



*Transforming
Lives*



*Annual Report
2010*

TRANSFORMING LIVES

The following letter was written by one of the girls in Hackett House who has made tremendous changes in her year at the Home. She clearly recognizes that she is different, expresses her desire to maintain the new attitude she has developed and to be successful. She is nervous about leaving the environment that has allowed her to deal with tough issues in a loving, nurturing way, and become a better person. This is one example of a life transformed. We wish her well on her continuing journey of self-discovery and appreciation.

“In my room I think of my time being at the Children’s Home. It has been 11 months and it seems crazy. I miss my mom and my girlfriend and other friends. But I have changed so much while being up here. My court date is February 23—so soon. I can’t believe how fast it’s been. I’m going to miss everyone here so much. Since coming to the Home, I’m doing better in school, got a job, and I run track. I know in Newburgh it will be hard to be good, but I’m going to try. Hopefully, I’ll keep up my progress and never end up somewhere worse! I love you, Hackett, and leaving will be a great loss.”

Katrishia

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie begins with the belief that all children have the right to a protective, nurturing environment, and that society has an obligation to assure that right.

Knowing that childhood is a critical time in which to develop the skills necessary to become competent, self-reliant and productive citizens, we strive to provide an optimum setting for this development. We do this for each child by creating a corrective living experience supervised by caring adults.

We are committed to the fact that children who have experienced neglect, abuse or disruption of parental relationships will benefit from therapeutic services including temporary residential care.

Consistent with our goal of returning a child to the community, extensive use of community activities and organizations, including public education, is emphasized. We are also aware that these children and their families benefit from parenting education and counseling. Family services are an integral factor in accomplishing our goal.

It is essential that our professional and financial resources are directed toward reuniting a child with his family, community family or independent living. It is also essential that we help each child develop a sense of self-reliance, order and fulfillment.



Girl Scouts from Troop 10606 and members of the Ridin’ Free Motorcycle Club joined other donors, friends and staff at the annual Holiday Open House at the Home.

The quotes throughout this issue are taken from children’s essays nominating their favorite teacher for the Gold Star Award at the annual Teachers Open House. They reflect what a significant impact their teachers have on helping children transform their lives.

“It is with great respect and admiration that I nominate Ms. Bida for the Gold Star Award. I thank her for her time and patience in dealing with me during some of my difficult moments.”

Sean



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Transformation happens in many ways and for many reasons. It can begin as an idea of desire to change, or it can be forced by external circumstances, or sometimes both. The Children's Home of Poughkeepsie has embraced many changes over its long history. To remain relevant in a changing world, one must be open to change. It is how we grow. And as you read through this, you will see how we help children transform their lives.

Recently, the Home's Board of Managers began looking at how we also must change.

"To remain relevant in a changing world, one must be open to change. It is how we grow."

With today's volunteers leading such busy lives, people are stretched. And yet they still want to do good, to serve. Thus it is our job to find ways to be more efficient to continue to be effective and therefore to be relevant.

Over this next fiscal year, as we grapple with the financial and programmatic challenges facing agencies such as the Children's Home, we are also looking at how we can govern more effectively, using technology, streamlining volunteer jobs, even re-structuring to reflect modern governance models. The Home's amazing legacy sometimes makes the idea of change a bit daunting, but when we look at the Board minutes of decades past, we realize that those who governed before also faced the issues of modernizing and instituting new programs and processes to remain effective and relevant. They changed, and so can we. However, our core mission remains the same. With your continued support, as the Home looks to fill unmet needs in a changing environment, we will continue to serve those most vulnerable in society, our children.

Sandra Kegan



Students at Myers Corners Elementary School raffled a gingerbread house replica of the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie made by Terry Perri to benefit the Home. Not only did the Home receive the \$700 in raffle proceeds, but the winner, 6th grader Kristen Chery, donated the totally edible gingerbread creation to the Home's children as well. L to R. Board member Nancy Blose, Terry Perri, Wappingers Central School District Superintendent James Parla, Walter Joseph, and Board members Beth Devine, Carol Weber, and Janet Powers.

"Mrs. Rice was the best teacher a girl could ask for. I feel coming into my senior year Mrs. Rice is one of my inspirations to graduate and succeed in life."

Janika



Leah Sager from Enterprise Holdings presents grant for Young Mothers Program to Walt Joseph



Members of Business Network International donated a tree for the Home's campus in honor of Arbor Day.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to be able to provide all our friends and supporters with this annual report for fiscal year 2010. We continue to be challenged by the fiscal and political climate and expect that the next few years will test our ingenuity and resilience.

