

Celebrating 150 years of service
to families and people like you.

150
YEARS OF CHILD
AND FAMILY
SERVICES



Wegmans employees spruced up our 844 campus during United Way's Day of Caring

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A Message From President and CEO, Elizabeth McPartland

Dear Friends,

As summer winds down, we're taking a moment to reflect on the joy, growth and resilience that defined the season here at Child and Family Services, and to thank you for making it possible.

The season began with celebration and connection at our Residential Treatment Program Carnival. With games, face painting and laughter echoing across the grounds, the event offered youth a chance to simply be kids. It was a reminder that healing includes lightness and joy, and that progress is often built in the moments that make us smile.

Throughout the summer, your generosity helped creativity flourish in powerful ways.

At Haven House, survivors of domestic violence found healing through artistic expression. In a safe, welcoming space, participants used paint, beads and collage to work through difficult emotions and reconnect with themselves. One young artist proudly shared, "I can make something beautiful, even when I feel sad." That kind of transformation doesn't happen by chance - it happens because of supporters like you.

At the Stanley G. Falk School, students sharpened their life skills and self-confidence through a special initiative: Cafe Ratatouille. This student-run restaurant gave them the opportunity to create menus, cook meals and welcome guests with pride. Blending education, culinary arts and empowerment, the project left students with more than just a new skillset; it gave them a sense of purpose and accomplishment.

Our physical spaces recently received a summer refresh, as well. During United Way's Day of Caring, nearly 100 volunteers from Wegmans rolled up their sleeves across five C+FS locations to clean, garden, organize donations and brighten up shared areas. The energy and enthusiasm brought by our volunteers is a powerful reflection of what we can achieve when we come together in service to the community.

These stories of healing, hope and human connection are what defined this season. At the heart of each one is your ongoing belief in our work.

As we look to the fall, we do so with deep gratitude and renewed energy. Thank you for being part of this journey and making summer possible.

Warmly,



Elizabeth McPartland
President and CEO



Elizabeth McPartland,
President and CEO

More Than Just a Makeover



Ava Clemmer, Esthetician Student

This past May, students from The Salon Professional Academy of Buffalo partnered with Child and Family Services Haven House for a special event focused on healing, empowerment and self-care.

Organized by esthetician student Ava Clemmer, the day offered complimentary mini spa services to ten Haven House residents and three staff members. Over two sessions, they received ten-minute facials, polish changes and blowouts.

“Hosting this event was truly something special,” Ava said. “The lovely ladies of Haven House had us laughing, chatting and sharing stories. It was an inspiring day for everyone involved.”

Haven House provides essentials like housing, counseling and advocacy, but experiences like this bring something more to residents.

Ava first connected with Haven House through a donation drive while working with the Women’s Awareness Alliance at the University of Buffalo. She saw an opportunity to merge her passion for esthetics with her desire to give back.

“As an esthetician student, we’re taught from day one to help clients feel like the best versions of themselves,” she said. “Offering these services to survivors of domestic violence gave that mission a deeper meaning.”

With support from her classmates, instructors and Haven House staff, Ava spent months bringing this event to life. Kristine Bhanote, Residential Domestic Violence Advocate at Haven House, accompanied residents to the salon and witnessed the impact firsthand.

“One new resident had just arrived at the shelter after a traumatic night. She was still in survival mode,” Kristine shared. “After her services, she sat down next to me and said ‘I needed this.’ Since then, we’ve seen her make major strides in her personal healing.”

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with many residents already asking when the next spa day will be.

Events like these support Haven House’s mission of safety, support and empowerment. If you want to support Haven House, visit us at <https://cfsbny.org/our-services/hh/> or call Michael Bloom, Community Relations Coordinator at (716) 335-7226.



The Salon Professional Academy of Buffalo

New Chapter, Same Heart



Jodi Fodero at the Falk-Mullen Campus

After two decades of dedication to the Stanley G. Falk School, Ms. Jodi Fodero is stepping into a new role as Principal of the Mullen Campus.

Jodi's journey with Falk began in 2005 as a School Counselor. From the very start, she brought more than just expertise; she brought heart. Whether she was launching school traditions like the Soup and Chili Cook-Off or collecting thousands of cans for the Food Bank of WNY, Jodi's focus has always been on connecting and giving back to the community.

Jodi introduced the first career fair for students in grades three through six, developed family engagement events like "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work" and led initiatives that blend learning with fun. These include school dances, cleanup efforts with Olmsted Parks Conservancy and classroom cooking programs.

