



# children's hope INITIATIVE

A COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS OF SOMERSET COUNTY YOUTH, INC.



**Newsletter: Fall 2014/Winter 2015**



## Our Mission

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

### What we have done

Since our formation in 2011 by retired Superior Court Judge Thomas Dilts, and under the auspices of the Friends of Somerset County Youth, Inc., we have:

- Provided *creative arts therapies* for 106 children through funding *Creative Heartwork*
- Supported the establishment of a *Positive Parenting* program in Somerset County to help parents find ways to overcome impediments to good parenting

### What we are doing

- Working with [Middle Earth](#) to support new and expanded mentoring opportunities
- Working with *Mental Health Providers* to cut waiting times for children needing mental health counseling and medicines
- Implementing *tutoring programs* through [CASA-SHaW](#) to help abused and neglected children who are in out-of-home placements and have fallen behind educationally
- Supporting the [Darkness to Light Community Initiative](#) to raise awareness of the prevalence and consequences of child sexual abuse

### What we want to do

- Ensure our *current initiatives are funded* in 2015 (\$16,000)
- Raise *money for new initiatives* at the Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center:
  1. Provide transportation to get children to intensive outpatient programs (\$11,000)
  2. Fund additional child psychiatrist and psychiatric advanced practice nursing hours using innovative technology to eliminate delays in access to treatment (\$28,000)
  3. Hire specialized professionals certified in adjunctive therapy (art, music, dance, drama) to help children who find it difficult to engage in pure talk therapy (\$16,000)
- Find new ways to *move into prevention services*, especially to help promote “good parenting” to young parents and teens

***Help us change the world for abused and neglected children in Somerset County!***