



# *The Volunteer Voice*

THE NEW YORK CENTER FOR CHILDREN

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Winter 2008

[www.newyorkcenterforchildren.org](http://www.newyorkcenterforchildren.org)

## Looking Back on 2007

The end of 2007 marks the closure of our first full year as The New York Center for Children, formerly the Children's Advocacy Center of Manhattan, and our 12<sup>th</sup> year as a Center.

This year was a year of transition and growth for the Center.

In March we were able to create, for the first time, the position of Development Officer at the Center. Sara Rosen – who has done fundraising for both direct service and political not-for-profits – stepped into this critical position, which allows the Center to increase our focus and attention on sustainability and funding, as well as future growth, for all of our programs.

In April, Mary Pesses made the transition from Volunteer Coordinator to Therapist/Evaluator and has been a wonderful addition to our therapy and evaluation team. Katie Schwartz – coming to us with a wide range of volunteer, direct service, and administrative experience – was hired in her place at the end of the Summer. In addition, Meara Beirne, former masters level social work intern and Volunteer Coordinator, was hired as a Therapist/Evaluator at the Center after her internship.

During the summer, we hired our first Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at the Center, Sheila Buchanan. Sheila works with our Medical Director, Dr. Katherine Grimm, and her arrival has allowed us to expand the hours during which we are able to schedule medical examinations. We also welcomed a wonderful new crew of masters level interns and externs in September. Jill Riemer, from Columbia University, joined us as our Social Work intern. Anna Rosch and Kristin Orlovsky, from Yeshiva and Fordham Universities respectively, are the Center's current Psychology Externs.

As our staff has grown, so have our resources, our availability to take referrals, and our clients – both therapy clients and evaluation clients. In 2007 we conducted approximately 200 new evaluations, and worked with more than 75 therapy clients. In addition, Senior Social Worker Sarah Anders, along with Courtney Rodgers from Mt. Sinai's SAVI Program, held two 14-week long group therapy sessions for adult, female survivors of childhood sexual abuse. A third session starts on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

And through it all, our work has been supported – on every level – by volunteers. Volunteers provided childcare to children of the adult therapy group and new evaluation clients; helped throw an amazing 2007 Holiday Party for our clients; cleaned up and organized our space as it became increasingly more crowded; provided priceless one-on-one tutoring; and continue to track clients as they leave our organization. We cannot say thank you enough as we kick off 2008: another year of work, another year of success stories.



*Looking for more ways to help NYCC? We have a wish list! Just go to [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and look up 'The New York Center for Children' under wish lists for an up-to-date list of requested donations that will benefit our programs and our families. THANK YOU!!*

# Holiday Party 2007!



*Santa Claus, ready to meet the children*



*Rebecca Lony, volunteer, preparing the Gingerbread Trains for decoration*



*Model Gingerbread Train*



*Ewa Stefanska, volunteer, in the train she constructed out of Discarded Cardboard Boxes for the Holiday Party*

This year's Holiday Party - held Thursday December 13<sup>th</sup> - was Polar Express themed, from the golden train ticket invitations that the children received to the tracks leading guests around the Center the day of the event. At the party children were able to climb inside a large painted Polar Express train (created by Ewa Stefanska during many, many days of volunteering – thank you Ewa!) and have their photos taken. They also received presents, for themselves and their families, from Santa – another photo opportunity; decorated festive holiday-themed sugar cookies; made and decorated gingerbread trains; had their faces painted; played ‘Stoke the Coal’, earning prizes for successfully tossing bean bags into a small painted coal car; and enjoyed a variety of food and drinks (all donated!) including two train decorated cakes and traditional holiday hot cocoa.

More than 40 therapy clients at the Center and their families attended the party: totaling over 75 children and more than 40 adults! For those of you who have visited our Center you will know that this meant a very full house. In addition, we provided presents for the handful of clients and their families who were unable – due to scheduling conflicts or the weather – to attend.

Everyone involved, from the clients and their families to staff and volunteers, had an incredible time. We could not have succeeded without help, and the Center was overjoyed by the generosity of the community and volunteers once again this holiday season.

Thank you to the following volunteers and organizations for donating time and goods to the creation of such a wonderful event:

*Arizona Beverages  
Carolyn Atkinson  
Amy Bluestone  
Cambridge Floral  
Michael Caplin  
Chicken Bar  
Jill Coon  
Dallas BBQ  
Catherine Egan  
Food Emporium  
Dennis Gillooly, Jr.  
Glasers*

*Gourmet Garage  
Grace's Marketplace  
Ashley Gray  
Rhian Horgan  
John's Pizzeza  
Louis Kleinman  
Rebecca Lony  
Andrea Melton  
Ken Mersel  
Sid Mollin  
Nadia Moshtaghi  
Johanna Nevarez*

*Lyn Paulsin  
Joan Pedley  
Patti Peressutti  
Christine Rales  
Marty Richards  
Catherine Robey  
RSM  
Enet Somers-Debaney  
Spoon Sisters  
Ewa Stefanska  
Alberta Tabak  
Yara Trokel*

A special thank you to Santa (a.k.a. Joey Nicholson) for his wonderful appearance at the Holiday Party. Thank you for filling in so last minute Joey!

