Political

- The Children's Aid Society started from the Orphan Train Movement which lasted between 1853 and 1929.
- The CAS is a government agency, but rather a private non-profit charity like a church.
- The Orphan Train Movement was a welfare program that transported children from crowded cities in the U.S., such as New York City.
- Charles Brace, the founder of the CAS, was devoted to helping these poor helpless children, needy families, and disabled boys and girls in a time when services for these groups were hard to find.
- People went against the CAS because section 15 of the Child and Family Services Act, empowered each local CAS board to act as both judge and jury over how you raised your kids and could legally kidnap them at any time, often based upon the personal judgments of a single individual CAS worker.

Cultural

- The CAS operated lodging houses, shelters for mothers with children.
- These houses were industrial schools to teach trades, nursery schools, boys' and girls' clubs and children's centers, and playgrounds.
- Children's Aid Society operated convalescent homes, a seaside retreat, summer camps, and summer excursion programs.
- The farm schools CAS established was a program called Mothers' Meetings; teachers helped mothers learn better ways to care for their families.
- The CAS operated 21 day schools and 13 evening schools offering vocational education in immigrant neighborhoods.
- The Italian School served Italian immigrants; the German School served German immigrants.

Social

- The children ranged in age from about six to eighteen.
- Their numbers were large, an estimated 30,000 children were homeless in New York City in the 1850s.
- Charles Brace, the founder, believed that by removing the children from the poverty of the city streets and placing them in morally upright families, they would have a chance of escaping a lifetime of misery.
- Older children placed by The Children's Aid Society were to be paid for their labors.
- The Orphan Train Movement lasted from 1853 to the early 1900s and more than 120,000 children were placed.
- Some of the children went on to lead simple, very normal lives, raising their families and working towards the American dream.
- Although records weren't always well kept, some of the children placed in the West went on to great successes.
- The Orphan Train Movement and the success of other Children's Aid initiatives led to a host of child welfare reforms, including child labor laws, adoption and the establishment of foster care services, public education, the provision of health care and nutrition and vocational training.
- The accusation from Catholics was that the intent of the emigration program was the conversion of Catholic children to Protestantism; critics alleged that this was being accomplished by placing Irish immigrant children with non-Catholic families.
- Unless children were actually orphans, parents were required to give their permission for their child's participation in the placement program.

Economic

- More than 100 corporations and other organizations, and their employees, make substantial donations of toys, books, clothing, tickets, gift certificates and other kinds of gifts to the CAS annual toy and clothing drive, back-to-school drive, and various events held by their centers and by their Associates Council during the year.
- Two of their biggest donations come from The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation and the New York Times Neediest Cases Fund.
- The Children's Aid Society uses the money they receive from donations for helpful programs, such as "Go! Books," "Talk & Play" and "Family Literacy." These programs help both children and parents learn how to socialize, grow as a family and deal with any personal or emotional problems.
- The donations from The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation help fund the Carrera Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program, which helps Young people avoid becoming teenage parents by setting them on the path to successful adulthood.
- Each holiday season, the New York Times publishes daily articles about the city's neediest children. They raise over $8 million annually from 12,000 readers.
- These donations and grants, given to the Children's Aid Society by the New York Times, go toward clothing, furniture, food, rent and other essentials for needy families.