



# **A LEGACY OF LOVE: HOW ONE MOTHER'S PASSION INSPIRED HER DAUGHTER TO JOIN THE MISSION AT CHSOFNJ**



One of the truest measures of job satisfaction is whether someone would recommend their workplace to friends and family. For Tera, that recommendation was more than just words—it became a living legacy. Her daughter Haley didn't just hear about the impact of her mother's work; she witnessed it, felt it, and eventually joined her on the same mission. Together, they are building not only a stronger community, but a deeper bond as mother and daughter, grounded in service and compassion.



## **FROM INSPIRATION TO IMITATION**

Tera began her journey at The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHSofNJ) on November 12, 2013, stepping into a role within the Kinship Navigator Program. From day one, she felt a connection to the work.

"Each day brings new challenges and opportunities," Tera reflects. "The chance to support families and strengthen community bonds is a privilege I hold dear. Over time, this work has become more than a career—it's a calling."

That passion didn't go unnoticed at home. Haley was just 15 when her mom joined CHSofNJ, but she was already paying close attention. She began volunteering at events, eager to help and contribute however she could. What started as tagging along turned into something much more: a professional and personal path shaped by purpose.

"Working alongside my mom as an intern inspired me to continue my career with CHS," Haley says. "I always knew I wanted to work with children, but seeing her passion up close gave me clarity about how I wanted to do that."

## **A MOTHER'S INFLUENCE**

As a single mother raising three children, Tera showed her family—by example—what strength, compassion, and commitment look like in action.

"My mom has the biggest heart," Haley says. "She'd give the shirt off her back to help someone in need. Watching her build relationships and change lives through her work really stuck with me."

Tera's belief in kinship extended beyond her clients—it shaped her home. Her openness about the joys and hardships of her work helped Haley understand that a meaningful career is not one without obstacles, but one where the rewards outweigh the challenges.

"When I come home tired or frustrated, Haley gets it," Tera says. "She's walked in my shoes. She listens, she supports me, and I know she truly understands."

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## PARALLEL PATHS WITH A SHARED PURPOSE

Haley's journey at CHSofNJ began as an intern with Kinship Services. She later joined the Positive Impact After-School program and now also works at Head Start. In every role, one thing has remained constant: her love for helping children thrive and grow. "I fell in love with teaching," Haley says. "Now I can't imagine doing anything else. Knowing I play a role in shaping future generations—that's what motivates me."

"She comes home exhausted but fulfilled," Tera says. "It makes me proud to watch her in this role. She's not just my daughter—she's my best friend and my inspiration."



## THE CHSOFNJ DIFFERENCE

For both Tera and Haley, CHSofNJ is more than a workplace—it's a family. Tera describes the Kinship Navigator Program as a community of dedicated, compassionate professionals united by a common goal. "We're not just completing tasks," she says. "We're building connections—with each other and with the families we serve. That sense of camaraderie is something special."

Haley echoes that sentiment, particularly in the long-lasting relationships she's built with her students and families.

"I'm proud of the bond I've formed with so many of my kids," she says. "Whether it's in Head Start or Positive Impact, those relationships are what make the work so meaningful."

## A FULL CIRCLE OF CARE

In a world where burnout is common and meaningful work can be hard to find, Tera and Haley's story stands out. It's a testament to the power of leading by example, the strength of parental role-modeling, and the importance of mission-driven work. And it's a shining example of what CHSofNJ represents: generations working together to create lasting change.

"If you're considering joining CHSofNJ," Tera says, "I can't recommend it highly enough. This is the kind of work that fills your heart—and shapes your life."

At CHSofNJ, it's not uncommon to see families being served. But when you see a mother and daughter serving together, you witness something even more powerful: a legacy of love in action.



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?



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