

The Wave

215 WASHINGTON STREET, WEST WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02893 401.822.1360 FAX 401.823.4694 WEBSITE www.tidesfs.org

TIDES HELPS CJ LEAD A BEAUTIFUL LIFE

FOR MOST OF HIS YOUNG LIFE, 14-year-old CJ lived in residential facilities away from his mother Jody and step dad Rick. Born with a hole in his heart, CJ's severe medical problems were later exacerbated by the discovery he had been sexually molested.

CJ's victimization was a primary cause for his disruptive behavior, resulting in the state Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) removing him from the home and placing him in a residential facility. But his mother reported that he had been physically abused in the group home, and she insisted he be moved.

"When I saw what they had done to him, I complained to DCYF and he was placed in another residential home," she said.

In his second placement, CJ began a slow and steady road to recovery, which led to his return home.

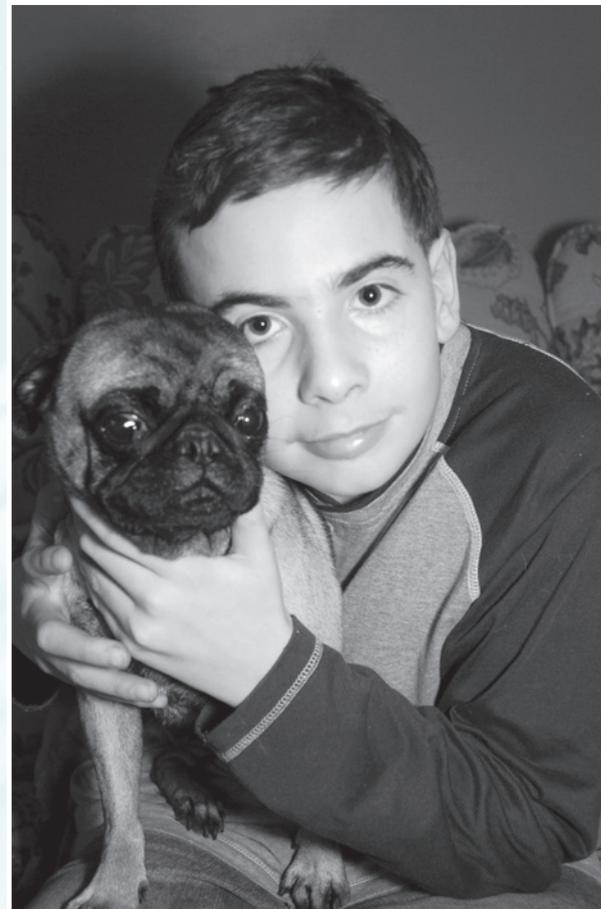
"We visited him every weekend," Jody said. "I never missed a visit. Watching what my son went through was the worse thing I had to do... you wish for a beautiful life for your child.

CJ was referred to Tides in September. Caseworkers visit or call him seven days a week.

They work with the family to set up daily schedules and tasks for CJ. They advocate for the family at school and within the court



FAMILY PHOTO: CJ, Jody and Rick, with family pets.



continued on next page



TIDES FAMILY SERVICES

OUR MISSION

is to provide high-risk youth with comprehensive, preventive services that promote personal growth and better connect them with their families and communities.

ADMINISTRATORS

Michael Reis, FSC, MA, MSW, LICSW, Ed.D (h.c.)
CEO

Michael Capalbo, M.Ed
director of human resources and educational programs

Heather Ferro, MSW, LICSW
vice president, quality management

Susan Kershaw Sczuroska, MSW, LICSW
vice president, treatment program

Beth Lemme-Bixby, MSW, LICSW
assistant vice president, treatment program

Sue Moulton, MCS
MIS director

Barbara DeCesare
development planner

Angela Dowling Munro
director of advancement

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Edmond Precourt, FSC, chairman

Michael McKenry, FSC, secretary

Michael Reis, FSC, CEO

Raymond Blixt, FSC

Frederick Mueller, FSC

Vincent Pelletier, FSC

Phil Rofrano, FSC

William Allen

Linda D'Amario Rossi

Lisa Churchville, MBA

Dr. Joseph L. Dowling, Jr.

Chris Gontarz, Esq.

Lynn C. Hunter

Rae-Scott Skinner, AIS

Michael Tousignant, CPA

THE WAVE

SKL Communications, text
Greenpoint Graphics, design/layout
ABS Printing, printing

DONATIONS TO TIDES FAMILY SERVICES

can be sent directly to the Development Office, or you may call 401.822.1360

Printing for Tides publications is through the generosity of **MAKROD Investment Associates, Inc.**, 1.973.239.1033

ECONOMIC CRISIS CREATES DOMINO EFFECT FOR CLIENTS

AS THE ECONOMY CONTINUES TO SPIRAL DOWNWARD, families living in or near the poverty level will suffer the most. Contrast the bloated incomes of corporate CEOs with that of one of our Tides families:

Twelve-year-old Joseph lives in a crowded apartment in a crime-ridden section of Pawtucket. His mother referred him to Tides in an effort to save him from the streets.

Both parents suffer from severe respiratory diseases and are unable to work. Their state assistance is running out as are their food stamps. Agencies they used to depend on for assistance are also affected by the economic crisis and are limiting what they can give and the numbers of families they can serve. They are desperately trying to get out of the neighborhood, but without first and last months rents and work references, their chances are slim.

“The economy makes it impossible for people who are struggling to get out of the hole,” said Meredith Correia, Youth Outreach Project (YOP) supervisor. “Our families are facing homelessness as landlords who are unable to make mortgage payments are facing foreclosures.”

