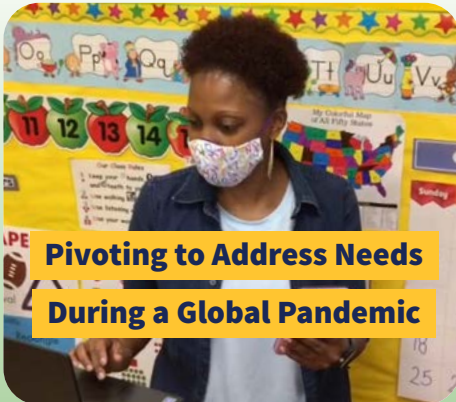




Educate. Empower. Transform.



**Pivoting to Address Needs  
During a Global Pandemic**

**“At Millhill, we work to  
strengthen children, youth,  
families – and the community.  
The need for our services  
continues to grow.”**

*Read the Letter from the  
Executive Director >> page 2*



Education

Family Support

Counseling

Youth Engagement

Community Collaborations

**www.millhillcenter.org**  
101 Oakland Street  
Trenton, NJ 08618

# REPORT to the Community • 2020

Millhill Child & Family Development

## Youth Engagement Program Graduates



**Aldair** Valedictorian;  
Engineering  
Bates College  
**Bates**



**Adella**  
Cosmetology  
**empire** BEAUTY  
SCHOOLS



**Asha**  
Pre-Med, Johns  
Hopkins University  
**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
UNIVERSITY



**Amir**  
Fashion Design,  
Montclair State U  
**Montclair State University**



**Issac**  
Culinary Program  
**MERCER**  
County Community College



**Josh**  
Exploring Careers  
**MERCER**  
County Community College



**Nazir**  
Mechanics  
**UNIVERSAL**  
TECHNICAL  
INSTITUTE



**Madisyn**  
Business  
**MERCER**  
County Community College



**Nikkia**  
Pre-Med  
**RIDER**  
UNIVERSITY



**Stephanie**  
Dermatology  
**STOCKTON**  
UNIVERSITY



**Ranai**  
Theater, Political Science  
**RIDER**  
UNIVERSITY

# Millhill Child & Family Development

101 Oakland Street | Trenton, NJ 08618  
www.millhillcenter.org  
609-989-7333

## Our Mission

Millhill empowers children, youth, and families through individualized and culturally-sensitive educational and behavioral health services.

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Hutchinson Industries

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Nigido Mullin Investment Strategies

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Andrew Frank Retired Executive Director	Joyce Trotman Jordan Retired School Counselor
Roberta Kaplan, Retired Mental Health Counselor	Krishna Kasiviswanathan Entegra Technologies

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Allen M. Silk, Esq., Stark & Stark



## Letter from Executive Director



### Dear Friends,

Entering 2020, we were optimistic at Millhill. As an organization we were strong, with a committed Board, a solid financial base, dedicated staff, and vibrant programs – all of which were enabling us to fulfill our mission to empower children, youth, and families through individualized and culturally sensitive educational and behavioral health services.

**But in March our world was dramatically changed.** With the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to close our buildings and work remotely to protect the health and well-being of our staff and clients. With similar experiences of stress and upheaval occurring throughout the Trenton community, our services became even more critical. And I'm proud to say we rose to the challenge!

**Our children needed the continuity of lessons**, so our teachers became Google Classroom experts to continue live, quality preschool education for their students, who are learning from home on Millhill-provided tablets and receiving healthy breakfasts, lunches, and snacks weekly from Millhill's Grab-N-Go meals. **Our youth needed the network of support and encouragement** we have established to keep them on track for graduation and beyond, so our Youth Engagement team pivoted quickly to virtual meetings that have enabled innovative connections and the creation of content that is educational and empowering. **Our counseling clients needed mental health support** during the global crisis, so our team quickly launched a teletherapy model, allowing appointments to continue in a format that is highly effective and has expanded our reach of service.

**We have a well-earned pride in all that we accomplished over these past months**, and a determination to continue to support our most vulnerable – but we can only do that with your help. Millhill is 90% government-funded, and with challenges to state budgets reducing our funding, individual giving has become more important than ever.

**As you are able, we ask that you consider contributing to Millhill.** For your convenience, we have provided a donation envelope in this report, or you can donate online at [millhillcenter.org](http://millhillcenter.org). For nearly 50 years the Trenton community has been able to rely on Millhill for critical support services, and we are looking to our friends and partners to help us continue this vitally important work.

With gratitude,

Cynthia H. Oberkofler, Executive Director



A socially distanced PEERS meeting in the park.