## New Volunteers!

October marked our annual Volunteer Training, welcoming a new crew of wonderful, engaged volunteers to the NYCC family. Thank you for joining us!

New volunteers:

- Carolyn Atkinson
- Jill Coon
- Ashley Gray
- Rhian Horgan
- Nadia Moshtaghi
- Johanna Rengifo Nevarez
- Lucia Panzarella Patrignani
- Catherine Robey
- Enet Somers-Dehaney
- Ewa Stefanska



In addition, welcome back to all continuing volunteers and thank you once again to the New York Junior League for yet another year of amazing support and partnership.



## Volunteer Winter Birthdays

*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

January



February



March



NYCC would also like to wish belated birthdays to all of our September through December birthdays: Happy Birthday Bryson Richards, Jennifer Richards, Eileen Szeto, Blaire Biase, Yara Trokel, Joan Pedley, Rhian Horgan, Enet Somers-Dehaney, Rachel Bucholtz, Amy Bluestone, Bonnie Gerard, Catherine Egan (who volunteered at our Holiday Party on her birthday. Thank you Catherine!!), and Ashley Gray!



## Holiday Gift Wrapping

This year, NYCC was given the opportunity to gift-wrap for two wonderful stores – **Barnes and Noble** and **giggle** – as a means to raise both awareness about our work and funds for our programs. At both locations, volunteers wrapped presents for one to two days during the holiday season earning tips for NYCC and engaging customers about our work and services. In addition to raising over \$300 toward NYCC’s work, we received inquiries about volunteering at and donating to NYCC as a result. Thank you Barnes and Noble and giggle for these opportunities!! We hope to expand on this year’s gift-wrapping program next year with increased days and volunteer presence at both locations.

Thank you as well to all of the volunteers and staff who participated in gift-wrapping this year: Andrea Melton, Alberta Tabak, Christie Santana, Sara Rosen, Carolyn Atkinson, Bonnie Gerard, Rebecca Lowy, and Blaire Biase.

## News from Autumn...

### *Dr. Grimm's New Hip*

Dr. Katherine Grimm, Medical Director, was hit by a bicyclist September 19<sup>th</sup>, incurring a displaced fracture of her right hip. She underwent surgery for a full hip replacement at NYU Medical Center and is back at the office in good spirits. She also welcomed Nicole – her new granddaughter – on October 11<sup>th</sup>, two days after returning home from rehab for her hip.

### *S-T-R-I-K-E O-U-T Child Abuse*

NYCC's 10<sup>th</sup> annual bowling fundraiser, on September 29<sup>th</sup> this year, raised a net value of over \$50,000 for our organization. This was the first time the fundraiser has been a daytime event, which added a family-fun element. **Target** and **giggle** were corporate sponsors. Guests posed with Bullseye – the Target Dog, won prizes, made ice cream sundaes and other treats, participated in art stations, and – of course – knocked down the pins at the Chelsea Pier 33 state-of-the-art bowling alley. Thank you to NYCC volunteers Amy Bluestone, Alberta Tabak, Christie Santana and Chris Sullivan for all of their work assembling the gift bags and helping set up the day of the event.

### *Grand Opening of MarieBelle on Madison Avenue*

Maribel Lieberman, designer and founder of MarieBelle © New York, graciously partnered with NYCC during the opening of her new fine chocolates shop on Madison Avenue. The opening – held on October 18<sup>th</sup> – featured a raffle and silent auction with all proceeds donated to the Center. The event raised over \$2000, provided a forum for community outreach, and was a delicious tasting experience for NYCC Staff and sponsors.

### *2007 Manhattan Chamber of Commerce Raffle*

NYCC staff and volunteers broke prior records in this year's Manhattan Chamber of Commerce raffle selling close to 1000 tickets. The money will be used to upgrade our children's playroom and waiting area. We will be purchasing a round table and chairs where teenagers can study, as well as new long low tables with storage bins to facilitate teaching children to clean up after themselves effectively. Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who sold tickets, especially to Johanna Nevarez, Andrea Melton, and Mary Pesses – each of whom sold well over 100 tickets. Next year our goal is to sell over 2000 tickets!!

COMING NEXT EDITION! PERSONAL ACCOUNTS OF VOLUNTEERING AT NYCC... Please contact Katie Schwartz, at [katie@newyorkcenterforchildren.org](mailto:katie@newyorkcenterforchildren.org) if you would like to write a short piece about your experiences as a volunteer here.

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

"No social advance rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of dedicated individuals."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Volunteer Amy Bluestone with son, Brian, and husband, Peter, at September's Bowling Event Fundraiser



Longtime Volunteer Alberta Tabak, browsing the chocolate display at MarieBelle's grand opening



Development Officer Sara Rosen posing for the camera with Maribel Lieberman