The programs we operate are all designed to provide youngsters in our care and their families with intensive services targeted to address the issues that resulted in placements - to help them transform their lives. The goal of each program is to send these children home as soon as possible. If we can't send them home, we try to find a foster or adoptive home for them. Transformation.

We realize the important role of our staff in transforming the lives of children and families who come to us. This transformation may be as dramatic as finding a loving and permanent home for a child who's lost a parent to the small transformations of attitude and understanding that might only hit their mark many years in the future. Sometimes it's difficult to know just what impact we're having in the moment.

It's our young adults who show us the transformative work, years after they've left. Three young adults, two women and one man, who were in our program keep in regular touch. All three were long term residents and reflect a continuum of personal challenges. We help where we can with money and advice. All of them have faced the challenges of independence without family support systems but they have told us how the lessons, caring and attachment of staff have carried them forward. The transformation they started at Children's Home continues to work for them.

This was also a year of programmatic change for us. In late winter we began a readjustment of the capacities of the programs on our campus reducing the long term beds from 40 to 29. This change reflects and anticipates changes going on in the state and nationally, aimed at reducing the number of children and youth in out of home care.

At the same time we increased the capacity of the emergency program to 23 from 16. This program meets the immediate needs for children who are removed from their families by Child Protective Services. The program was very heavily utilized during the year.

"It's our young adults who show us the transformative work, years after they've left."

While the campus was getting a little smaller, we added an eight bed group home for pregnant and parenting teens, providing a needed service previously not available in the Mid-Hudson valley.

Transforming lives may seem like a very bold assertion to make but we can back it up.

*Sincerely,
Walter J. Joseph*



Assistant Resident Director Kassondra DelPozzo and two residents look at the \$21,250 check Walter Joseph is holding. The check represents the proceeds from Bridgewater Federal Credit Union's Charity Golf Tournament to benefit recreation facilities and programs for the Home's children.

"Mr. Bauer always kept me in a positive mind because negative would never get you to where you want to be, but would get you to where you never knew you would end up: prison, homeless or in a box. That is why I'm a drudge and not a lazy or silly student when it comes to school."

Jess

2010 UPDATE

A GENERAL OVERVIEW

We provided a range of services to children, youth and their families in one or more of the six programs we operate that comprise our continuum of care:

Group Emergency Foster Care, Campus Residential, Agency Boarding Homes, Supervised Independent Living, Transitional Living and Foster Homes

We continue to send all our children into community schools, a practice adopted by the agency in 1914. This daily community involvement is very beneficial to our children and supports efforts to return children to their communities and families. The agency employs a full time community school coordinator, typically a special education teacher, who is responsible for the day to day interaction with the school districts.

The Main Campus and two of the three Boarding Homes are located in the Hyde Park Central School District. One home is located in the Arlington School District. Both districts are able to bill tuition to the home district of children placed through the Children's Home. Meeting the educational needs of our children does not place a financial burden on the districts or the property tax payers of Hyde Park or LaGrange.

CAMPUS RESIDENTIAL

The Children's Home operated 29 beds on our main campus, 21 for boys and 8 for girls. This reflects a midyear change in capacity reducing from 40 beds the prior year. Program staff include child care workers, social workers, caseworkers, art therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists and nurses. Support staff meet all dietary, housekeeping and maintenance requirements. 24 hour awake coverage is provided.

The campus program never closes. About 15% of the children and youth are freed for adoption and consequently have no family involvement. This is a sharp decrease from prior years. Most of the residents are special education students and have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) developed by a school district Committee on Special Education.

Ninety-five children and youth were served in the campus program during the year, 15 more than the prior year, an increase of 18%. There were 43 admissions and 41 discharges. Ten children were discharged to a parent or relative, one child was discharged to a pre-adoptive home, 10 were discharged to other agencies. Three children were discharged to foster homes. Two youth were discharged as independent to join Job Corps. One youth aged out at 21 and was discharged to independent life. Seven youth signed themselves out of care. Two youth went AWOL and never returned to care. Five youth were moved to more restrictive settings including psychiatric hospitals or juvenile justice programs.

The average length of stay for all children in the Campus Residential program has dropped to 12 months and is significantly lower than prior years. The average age was 15.75 years compared to 15.3 last year.

AGENCY BOARDING HOMES

The Agency Boarding Home Program operates 18 beds for children and youth in three community-based homes. The children and youth living there are fully integrated into their neighborhoods and schools.

