

THE FAMILY CENTER 

ANNUAL REPORT 2004



What's Happening Now!

Spring Fundraiser

On May 26th, the Young Executives Committee (YEC), a volunteer group that works to raise awareness and funds for The Family Center, held their first annual fundraiser at Freight 410 in Chelsea. 150 people were in attendance to enjoy good company, lively bidding in our silent auction and great music. The team worked incredibly hard to create an exciting social event to kick off the summer season, and they raised \$25,000 in support of the Buddy Program. Special thanks to YEC for a job well-done!



Lakota Getaways

“Lakota,” a beautiful 6-bedroom lodge located on 8 acres of land near Callicoon, NY, was built by special friends, Bill Schwinghammer and Barry Mackall. Bill and Barry are graciously donating the lodge and working with TFC to host children and families for weekend retreats and workshops. Their vision is to create an environment where kids can find their own voices. Some of the activities available at Lakota are outdoor hiking, art projects, dance lessons in their state-of-the-art dance studio, fireplace chats, river rafting, and wood-working class. Our most recent trip to Lakota was with a youth dance and music group helping guests explore movement, voice and to experience the world of Broadway.



Teen Scene

Our most recent Teen Scene included a trip to the Museum of Television and Radio to attend a Film Slam. Participating as part of a voting panel, our teens reviewed and rated film clips submitted by other New York City teens. Our next Teen Scene will explore street gangs, and help teens to consider why gangs exist, to separate the fantasy of gangs from the reality and to prepare for how they will handle their own decisions if they are asked to join one. Teen Scene is one of The Family Center's most successful programs, as evidenced by the attendance, the enthusiasm and the sense of connection it has created amongst our teens.



The Moth

This past fall, TFC started an exciting new venture with The Moth. The Moth is a non-profit organization whose mission is to spread the joys of storytelling through various venues. Their outreach program provides a unique forum for participants to tell stories about their lives. Some of our clients completed a 5-week workshop, after which two of our participants shared their stories in front of over 250 people at The Players Club on Gramercy Park. Their stories were met with tears and enthusiastic cheers! Our clients have expressed a sense of accomplishment to advance their storytelling skills to promote TFC's mission.

Summer Camp

Every year The Family Center sends more and more children to sleep-away Summer Camp. Beginning this July, we are sending 54 campers to three summer camps in upstate New York. For 30 of our campers, it will be their first time away from home, and we, along with the more seasoned campers, will help them through their feelings of nervousness and excitement. The children will be given postcards to write home and disposable cameras to create memories of their fun adventures and new friends.

TOP: **Barbara's family at Lakota.** MIDDLE: **Ramsey at a teen event.** BOTTOM: **LaTrice at camp.** OPPOSITE: **The Young Executives Committee.**

The Family Center Programs

MISSION

To create a more secure present and future for children whose parents are ill.

TFC'S GOALS ARE TO:

help parents with illnesses such as AIDS or cancer identify new caregivers and create and implement legal plans in the face of uncertainty

guide children, families and caregivers in coping effectively with the complex issues of disclosure, grief, loss and family adjustment

help caregivers create environments that foster connection, stability and love

conduct rigorous research, evaluate the effectiveness of services and identify clients' emerging needs

educate policy makers and the public about the needs of children whose lives are disrupted by life-threatening parental illness or death

Since our inception in 1994, TFC has established comprehensive services that have touched over 3500 individuals affected by illnesses such as AIDS and cancer. Our programs include:

Social Services

The social work team at The Family Center helps families cope with the stresses of a serious parental illness. We help parents at every stage of the process; deciding how or when to inform their children of their health status, identifying prospective caregivers for their children and developing custody plans that respect everyone's wishes. Throughout this process, often called permanency planning, we also provide comfort and assistance and offer mental health counseling for individuals and families.

Legal Services

To exercise control over the future of their children, parents with life-threatening illnesses need an attorney to represent them in court. The Family Center provides clients with the expert legal counsel they need to legalize custody plans and to prepare health directives.

