# annual report











# A Message from The Family Center Leadership

What's in a mission statement? It's what drives us, what keeps us going –it's why we're here. This past year, The Family Center completed our strategic planning effort. We took a hard look at ourselves, at what we do for the New York City community and for the children and families who seek our help. After much soul-searching, The Family Center has refined our mission statement:

The Family Center strengthens families affected by illness, crisis or loss to create a more secure present and future for their children. We believe that every child deserves an answer to the question: "Who will take care of me?"

Over the next several pages, you will read how this new mission statement better reflects our work: how we are serving more children affected by loss due to incarceration, how we are launching a pro-bono partnership program that will further secure our children's futures, and how, from our youngest supporter to our newest Board member, we persevere to answer the question: "Who will take care of me?"

You can help us answer this question by volunteering or donating. Visit www.thefamilycenter.org and click on "How Can I Help?" We guarantee that, like the people you see throughout these pages, you will be invigorated by The Family Center's work and mission. Thank you for being a part of it.

Sincerely,

Amy Yates Capone

Board Chair

Ivy Gamble Cobb, LMSW

**Executive Director** 

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### **TFC Leadership:**

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## THE STAYING POWER OF TFC

When you're serving disadvantaged families, staying power means being there for the long haul. This has always been our credo, but The Family Center's sustainability was recently cited in a national survey. The TCC Group, a national consulting firm that specializes in analyzing and strengthening nonprofits, conducted a statistical analysis of the factors correlating to organizational sustainability for approximately 700 nonprofit organizations. Their report, The Sustainability Formula, highlights the three main factors that make a nonprofit highly sustainable: leadership, adaptability, and program capacity. TFC was noted for having all three factors, one of very few nonprofits singled out as scoring so high for sustainability. The report confirms that The Family Center has it all: beloved children and families, dedicated donors, diligent volunteers and top-notch staff.

# PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

In hard times, more people need help, and last year, The Family Center's legal department set new records in serving clients. In 2009, our attorneys handled 705 cases for over 500 clients, resulting in more than 4,500 billable hours and an astonishing 92% success rate. All of this was accomplished with a staff of four highly dedicated attorneys.

This year, we continue to see a record need for our services. To meet it, The Family Center is in the process of beginning a 'Pro-Bono Partnership Program.' This program will link local law firms and their pro bono departments with Family Center clients who need legal assistance. This cooperation will allow The Family Center to meet the legal needs of all our clients as we provide them access to some of the finest lawyers New York City has to offer.

The Family Center is deeply appreciative to the following law firms and organizations for sending representatives to consult with our staff on building this new program:

Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton
Debevoise & Plimpton
Fordham Law School Feerick Center for Social Justice
Lawyer's Alliance for New York
New York Lawyers for Public Interest
New York State Unified Court System
Ropes & Gray
Shearman & Sterling
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett



We salute their generosity and look forward to further collaboration and expansion of this program in the year ahead.





## **JUST BUDDIES**

"He teaches me country capitals and tests me when we go to the museums. He tells me what the artist are trying to tell me, what the picture means, or what it's trying to show. And he always encourages me to do better in school reading more books instead of playing video games. Because of Brian I will always be a better person and go the right way in life. So I hope that Brian will stay my mentor for Eternity!!" -Isaiah, age 9, TFC little Buddy

"The buddy program has been a great experience for me. The friendship I have developed with Jerome has taught me many things. Jerome's attitude and spirit are truly an inspiration to me. Whether we go to the movies or a museum or just for lunch we always have a great time!" -John, TFC Buddy mentor

The Family Center is proud to announce that we have expanded our signature volunteer program, The Buddy Program, to include Just Buddies, focused on helping children who have an incarcerated parent. The program is a one on one mentoring program that will match caring adult volunteers with children and teens ages 6 to 16 – for fun, friendship and support. Volunteers are carefully screened and matched with a young person to help provide recreational activities, outings, cultural events or just being together.

Over the years, The Family Center has shown that a caring and consistent adult mentor makes a significant positive impact on the present and future of any child coping with parental absence or loss. Just Buddies lets us bring this support to children with a parent in prison, who especially need the support and perspective that a mentor brings.

Just Buddies matches receive ongoing monitoring and support from a Buddy Coordinator. The volunteers make a one year commitment to meet at least twice monthly for at least six hours at each meeting. Children who participate in the Just Buddies Program gain a positive and stable relationship with a friend and adult role model. Visit www.thefamilycenter.org and become a Buddy today!

