



# *The Volunteer Voice*

THE NEW YORK CENTER FOR CHILDREN

Winter 2007

333 East 70<sup>th</sup> Street · New York, NY 10021 · Phone (212) 517-3012 · [www.newyorkcenterforchildren.org](http://www.newyorkcenterforchildren.org)

## The Center Unveils a New Name

For ten years, the Children's Advocacy Center of Manhattan's small but determined staff has been caring for New York City's young victims of abuse, with the support of the community and the dedication of its volunteers.

To make its work more widely known, the Children's Advocacy Center, at its November 28 gala, unveiled its new name and logo designed to heighten awareness of its mission: to help children on their journey to a place of safety. The Center continues to provide free evaluation and treatment services to victims of abuse.

Now renamed The New York Center for Children, The Center plans to expand its capacity and care for even more of the city's most vulnerable citizens. "Severely traumatized children need immediate help to regain a sense of security, balance, and self worth," says Dr. Katherine Grimm, The Center's Medical Director. "Victims of abuse are also at risk of becoming self-destructive or even abusers themselves, so this is a critical opportunity to break a damaging and negative cycle."

The Center's staff of ten works with children from across the city, helping each one overcome the devastating trauma of abuse and acquire essential coping skills. Designer Kate Spade, a new member of the Center's Board, is eager to see the Center broaden its base of support: "Making the Center more visible is sure to attract the support necessary to enable this wonderful group to offer more treatment, training and outreach. This marks the beginning of a new chapter in the Center's history." Board President Michael Caplin has led the effort to increase the Center's ability to serve children in need of expert help: "For ten years this has been one of New York City's quiet success stories. Now we are building capacity so that we can serve more children and their families, people in crisis who require and deserve the most sensitive and expert care."

The Center would like to thank its volunteers for sharing their talents and resources over the past years to better the children and families we serve. As we embark on this new chapter, we look forward to working with our exceptional volunteers to promote child abuse prevention and provide the best treatment possible to children who have been abused.

# Holiday Joy and Generosity



Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, was The Center's eleventh annual Holiday Party for children and families. Over 75 guests attended, filling The Center with holiday cheer.

From the smiles on the children's faces, it was easy to see that the Holiday Party was a joyous event. Children and their families received gifts from Santa, decorated cookies, created snowflake ornaments and brightly colored lanterns, had their faces painted, and enjoyed a delicious spread of food.

Many generous donations contributed to the success of the party. John's Pizza, Ranch 1, Dallas BBQ, and Glaser's Bakery donated a great assortment of food and sweets. Many individuals and organizations donated toys, games and books, including *barnesandnoble.com*, Harper Collins Publishers, Penguin Publishers, and Random House Publishers. Equity Office Properties sponsored an amazing toy drive for The Center in various office buildings throughout the city, resulting in the donation of hundreds of toys, games, and therapeutic supplies. The NYPD Special Victims Unit donated Build-A-Bears for every child at the party, and contributions from our board members (like the delicious cake) were appreciated by all.

The Center was overjoyed by the generosity of the community and volunteers this holiday season. Thanks to all of you, the true spirit of the season really shone brightly for The Center's children.

Thank you to the following volunteers for their help with shopping, wrapping, decorating, donations, and assisting at the party:

Eileen Szeto	Martine Malle
Joan Pedley	Helen Carapella
Andrea Masters	Mary Pat Treadwell
Juliet Arrieta	Caroline Leahy
Nancy Beard	Lee Bowles
Rachel Bucholtz	Julie Naughton
Liane Pei	Patti Peressutti
Carol Reynolds	Catherine Egan
Chris Sullivan	Alberta Tabak
Bonnie Gerard	Yara Trokel
Matt Warner	Joel Lyon
Lee Berger	Arlene Schwartz
Amy Bluestone	Nell Teare
Daphney Shirley	Blaire Biase

A special thank you to Santa (a.k.a. Matt Retzer) for his wonderful appearance at the Holiday Party.

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## *100 Women Against Child Abuse*

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, The Center held its sixth annual *100 Women Against Child Abuse Benefit* at Gotham Hall. Honorees of the evening were Ali Wing, CEO and founder of Giggle and advocate for strengthening parent communities; and Judge Michael A. Corriero, presiding judge of Manhattan's Youth Part and author of *Judging Children As Children: A Proposal for a Juvenile Justice System*. The gala was hosted by Jane Hanson and chaired by Kate Spade.

We appreciate the great efforts of our Board Members for organizing the benefit, and thank the following volunteers who helped us prepare for the event: *Amy Bluestone, Patti Peressutti, and Alberta Tabak*.

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## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month



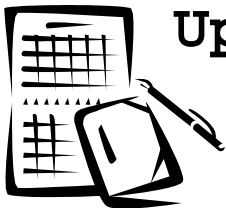
Each April, people across the country join forces to raise awareness of child abuse and promote specific ways we can all help to prevent these occurrences in our communities.

On February 14, 2000, The U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution establishing a National Day of Hope to recognize the problems of child abuse and neglect and enhance public awareness. This year, the National Day of Hope will be April 5<sup>th</sup>.

The New York Center for Children will honor the eighth annual National Day of Hope by hosting an information table in front of The Center on April 5<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, providing information to the community on child abuse prevention and treatment resources. Please contact Mary at (212) 517-3012, ext. 30 or [marypesses@att.net](mailto:marypesses@att.net) if you are interested in volunteering at the information table.

Also in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, The Center is sponsoring its ninth annual citywide poster contest. First, second, third, and fourth grade students in School Districts 2, 4, and 5 have been invited to participate by designing a poster based on the theme *Children are Fragile, Handle with Care*.

The winning entry will be announced in April and made into a poster to be distributed to schools, hospitals, and community organizations throughout the five boroughs.



## Upcoming Events

- *National Day of Hope*  
Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>
- *Volunteer Appreciation Night*  
Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>

## Volunteer Birthdays



**December**



**January**



**March**



*All of us at The New York Center for Children wish you a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY!*

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

## Volunteer Appreciation

National Volunteer Week is April 15<sup>th</sup> to April 21<sup>st</sup>, and the staff of The Center would like to take this opportunity to give our sincere thanks and gratitude to our valuable volunteers. We thank you for devoting your time and attention to the very important issues of child abuse prevention and treatment. It would be difficult to do the work we do without your help and support.

Contributions by volunteers have enabled us to serve more clients, offer more services and reach out to our community. Through childcare, case tracking, tutoring, mentoring, outreach, and countless other contributions, volunteers help to maintain the high quality of care offered by The Center.

**We would be pleased if you would join us for *Volunteer Appreciation Night* at The Center on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.**

“Everyone can be great because anyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't even have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve...You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

*-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"I have never been especially impressed by the heroics of people convinced that they are about to change the world. I am more awed by those who struggle to make one small difference after another."

*- Ellen Goodman*



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