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Here comes fun!

Soon we will open our doors to 1,000 kids at our free summer camps. With field trips, academic enrichment, games, sports, and time for making friends, it will be an incredible experience of safe and healthy summer fun.



A Glamorous Gala

Continued from previous page.

Endless *thanks* to our gala committee and chairs and the sponsors who made the event a success:

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From the Executive Director Sandra Hagan

As the trees bud and the weather warms, I always feel more hopeful and upbeat. But this year, I really have reasons to rejoice. As I've shared with you, The Child Center has come through an incredibly stressful year. Changes in government funding at all levels have and continue to make our heads spin, but the dramatic decrease in Medicaid funding for mental health services endangered our agency's bedrock. We have been providing these services for 59 years, and so we know that there are thousands of children each day in our city, suffering horribly from trauma and emotional distress. That's why we dedicated ourselves, in what seemed like a 24/7 effort, to finding a solution that would keep our services in place.

I am delighted to tell you that we've come through this challenge. It wasn't easy. Over the last year, we worked extremely hard to reorganize services, identify savings, ask our staff to make sacrifices, and lean on our board to be more generous and work harder to help us raise private dollars. As the result of our teamwork, I am confident that our services will survive for decades to come, and continue to help thousands of New York City children in need.

Now that this crisis has abated, we are eager to plan for a future where we do an even better job of serving vulnerable children. We know we must stay focused on fiscal viability as well as emerging needs (for example, our staff tell us that truancy among teens is at an all-time high), and knitting our services together so that not one child who has come to our attention falls through the cracks. All children, especially those at high risk, deserve the strongest possible safety net, and The Child Center of NY is one of the few agencies with the breadth of services to provide it.

Now is the perfect time to celebrate all we've accomplished and also express our gratitude to those who have stood loyally by us. Next year, we will reach our 60th anniversary, marking our journey from one small mental health clinic serving 50 children annually to a large multi-service agency touching the lives of 17,000 children a year.

We know that our interventions save lives. That's why we are so committed to doing what we do and never giving up. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your contributions and support.

Sandra Hagan

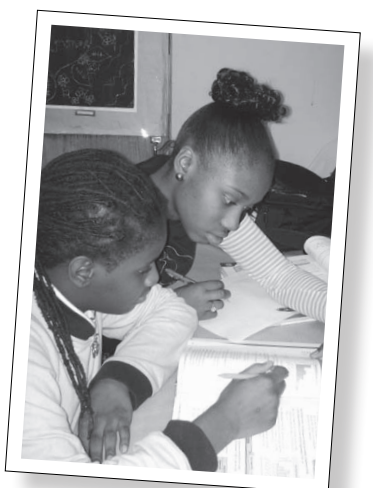
great results

Inexpensive solutions can have great outcomes. Last year, with a grant of \$5,000 from HSBC bank, we launched "Math & Money" at PS 223 in Jamaica. This new project reached 180 kids by providing after-school financial literacy training to grades 3 through 5, plus tutoring for kindergarteners and first graders. What made the project special was that instead of hiring adults to be tutors, we recruited fifth graders.

After 14 weeks, the younger children **increased their knowledge of basic math concepts by an average of 58 percent.** We weren't surprised. Many studies show that cross-age tutoring is effective, benefiting both the tutor and tutee.

"The tutors had a sense of responsibility. They knew they were the role models and felt good about it," said Clarisa Alayeto, the project director. "The younger kids got a self esteem boost by spending time with the older ones."

We hope to bring "Math & Money" to more schools and think this is a tremendous opportunity for donors to make a real difference at a modest cost. For information, call Laura Schenone at 718-651-7770, ext. 220.





On the Horizon: *The Hank Auffarth Family Center*

In honor of our beloved late board member and former president, we are embarking on an exciting campaign to establish The Hank Auffarth Family Center—a 4,000 square-foot suite of offices located in Elmhurst. The new space will be home to several programs that Hank helped implement during his decades on the board. These include our prized Asian Outreach Program as well as a new replication of our highly respected child abuse prevention programs.

For years to come, thousands of families and community members will associate the name Hank Auffarth with help and hope for children. We can think of no more fitting tribute. We hope to open the doors of this new facility in the fall. Those who are interested in naming opportunities within the center or in making a contribution to this campaign, please contact Jennifer Dudley at 718-651-7770, ext. 301.

spotlight

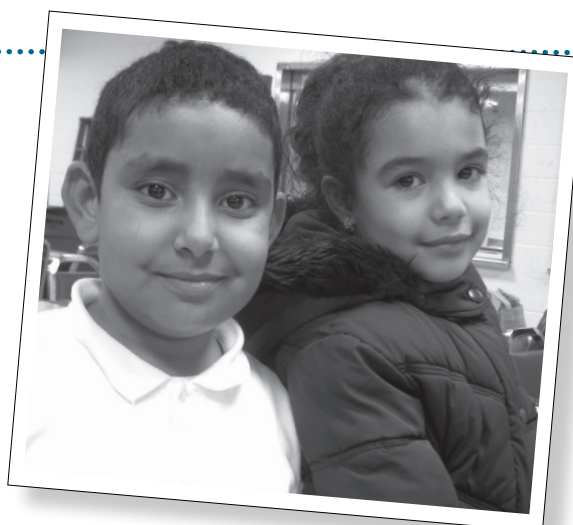
New Board Member: *Michael Laveman*

What made you decide to join The Child Center's board of directors?

