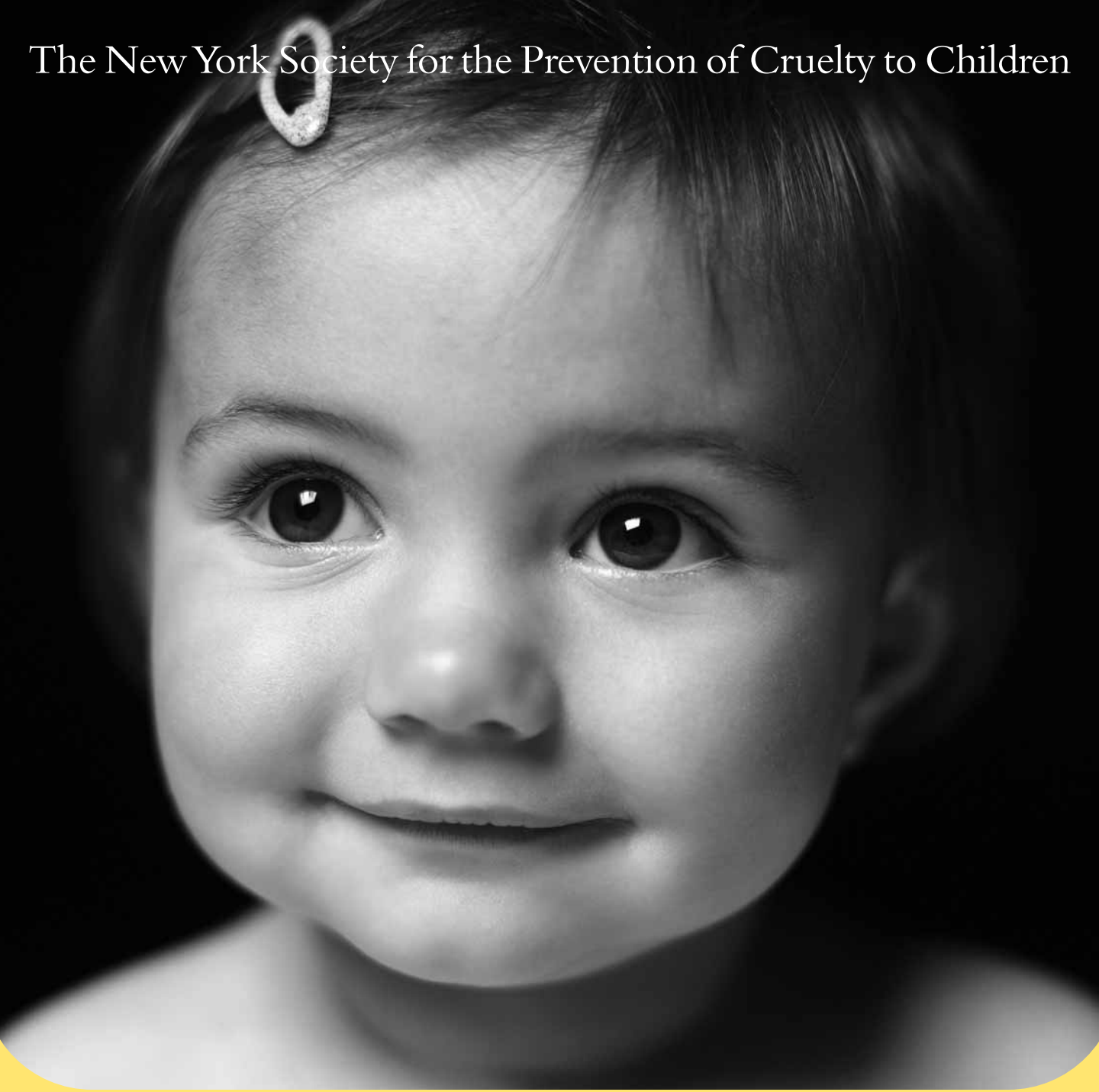


The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children



ANNUAL REPORT 2008



Founded in 1875 – The First Child Protective Agency in the World

FOUNDED IN 1875, The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (The NYSPCC) is the first child protective agency in the world. Throughout its 133 year history, The NYSPCC has met the urgent needs of New York City's most vulnerable children through the development of new and innovative programs. It is with this same spirit of innovation, concern and compassion for the City's children that The NYSPCC seeks to meet the challenges that lie ahead. ●

