2018

What We Will Do in 2018

With your generous donations, in 2018, the Children's Hope Initiative (CHI) will be able to financially assist the following programs focused on helping abused and neglected children in Somerset County:

Continue What We Are Now Doing

- **The Children's Hope Afterschool Program (CHAP) in Memory of Paige Whitney Imperatore** at Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center (RHCMHC) providing adjunctive therapies including art therapy, pet therapy, music/movement therapy, and yoga.
- **CHAP Health and Wellness Respite Camp** for up to 20 children offering equine therapy, karate, etc.
- **Middle Earth Lunchtime Mentoring Program** providing mentors to 34 elementary and middle school children.
- **Family & Community Services** reducing the wait time for children to begin their treatment.
- **Trauma Informed Care (TIC)**. TIC is an organizational and treatment approach that understands, recognizes, and responds to the effects of all types of trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) upon children. The more ACES that children experience, the higher their risk of facing medical, mental health, and social problems as they enter adulthood. Our effort is now known as Resilient Youth of Somerset, and our goal is to empower our whole community to help children overcome the damage done through abuse, neglect, and other childhood traumas.
<http://childrenshopeinitiative.org/resilient-youth-of-somerset-county>

Begin 3 New Initiatives

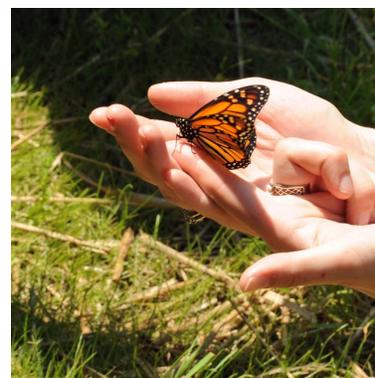
- Support expansion of Middle Earth Visions Program to serve young adults 18-21 years old who have "aged out" of the child welfare system.
- Enable Family & Community Services to provide support services for middle school immigrant children in Bound Brook.
- Give up to 40 abused and neglected children the opportunity to have fun trips to the Liberty Science Center, Grounds for Sculpture, Great Adventure, etc.

Our Mission

To meet the unmet needs of abused and neglected children and their families by providing resources for existing organizations in Somerset County.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead



What We Have Done
From January 2012 through October 2017

Total Community Impact To Support Abused and Neglected Children

CHILDREN'S HOPE INITIATIVE

The Numbers

**Dollars
Donated**



\$287,819

**Programs
Funded**



8

**Children
Served**



>425

The Programs

- ★ 28 children served by CASA tutors
 - ★ Wait times **cut in half** at Family and Community Services of Somerset
 - ★ Resilient Youth of Somerset Trauma Informed Care
 - ★ Helped **prevent sexual abuse** with the YMCA's Darkness to Light Program
 - ★ Over **160 children** served by the Children's Hope Afterschool Program
 - ★ **18 Children** Served by RHCMHC Therapeutic Summer Camp
 - ★ Over **120 children** served by Middle Earth Lunchtime Mentors
 - ★ Over **100 children** served by Creative Heartwork
- "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."
- Margaret Mead**

succeed mentoring
tutoring **real impact**
vision **overcome**
youth **confidence**
self-determination
families relationships

To learn more: please visit:

<http://childrenshopeinitiative.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/Childrens-Hope-Initiative-533265810054608>

How Did We Come to Our Decisions On Funding?

Last winter, the 15-member Board committed to conducting a full reassessment of the unmet needs of abused and neglected children. 2017 recipients were told that their funding for 2018 would be reassessed and not guaranteed.

- This Spring, we met with 20 youth-serving organizations to hear the current unmet needs based on their work.
- We met in June to prioritize the unmet needs. <http://childrenshopeinitiative.org/category/programs>
- In September, we solicited 22 proposals from 11 youth-serving organizations. We received 12 formal proposals, totaling \$183,000 in requests.
- In October, the Board met to evaluate the proposals and selected 8 to fund.
- In November, we are meeting with the recipients to negotiate the scope and cost of services they will provide to the children they serve in 2018.

2017 Year-End Reports

2017 year-end reports on all CHI-funded services provided to Somerset County's abused and neglected children can be viewed on our website at:

<http://childrenshopeinitiative.org/category/programs>

Highlights:

- CASA Tutoring has another donor to fund tutoring for 2018. CHI's support for this worthy program is not needed for 2018.
- 18 children, ages 9-14, who have experienced abuse, neglect, or severe trauma, attended CHAP Health and Wellness Respite Camp that included two weeks of equine therapy, yoga, karate, art therapy, etc.
- Resilient Youth of Somerset was created in 2017. Their website tells their story and describes their exciting work to bring "trauma informed care" to Somerset County.
<http://childrenshopeinitiative.org/resilient-youth-of-somerset-county>



*Equine therapy at CHAP Health and Wellness
Respite Camp*

What is “Friends of Somerset County Youth, Inc”?

Friends of Somerset County Youth is a nonprofit corporation organized in 1981 exclusively for charitable purposes and specifically to benefit the youth of Somerset County. It is the parent organization of the Children’s Hope Initiative and Resilient Youth of Somerset.

“Friends” supports the efforts of local community volunteers to offer prevention programs and activities. The objective of “Friends” is to help identify risk factors that lead to juvenile delinquency, advocate for the needs of youth, and provide a variety of educational opportunities for parents and professionals who serve children and families.

Innovations Your Donations Have Made Possible

None of these accomplishments (and none of these services to children) would have happened without your generous support:

- The CASA tutoring program and trauma informed care are initiatives begun and funded by CHI and were developed in partnership with the providers.
- Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center did serve children who have been abused, but our funding each year allows them to offer services they had not offered before: The Children’s Hope Afterschool Program and two weeks of summer camp for 18 children in 2017.
- In 2018, we will support a new program to help immigrant children in middle school who suffered trauma prior to their entry to the US.

CHI Expenses

Expenses from January 1, 2017 to October 1, 2017 were \$1,954.18. This includes insurance, bookkeeping, website registration, printing, postage, and fees for donations paid by credit cards. These costs are paid in full by a Board member. Therefore, every dollar received in donations goes 100% to services for children.

We Need Your Help!

Please join with us to continue serving Somerset County’s abused children in 2018. Your donation is fully tax deductible, and 100% of your donation goes directly to support the programs described in this newsletter.

To donate, please go to our website:

www.childrenshopeinitiative.org

or make your check payable to:

Children’s Hope Initiative

and send to:

Friends of Somerset County Youth

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