# Teletherapy Transforms Mental Health Services at Millhill

In early March of 2020, Millhill's Executive Director and Board of Trustees collectively decided to close our facilities in order to prioritize the health of our staff and the families we serve during the COVID-19 pandemic. They also decided that the quality of the various services we offer would not suffer because of this! **Our staff quickly adapted to ensure that we could continue to provide our highest standard of service** for all Millhill clients and families.

Within weeks, Millhill transitioned to telecounseling services to bring mental health care directly to those in need, connecting in new and creative ways with both clients we have served for years and clients who found Millhill amidst this time of greater mental health need. Teletherapy at Millhill has been a huge success, and has allowed Millhill's highly qualified therapists to engage with clients while utilizing technology unique to the needs of each individual. **Since introducing teletherapy, Millhill's been able to meet the increase in demand for services by providing almost 100 more sessions per week.** The Millhill Behavioral Outpatient Clinic remains as strong as ever, continuing to offer Counseling Services that encourage emotional development to maximize individual functioning, strengths, and resources.

## Youth Engagement's Rapid Response to Summer Youth Programming

This summer, Millhill introduced the Mayor's Youth Workforce & Career Training Program (YWCT) - a new approach that adapted the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program into a completely virtual model that served nearly 100 youth. This program was developed over the course of just two months to ensure Trenton youth could count on our regular summer programming while maintaining safe social distance. YWCT featured live Zoom sessions, self-paced learning, and career exploration opportunities.

We hosted excellent career speakers in top requested areas, featuring: an artist, scientist, writer, nurse, marketing executive, entrepreneur, film maker, teacher, chef, therapist, and firefighter. Additional weekly guest speakers presented information about current issues facing Trenton, including community leaders like **Ronald Lee, Superintendent of Trenton Public Schools, talking about school re-opening plans; Dr. Rachael Evans of the Henry J. Austin Health Center, sharing the impact of COVID-19 on the Trenton community; and Judge Lawrence DeBello leading a mock trial on youth in the justice system.**

**"I recently had my first experience with Millhill, aside from the gala, and it's been superb. I volunteer as a sort of big sister for a 9-year-old girl in Trenton. After years of trying, I convinced her father to allow her to have counseling if I found the services.... Within two weeks, the young girl had her first therapy session and I've had a couple of excellent conversations with the therapist. It couldn't have gone more smoothly – and this during COVID, a difficult time for all."**

– Theresa Wrobel

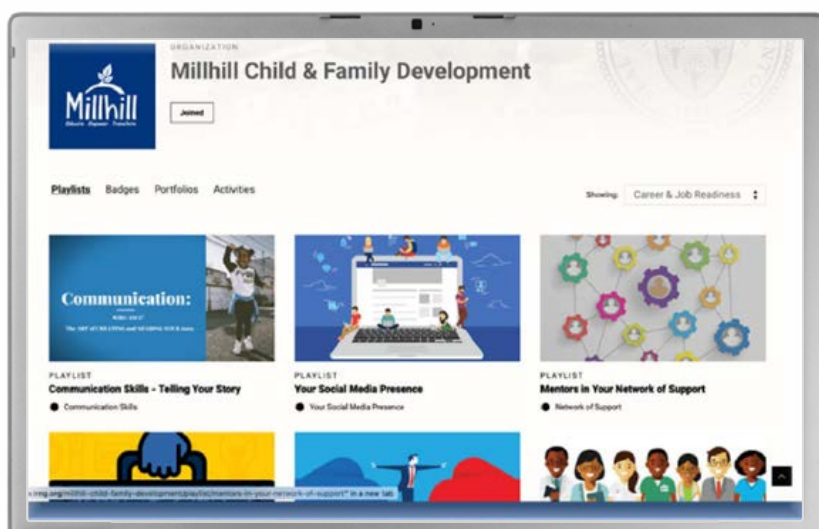
Millhill Supporter



**"This is my first time attending a Millhill program and I am so pleased by it. Our coaches are so welcoming and friendly. As well, I have enjoyed doing the playlists through LRNG. I look forward to getting to know more people and learning new things that will potentially help me in my future career."**