Each Boarding Home is under the



Employee of the Year Daisy McLean (second from right) accepts her award from Walt Joseph, Board President Sandra Kegan and First Vice President Carol Weber.

"She will not give up on me or cut me some slack until she knows that I have graduated from high school with honors. She is also making sure that I go to college to follow my hopes and dreams of becoming a pediatrician."

Patrice

supervision of a house parent or parents who live with the children and youth twenty four hours a day. Live-in staff are supplemented by child care workers on a shift basis. House parents provide daily guidance and supervision in a very close relationship with youth, becoming almost surrogate parents. House parents routinely interact with school personnel, transport youth to family visits, and teach independent living skills. Probably the most intense and demanding part of the job is providing emotional support on a daily basis for six damaged children.

The program served 30 children during the year. There were 7 admissions and 10 discharges. Ten children or youth transferred into the program and 6 transferred out. The average length of stay was 15 months and the average age in the program was 17.5 years.

YOUNG MOTHERS PROGRAM

In January we opened an eight bed group home to serve young women in foster care who are pregnant or are new parents. The program was developed in response to requests from commissioners of social services in our region, as services for this group of foster children were not available in the mid-Hudson valley.

The program serves up to eight women and babies at any given time. Shortly after opening, the program filled to 100% of capacity. These youngsters would otherwise have been transferred from their homes and communities in Dutchess, Ulster and Orange Counties to programs located in Albany, Rochester or Long Island or in other parts of the state.

The group home provides around-the-clock awake coverage. We have programmatic alliances with Vassar Brothers Hospital, Vassar Clinic, the Teen Parent Program at Family Services, Astor's Early Head Start program and Grace Smith House. Young mothers

resident in the program receive full medical, psychological and social services. Staff gently teach and guide the young women as they learn how to care for their newborns and themselves.

In six months of operation the program served eight girls and three babies. There were 10 admissions and 4 discharges. The average length of stay was 2.25 months and the average age was 17.

GROUP EMERGENCY FOSTER CARE

The emergency program provides a safe, supportive, nurturing environment for abused and neglected children removed from their homes by Child Protective Services 24 hours a day. The capacity of the program was increased this year from 16 to 23 beds in response to heavy utilization.

One hundred sixty-four children were served in the program during the year. There were 147 admissions and 128 discharges. The average length of stay was 31 days. Fifty-eight children returned to their parent or relative, 67 children were placed in foster homes. 7 children were placed in CHP programs, 4 children were discharged to other child care agencies. One child AWOLed and did not return.

TRANSITIONAL LIVING AND SUPERVISED INDEPENDENT LIVING

Supervised Independent Living Program (SILP) provides services to youth between 18 and 21 years of age in apartments leased by the Children's Home in the community. Youth in this program are either employed in the community, or are attending vocational or academic programs such as Dutchess Community College. The goal of the program is to fully prepare youth to live on their own and be productive members of their community. An Independent Living Skills

Specialist works intensively with youth to meet this goal. The SILP served five youth in 2010.

The Transitional Living program provides ongoing support in the form of rent support and small cash stipends as well as counseling and other advisory services to young adults who were in Children's Home's programs and have aged out of foster care at age 21. Two young women participated in the Transitional Living program in 2010.

FOSTER HOMES

We did not operate any foster homes in the 2010 fiscal year. The Children's Home submitted an application to license Therapeutic Foster Boarding Homes and began to recruit foster families for that program.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

As in past years we remain grateful to the many volunteers whose time and effort continue to play a crucial role in the success of the Children's Home. The Board of Managers, 40 women, accepts the responsibility for oversight of the Home's mission, programs and finances. A Board of Counselors, 12 men, all volunteers, provide specialized consultative service to the Managers. This model was established in 1852 when the Home was incorporated and has served the Home and the community well.

We also cannot express how appreciative we are for the volunteer hours provided by individuals, community groups, businesses, schools and organizations. We extend our thanks to all those who volunteer time to tutor our children, read to them, visit with them, and bring gifts for every holiday of the year.

Individuals and families also function as "visiting resources", opening their homes to children for overnight and extended visiting. This important role can provide lifetime connections for children.

2009/2010 DONORS

The Children's Home of Poughkeepsie is deeply grateful for the contributions of the individuals, businesses, foundations and organizations listed here whose support makes it possible to achieve our mission. This report reflects gifts received between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy.

