



The Volunteer Voice

Children's Advocacy Center of Manhattan

Summer 2006

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CAC Sponsors City-Wide Conference: Building Resilience in Children and Families



On June 14th, Children's Advocacy Center sponsored its first city-wide conference, *Building Resilience in Children and Families: Proven Strategies to Prevent*

Child Abuse and Neglect. Over 200 professionals from local schools and social service organizations attended the conference at The Children's Center. Jon B. Mattingly, Commissioner of Administration for Children's Services and Keynote Speaker, Jim Hmurovich, President of Prevent Child Abuse America opened the day with an overview of the problems and risk factors associated with child abuse by. Following were presentations by three panels of representatives from effective abuse prevention programs.

The first panel, *Healthy Families New York Home Visiting Program*, presented a program in which high risk, expectant and new parents are provided with home visits to promote parenting skills, parent-child interaction, optimal prenatal care, and economic self-sufficiency.

The second panel, *Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs and Teen Parenting Programs*, featured panelists from New York Nurse-Family Partnership, Bellevue Hospital

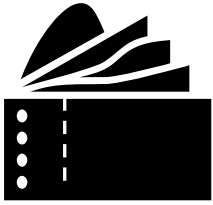
Child Protection Team and Adolescent Services, Mount Sinai Health Education Department, and Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center. Panelists introduced effective prevention programs for adolescents including Bellevue Adolescent Parents Group and MOMS (Mothers of Mount Sinai), an education and support group for pregnant and parenting teens.

The final panel, *School Based and Education Programs*, featured panelists from Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Family Services, Marie Curie High School, and Good Shepherd Services.

The conference concluded with two interactive "Nuts and Bolts" workshops, *Starting a "Healthy Families" Program* and *Starting a Teen Parenting Program*.

Building Resilience in Children and Families was a success in helping to promote child abuse prevention programs and policies based on successful models. The conference was sponsored by the CAC in association with Prevent Child Abuse America and the Administration for Children's Services, and was made possible by a generous grant from Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro. Much thanks to the following CAC volunteers who assisted with set up and registration on the day of the conference: **Amy Bluestone, Patti Peressutti, and Alberta Tabak.**

Raffle Fundraiser



It's raffle ticket time of year! The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce is holding its annual community benefit raffle with all proceeds benefiting participating non-profit organizations. Tickets

are \$1, and the grand prize is trip for two to San Jose del Cabo, Mexico!

Other prizes include a trip for two to Ocean Club, Paradise Island; one year membership to The New York Sports Club; airfare for two within the U.S. on JetBlue Airways; and gift certificates to several businesses such as Gracious Home, Crouch & Fitzgerald, The Gap, The Container Store, and D'Agostino's Supermarkets.

Proceeds from past raffles have allowed the Center to invest in items such as furniture and therapy equipment.

CAC volunteers have been essential participants in this fundraiser. If you are interested in helping to sell tickets, we will be happy to send you raffle books. Please contact Mary at (212) 517-3012, ext. 30 or marypesses@att.net. All ticket stubs are due back to the CAC by Monday, November 27th.

Volunteer Birthdays

June

July

August



Due to privacy concerns, Birthdays are blocked for the online edition of the Volunteer Voice

Upcoming Events

Third Avenue Community Benefit Festival is scheduled for Sunday, September 10th from 11:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Volunteers are needed at the CAC information table throughout the day. Please contact Mary if you are able to help out.

Volunteer Training 2006 will take place in October. The training is essential for new volunteers. Those who have attended our trainings previously are welcome to join us. Volunteers will receive more detailed information via email.

"Trouble" at Game Night



That 's right! *Trouble*, along with *Candyland*, *Connect Four*, *Uno*, *Mastermind*, and *Bingo* were among the variety of games featured at the Children's Advocacy Center's first Family Game Night.

On the evening of Thursday, June 1st volunteers and staff provided clients an opportunity to spend quality time with their families at Family Game Night. Clients and their families played game after game and enjoyed pizza and prizes.

The night's main attraction was good old-fashioned BINGO in the brightly decorated CAC Bingo Hall (a.k.a. Conference Room), led by our talented Bingo caller volunteer, Bonnie Gerard.

Family Game Night would not have been possible without the participation of our volunteers. Thank you to **Rachel Bucholtz, Bonnie Gerard, Patti Peressutti, Arlene Schwartz, Chris Sullivan, Alberta Tabak, and Yara Trokel** for all your help.

Spotlight on Case Tracking

As the number of children evaluated at the CAC grows, so does the need for volunteer participation in the case tracking program.

The goals of the case tracking program are to help ensure the safety of children and prevent further incidences of abuse from occurring. Volunteers and staff work toward these goals by contacting families and professionals to determine if CAC recommendations are followed through on and assisting in the follow through of recommendations when needed.

Recent changes have been made to increase the effectiveness of the case tracking program. The CAC now has an electronic case tracking database, allows for demographic information of cases and progress notes to be accessed electronically.

If you are interested in volunteering in CAC's case tracking program, please contact Mary at (212) 517-3012 or marypesses@att.net.

New York Junior League Volunteers

For the past six years, volunteers from the New York Junior League have been involved in every aspect of the CAC's volunteer program. These women have played a significant role in the Center's case tracking program by dedicating their Tuesday evenings to summarizing forensic evaluations and reaching out to client's families and outside professionals. The CAC has also received tremendous help from NYJL volunteers on special projects and events, especially with our annual Holiday Party. Most recently, the NYJL donated a generous assortment of art supplies and board games to the Center.

We are delighted to continue our partnership with the New York Junior League this Fall and feel very fortunate to have their support. Thank you NYJL!

Wish List



Throughout the year, the Children's Advocacy Center receives inquiries regarding items needed for donation. If you are someone you know is interested in donating to the Center, the following items are needed for use in CAC's therapy program or as special occasion gifts for children:

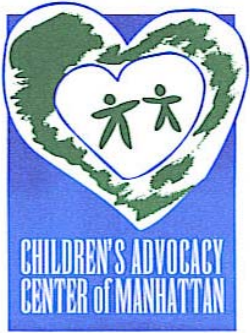
- Gift Cards in \$25.00 increments to Old Navy, Barnes & Noble, or Toys R Us
- Play-Dough
- Crayola Washable Markers
- Journals
- Washable Paint and Paint Brushes
- Hand Puppets
- Therapy Program Wish List:
Visit amazon.com, click on the **wish list** icon, type "CACM Therapy Program" in the search box
- Board Games and Card Games: Candyland, Memory, Trouble, Guess Who, Don't Break the Ice, Don't Spill the Beans, Uno Cards, Old Maid Cards, Connect Four, Sorry
- LCD projector (for in-service and community presentations)



“We must give more in order to get more. It is the generous giving of ourselves that produces the generous harvest.” – Orison Swett Marden

“A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity.” – Buddha

“More than machinery, we need humanity. More than cleverness, we need kindness and gentleness.” – Charlie Chaplin



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