– Maria

YWCT Participant



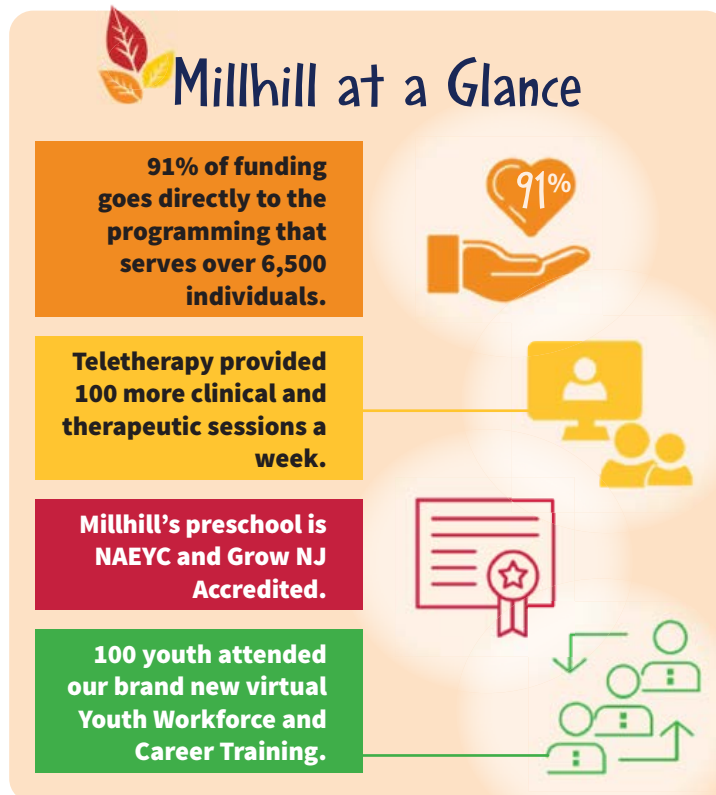
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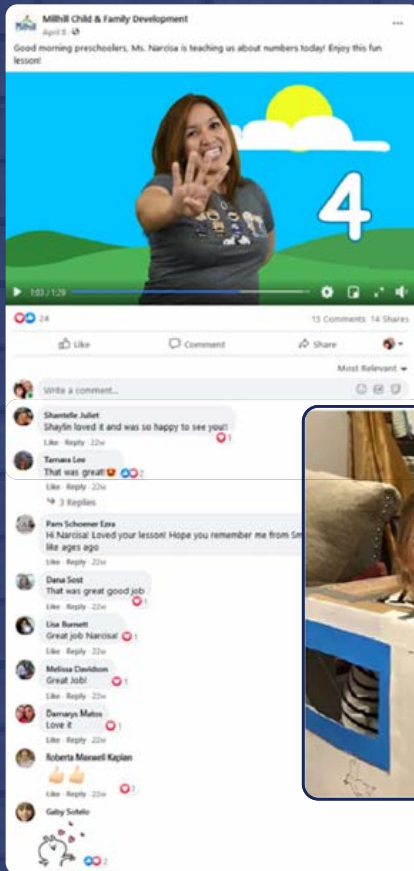
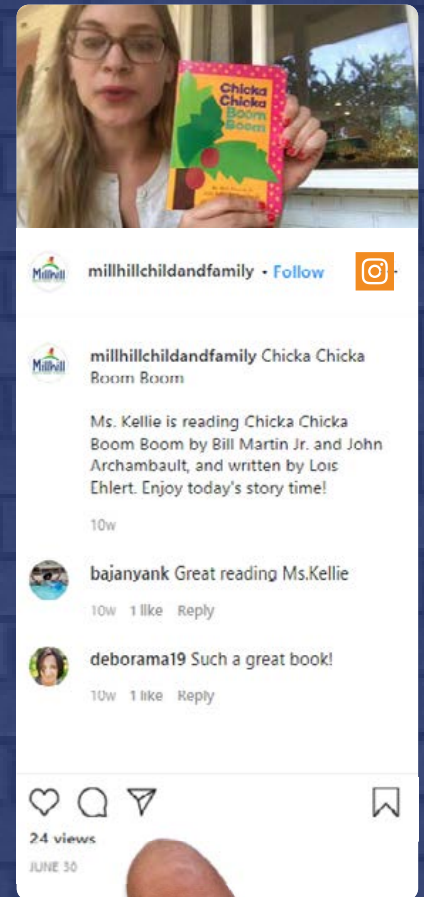
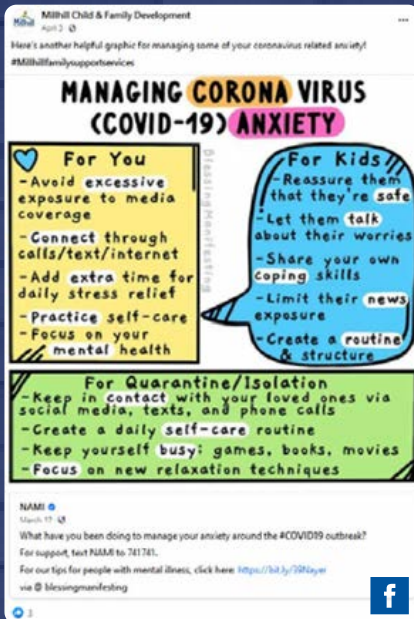
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**Thank you for your support!**

*If we have made an error or omission, please accept our apologies and notify us at [info@millhillcenter.org](mailto:info@millhillcenter.org).*



# AS SEEN ON Social Media







**The Next Generation Community Leaders** created 100 care packages to provide assistance to Trenton residents as part of their initiative to help the Trenton RISE Center and their local community.



