

# Children on the Green

## Celebrating Our Tenth Anniversary!



### A New Idea For Childcare

Ten years ago, there was a huge demand for affordable, quality childcare in Morristown. **Kathy Ross**, Executive Director of Children's Services of Morris County (now Child and Family Resources), had been the director of a childcare center serving low-income families in the Morristown United Methodist Church, but the center had closed due to insufficient funding. **Stu Sendell**, a member of the board of trustees of the Morris Shelter (now Homeless Solutions) recognized the need to provide childcare for the growing homeless population in the community. Together, they envisioned a childcare center that could meet both of those needs.

Challenged by the task of fulfilling a commitment to needy families while guaranteeing the ability to generate adequate financial income to support qualified staff, Kathy and Stu's innovation was to combine childcare services for children living in the shelters with a childcare program for working parents. This arrangement helped provide the financial stability needed to maintain a quality program, but it had another important purpose.

The premise of **Children on the Green** was that children who were temporarily homeless would be mixed with typical children from the community so that there would be no stigma related to their situations and so that they would have an enriching environment, physically separate from the shelter. Blending community children and the homeless children would sensitize families to the issues surrounding homelessness and develop an acceptance that these children are "more alike than different." In addition, the homeless children would have access to a stable, predictable daily experience that would recognize their abilities and support their ongoing development.

With reliable childcare arrangements, the homeless parents were able to seek services to support their family needs, by participating in substance abuse and job training programs, finding employment and securing housing.

Kathy and Stu negotiated the re-opening of the facility in the Church with the goal of having a total of thirty children. Six of those thirty childcare slots would be reserved for children living in the shelters. Stu lent his business and financial skills to marketing and setting up the Center, and Kathy wrote grant requests to obtain startup capital. They developed a community-based board of trustees and recruited local attorneys and accountants who provided services at no charge.

As a result of their efforts and those of the trustees, **Children on the Green** opened its doors on September 6, 1994.



The Hon. Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, U.S. House of Representatives for New Jersey's 11th District, a longtime supporter of Children on the Green



*"We combined the best of good business principles with the best of child care practices to create a center that reflects the total community."*

*--Stu Sendell*

**Children on the Green  
wishes to thank these  
generous 2003  
Contributors:**

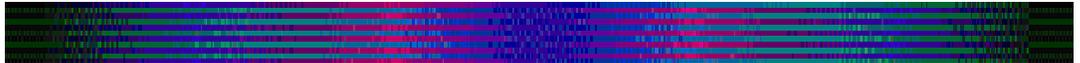
Bedrock Construction  
First Presbyterian  
Church of New Vernon  
For All Kids Foundation  
Geraldine R. Dodge  
Foundation  
Ken and Nancy Miller  
Kraft Foods North  
America  
Morristown  
Presbyterian Church  
Morristown Unitarian  
Fellowship  
The John and Margaret  
Post Foundation  
Pfizer  
Travelers Foundation  
United Way of Morris  
County  
David Yermack and  
Rocio Aliaga

## Families You Have Helped

Thanks to your donations, **Children on the Green** has provided childcare for almost **two hundred** homeless children from diverse socioeconomic, family and ethnic backgrounds. All of the parents shared the drive to succeed during a difficult time in their lives. We are proud that we were able to support them on their journeys to self-sufficiency. Here are just a few of their stories.

- A couple evicted from a family-owned home at the same time the husband lost his job. While their two girls made new friends at the Center, both parents found new jobs and saved enough to move to Pennsylvania.
- An ambitious chef who left her drug-abusing husband. Her two sons grew up in our toddler and preschool rooms, while she began a new job. The family found a house to rent with a spacious yard.
- A single mother of two shunned by her parents and out of work. We helped her sons settle into a nurturing classroom and she attended a parenting workshop at the Center and secured a job in a law office.
- A doctor from Egypt who left her abusive spouse. While her child was at the Center, she went back to school with the goal of practicing medicine in the United States.
- A struggling mother of four who took in her nephew after her sister died of AIDS. She left her youngest at **Children On The Green**, got a job in a busy medical office and has now worked there for over five years.

We are very proud to be the center that accepts families before they qualify for any other kind of childcare assistance. In an emergency, a child in our community will always have a place to go.



## The Spirit of Christmas Present

Last December, the “spirit of Christmas present” visited **Children on the Green** as three “angels” provided holiday gifts for our neediest children.

*Christmas is For Children* connects companies wishing to make donations with children’s organizations. Employees of Saks Fifth Avenue at the Short Hills Mall provided presents for thirty-five of our low-income and shelter children. Each child received three gifts: an educational item, something he or she needed, and a present that the child wanted. Saks employees did the shopping based on information we supplied and they even gift-wrapped the presents with bright holiday paper!

