



# The 100% Effect

*Investing in a brighter tomorrow by giving them a better today!*

## THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR SUPPORT

### We've Touched Many Hearts

On March 21, 2016 Sojihuggles Childrens Foundation established as a 501(c)3 corporation. Since then, just 10 months ago, we've accomplished much.

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## FUNDRAISING EVENTS IN 2016

Our fundraising events included: neighborhood clean-ups (*two* towns in Sussex County donated grant monies from their neighborhood clean-ups to Sojihuggles Childrens Foundation), a NJ Miner's game followed by fireworks, Lakeside Crystal Bowl Concert and Labyrinth Walk, Pumpkin carving and illumination at the Chatterbox located in Augusta (huge shout out to Don Hall, thank you so very much for your time, generosity and efforts in making this event both successful and fun! By the way, this is a great family diner, be sure to check it out).

We also participated in the Lake Mohawk German Christmas Market selling holiday ornaments, gifts and décor, made by our volunteers, and finished off the year with a Holiday House Tour of 5 festively decorated homes which included an ice sculpting competition (the Reindeer won first place! Congrats to Chef Neil Trimper of Sussex County Tech) and a wassail tasting among some of the many other surprises offered to participants.



1<sup>st</sup>: Reindeer, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Angel, 3<sup>rd</sup>: Christmas Tree

Taking time to seek out information and accepting every opportunity and challenge that came our way brought tremendous insight. We learned where the needs are greatest which enabled us to determine how, and what, we can do to help.

Within our first 5 months we became members of Great Non-Profits (which is how the towns learned about us) and achieved Bronze Star status with Guide-Star—the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. Becoming a Guide Star member is a true testament to an organization's commitment to transparency and it is *not* an IRS mandate to join.

**100% of every dollar directly supports children in need**

## PARTNERSHIPS

Along the way, we formed partnerships. The first, with the Sussex County Diaper Bank. We hosted a diaper drive that brought in enough diapers for the bank to supply those in need for the entire month.

One woman upon hearing about our foundation asked if she could provide birthday supplies so kids could celebrate their big day. We moved forward with this idea by establishing a "Birthday in a Bag" program and are now delivering birthday bags to area food pantries every month.

We were contacted by the owners of a few area restaurants who found they had an excess of turkeys after the holidays. They asked if we could help get the turkeys to those in need. We did. **20** turkeys were delivered to a local shelter and soup kitchen where we know meals will be prepared to feed the hungry.

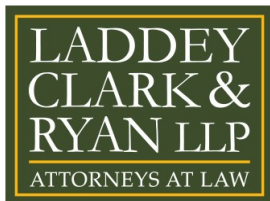
## OUR CONCERNS

One of our biggest concerns was figuring out how to *ensure* the money we give, to whomever we give it, would go *directly to children in need*. That quickly became a challenge. If we gave money to already existing children's programs we could not be *guaranteed all* of the money would be used to help the children. We need to be sure that every penny, of every donation received, directly supports children in need.

Our solution: reach out to the schools. I contacted the Superintendent of Newton schools, Dr. Greene, who did not just listen, but made the effort to send a letter to all the schools in the county letting them know we're here to help. He asked them to get in touch with us, tell us what they need and how we can help. We were contacted and we responded.

## OUR SPONSORS

*With heartfelt gratitude, we thank our sponsors for their support*



CATHY KUT

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## WHAT ARE YOUR DOLLARS DOING TO HELP CHILDREN IN NEED?

We're working with nurses, guidance counselors and teachers on a variety of programs.

Eye Exams and Glasses – this ranked high in unaddressed needs and is now a work in progress for our foundation. It stands to reason, if a child can't see, they can't read. If they can't read, they won't learn. If they don't learn, they won't thrive. When a teacher suspects a problem, the student is sent to the nurse who administers a preliminary eye exam to determine if further testing will be necessary. If so, for those students who don't have the means, we will step in to subsidize the cost of the exam and glasses. We are currently in the process of establishing this program, which is quite costly. In an effort to maximize our dollars, we are asking local doctors and opticians to work with us by discounting their fees so we can help as many students as possible. If you have any contacts, please let us know.

Many children who are forced out of their homes are living in abandoned buildings, or staying with a friend temporarily and then moving from shelter to shelter. They have only the clothes on their back and no place to call home. They need food, clothing, toiletries, school supplies and shelter. We're supplying gift cards from area stores to our contacts at the schools who are willing to take the time to make the purchases, maintain a small supply of necessities in a cabinet in their office and distribute as needed.

Students need clean clothes, this is something we take for granted and quite frankly, never thought about. We're now providing pre-paid cards to area laundromats. It's a fact, kids who don't have clean clothes, don't go to school. Once that starts their education suffers and many become a statistic: gangs, addictions, drug dealing and in too many cases, suicide. These children want to attend school but are too embarrassed to attend. Research has shown increases in attendance are dramatic, across the entire country, when children have clean clothes.

A back-pack program for school supplies is in the works as well. Each fall students are given a list of supplies they'll need for their classes. Many students cannot afford these supplies and end up falling behind in their studies. A Girl Scout Leader offered to have her scouts obtain supply lists from area schools so we can prepare the backpacks in advance and provide them to the teachers who will distribute as needed. Supplies are not cheap. Many times teachers purchase supplies themselves. Currently, we are providing supplies on an as needed basis and will fully implement this program in September, 2017.

The diaper program continues as we are both budgeting dollars to purchase diapers and are scheduling several diaper drives throughout the year.

Coats are costly, but Macy's after holidays sale offered huge markdowns, some of which included a hat and /or mittens or gloves. We purchased 23 in a variety of styles and sizes for each gender. In many cases when children receive a new coat, the parent sells the coat to use the money for other purposes, usually not good purposes. This is all too real and it happens more often than you may think or believe. Knowing this, we are once again partnering with the schools. Teachers and nurses know their students well. If they notice a coat that was given to a child is not being worn, questions will be asked and measures will be taken to help the child.

That's what we've been doing for the past 10 months. Because of your generosity and support, we are making a huge difference in the lives of many children.

Now you know the significance of **The 100% Effect**

**100% of every dollar directly supports children in need**

## THANK YOU SO MUCH

*We live in what I believe is the greatest country on earth. Our most precious natural resource is our children, yet, the disparity between our country's wealth and the condition of its children is unparalleled. Many children do not have the basic necessities of food, clothing, shelter or many other provisions we sometimes take for granted such as toiletries, showers, laundry facilities, school supplies, eye glasses, hearing aids, etc.*

*Sojihuggles Childrens Foundation was formed to change that. We're here to give children a fair chance in life.*

*Thanks to each of YOU, the many donors, sponsors and volunteers who have provided the means for Sojihuggles Childrens Foundation to accomplish so very much in only 10 months, we are making positive, effective changes for our underprivileged children.*

*We are determined and will continue to move forward in our mission to seek out programs that allow children to grow, thrive, experience purpose in life and contribute to society in meaningful ways.*

*With heartfelt gratitude to all of you,*

*T Love, Founder/CEO*

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

**VOLUNTEER** Email us at [info@sojihuggles.org](mailto:info@sojihuggles.org). We'd love to talk to you about opportunities.

**SHOPPING ON-LINE?** You can donate to Sojihuggles at no additional cost to you when you shop at these generous retailers. They'll donate .5% of the total purchase price to Sojihuggles each time you shop. It's easy to sign up too, just follow the links below to learn how.



**DONATE** Many employers match contributions, ask your employer if they participate.

You can also make a secure on-line donation at our website: [www.sojihuggles.org](http://www.sojihuggles.org)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



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PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

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