When I talk about The Family Center, the word I use is impressed. I’ve worked with a lot of organizations both personally and professionally and The Family Center is a cut above and that’s extremely rare. I’ve worked primarily with the adherence team and the quality and level of service they have provided in my life is unprecedented. What other organizations should do, The Family Center does with finesse.

RUSSELL
FAMILY CENTER CLIENT
CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER
We are proud to lead The Family Center into its third decade of keeping vulnerable New York City families stronger, longer. Last year, The Family Center celebrated its 20th Anniversary with much fanfare and events for supporters, staff and clients. In this annual report, you will read features on representatives from each of these important constituent groups. Certainly, The Family Center would not exist without them.

Family Center staff represent some of New York’s most astute, dedicated professionals. They traverse the City to provide quality legal, social and health services to residents in need. They present at national conferences about the outcomes of their work, which are impressive. Last year, not one child in the Family Net/Family Connections child welfare program was placed in foster care. Rather, children stayed in safe, healthy homes with parents who received intensive parenting support. This is just one example of Family Center staff providing excellent services that achieve positive, sustainable outcomes.

Our clients are critical to our work as well. While they rely on The Family Center, we, of course, need them. The Family Center continually learns from our clients and improves our services for them, based on their input. The Family Center Consumer Advisory Committee, or CAC, is a perfect example of this feedback loop. The CAC is comprised of client representatives who meet regularly to review proposed programming, provide advice to our agency, and more.

Finally, Family Center supporters—donors, volunteers and advocates—are the lifeblood of our agency and work. Thanks to their generosity and selflessness, our client families stay healthy and grow strong. If you are already among this group, thank you. If not, consider joining The Family Center today. Visit our website and sign up to receive our e-newsletter. Make a donation to sponsor a Buddy pair so a child receives critical mentoring services. Sign up to volunteer at an event. There are many ways to become a part of our family.

Thank you,

Shamoun Afram
BOARD CHAIR

Ivy Gamble Cobb
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
The Family Center
Programs & Services

Every day at The Family Center, we provide services that help strengthen and support families. Seeing the positive results of these programs reinforces how important they are to vulnerable New Yorkers. Our expert social, legal, and healthcare-coordination services help to keep vulnerable NYC families stronger, longer.

We offer a unique program of social and legal services, including health care and wellness programs, to New Yorkers struggling with a family crisis or loss. Our team combines a keen business sense with a personalized approach, partnering with client families to plan their next steps and long-term solutions with services in the following areas:

**Social Services**
- Family Support Services
- Benefits Assistance
- Parenting & Child Development
- Child Welfare Services

**Legal Services**
- Housing
- Income Maintenance
- Family Law
- Lifetime Planning

**Health Services**
- Health Management
- Medical Adherence
- Healthy Lifestyle Activities

**The Irene Lee Kong Health & Wellness Institute**
- Mental Health Assessments
- and Counseling for Minors and their Families

**Buddy Program**
- Positive Adult Role Model; Frienship & Mentoring

*The Family Center program evaluations have found that after receiving our intervention services, parents and caregivers of young children are less likely to be depressed.*

**THE FAMILY CENTER EXPERT SERVICES ARE:**

- Coordinated to promote long-term family stability
- Regularly evaluated to ensure effectiveness
- Individually tailored with an emphasis on home visits
- Confidential and low or no cost to clients

By working with families every step of the way as they confront crisis or loss, The Family Center builds trust and achieves sustainable results.
A Little Man, His Grandmother & A Lot of Love

For the last two years, Teddy, or Theodore Jr., as he sometimes prefers to be called, and his grandmother, Ms. Daisy Mae Woods, have been coming to The Family Center. Ms. Woods has been raising Teddy by herself since his birth eight years ago. Together, Teddy and Ms. Woods have accessed a variety of Family Center programming and attended a number of our recreational events.

Though over seventy years old, Ms. Woods completed the parenting course offered through our Family Net/Family Connections program, which is funded by the New York City Administration for Children’s Services, and ensures the health and safety of children in Brooklyn. Both Teddy and Ms. Woods also work with staff at The Irene LeeKong Health & Wellness Institute at The Family Center.