Both of my parents were in education their entire careers. My mom taught in Queens almost 40 years. So I'm sure that was part of it.

But what really moved me were my two and six-year-olds. The world is crazy today, and it's so hard to raise children when there are two parents in the home. I just can't imagine raising kids alone and being a single parent with no resources. I know that The Child Center helps thousands of single-parent families who are exactly in this position.

I am a busy person, but I'm always curious to try something new. I wondered what it would be like to be a board member, so I saw this as a great opportunity to give it a try. I enjoyed my visit to the Head Start program and seeing the little kids. It made me feel very lucky for what I have. Someday hopefully I will teach my kids to help others.



Using Technology to Help Kids

In our continual effort to improve services and better provide measurable outcomes for our funders, The Child Center is undertaking a major upgrade to its technology capacity by building a new agency-wide database, called Einstine (Electronic **I**ntegrated **S**torage **I**nformation **N**etwork).

With Einstine, we will be able to track, collect, and analyze data with far greater ease and speed than in the past. Einstine will enable staff to drill down for "before and after" information so that we can assess our impact on children's lives and use metrics to continually improve what we do. We also will be better able to quickly cross refer children among our many programs and monitor our most at-risk kids to ensure that they receive prompt, effective service and follow up.

While the information age may have its down side, this project will do nothing but improve our services and accountability, increasing our ability to save lives.

The Child Center of NY is a 59-year-old nonprofit agency whose mission is to help at-risk children and youth succeed in life.

A Glamorous Gala

On April 18th, The Child Center made a landmark journey across the East River to hold its first-ever Manhattan gala, fittingly held at the edge of the city. The venue was Guastavino's, a stunning architectural landmark building beneath the 59th Street Bridge.

With nearly 400 attendees, the gala—hosted by NBC *Today Show* news anchor Natalie Morales—was our highest-grossing fundraiser, bringing in nearly \$600,000 for our work with at-risk children. The highlight of the evening was the awards ceremony, which honored three remarkable men who are role models to their communities.

Jack Bransfield, President of Roslyn Savings Bank and Chairman of the New York Community Bank Foundation and Gregory Shufro, Principal and Senior Managing Director at Shufro, Rose & Co., LLC, received our **2012 Impact Award** in recognition of their innovation in business and record of service to disadvantaged children. James Pi, Chairman of Victoria Cruises, was presented with our **Generation One Award**, which honors a successful immigrant who epitomizes the entrepreneurial and philanthropic spirit to which young people could aspire.

"The only thing that distinguishes the parents who are here at this dinner and the ones served by The Child Center is that we have access to resources and they don't," said Greg Shufro in his award acceptance speech. "They work hard, care deeply about their children, and would do anything to help their kids succeed. They are not looking for us to solve their problems; they are looking for resources they can use to solve their own."

The Child Center's award-winning Ozone Step Team gave an inspired performance. These dancer-activists from our after-school program engage in community service and compete in step dance competitions throughout the city.

Continued on back page.



Honorees James Pi, Gregory Shufro, and Jack Bransfield with Natalie Morales.

photo by Michelle Kavka



On Location: NYC Public Schools

"I work side by side with the guidance counselor and teachers," says Erica Lee. "They bring me the kids who have problems or can't communicate—the kids they worry about. I step in to help."

Ms. Lee is a second-generation Korean American and master's level social worker. Though most of her work takes place at our clinic in Flushing, foundation grants allow us to send her one morning a week to PS 32, where she counsels students who are in trouble and helps teachers cope with the complex emotional issues immigrant children bring to the classroom.

The Child Center's Asian Outreach Program, which began in 1993, provides culturally sensitive counseling in more than 15 Asian languages. The program is located at two centers—Elmhurst and Flushing—and on-site at 12 public schools.

We reduce stress and conflict so families can be more stable and kids can do better in school. Getting in early makes a huge difference. "Asians tend to be reluctant to seek counseling," says Seline Bearman, the program's administrator. "So by the time many families come to our clinics, the children are in crisis. At the schools, our work is more preventive. Teachers see kids every day and they know what's going on. We can intervene early." Immigrant children face severe hardships resulting from poverty, absent parents, cultural alienation, family violence, and the trauma of leaving relatives behind.

"At our clinic, I see so many cases of domestic violence and abuse that are really sad," said Sunita Sinha, a social worker who is originally from India and speaks Hindi, Urdu, and other Indian dialects. "But in the schools, we can be proactive. We help families find supports they didn't know existed. I've helped parents figure out health care and get their kids into summer camp."

The Child Center is a Better Business Bureau Approved Charity.
To make a donation, visit: www.childcenterny.org or call 718.651.7770 ext. 301.