



children's hope INITIATIVE

A COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS OF SOMERSET COUNTY YOUTH, INC.

Newsletter—Fall 2018/Winter 2019

What We Will Do in 2019

With your continued generous support, in 2019, the Children's Hope Initiative (CHI) will be able to help Somerset County's abused and neglected children in the following ways:

Continue What We Are Now Doing

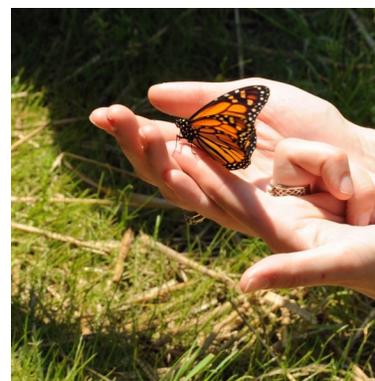
- **Enable 30 children to participate in the Children's Hope Afterschool Program in Memory of Paige Whitney Imperatore** at Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center (RHCMHC) by providing adjunctive therapies, including art therapy, pet therapy, music/movement therapy, etc.
- **Provide a 3-week therapeutic respite summer camp** at RHCMHC for up to 12 children, offering equine therapy, karate, etc.
- **Provide paid mentors for 34 elementary and middle school children** through Middle Earth Lunchtime Mentoring.
- **Cut waiting time in half for children to begin treatment** at Family & Community Services in Bound Brook.
- **Educate the community in Trauma Informed Care (TIC).** Our effort is known as Resilient Youth of Somerset, and our goal is to empower our community to help children overcome the damage done through abuse, neglect, and other childhood traumas.
<http://childrenshopeinitiative.com/resilient-youth-of-somerset-county>
- **Serve up to seven (7) 18-21-year-old young adults who have "aged out" of the child welfare system** through the Middle Earth Visions Plus Program.
- **Serve up to 10 high school students in the Promise Plus Program** offered by Middle Earth.
- **Provide support services for more than 20 traumatized and abused middle school immigrant children in Bound Brook.**
- **Provide "Fun Trips" for more than 40 abused and neglected children** 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 2018

Total Community Impact To Support Abused and Neglected Children

CHILDREN'S HOPE INITIATIVE

The Numbers

**Dollars
Raised**



>\$350,000

**Programs
Funded**



12

**Children
Served**



>595

The Programs

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

★ Resilient Youth of Somerset Trauma Informed Care

★ 28 children served by CASA Tutors

★ 100 children served by Creative Heartwork

★ Over 190 children served by the Children's Hope Afterschool Program

★ 35 children served by RHCMC Therapeutic Summer Camp

★ Over 160 children served by Middle Earth Lunchtime Mentors

★ Wait times cut in half at Family and Community Services of Somerset

★ Helped prevent sexual abuse with the YMCA's Darkness to Light Program and training Youth Service organizations

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As of October 15, 2018

To learn more please visit:
<http://childrenshopeinitiative.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/Childrens.Hope.Initiative>

2018 Accomplishments

2018 reports on all CHI-funded services provided to Somerset County's abused and neglected children can be viewed on our website at www.childrenshopeinitiative.org/category/programs

Highlights:

- CASA Tutoring. As a result of a \$5,000 donation from Munich RE America, we were able to continue funding the tutoring program.
- Seventeen children, ages 9-14, who have experienced abuse, neglect, or severe trauma attended CHAP Health and Wellness Respite Camp that included 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.
www.childrenshopeinitiative.org/resilient-youth-of-somerset-county

Forty educational presentations have been given so far in 2018 to police departments, schools, youth-serving organizations and governmental agencies, and 24 more are planned by year's end.

- "Promise Plus" (New in 2018). Because Middle Earth was losing funding for this innovative program, CHI received a \$10,000 donation that allowed us to help keep this program going through June 2019. It teaches employment readiness and life skills and provides a mentoring program that teaches youth how to become independent young adults. It provides a paid internship as well, which offers youth the opportunity to earn money as well as build a good resume.
- Immigrant Children (New in 2018). Children who experienced neglect and abuse before they arrived in the United States have special needs—not only to overcome neglect and abuse but also to adapt to their new country. Family & Community Services in Bound Brook is doing this for 19 foreign-born middle school children.
- Fun Trips (New in 2018). 60 children, many referred from Tri-County CMO, DCP, Middle Earth & RHCMHC, went to Six Flags, Dorney Park, and the TreEscape Aerial Adventure Ropes.



2019 Innovative Program: Serve Children Through a Coordinated Response

As a result of our 2017 reassessment of unmet needs, CHI identified the need to find a way for youth-serving organizations to collaborate and coordinate services in order to help abused and neglected children with the greatest unmet needs. The result is a collaboration led by Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center along with 5 other nonprofits and governmental agencies to provide Summer Connection 2019. CHI is partnering with Piper Hill Foundation from Morristown to provide this opportunity. Together CHI & Piper Hill will give \$25,000 in 2019 for this exciting, innovative new program. For details, please go to www.childrenshopeinitiative.org/category/programs

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

Friends of Somerset County Youth is a 501(c)(3) 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.

We Need \$35,000 Between Now and December 31 to Make All This Happen!

As a result of your generous support, as of October 15, 2018, we have \$60,000 in the bank for 2019 programs listed on page one! That is a wonderful start thanks, in part, to a generous donation of \$20,000 from FinPro, Inc.

Total programming costs for 2019 are \$95,000. Therefore, we need \$35,000 more between now and December 31, 2018 to fulfill our dream of meeting the unmet needs of Somerset County’s abused and neglected children. We ask you to join with our Board—and our friends and corporate donors—to make this happen!

CHI Expenses

Expenses from January 1, 2018, to October 1, 2018, were less than \$2,000. This includes insurance, bookkeeping, printing, postage, and fees for donations paid by credit cards. Since we began in 2011, these costs have been paid in full by a Board member. Therefore, every dollar received in donations goes 100% to services for children.

Board Members

Tom Dilts, Chair	Barbara Barkley	Jim Buccini	Kim Charles
Stacey Cozewith, Esq.	Susan Dilts	Carol Dvoor	Jane Fox
Diane Lefebvre	Colleen McCarthy, Esq.	Meghan Musso, Esq.	Dan Puntillo
Amy Zylman Shimalla, Esq.			

We Need Your Help!

Please join with us to continue serving Somerset County's abused children in 2019. 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
P. O. Box 8063
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