After earning her School Building Leader certification, Jodi moved into administrative roles, serving as a site coordinator, a Teacher on Special Assignment and most recently as Assistant Principal at the Roosevelt Campus. Now, she brings her experience, creativity and deep compassion to Mullen where she'll lead the K-3 campus.

"I'm truly excited to work with our K-3 children and to be inspired by their natural love of learning and contagious enthusiasm," said Jodi. "My background in counseling will support our school in embracing a growth mindset and creating a culture where staff feel encouraged to share their passions with students."

Laura Collins, Principal of the Roosevelt Campus, reflected on her time working alongside Jodi.

"It has been a privilege to mentor during her transition to her new role as Principal at Mullen. She is eager, well-prepared and focused on student success," she shared. "Her leadership is rooted in service, and she brings a clear vision, strong organizational skills and a deep commitment to supporting students, staff, families and the community."

When asked to reflect on Falk, Jodi shared, "There is truly no place I'd rather be than here at the Stanley G. Falk School."

With every new role, Jodi continues to grow, bringing her vision to the place that has shaped her and so many others.

Donor Spotlight

This spring, the Kaleida Health Laboratories team came together with a goal in mind – making life a little brighter for Haven House residents. Led by Emma H. Oden and Sandie Kobee, the team organized a donation drive that collected everything from towels and toiletries to blankets, sheets and leggings.

For many survivors arriving at Haven House, the journey begins with little more than the clothes on their back. While we ensure that every resident has essentials, it's the generosity of community partners that helps us go above and beyond.

"Haven House's story was brought to our attention through one of our Supervisors Emma," shared Sandie. "She took the time to educate us on the great work that Haven House services offer."

The decision to support Haven House came from a personal connection to the work being done for survivors. Emma shared with her team that, during a time in her youth, the YMCA and Haven House were the only places she could turn to for support.

"Domestic violence happens on a daily basis and there are people and places that are just a phone call away such as Haven House," explained Emma. "Just a little assistance goes a long way making a difference in others' lives."

Thanks to their donation drive, 119 survivors have already received new items this year, helping to offer a sense of normalcy during an incredibly difficult time.

"As a large healthcare provider in the community, we take pride in partnering with organizations supporting their mission in excellence," shared both Emma and Sandie.

Because of their compassion, Haven House residents not only have items they need but also a reminder that their community is behind them.

We are so grateful to Emma, Sandie and the entire Kaleida Health Laboratories team for their generosity and commitment to helping survivors take their next steps with dignity and hope.

If you want to organize a donation drive, call Michael Bloom, Community Relations Coordinator at (716) 335-7226.



Members of the Kaleida Health Laboratories team.

Thank You 2024-2025 Donors!

Child and Family Services extends a sincere thank you to the following donors whose generosity included gifts of \$1,000 or more, as well as those who supported us through recurring donations during the 2024–25 fiscal year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025). All efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please call (716) 335-7079 with any questions or corrections.

2024-2025 Grant Awards

(\$10,000-\$49,999)

- The Marks Family Foundation
- New Era Cap Foundation

(\$1,000-\$9,999)

- The Almar Family Foundation
- Albert & Mildred Pfrender Bequest
- Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
- Evans-Devereux Memorial Fund
- The Fatta Foundation
- Independent Health
- James Grundtisch Family Charitable Fund
- Jo Ann Long Charitable Fund
- The John R. Oishei Foundation
- Maria Love Convalescent Fund
- Northwest Charitable Foundation, Inc.



The Women's Buffalo Golf Club donated household essentials and clothing

Our Giving Societies recognize the transformative impact of an individual's contributions and offer exclusive benefits and opportunities for engagement.

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Thank You 2024-2025 Donors!

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Wegmans employees volunteered at the Stanley G. Falk School 716 Day



Hayatidance hosted a fundraiser for Haven House

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Cheektowaga, New York 14225
(716) 842-2750

Community Mediation Center
Tri-Main Center
2495 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14214
(716) 362-2323

Cheektowaga Counseling
3901 Genesee Street, Suite 110
Cheektowaga, New York 14225
(716) 842-2750

Conners Children's Center
824 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209
(716) 884-3802

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
Tri-Main Center
2495 Main Street, Suite 357
Buffalo, New York 14214
(716) 681-4300

Downtown Counseling
330 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202
(716) 842-2750

Foster Care and Adoption
824 1/2 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209
(716) 882-0555

Haven House
Domestic Violence Hotline
(716) 884-6000
www.cfsbny.org/hh-chat/

Stanley G. Falk School
848 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209
(716) 882-0090

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