**From the Chief Executive Officer**

Research consistently finds that children generally grow up to be like the people they know best. For example, if children grow up in a home where parents are educated, they’re more likely to go on to college. If they grow up in a home where adults are involved in their community, they’re more likely to be involved in their community as adults. If they grow up in a home where adults are involved in their children’s education, they’re more likely to be involved in their children’s education.

This is not the experience of most Child Center families. Children are told education is the path to success. But when opportunities are scarce, and people in their daily lives have not achieved this type of success, it’s difficult for these children to believe it’s possible for themselves. To ask children in these circumstances to pursue that kind of path is to ask them to be extraordinary — literally, “outside the ordinary.”

That’s what The Child Center helps children do: be extraordinary. Our preschoolers are told education is the path to success. But when opportunities are scarce, and people in their daily lives have not achieved this type of success, it’s difficult for these children to believe it’s possible for themselves. To ask children in these circumstances to pursue that kind of path is to ask them to be extraordinary — literally, “outside the ordinary.”

**One thing we’ve learned in 65 years of working with children and families is that the vast majority of parents will do anything for their children, given the right support.** This is particularly evident in our child abuse prevention and family support programs, such as our Family Treatment and Rehabilitation (FTR) program for families with significant challenges. As one of the first programs of the NYC Administration for Children and Families, 1,800 families this year will receive our 40-day case management. The FTR program is designed for families under court-ordered supervision, to help families overcome the barriers that prevent them from achieving their goals. Over 96% of FTR clients who complete the program avoid out-of-home placements.

**We can, and minimize out-of-home placements by connecting families to needed services, and families together, intact, and healthy where they want to be, but because they know they have to be.** That’s in large measure because of extraordinary supporters who believe in children’s potential before they do.

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**Child Abuse Prevention Program for Court-Ordered Supervision Cases Begins in September**

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**Students of Child Center afterschool programs say “no” to gun violence**

Eight-year-old Nathaniel wants to be a basketball player or a businessman when he grows up. He loves learning math and playing basketball. He goes to practice in his Child Center afterschool program, the Hammel Houses in South Jamaica, which he used to attend. He learned at the program for children at risk for gun violence.

The children took the lesson to heart. “I like how Bree talked about speaking you to be quiet. Don’t listen to those people. Just keep being you.”

A core principle of The Child Center of NY is that children learn best from relatable role models. Sometimes that takes the form of alumni sharing their journeys with current students.

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**Inside This Issue**

Broadway stars headline 65th anniversary gala

The Child Center hosts historic LGBTQ forum

Rockaways youth and families say “no” to gun violence

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**Spring/Summer Newsletter**

**Strengthening Family. Building Community.**
The Child Center celebrated 65 years of service at our Annual Spring Gala on May 14 at The Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers.

The View’s Sunny Hostin guided nearly 400 guests through a moving and entertaining evening of celebrations. Performance artists, students showed the value of music in our afterschool programs, and the keynote speaker,infeld US Rep. Ilhan Omar, shared her story. Family, friends, and fans of the Child Center helped her overcome unimaginable trauma. Board Chair Lisa Wold-Senftl and USA Rep. Ilhan Omar, who celebrated with the Child Center.

This year’s award went to Omar Kazi, who recently was promoted to Assistant Program Director of our Asian Outreach Program. Kazi, who received information about the Ocean Bay Youth Council, summer camp, and other community programs, including The Child Center’s Cornerstone community center,70.1% of the people we serve say they can help to stop the violence and realize their potential,” says Deborah Hoyle, director of the Ocean Bay Community Center. “We’re in the business of creating, engaging our young people, and making our communities and our schools.

At Early Head Start, parents participate each day. On Music Monday, 3-year-old Yadiel loves his parents, music, and playing sports.

The summit included discussions and workshops aimed at stopping the violence and emphasizing that it’s not just a matter of “saying no” to violence — but especially for young people. Ocean Bay will continue holding regular events for the child. This year’s award went to Omar Kazi, who recently was promoted to Assistant Program Director of our Asian Outreach Program.