CONTENTS

2	FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
3	FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
3	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
4	THE NYSPCC IN THE MEDIA
4	THE NYSPCC PRESENTS NATIONALLY ON CHILD WELFARE ISSUES
5	THE TRAUMA RECOVERY PROGRAM
8	SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM—POSITIVE PARENTING PLUS (PP+)
10	CHILD PERMANENCY MEDIATION
12	EDUCATION
12	RESEARCH
13	GEORGE SIM JOHNSTON ARCHIVES
14	SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
16	THE NYSPCC ANNUAL GALA
17	SAIL INTO SUMMER!
18	CONTRIBUTIONS 2008
21	HOW YOU CAN HELP

back CURRENT SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM
cover

Our Mission

As the world's first child protection agency, The NYSPCC responds to the complex needs of abused and neglected children, and those involved in their care, by providing best practice counseling, legal, and educational services. Through research, communications and training initiatives, we work to expand these programs to prevent abuse and help more children heal.



HOW WE PREVENT THE ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN:

Mental Health Services

- Provide court-ordered supervised visitation services to children and their families in a safe and supportive setting
- Counsel children who have endured the trauma of child abuse or neglect
- Provide group counseling and sexual abuse prevention workshops to “high-risk” children in New York City schools
- Provide crisis debriefing services to child welfare agencies to help staff during times of stress, grief and loss



Legal Services

- Provide mediation services to resolve issues that prevent children from leaving the foster care system and expedite their move to a loving, permanent home
- Advocate for legislative action that protects children and strengthens families



Education

- Promote healthy parenting through counseling and education
- Educate professionals about child abuse and neglect identification and reporting
- Train professionals on The NYSPCC's best practice models

WHAT MAKES THE NYSPCC UNIQUE:

- **The first** child protective agency in the world—over 133 years of **trailblazing** in child protection and abuse prevention services
- Excellent ongoing **relationships** with social service providers and the court systems in New York City
- **Flexibility**—as an independent non-profit—to develop and implement enhanced levels of service to children and families
- **Warm, caring and dedicated** professionals



Dear Friends,

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO SHARE WITH YOU The NYSPCC's outstanding achievements over the past year. The daily commitment of our remarkable staff, combined with the efforts of a dedicated Board of Directors has allowed The NYSPCC to serve nearly 5,000 children, parents, caregivers and professionals in 2008.

THE NYSPCC CONTINUES TO ADVOCATE on behalf of vulnerable children and families, not only in New York City, but throughout the United States. Our Executive Director, Mary L. Pulido, Ph.D., and other members of the senior staff, gave over 16 workshops, lectures and presentations around the state and across the country to over 850 child welfare professionals about the important work we do to keep children safe from harm. Our presentations about our best practice counseling, legal and educational programs are sought by all the most notable conferences on the topic of abuse prevention and treatment.

AN IMPORTANT PROJECT that commenced in 2008 was the restoration of The George Sim Johnston Archives, an invaluable collection of child abuse case files and legal records documenting the origin and history of New York City's child welfare system. This is one of the world's premiere compilations of materials focused on the legal, political and social issues pertaining to abused and neglected children, and is a valuable resource for researchers, policy analysts and the general public. When the project is completed, all case records and historic books and documents will be digitized, and the original books, documents and priceless artifacts will be professionally conserved.

IN 2008, THE NYSPCC HOSTED SEVERAL EVENTS to raise awareness and funds for our work to provide services for New York City's children in need. The Junior Committee's fourth annual event, *Sail into Summer*, was a great success, attracting over 150 young New Yorkers who supported the critical work of The NYSPCC. The NYSPCC's Annual Gala, held in October, honored famed journalist Liz Smith, and Gerald L. Storch, Chairman and CEO of Toys "R" Us, Inc., in recognition of their efforts to enrich the lives of children. Emcee Deborah Norville gave us an exciting surprise when she announced that her winnings from the hit show "Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?" would be dedicated to The NYSPCC. The Gala raised \$450,000 on behalf of The NYSPCC's programs. The evening highlighted the importance that the well-being and protection of children are the responsibility of everyone in the community.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, thank you for continuing to support The NYSPCC's work to help children heal and keep them safe from harm. In this time of economic constraints, your generosity is not only inspirational, but deeply appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Stack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David R. Stack
President



