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Child and Family Services

Portraits of Hope

Fall 2021

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One of Child & Family Services' most prominent advocates, Lee Randall Jones passed away 25 years ago in 1996.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT & CEO, ELIZABETH MCPARTLAND



“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”

- Coretta Scott King

On behalf of Child & Family Services, I wish to say that we are consistently humbled by the compassionate actions of our supporters. Throughout the year, you have strengthened C&FS during our campaigns and events, including Adopt-a-Family, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Give 716, and our first-ever virtual Heartlight. Perhaps more telling, though, is the remarkable generosity the Agency continues to receive in the days between these events.

For this reason, we want to recognize those who have been our champions in the past, those who currently advocate on our behalf, and those who will continue to raise us up in the future. The stories in this newsletter are but a few pieces of a much larger tapestry that includes each of your contributions. Every volunteer, donor, partner, sponsor and friend of C&FS enables us to continue our efforts on behalf of our community. You provide a constant reminder of what makes our community great.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth McPartland".

CREATING A SAFE SPACE FOR CHILDREN AT HAVEN HOUSE



When asked about her favorite moment while staying at Haven House, 8-year-old Amy* said, “I love playing on the bikes in the gym with the other kids!”

The Charitable Foundation of the Niagara Frontier Automobile Dealers Association (NFADA) awarded Haven House’s Children’s Program a \$15,000 grant over the course of three years. Haven House will use the NFADA grant to assist with the upkeep of the two playrooms and gym. Colorful foam mats will line the floors, kids’ play costumes will spark wonder, and equipment – such as easels and the bicycles that Amy loves – will let imaginations run free. Once the threat of COVID-19 decreases, Haven House also plans to use this grant for excursions to local favorites such as The Buffalo Zoo, Explore and More Children’s Museum, and ice cream shops.

Desmond Truesdale, the children’s program team lead, explained why this grant came at a critical time. “Not only are we serving child survivors of domestic violence, but these children are also coming out of isolation after a year of being on lockdown,” said Desmond. “COVID-19 really shook up the lives of the children, taking away their typical modes of socialization, interaction, and movement. By having the opportunity and flexibility to add to our playrooms, this gives Haven House staff more calming tools and techniques at their disposal for the children to grow and develop properly.”

Haven House thanks each member of the Charitable Foundation of the NFADA. This support can help interrupt the cycle of domestic violence and contribute to healthy futures.

A LEGACY OF GIVING - THE LEE RANDALL JONES STORY

It was the summer of 1964 and Lee Randall was on Spring Break with her girlfriends. Lee was a Junior at the Connecticut College for Women studying art history. She and her friends escaped to the beach for some fun in the sun. On those sandy shores, she met 19-year-old Hugh Jones, also vacationing for Spring Break. Many could say it was love at first sight for the two. They dated throughout college; when Lee graduated, she moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan where Hugh was already enrolled in law school. In 1968, Lee and Hugh were married.

Lee and Hugh always knew they wanted children. Lee grew up with a dream of becoming a mother. During the time of the Vietnam War, it was difficult securing a job because employers never knew if young men would be drafted. Lee and Hugh made the decision to start their family immediately after getting married. Fatherhood was an exemption from being drafted and both Lee and Hugh wanted to become parents. In November of 1969, their twins arrived – a son, Hugh, Jr. and a daughter, Diana.



Lee Randall Jones and her family. Top row (l-r) - Hugh, Jr., Diana.
Bottom row (l-r) - Hugh, Lee.

Shortly after, the Jones family moved to Buffalo, a place that became their family's home for more than 25 years. Hugh practiced as a lawyer and Lee put her artistic talents to use and became an interior designer. During that time, Lee became actively involved with Child & Family Services. While raising her family, she knew she wanted to do something to help children in need. "Lee always wanted to do charitable work alongside her business; she felt a natural affinity to the Agency's mission because of her love for children," said Hugh Jones.

Lee served on the Agency's Board of Directors; she also served on the board of directors for a national organization that advocated for child welfare. Those who worked alongside Lee remember her as a quiet but strong force, doing whatever needed to be done to protect the children in our community.

"Lee was an Angel. I am fortunate to have known her; everyone in her presence knew her commitment not only to our community but to our children," recalled Gene Meeks, former President and CEO of Child & Family Services.

Lee Randall Jones passed away in June of 1996. Her family and the entire community felt the loss of such a loving advocate. However, her profound love for children still lives on in her legacy at Child & Family Services so many years later. After her passing, her family set up a fund in her name. The Lee Randall Jones Fund was established to help support children's programming at Child & Family Services. In particular, this fund helped create a group home in Cheektowaga for youth ages 5-14. The Lee Randall Jones Community Residence (CR) provides a home for youth along with medical treatment, recreational activities and other therapeutic intervention. Because of this planned gift, Lee's memory and legacy has helped hundreds of children who need a safe place to call home.



The playground outside the Lee Randall Jones Community Residence.

When Hugh was asked about the CR, he remarked with such tenderness, "She would be smiling down on all of it. The practicality, the success and the amazing pathway that it has set up for so many children."

We invite you to learn more about how your gift planning can help benefit the children in our community. Please contact Mary Czopp at mzczopp@cfsbny.org or 716-335-7050.

Thank You to All of Our 2020-2021 Donors!

Child & Family Services extends a sincere thank you to the following donors who gave financial contributions totalling \$100 or more during the 2020-21 fiscal year (July 1, 2020– June 30, 2021). All efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please call (716) 335-7234 with any questions or corrections.

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Tri-Main Center
2495 Main Street, Suite 357
Buffalo, New York 14214
(716) 362-2323

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3901 Genesee Street
Cheektowaga, New York 14225
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Haven House

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