Mediation

In some families, a mediator is needed to resolve issues that are getting in the way of strengthening plans for their children's futures. As a neutral third-party facilitator, the mediator's approach is particularly helpful for families with high levels of volatility. This innovative process creates a context for issues to be discussed

in a safe and direct way for children, parents and caregivers.

Volunteer Programs

The Volunteer Program offers many opportunities to work directly with children and families. Our signature program, the Buddy Program, matches children ages 6 to 17 with adult volunteers who provide friendship, outings, activities, support and positive role models. Volunteers spend 6–10 hours a month, one-on-one with children. The Family Center arranges and subsidizes group activities throughout the year for volunteers and children.

Our newly developed professional mentoring program allows children ages 14 to 19 the opportunity to explore different careers by interning with volunteers at select companies. Children work for up to 6 hours a month learning a craft or business such as catering, book publishing, finance or law.

Additionally, volunteers may accompany children or families on weekend retreats to a beautiful lodge, "Lakota," in upstate New York for specialized learning.

Groups

The Family Center runs a number of groups geared toward special interests and needs of our clients. For example, Teen Scene is a monthly Saturday drop in group for all Family Center teens (ages 13 to 18 years old). The purpose is to provide opportunities for socialization, exploration and discussion of relevant



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: **Patricia Pack Faulcon, Yen Ngo, and Tina Pack.** | **Yessenia and her daughter Navild** | **July, Bryan and Miguel enjoy a TFC party.** | **Norman and his buddy, Carl.**

topics and occasional recreation for our community of teenagers. Teenagers often do not have enough opportunity to express themselves and to connect with other teens in a setting outside of school or their families. Our yoga group meets at different times throughout the year for 4-6 weeks. Yoga teaches meditation and visualization, and enhances flexibility and strength, helping our families relax and find ways to cope with stress and illness.

Camping Experiences

Everyone deserves the chance to explore the world outside of the city. TFC sends children to sleepaway camps each summer. We buy camping gear, orient the kids to what it's like to be away from home, and give the parents and children an opportunity to be apart.

The Family Center's weekend camping trips help parents and their adolescent children strengthen and enrich their relationships. Camping

encourages cooperation and trust through therapeutic, fun activities such as outdoor adventures, art projects and family team-building games.

Ten Facts about TFC

1. In 1994, The Family Center began serving families affected by serious illnesses such as AIDS and cancer. We became an independent non-profit agency in 1997.

2. It is estimated that over 60,500 children have been orphaned by AIDS and cancer in New York City.

3. The Family Center has an annual budget of \$3.7 million (78% government funding and 15% foundation and 7% private), an increase of 9% in the last fiscal year.

4. The Family Center has a staff of 44 professionals, 36% of whom are bilingual in English/Spanish.

5. 95% of the families we serve live below the poverty line.

6. Of our clients, 52% are Latino, 40% are African American, 2% are Caucasian, and 6% are unidentified.

7. Our families have an average of three children; only one out of ten of these children is HIV-positive.

8. Most of our social and legal services are provided in the client's home.

9. The Family Center has served over 3500 parents and children since our inception.

10. All of The Family Center's services are free, confidential and bilingual.

The Family Center Statement of Activities

For Year Ended June 30th, 2003
(With comparative totals for 2002)

Revenue and other support	2002	2003
Government grants	\$2,407,506	\$2,742,942
Contributions	473,971	852,041
Interest Income	6,026	11,347
Other Income	56,206	69,792
Total revenue and other support	2,943,709	3,676,122