Dear Friends,

THANK YOU FOR HELPING THE NYSPCC in our efforts to protect children and strengthen families. In these difficult financial times, your support means more to us than ever. We are all aware of the upheaval in our economy. At The NYSPCC, that translates into **more** children and families needing services as programs are cut back across the City. The NYSPCC continues to advocate at the city and state levels to preserve funding for child welfare services. We are committed to ensuring that all of our services to children go full steam ahead.

IN 2008, THERE WERE MANY EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS AT THE NYSPCC. With the generous support of The Sirius Fund and The van Ameringen Foundation, we published *The NYSPCC Professionals' Handbook—Supervised Visitation Services for High-Risk Families* as a “best practice” guide. This handbook is designed for professionals who wish to enhance their current supervised visitation programs, or for organizations interested in starting a supervised visitation program. It's also a helpful resource for judges, referees and foster care agencies that refer families for supervised visitation services. This publication promotes best practice and facilitates program replication.

OUR SAFE (SENTENCING ALTERNATIVES FOR FAMILY EDUCATION) PROGRAM, a new venture started in concert with the Brooklyn D.A.'s office, was launched. It is targeted toward parents whose children were left in danger due to lack of supervision and teaches them safety measures to ensure that their children are always protected. The NYSPCC constantly seeks to devise new ways to prevent child abuse and neglect, and this one has been met with rave reviews.

IN OTHER PROGRAM NEWS, The NYSPCC and the New York City Family Court were honored to receive the Association of Conflict Resolution of Greater New York's annual **Alternative Dispute Resolution Achievement Award** for the Child Permanency Mediation program. Our efforts at removing the roadblocks that keep children languishing in the foster care system, and moving them into permanent, loving homes, is truly making a difference. This is the *only* program of this kind serving New York City's children, and we are delighted that it was recognized for its amazing work.

AGAIN, MANY THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK. We are deeply indebted to our donors for their generosity and their dedication to helping children.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Pulido".

Mary L. Pulido, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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THE NYSPCC IN THE MEDIA

In 2008, The NYSPCC was contacted by media to provide expertise on the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

- Mary L. Pulido, Ph.D., The NYSPCC's Executive Director, and Stephen P. Forrester, Esq., Assistant Executive Director, were interviewed by Leslie Kaufman of *The New York Times* for an article focusing on the vagueness of the definition of corporal punishment in New York State. The article, **Murder Case Tests Limits on Parents' Right to Hit**, appeared on January 20, 2009. The NYSPCC does not condone corporal punishment; instead, we teach parents non-physical alternatives of discipline as corporal punishment can easily escalate into more abusive behaviors.
- Dr. Pulido also published an article on The NYSPCC's crisis debriefing model entitled, **Crisis Debriefing for Child Protective Services: Restoring Resiliency Response**, which appeared in the July 2008 issue of the national newsmagazine *Social Work Today*. The article includes a literature review, reasons why it is essential to debrief child protective workers, trauma teams, and those who work with domestic violence cases, and describes the protocol and the feedback that The NYSPCC's clinicians have received from participants.
- In August, Dr. Pulido's article, **The Costs of Caring: Managing Secondary Traumatic Stress in the Domestic Violence Arena** was published in the 11th Annual *Children's Law Institute Litigation and Administrative Practice Series, Criminal Law and Urban Problems Course Handbook Series, Number C-124*. ●

THE NYSPCC PRESENTS NATIONALLY ON CHILD WELFARE ISSUES

THE NYSPCC CONTINUES to lecture nationally on child welfare issues. In 2008, The NYSPCC trained approximately 850 professionals at national and state conferences which included:

- 16th National Colloquium of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children
- The Ackerman Institute for the Family
- Prevent Child Abuse America
- Prevent Child Abuse New York
- National Supervised Visitation Network
- New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)
- New York State Fatherhood Conference (sponsored by OTDA and the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS))
- International Family Violence and Child Victimization Research Conference
- New York City Children's Law Institute
- Michigan Statewide Conference, Child Abuse & Neglect: Prevention, Assessment and Treatment
- International Society on Traumatic Stress Studies
- Center for Court Innovation (Domestic Violence Program) ●