In August, Teddy and Ms. Woods joined The Family Center at a greeting card making workshop hosted by the Credit Suisse CFO Change staff. Teddy insisted that he not sit with his grandmother, as he wanted to make her a Thank You card expressing his gratitude for her love and care over the years. While he often asserts that “He’s the man of the house,” as Ms. Woods puts it with a laugh, Teddy does well in school, behaves respectfully, and loves his grandmother dearly. Ms. Woods’ devotion to her grandson is obvious to all whom the two encounter.

The Family Center is honored to work with Teddy and Ms. Woods. We hope that our services add as much value to their lives as they add to The Family Center community!
Recognizing Every Little Face, Despite an Ever-Changing Environment

The Family Center served 1,279 families in 2014 and Marya Gilborn knows the names and faces of most children and client family members by heart. Marya initially came to our agency as a Project Coordinator over a decade ago. Now Director of Social Services, Marya manages several programs, all aimed at achieving positive life changes for clients.

Family Center programming looked very different when Marya first began working with our client families. Originally rooted in addressing the impact of parental loss on children, The Family Center evolved into a place where New Yorkers receive guidance on how to keep themselves and their families strong and healthy. Marya has played a pivotal role in shaping Family Center responses to emerging issues.

One new program managed by Marya is B-WEL, Brooklyn Women Enjoying Life, which is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and aimed at reducing Brooklyn women’s risk for substance abuse and HIV. Marya and her team started B-WEL after taking note of the spike in clients who had been exposed to severe traumas, like child abuse. Having enrolled over 100 women in its first year, B-WEL is only one example of Family Center success made possible by highly skilled staff like Marya.

With a Master’s degree in Social Work, and a Bachelor’s in Anthropology and Feminist Studies, Marya has worked with various New York City populations throughout her career, including at-risk pregnant women, the elderly, and the hearing impaired. Her marriage to a grade-school friend, Nick, now her husband of over 15 years, and the joys and challenges of raising their two children, are also experiences Marya applies to her work with clients.

In 2014, The Family Center celebrated our 20th Anniversary with Marya and Nick in attendance. With leaders like Marya on staff, The Family Center is poised for two more decades of keeping families stronger, longer.
From a Tough Background, A Leader Emerges

Raised in Brooklyn by a single mother, Antonio Gonzalez knows how hard it can be when a family faces challenges. His father was drug addicted and died when Antonio was just 14 years old. Growing up without a male role model was difficult and Antonio bounced around from high school to high school, just barely graduating with the help of mentors and teachers. He regularly credits his commitment to The Family Center to his desire to help children and teens, whom he knows have it as hard as he did.

After graduating from City University of New York and working his way up the corporate ladder to various leadership positions, Antonio now leads new business implementation teams for a national leading securities technology company. Most significant to The Family Center, Antonio has been a key member of our Leadership Council for the past five years. For two years in a row, he served as Co-Chair and now leads the group as its sole Chair.

Antonio also Co-Chaired TFC Turns 20! The Family Center’s 20th Anniversary Gala and the largest grossing fundraiser in our agency’s history. Outside of his professional life and his time devoted to The Family Center, Antonio is married with a daughter. How does he manage it all? “Lots of dedication and very little sleep,” he has been known to say with a laugh.

The Family Center is grateful to Antonio and volunteer leaders like him who devote their time, energy and resources to our client families and their children. If you are interested in building your leadership skills through volunteering for The Family Center, visit www.thefamilycenter.org and read more about our Leadership Council.
Donors in Kind
WHO DONATED GOODS AND SERVICES BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2015 AND DECEMBER 31, 2015

Gordon Mackinnon
Donors in Kind
WHO DONATED GOODS AND SERVICES BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2015 AND DECEMBER 31, 2015

Volunteers
WHO SERVED BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2015 AND DECEMBER 31, 2015

Public Sources of Support
NYC Administration for Children’s Services
NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
NYS Department of Health, AIDS Institute
NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Chronic Diseases
Interest on Lawyer Account Fund of the State of New York: Administration of Justice Grant
NYS Office of Children & Family Services
NYC Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families
US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration
US Department of Health & Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

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MAC Employee Volunteers
Coca-Cola Employee Volunteers

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