Expenses

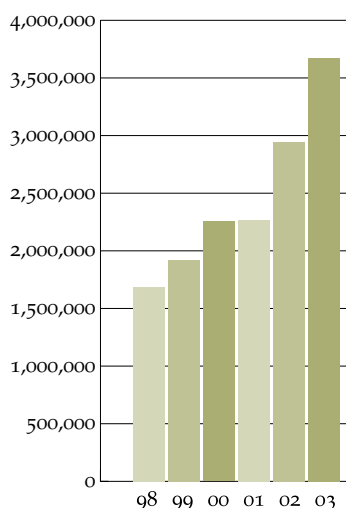
Program services		
Social services	1,669,355	1,969,050
In-home legal services	398,248	557,895
Outreach	166,153	205,760
Total Program Services	2,233,756	2,732,705

Supporting Services

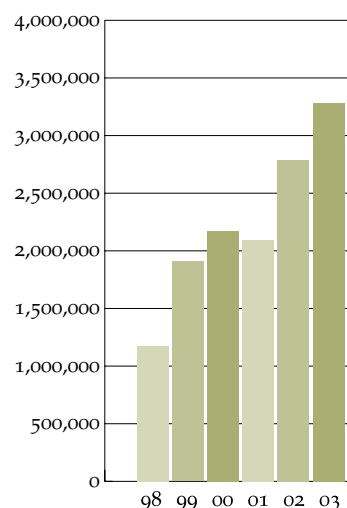
Management and general	554,555	549,041
Total Expenses	2,788,311	3,281,746

Change in net assets	155,398	394,376
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Revenue: 1998-2003



Expenses: 1998-2003



The Family Center Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the following donors whose gifts were received between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2004. If your name is not listed correctly, please accept our apologies and let us know.

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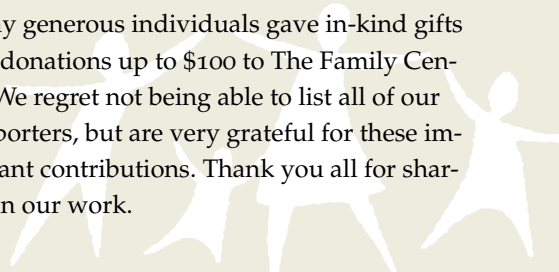


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Many generous individuals gave in-kind gifts and donations up to \$100 to The Family Center. We regret not being able to list all of our supporters, but are very grateful for these important contributions. Thank you all for sharing in our work.





Nina Collins

Letter from the Board Chair

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we look to the future and continue our work with families affected by serious illness I see a number of priorities. Since we are funded mostly by government grants, one of our most daunting tasks is to face a precarious funding landscape with fortitude. We must raise our profile in order to reach out to more families, teach others to replicate our model, and increase funding from a wider variety of supporters. Our task is large and our families have many complicated needs, but they are resilient and inspire us to collaborate with them toward a better future. I look forward to continuing my service as Chair of the Board and partnering with you to make The Family Center a nationally recognized model for ensuring the future well-being of children.

Regards,

Nina Collins

Nina Collins

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And Now We Are 10!

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Ten years ago, when The Family Center opened our doors, who could have imagined all we would become? Since then, we have served more than 3,500 parents, children and new caregivers. Our team, which started with four of us, is now 44, and our budget has grown from \$41,000 to \$3.7 million! We have retained and expanded our home at 66 Reade Street, thanks to the help of our wonderful landlord, Jean Hieber, and have added a second office in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.

But birthdays are also times for wishes and dreams. We dream of expanding services to help families attain economic independence and self-sufficiency; to launch a vital social enterprise venture to help us become more self-sustaining; and to share the lessons and wisdom we have gained with other



Barbara Draimin

programs nationally and internationally. My fondest dream is that The Family Center will be able to share our lessons to make a difference in the lives of families facing AIDS in other nations.

Most of all, birthdays are a time to count one's blessings. Our blessings are the families and children we serve and the growing family of volunteers and donors who inspire us every day. Thank you for your commitment, caring, and generosity!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Draimin". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Barbara Draimin, DSW



inside:

What's Happening Now

TFC's Programs

Financial Report

Generous Donors

We try to avoid sending duplicates of our mailings. If for some reason you received more than one annual report, let us know. In the meantime, please give your extra copy to a friend.

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