## Corporate & Foundation Support

Atlantic Medical Imaging, LLC  
Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Borden Perlman  
Bristol Myers Squibb  
Bunbury Fund  
BusinessFurniture Inc  
Capital Health System  
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The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey

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 New Jersey Health Initiatives

**NJM** Insurance Group



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



**TD Charitable Foundation**

 Vanguard Charitable



## Institutional Support

Child and Adult Care Food Program(USDA)  
City of Trenton  
Mercer County Department of Health and Human Services  
New Jersey Department of Human Services  
State of New Jersey Department of Children and Families  
State of New Jersey Department of Education



## The Difference Individuals Make



**JOE SAPHIRE**  
1958 - 2019

When Joe Saphire passed away last year, the Millhill community lost a dear friend, a passionate supporter, and a champion of Millhill's mission. Joe was a board member for nearly 40 years, serving as the Chair of our Corporate Board and President of our Foundation Board – though this is only a small part of the story, as Joe is everywhere at Millhill. If you work at, visit, or use the services provided at 802 Prospect Street, Joe designed the space from a gutted warehouse to the facility it is today. If you've used our conference room, it is another creation of Joe's in honor of our past Executive Director, Steve Rosen. If you have been around long enough, you have seen Building C transformed by Joe's innovation from a garage into classrooms and offices and with recent plans to renovate it into counseling space. Joe never missed an opportunity to attend a staff holiday party, a recognition event or any other Millhill activity. He brought his entire staff and their families to MISSION POSSIBLE, painted classrooms and helped build playgrounds. **He shared his love for Millhill with everyone he met and brought new friends and partners to us because he was just so proud of being part of the Millhill family.**



**TOM SUAREZ**  
1954 - 2020

In May 2020, Millhill also lost Tom Suarez, who had been with us since its very beginning in 1971, and served on the board for over 40 years. As treasurer of the board, Tom built the financial systems that became the foundation of Millhill's success. Tom was a partner at Withum, and inspired the advisory and accounting firm to be a longstanding supporter that has volunteered for frequent Days of Caring, participated in yearly Coat Drives, and enthusiastically supported our annual fundraising event. Tom was passionate about supporting his local community and never missed an opportunity to be involved at Millhill. **In fact it was Tom who introduced his close friend Joe Saphire to Millhill decades ago.** Tom's contributions continue to affect Millhill in innumerable ways that are felt throughout the expansion of every program.

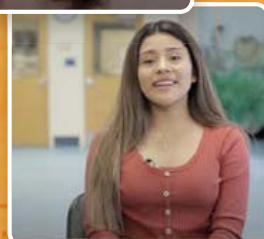
Millhill is what it is today because Joe Saphire and Tom Suarez were here.

## Uplifting Youth Voices in Community Collaborations

Many in our community are familiar with the Trenton Area Stakeholders (TAS), which hosts a network of over 1,200 members with area organizations invested in strengthening the greater Trenton community. Millhill is excited to expand the work of TAS to include a subgroup that is organized and led by a cohort of Trenton youth who will act in an advisory capacity to lend TAS a youth perspective on community needs and effective modes of intervention. Inspired by the success of Millhill's Next Generation Community Leaders – who designed and led multiple community initiatives throughout the three-year program – **Millhill's TAS Youth Expansion will empower a similar group of self-determined, forward-thinking Trenton teens to continue collaborative conversations about how to inspire, initiate, and develop change in their own community.** Our heightened recognition and investment in youth will enhance the ability of TAS to launch and sustain Trenton community efforts.

## Filming and Producing a PEERS Online Workshop

**In September 2020, the Trenton PEERS recorded their Anti-Bullying workshop to share with online classrooms in the Trenton community with the help of Joseph Halsey and Let's Film.**





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101 Oakland Street  
Trenton, NJ 08618



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## Highlights & Impact

**Millhill serves more than 6,500 individuals in greater Trenton through programs that educate, empower, and transform.**

**100% of Millhill senior PEERS graduated from high school on time and have gone to post-secondary pathways including higher education programs.**

**91% of donations to Millhill go directly to programming.**

**97% of Youth Summer Program participants feel more confident in their ability to perform well in the workforce and report active interest in pursuing vocational training or higher education towards developing a career.**

**Direct support to families included distribution of annual coats, toys, books, and Thanksgiving meals; 200 COVID-19 Care Packages, technology devices to over 50 families, and free meals to over 30 preschoolers every week.**

**Nearly 20,000 therapy sessions were provided, expanding our reach of support more than ever before.**