The Morristown United Methodist Church (where we are located) also provided much-appreciated presents through its Christmas Angel program.

Although our final “angels” wish to remain anonymous, we want to acknowledge their generosity. Students from a local school learned what our children needed and purchased toys to make their holidays special.





## Jumpstart Your Art!

Under the sea picture frames, made with shells, seahorses and stickers! Shaker instruments made of recycled mailing tubes and decorated with beans and seeds and ribbons!

Last December, art teachers from Jumpstart, an arts consulting firm in Morristown, gave preschoolers at Children on the Green the opportunity to create exciting multimedia craft projects in hour-long workshops.

Susie Schub, the director of Jumpstart, explained that one goal was to have the children make two crafts with some materials that were out of the ordinary for a preschool classroom.

The second goal, however, was to give parents and children a chance to connect through the arts. Susie recognizes that, so often, working parents' time with their children has to be filled with discipline and daily tasks. The workshop gave busy moms and dads a chance to enjoy their children through a stress-free activity.

Susie does about twelve programs for parents and children at preschools each year. She looks for low-income centers because those parents most need the "oasis of shared happiness" that doing art together can be.

Jumpstart donated this program to Children on the Green. Each year, through a grant from the Arts Council of the Morris Area, Jumpstart runs programs for children at risk. Susie always reserves a part of the grant to reach children at childcare centers.

**Art Gallery:** Our three-year olds proudly presented their works of art in a "museum" in the corridors of our Center. Tissue paper collages, paintings on aluminum foil and newspapers, and black and white pictures on tracing paper were featured.

**Halloween Treat:** Last October 31, our preschoolers walked over to the Spring Hills of Morristown Assisted Living Center in their costumes to give the residents a Halloween Parade.



## ¡Hola!

We are proud to introduce Spanish language activities to **Children On The Green**. One of our staff, Alba Quiceno, offered to teach songs and basic vocabulary from her native Colombia to our children from ages two to five.

Alba plans lessons for each age group, using songs and movement. Her goal is to help them recognize Spanish words and, with the older children, to engage in a simple conversation in Spanish. We are also providing bilingual CDs and books (for Alba to read to them) so that the children can be exposed to more spoken Spanish.

## ¡Olé!



**Children On The Green** will celebrate 10 years of serving homeless children from the Morristown community with a benefit dinner. All our friends and supporters are welcome to join us for an evening of food, drink, music and reminiscing. Several key people who helped found **Children On The Green** will be honored.

*Tuesday, May 11, 2004 at 6:30 p.m.  
Morristown United Methodist Church*

If you are interested in attending, please contact Executive Director Rochelle Kelman at 973-984-0094.

**Children on the Green Board of Trustees**

Nancy Eberhardt	Pro Bono Partnership
Kristin H. Gobbel-Swanson	Coldwell Banker
Christopher Yousey	Morristown United Methodist Church
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Sharon Colucci	Community Representative
Dee Armstrong May	AT&T Corp
David Yermack	Parent Representative
JoAnn Quattro	Parent Representative

# NAEYC Re-accredits Children on the Green

In 2003, **Children on the Green** underwent the comprehensive re-validation program of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and we have received our re-accreditation.

This prestigious recognition has been achieved by fewer than 10% of early child programs nationwide.

The Board of Trustees expresses its pride and gratitude to the Executive Director, the Assistant Director, and the staff of **Children on the Green** for their dedication and hard work in consistently meeting NAEYC's national standards of excellence, which surpass standards imposed by the State of New Jersey.

**Children on the Green wishes to thank Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland, and Peretti, LLC for providing postage, and AT&T Corp for printing.**

*Children on the Green thanks the Morristown United Methodist Church for Ten Years of Support and Partnership!*



PO Box 759  
Morristown, NJ 07963-0759

Meeting the Childcare Needs of:

Homeless Solutions

Jersey Battered Women's Services

Interfaith Council for Homeless Families of Morris County

March 2004

### Children on the Green's Mission

**Children on the Green is committed to quality developmentally appropriate care for children of families living or working in the Morristown area. We seek to reflect the diversity of the community in which we are located and are committed to partnerships that support all children and families.**

**As a reflection of that commitment, we are proud to support the child care needs of families from Homeless Solutions, the Jersey Battered Women's Services and the Interfaith Council for Homeless Families of Morris County.**

**For all of our families, we will focus on the individual needs of each child and will implement a program that supports those needs through a small group experience.**