# JUNIOR BOARD UPDATE



Bids for Kids Auction winner celebrates. Photo courtesy of Konrad Brattke

The Junior Board hosted its 7th annual fundraiser, BLOOM, at the Union Square Ballroom on May 7th. Planning the 2009 event was challenging due to the economic climate, but TFC Junior Board rallied to make the BLOOM evening a blossoming success. The silent auction featured some superlative items, including ten Yankees ticket packages, generously donated by our friends at Robin Hood, which alone helped us raise almost \$7,000. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Junior Board and TFC staff, BLOOM 2009 raised over \$50,000 in needed funds for our work with families.

On the heels of BLOOM's success, The Junior Board set its sights even higher, hosting a second major fundraiser in 2009. On November 13th, over 250 people attended "Bids for Kids" at Marquee nightclub, which featured an exceptionally lively Date Auction. The event raised more than \$17,000 for our work. Our intrepid Junior Board plans to continue this event in 2010!



Co-Chairs Yating Yu and Jason Perlroth at the Credit Suisse Softball Day in Central Park

Also in 2009 the Junior Board continued its tradition of holding a social event between Junior Board members and TFC families. On October 3rd, families and board members got to mingle while bowling and snacking on pizza at Lucky Strike Bowling Alley in Manhattan. As bowling was a new experience to many TFC children, much excitement and fun was had by all. TFC's amazing Junior Board looks forward to continuing this tradition – and opening new opportunities – in 2010.



# THE GOODNESS OF GOOGLE

The Family Center is honored to partner with leading corporations that define the world in which we live. In 2007, TFC was awarded a Google Grant, which provides us with online advertising through Google AdWords. We leapt at the chance to use Google to reach out, both to families who need our services and to generous supporters who want to help fulfill our mission of strengthening vulnerable families. Since implementing the Google AdWords program, we've more than doubled our website traffic.

Google Grants support organizations that "help the world," and this corporate philosophy is shared by Google's dedicated employees. On February 19, 2010, our Junior Board Secretary, Nicole Jala, led a team of her fellow Google employees in hosting a first-ever literacy event for children in our Early Support for Lifelong Success program. Seven Google volun-

teers provided an educational and fun afternoon for the children, and gave their parents a valuable opportunity to learn about community resources to help improve the health and well being of their families.

As new technologies help the world connect in new ways, we are deeply grateful to Google



Google volunteer reading to one of our children

and its employee volunteers. Over the next year, we plan to redesign The Family Center's website to become a living information resource for client families and those interested in our work. We are committed to using online tools and new media to further our mission, and are deeply grateful to our friends at Google for the important part they play in showing us the way.

## TFC PARTNERS WITH NYC'S FAITH-BASED COMMUNITIES



TFC youth with Pastor Jason Sumner of Canaan Missionary Baptist Church

For many families facing illness and challenge, faith and spirituality help them manage their stress and overcome hardship. For some of our volunteers and donors, those same beliefs lead them to support our work. While The Family Center is a secular agency, we have long valued the diverse faith-based communi-

ties who work with us as partners.

In spring 2009, the Canaan Missionary Baptist Church in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn distributed beautiful prom and graduation dresses to some of our young clients. The Church's pastor also outfitted one of our young men with a handsome suit for his prom and graduation.

The Family Center has also benefited from the generosity of the Mt. Vernon Seventh Day Adventist Church in Westchester. In 2009, the Church created the VIBEs Project, or Voices in Blessed/ Broken Experiences, to help those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. At a November gospel concert featuring gospel artist Dwayne Woods and launching the VIBEs Project, the church raised over \$30,000 in pledges to support The Family Center.

Most recently, The Family Center Executive Director Ivy Gamble Cobb gave a presentation at Resurrection Baptist Church in Brownsville, Brooklyn in commemoration of National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS. Last year, as they do every year without fail, the Steven Wise Free Synagogue on the Upper Eastside supported The Family Center Holiday Gift Drive.

The Family Center counts among our blessings our partnerships with faith-based communities who make their faith live by helping us serve the most vulnerable NYC children and families.

# TFC SUPPORTERS GET SPOOKY AND SCARY!



Last Halloween, over 100 generous spirits materialized at the First Annual Halloween Party to benefit The Daniel Fennessy Fund at The Family Center. The party-goers came to The Inn at New Hyde Park dressed in fabulous costumes for an other-worldly evening of dancing, dining, and winning beautiful raffle items generously donated to the event. The evening raised nearly \$5,000 for the Fund, which helps TFC provide services to children and families affected by a parent's struggle with cancer. The Daniel Fennessy Fund was started by Suzanna Scarola in memory of her late husband.