Clients who depend on the state for their mental and physical health care now find themselves with neither as they are dropped from the welfare rolls. Working families living on the edge of poverty — in 2006, a family of four earning \$41,228 or less qualified as low-income — can't afford exorbitant health insurance premiums, so they forego medical treatment.

Erin D'Orio, supervisor of Woonsocket's Outreach and Tracking program, said that her families are so fearful they may be next in line at the unemployment office they are missing medical appointments, court appearances, and school conferences. “They are afraid to take time out of work because they fear losing their jobs” she said. Most of Tides' clients are minimum wage earners, taking the jobs at the bottom of the ladder. But the bottom is becoming increasingly crowded as unemployment rates continue to climb.

With the scarcity of jobs, a domino effect is squeezing out the least skilled or experienced workers. And those hit hardest are younger job seekers, especially black males in their late teens — many of whom are Tides' clients. “It is next to impossible to get our kids employment these days,” Meredith said. “When kids don't have structured time and they are living in poverty areas, they get into trouble. We are going to see an upsurge in crime and violence.”

“We are going to see an upsurge in crime and violence.”

A BEAUTIFUL LIFE *continued from previous page*

system, and most importantly for CJ they are the friends who spend time with him doing fun things such as hiking, mall roaming and movie viewing. “Sometimes they call two or three times a day,” Jody said, adding, “If it wasn't for Tides, CJ wouldn't be able to live at home. Tides is a valuable asset. In just these few months, CJ has shown tremendous improvement.”

Today, CJ is enrolled in school and is well on his way to becoming a happy, well-adjusted teenager. “I like Tides' good treatment,” he said. “They help me and they help me have fun.”

PRESERVING FAMILIES NETWORK EMPOWERS CLIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

THE STATE'S RECENT DECISION TO REFOCUS ITS SERVICES from out-of-state placements to community-centered family support coincides with Tides Family Services' mission and has created an opportunity for us to expand and enhance our programs with the addition of the **Preserving Families Network (PFN)**.

Set in motion in 2007, PFN currently serves 158 families. Because of PFN, we have successfully diverted 94 percent of referrals from residential placements to community-based services.

The average cost for one residential placement is about \$100,000 a year; contrast that with the average PFN annual cost of \$21,900 for a taxpayer savings of 74 percent.

More importantly, we are seeing successful outcomes with young people reunited with families; families working together to heal fractured relationships and kids getting the education they need and deserve to successfully make their way in the world.

PFN offers clients and their families a full range of services including home and community support. In addition, for those who need



KENT COUNTY PFN CASEWORKERS,
from left, Jennie Wigle, Melissa Brazil and Lisalee Ovalles.

it, respite care is provided as well as after-school programs.

Within the broad expanse of services, clients and their families receive all of Tides' programs including outreach and tracking, educational and judicial advocacy and short-term day school placements. All programs are family-focused and designed to support and maintain effective family relationships.

PFN also focuses on the psychological needs of its clients and families

offering intensive treatment for serious mental disorders and anti-social behaviors through its multi systemic therapy component.

Tides Family Services is committed to providing the programs and services that will not only empower our clients and their families, but help them achieve success.

TIDES' CEO RECIPIENT OF THE GEORGE A. CENTRELA (FAMILIARES) AWARD



TIDES CEO Br. Michael Reis accepts the George A. Centrela (Familiares) Award.

BROTHER MICHAEL REIS, Tides Family Services' founder and CEO is the recipient of the **George A. Centrela Award** for his many years of service and accomplishments. The award is given in memory of George A. Centrela, a dedicated and loyal supporter of the Familiares and the Brothers of the Christian Schools of the Long Island–New England Province.

It is presented to a Brother of the Christian Schools who has displayed dedication to the Familiares and/or the principles of the Brothers. Presented with the prestigious award at a Christian Brothers' event on December 7, Br. Michael was praised as "a man of faith, courage and zeal.

"...for his 49 years of faithful commitment as a De La Salle Christian Brother; for a lifelong career as a advocate for the poor, the marginalized and oppressed; for 33 years of being a visionary and leader in the areas of child care...."



BR. MICHAEL REIS is congratulated by members of the St. Joseph's Lasallian Community and other Lasallian Brothers and volunteers.

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2009

TIDES BY THE BAY

Honoring NBC 10 General Manager and President **Lisa Churchville** and Citizens Bank President **Joseph J. MarcAurele** for their leadership in *Champions in Action*, and **June Langevin** for her community advocacy

CO-CHAIRS GENERAL TREASURER FRANK AND GABRIELLA CAPRIO

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF COCKTAILS, DINNER, MUSIC AND DANCING, AND AN AUCTION FEATURING UNIQUE ART, JEWELRY, GOLF PACKAGES AND MANY OTHER FANTASTIC ITEMS

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 1, 2009

ALDRICH MANSION, WARWICK NECK, RHODE ISLAND

TIDES RECEIVES CHAMPLIN GRANT

TIDES FAMILY SERVICES is the recipient of a \$250,000 grant from the Champlin Foundations. The funds will help the ongoing renovations to the West Warwick and Pawtucket buildings, which are badly in need of repairs.

Over the past three years, the Champlin Foundations has awarded Tides a total of \$750,000 in grants. All of these funds go towards the repair, renovations and expansion of our West Warwick facility to include a vocational center to prepare our students for the job market, and a day care center to serve the needs of working parents as well as training our students in good parenting skills.

"All of us Tides Family Services are grateful for the continued support of the Champlin Foundations," Br. Michael Reis, founder and CEO said.

THE WARRICK FOUNDATION
SPRING 2009

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PROVIDENCE, RI
PERMIT NO. 1320

TIDES FAMILY SERVICES
WE NEVER GIVE UP ON A KID... NEVER!
215 WASHINGTON STREET, WEST WARWICK, RI 02893