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 Riverview Homemakers
 St. Mary's Columbiettes
 The Birthday Club
 Vassar Temple
 Wednesday Club
 Wednesday Morning Newcomers
 Women's Dutchess County
 Amateur Golf Tournament
 Women's Missionary Society

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Nancy Kinnally
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44 Plaza Wines and Liquors
87 Motel of New Paltz

Michelle Abreu
Aeropostale

AFLAC
John and Jean Marie Alfano

Marilyn Aman
American Association of University
Women

American Heating and Cooling
Anchor Pub

Heather Andros
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anson, Sr.

Antique Study Club of Dutchess
County

Antonella's
Apple Pie Bakery and Café

Ark and Dove Pre-School and
Kindergarten

Arlington Fire District
Arnoff Moving and Storage

AXA Advisors, LLC
Baby Mine

Balloon Designs by M&S
Carol Barone

Basso and Associates
Beacon Pilates

Beekman Athletic Club-Little League
Beekman Country Club

Berger Engineering and Surveying
Beulah Baptist Church

Robert Blanke
BNI Leaders Chapter in LaGrange

Bone Fish Grill
Lisa Books

Alyssa Bowers
Boy Scout Troop 2609

Rebecca Brennan
Bridgeway Federal Credit Union

Ms. DiGregorio's 4th Grade Class at
Brinckerhoff Elementary School

Brown's Auto Driving School
Brownie Troop #10221

Brownie Troop #10396
Anthony Buccieri

Business Network International
C'S Restaurant

Melissa Calabro
Madeline Calhoun

Camo Pollution Control
Sue Campanella

Cappuccino's
Carter-MGM Insurance

Laurie Cawley
Joe Celeste

Leonard and Noreen Centonze
Nancy Cervone

CH Energy Group, Inc.
Lisa Chanowsky

Chiropractic Group of Hudson Valley
Christo's Restaurant

Christopher Kruger, M. D.
Lisa Christophides

Circle of Friends
Clear Channel Radio of the Hudson
Valley

Susanna and Anne Cohen
Tammy Cohen

John and Patricia Cole

Copake Country Club
Coppola's Restaurant
Craig Austin Dermatology, PC
Creative Kids Childcare Center
Cub Scout Pack 127
CUC Mortgage

Culinary Institute of America
Culinary Institute of America Eta Sigma
Delta

Charles Cupano
Peter Curdy

D. Silvestri Sons, Inc.
Yaslyn Daniels

Mary Lou Davis
Davis Furniture

Richard and Madeline DeFeo
DEI

Bob Deik
Kathy DeMarco

Carole Derby
Joseph Jr. and Carol DeVirgilio

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Dutchess County Home Bureau

Timberline Chapter
Dutchess County Probation
Department

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Dutchess-Fairview Professional
Firefighters

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Estate of Helen J. Whiteley

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Inc.

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Fairview Fire District

Faith Christian Academy
Karen Feo

Steve Feresse
Jenna Filor

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Wappingers Falls

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Cynthia Flynn
Mary Foglietta

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Freedom Ford

Gabriela and Elizabeth Fryer
Gastroenterology Associates

Gentleman Jim's
Girl Scout Troop #8

Girl Scout Troop #15
Girl Scout Troop #56

Girl Scout Troop #2663
Girl Scout Troop #10076

Girl Scout Troop #10244
Girl Scout Troop #10439

Girl Scout Troop #10496
Girl Scout Troop #10503

Girl Scout Troop #10606
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Judith Handman

Hannaford #334
Shannon Hansen

Harland Clarke
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Hicksey's Auto Repair
Chris and Melissa Hietanen

Aimee Hilaire
Suzanne Hilaire

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 Hollywood Nail and Spa
 Holy Trinity School Caring Ministry
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 Christopher Howley
 Angeline Hudson
 Hudson Plaza Wines and Spirits
 Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
 Hudson Valley Magazine
 Hudson Valley Office Furniture
 Hudson Valley Renegades
 Hunt Travel Agency
 HV Shred and Recycle
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 Hyde Park Lions Club
 IBM Corporation HIS
 IMS
 Laura Incorvaia
 Innerlight Health Spa
 Interfaith Towers
 Iota Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha
 Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
 Thomas Jackowski
 Jackson Lewis, LLP
 Jewish Women's International
 Anomaly Media/JMG
 Joe's Italian Marketplace
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 Kay Jewelers
 Thomas Keane
 Ed and Dorothy Kellogg
 Sean and Rebecca Kent
 Katherine Kerin
 Barbara King
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 LLC
 Colleen Kurshank
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 Love/Effron Fuel Co.
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 Village
 Lyceum Cinemas
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 Lisa Magnarella
 Mahoney's Irish Pub
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 Main Printing
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 The USA