If you would like to start a fund at The Family Center in honor or memory of a loved one, please call our Development Director, Aileen Parker, at (212) 766-4522 ext.156.

Fairy Godmother Ivy Gamble Cobb and Swedish Milkmaid Suzanna Scarola Fennessy



Festive party-goers



# **BOARD MEMBER PROFILE: COURTNEY HALL**

Courtney Hall's resume reads like a character from a John Grisham novel: Team Captain of the San Diego Chargers, Rice University Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee, JD/ MBA from the University of Chicago, Public School teacher under the New York City Teaching Fellows program and currently Managing Director of the hedge fund Hillcrest Venture Partners. Now he can crown his list of impressive accomplishments with one more: "Family Center Board Member!"



Santa Courtney Hall with his wife LaShann and their daughter Jaden

Courtney understands our work from personal experience:

"When I was 15 years old, my father had an unexpected illness, spent 3 months in the hospital, and died shortly after. Those 3 months were very difficult for my brother and mother. We were scared, lonely and really did not know what to do. My grades plummeted and our family really had nowhere to turn. I wish we had something like The Family Center to help us through those rough times. Since then, I have never wanted to see a child or family suffer needlessly. The Family Center is a godsend. I want to help it deliver services to all families in need."

In his first six months of service, he has thrown himself into helping expand the quantity and quality of services offered by The Family Center. He volunteered his time at our annual holiday party, raised funds from colleagues, family, and friends, and become a vocal advocate on behalf of us and the families we serve. His wife LaShann even secured a generous

sponsorship of our Holiday Party from her law firm Gibson Dunn & Crutcher. Thanks, Courtney, for joining the TFC team!

# **GENEROSITY ACROSS GENERATIONS AT THE FAMILY CENTER**

Who knew that The Family Center's oldest and youngest supporters come from the same family? After founding the Linda Stein Memorial Fund at The Family Center, Samantha Stein encouraged both her 93 year-old grandfather, Ira Adler, and 5 year-old daughter, Dora Stein Wells, to get involved. Ira arranged for the Seventh District Association of NYC Freemasons to award a generous \$5,000 grant to The Family Center late last year. Sadly, Ira passed away this February. Today, in memory of both Ira and Linda, Samantha and Dora continue to support us. Last summer, Dora ran a lemon-



ade stand with several friends on the Upper West Side – and raised over \$150 to support The Family Center. Thank you, Dora! Your grandmother and great-grandfather would be proud!

# THE WOMEN OF ESLS

In early 2009, TFC kicked off its new Early Support for Lifelong Success (ESLS) program to serve children under the age of seven who were exposed before birth to HIV/ AIDS. This program is staffed by three extremely motivated and enthusiastic women who each bring their own passions and specialization to the job.

Reaching young children requires a creative and genuine spirit, personified by Program Coordinator, Iraira Butcher. She holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology. In just under a year, she has built a remarkable ESLS team and introduced numerous new clients and



Pictured left to right Tessa Hersh , Iraira Butcher , Nancy Vasquez and Florence Saint-Jean.

creative programs to TFC. Her newest team members are Nancy Vasquez and Tessa Hersh, both Child Development Specialists with numerous years of experience in early childhood development. Nancy is currently studying for her master's degree in Mental Health and specializes in baby massage and other fine motor skill development techniques. Tessa recently returned from employment in an orphanage in Ethiopia, and brings a passion for the rehabilitative side of yoga, including a highly innovative baby yoga program that she has implemented for TFC children and families.

The latest addition to ESLS is Florence Saint-Jean, who takes on the role of Program Outreach Specialist. Florence has close to a decade's worth of experience in outreach and social work, and is fluent in Creole and French. These language skills are particularly useful in expanding ESLS to include the rapidly growing population of Haitian immigrants in New York City .

The counseling, outreach and advocacy provided by the talented staff members of the ESLS staff are already opening new doors for families at TFC. Never afraid to think beyond the box, Iraira, Nancy, Tessa and Florence bring their unique skills to give children born to HIV+ mothers all the support they need to thrive in their early years.



# SUPERWOMAN SUZANNA COOPER JOHN

She practically leaps tall buildings in a single bound. She is an advocate, a community organizer, and runs a household of seven people -including both children and grandchildren, whom she's raising on her own since the death of her daughter several years ago.

The Copper Johns (Suzanna is third from the left) Suzanna Cooper John came to The Family Center through our YouthNet program, run out of our Brooklyn office, and funded by NYC Children's Services. Back then, she was depressed, lonely and never wanted to leave the house. Today, Ms. Cooper John has been "reborn," as she puts it, through The Family Center. Since working with our trained social workers, Ms. Cooper John has begun helping neighbors whose children have trouble in school. She is currently advocating to open a local school playground on the weekends for neighborhood children.

