Our Mission

The Todd Ouida Children’s Foundation was established by Todd’s family to create a meaningful legacy for Todd, whose life was tragically ended in the September 11th terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. Born out of Todd’s own successful struggle with childhood anxiety, the mission of the foundation is:

- To financially support psychological services for children of families in need and promote mental health initiatives for all children
- To raise awareness and reduce the stigma of anxiety and depression disorders in children, recognizing the need for early intervention
- To provide contact information for those seeking help

Anxiety and depression in children and adolescents impair school, social and family functioning. When left untreated, children are at great risk for major depression and drug abuse as late adolescents and adults. We are extremely grateful to have you as our partners in providing help and hope to vulnerable youngsters. And we thank you for keeping Todd’s memory alive through each and every one of them.

Herb and Andrea Ouida
Amy, Alex, Ashley, Andrew and Aidan Morik
Jordan, Heather, Christopher and Nicholas Ouida

Todd Ouida Annual Lecture and Clinical Scholar Award at the University of Michigan

The 2010 Clinical Scholar Award was presented to James E. Swain, M.D., PhD, for his work with a research group that is studying the thoughts, behaviors and brain physiology involved with the parent-infant bond.

The eighth annual lecture – Adolescents, Anxiety, and Development: Treatment During the Stage of Storm and Stress – was presented by Anne Marie Albano, PhD, ABPP, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology in Psychiatry; Director, Columbia University Clinic for Anxiety and Related Disorders.

Last year’s clinical scholar, Kate Rosenblum, recently sent us a note with these words: It has been an honor to be a part of this legacy, and though I never met him personally, I want you to know that Todd has now become a special internal reference for me. His resilience and courage, and your support and advocacy, remind me why we do the work we do. The potential for courage and growth – even in the face of hardship – is powerful and amazing.

Ninth Annual Birthday Event

Todd’s Charity Cocktail Party
May 18, 2010

Oh, what a night! Well over 200 of Todd’s friends and family members came together on Todd’s birthday to celebrate his life and raise money for the foundation in his honor. We were touched by the many guests who traveled great distances on such a rainy night. But all was well inside the 201 Club in Englewood, NJ! The lush Moroccan atmosphere, combined with great music, food and drink, made the Ninth Annual Birthday Event another special one. Additionally, our auction was very successful and those who could not attend were, as always, very generous, so we thank you all for your loving-kindness.

You’re Invited!

Tenth Annual Birthday Event
June 5, 2011

Homecoming 2011 (invitation enclosed) will be held on Sunday, June 5th at River Dell High School, where we gathered for our first annual birthday event. (Our tent will be on the oval, not the football field, so no planks will be needed if it dares to rain again!) Join us for a gala celebration under the party tent with a picnic/barbecue feast, music, activities for children, a silent auction and basket prizes – plus a chance to reunite with old friends and meet new ones.

This year we are partnering with Children’s Aid and Family Services (CAFS), with whom our foundation has
This year, we proudly sponsored the national H’Olympics for teens in residential care, hosted by Youth Consultation Service (YCS) at Ramapo College. For five days, athletes from residential programs across the country competed in track and field, volleyball, softball, swimming and basketball – cultivating discipline and building self-esteem. Festivities culminated with a cruise ship tour around Manhattan and the announcement of medal winners.

We continue to support the Journeys Program, art therapy for children and adolescents who have lost a loved one, are affected by the serious illness of a loved one, or are facing serious illness themselves. Providing a safe and caring environment to address grief issues when they happen helps to prevent the emotional problems that may otherwise manifest themselves in later years.

We are helping to move research toward application as the Juvenile Bipolar Research Foundation is enthusiastically beginning patient trials to examine novel treatments that have demonstrated rapid and dramatic improvement in a pilot study of children afflicted with this disorder.

At Eva’s Village Hope Residence for Mothers and Children, homeless/addicted women and their children receive therapeutic services with the goal of improving their emotional/behavioral well-being and progressing towards increased stability. Todd’s foundation supports “Quality Time,” a bi-weekly special time for mothers and children to share a variety of special activities together.

Our donations this year to Children’s Aid and Family Services have supported their Social Skills program, The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources, programs addressing the medical needs of children in foster care, and the Thomas R. S. Burgin Parents Fund, which provides financial assistance to teens aging out of foster care and attending college or receiving vocational training.

Still going strong, we have garnered grants for Zippy’s Friends from the United Water Foundation, the Ohl Foundation, and the Teaneck Schools: Bergen Mental Health and Schools Initiative. Zippy’s Friends is an evidence-based, best practice program that promotes mental and emotional health in children ages five to seven. Over 80 educators have been trained in the curriculum and nearly 2000 children are enrolled in the program.

A complete list of charities is available on our web site.

Thank you!

With gratitude and pride, we are pleased to report that we distributed $100,000 this year and $1,000,000 since we began the foundation. (Please see the enclosed article from The Wall Street Journal, December 30, 2010.) The collective impact of your commitment and generosity is enormous! As always, we deeply appreciate your gift at this time and year-round contributions through mybuddytodd.org or checks mailed to the Todd Ouida Children’s Foundation, 591 Clarendon Court, River Edge, NJ 07661.

Please contact us by mail or e-mail if you would like your name removed from our mailing list. Newsletter design warmly donated by E. Fitz Art.
You’re Invited!

Tenth Annual Birthday Event

overrun

collaborated for many years. In addition to the organizations and services we regularly support, funds raised this year will help to develop a medical services and advocacy center for children in CAFS treatment homes and foster families.