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 Paver's Cold Storage
 Sallie Pearson
 Pinpoint Direct Marketing
 Pizza Express of LaGrange
 Pleasant Valley United Methodist
 Church
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 Poughkeepsie Imported Car Parts
 Poughkeepsie Journal
 Poughkeepsie Marine Recruiting
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 Project Linus
 James Provost
 PS 171
 PSCU Financial Services, Inc.
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 Darren Read
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 Christine Ricalde
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 Frank Romig
 Cookie Rose
 Karen Rose
 Rose and Kiernan, Inc.
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* Deceased

NOTE FROM THE CAMPAIGN CHAIR

For fiscal 2010, our friends in the community again demonstrated their faith in the Children's Home and their support of our mission. We are very grateful. The overall Campaign goal of \$260,000 was exceeded and we ended the fiscal year with \$285,572 in gifts and grants. In the midst of a very difficult economy, this is great news. The generosity of so many is also very humbling. **Those children placed in our care benefit from your support.** Others do care—it is an important message and good therapy for our youth.

The funds we raise through the campaign enable us to provide many “extras” that the Children's Home feels are important. This includes a higher ratio of social workers to youth than is mandated, extra funds for birthday and holiday gifts, off-campus cultural, sports and other types of activities that are beyond the rate funding, a part time art therapist to help children deal with their traumas, and more. In addition, we are able to assist those who are aging out of care but at age 21 or 22 are not quite ready for full independence. We help with incidentals like new car tires, rent subsidies for those in college, and other things that parents would do for their young adults. We are their family. And it is that knowledge that keeps us focused on our mission. With your continued support, we will continue to succeed.

“ Ms. Lindsay always told me that I will make something out of my life. She inspired me to do a lot of things. She also told me to always look at the positive side and that's what I'm going to do.”

Alisha

CHILDREN'S HOME LAUNCHES PLANNED GIVING

In May, the Board of Managers approved a proposal to establish a planned giving society for those who have included the Children's Home in their estate planning. **The Children's Home Guardian Society** will allow the Home to acknowledge those who have made plans to ensure the future of the Home's mission through creating a simple bequest, a charitable remainder trust, a lead trust, a gift of paid life insurance or other estate planning vehicle to benefit the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie.

We invite those who have already made such plans to let us know so that we may acknowledge your generosity during your lifetime. We would ask for a copy of the portion of your will or gift document that names the Children's Home and pledge to keep this information in confidence. Any size future gift qualifies you for inclusion in the Children's Home Guardian Society. If we can list your name as a member, it will encourage others to consider such a gift in perpetuity. **At the same time, the Children's Home pledges to continue careful stewardship of estate gifts so that we may indeed continue our mission of serving at-risk children for the next 164 years.** We know there will always be a need and we want to be there to help when children are in trouble.

To explore a myriad of planned giving options, go to our website: www.childrenshome.us and click on "Giving" then on "Gift Planning" which will take you into a secure site to look at the possibilities. As always, you should discuss your desires with an estate planning attorney and/or financial counselor well versed in estate plans.

"I've been behaving because I'm getting older now and soon what are rules become laws and I would like to have a good life....I use my leadership skills for good now instead of negative behaviors...I'm doing good in school and my grades are still good. "

Rhonda

OUR PLEDGE

INTEGRITY

We will act ethically and honorably in all that we do.

STEWARDSHIP

We will responsibly manage all the resources of the Children's Home.

RESPECT

We will value and care for each other.

OPPORTUNITY

We will create opportunities for each individual to reach his or her potential.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH 2010

Average daily census	68.7
Number of children served . .	283
Number of days of care provided	25,078

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF OPERATING RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

We expended in providing care for children **\$9,747,322**

Our loss from operations amounted to **(\$917,347)**

Income from public government funds **\$8,724,068**

Our loss from operations was offset by investment earnings, gifts and grants **\$917,347**

In addition to operating expenditures, **\$144,451** was spent on capital improvements, funded by private gifts and grants.

Each year the Children's Home budget is structured with the anticipation of private funding from gifts, grants and interest on investments, added to our State/County revenue stream to produce a balanced budget. These "extra" funds make it possible to offer the high quality care for which the Home is well known. We are very grateful to all our donors for your unwavering support of our important mission to serve children.



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Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

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The Children's Home
of Poughkeepsie is a community
based, non-profit agency
dedicated to improving the lives
of at-risk children and
their families in the
Hudson River Region.