While Ms. Cooper John attributes her rebirth of spirit to The Family Center, her children and grandchildren have a lot to say about it as well. "Working with The Family Center has totally changed her attitude," according to her son. And when Ms. Cooper John pronounced, "I love The Family Center." Her son corrected her, "We love The Family Center."

The Family Center loves you and your family too, Ms. Cooper John. And we thank you for joining your family with ours!

# **Our Volunteers**

The list below includes those who donated their time and resources to The Family Center between July 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009. Many thanks to these volunteers for their generous support!

Michael Abramson Adrena Altoonian Ani Altoonian Adriana Andaluz Jessica Andrew Adriana Arizmendy Andrea Austin Caroline Baca Kalpana Bains **Amy Baker** Mairead Ball Rosina Barba Laura Battos Cathy Bautista Sheridan Bell Sylvie Bell Camille Bennett Karen Bermudez Diana Berthelon Victoria Bevan Michael Bevins Alek Bituin Lee Black Konrad Brattke Octavia Breland Ryan Bress Carroll Brett Jaclyn Britchkow Alysha Brown

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Sharon DeCastro

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Nicole Patterson Michael Pei Diana Perez Jason Perlroth Jennifer Petersen Sam Petrucci Kristen Piering Oksana Poltavets Georgina Porchetta Courtney Quinn Shahriar Rafimayeri Karthik Ramanan Lauren Rapoza Aimee Reid Jason Reid Jeff Ribakusky Alexander Roe Felicia Rothman John Rothmeier John Rowan Carole Rowe **Beth Russo** Alex Rwambuya **Bonsal Sandy** Janine Schampier Meg Scheding Mara Schneider Jodi Schwimmer **Heather Scully** Nancy Scully Melody Serafino Raj Shah **Brian Shuman** Elizabeth Shveitser Erica Siciliano **Shellon Simon** 

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Annemarie Muscatella
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### Paw Pals

Maddy Chaplin Picasso Chester Darby Ollie Einstein



# **The Family Center Financial Supporters**

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the following donors, whose gifts were received between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009.

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Deerfield Foundation Pfizer Foundation Robin Hood

## \$30,000-\$100,000

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During this time period, The Family Center received numerous gifts under \$100. We are thankful to these donors but regret that we do not have the space here to acknowledge them.



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July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

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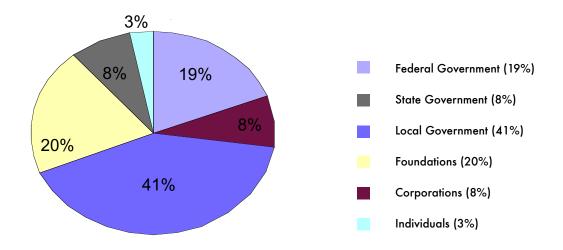
Walt Disney Studios Home

**Entertainment** 



# The Family Center Revenue Sources Fiscal Year 2009

July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009



## **Public Support**

The Family Center acknowledges the support of grants provided by the following Federal, State, and City Departments

- U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
- NYS Department of Health, AIDS Institute
- NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Chronic Diseases
- NYS Office of Children and Family Services
- NYC Administration for Children's Services
- NYC Department for the Aging
- NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- NYC Department of Youth and Community Development



# Statement of Activities for the Year Ending June 30, 2009

With Comparitive Totals for 2008

Revenue and Other support	2008	2009
Government Grants	\$3,610,363	\$3,512,126
Contributions	\$2,111,377*	\$1,017,907
Other income	\$73,915	\$85,733
Total Revenue and Other Support	\$5,795,655	\$ <i>4</i> ,615,766
Expenses		
Social Services	\$2,654,298	\$2,469,149
Legal Services	\$477,629	\$519,613
Child Welfare	\$601,226	\$638,861
Total Program Services	\$3,733,153	\$3,627,623
Supporting Services		
General and administrative	\$419,361	\$605,928
Fundraising	\$314,753	\$304,664
Total Supporting Services	\$734,114	\$910,592
Total Expenses	\$4,467,267	\$4,538,215
Change in Net Assets as of June 30, 2009	\$1,328,388	\$77,551
Net Assets Beginning	\$2,026,322	\$3,354,710
Net Assets Ending	\$3,354,710	\$3,432,261

<sup>\*\$1,927,981</sup> was restricted for specific programming

# 2009-2010





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# **annual** *PEPORT*



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