THE TRAUMA RECOVERY PROGRAM

ESTABLISHED IN RESPONSE TO THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON SEPTEMBER 11TH, the Trauma Recovery Program initially provided crisis counseling, education and support services to parents, teachers and children in the communities of lower Manhattan most directly impacted by the attacks. Over time, our services have increasingly focused on the mental health care needs of the City's most vulnerable populations, including homeless children and families, and children served by the New York City Administration for Children's Services' (ACS) child protective, preventive and foster care systems.



THE NYSPCC PROVIDES a specialized therapeutic program for children who have experienced physical or sexual abuse or have witnessed family violence. In order to begin the healing process, a safe, supportive and nurturing place must be available to help children recover from these traumatic experiences. Through individualized, child friendly counseling sessions, the clinician helps children more effectively understand and manage their emotions. Most children in our program have never received the mental health counseling needed to help them develop coping skills and recover from past abusive traumas. The NYSPCC clinicians have also found that individual sessions with the child's caregiver, in addition to family therapy sessions, improve therapeutic outcomes in all cases where family violence—including sexual abuse, physical abuse and domestic violence—has occurred.



IN 2008, THE TRAUMA RECOVERY PROGRAM provided counseling to 91 children during 688 individual therapy sessions. In addition, 122 family therapy sessions took place with children, their caregivers and extended family members. The NYSPCC clinicians also conducted 289 collateral meetings with parents, caregivers, teachers, social workers, guidance counselors and foster care caseplanners.



CHILD EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

ANOTHER COMPONENT OF THE TRAUMA RECOVERY PROGRAM is the Child Empowerment Program (CEP), aiding children deemed "at-risk" by the New York City public school system due to a prior history of abuse or neglect, experiences in the foster care system or loss of family members or friends through homicide, HIV or substance abuse. At the request of teachers, parents and school counselors, the CEP provides in-class workshops and group mental health counseling to support children's emotional stability and academic achievement.

GROUP TOPICS INCLUDE: understanding normal reactions to trauma; dealing with grief and loss; conflict resolution; stress management techniques; promoting healthy relationships; self-esteem; bullying prevention; teen dating violence awareness and prevention; and anger management. In 2008, the Child Empowerment Program conducted 28 groups serving 666 children through class workshops and group counseling sessions in five New York City public schools and two community-based after-school programs.

(continued on page 7)

Jake

No child should have to endure the traumas experienced by six year-old Jake* For many years, he witnessed domestic violence between his parents and was physically abused by his father. Last year, Jake told his mother, Elena, that he was sexually assaulted by an older boy. Although they were able to address the sexual abuse through the criminal justice system, Jake still suffers from the emotional trauma related to the abuse. Jake has been through periods of depression and on two occasions stated that he wanted to commit suicide. His father disappeared from his life and this desertion has also added to Jake's sadness and anxiety. He frequently has nightmares and is fighting with peers at school. Elena ties these problems to the traumatic events Jake has experienced.

Treatment in the Trauma Recovery Program has focused on decreasing the intensity and frequency of Jake's trauma reactions and in lessening his aggressive behavior towards his classmates. With play therapy, Jake has been able to address a variety of issues, such as his anxiety related to feeling unsafe. The clinician is also working with Elena and her new fiancé to help them understand the role they can play in helping Jake recover. Moving forward, treatment will focus on improving Jake's self-concept and relationships with peers. The clinician is also working to establish therapy as a safe place for Jake to address the impact domestic violence and sexual abuse have had on him and his mother. The NYSPCC anticipates that with continued therapy, Jake will adopt coping techniques that will enable him to successfully heal from the devastating impact of his trauma and move forward with the ability to form positive, lasting relationships. ●

**All names in the case vignettes have been changed.*

THE TRAUMA RECOVERY PROGRAM

(continued from page 5)

SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

Safe Touches: Personal Safety Training for Children is an integral part of the Child Empowerment Program. *Safe Touches* focuses on sexual abuse prevention and promotes awareness to children in kindergarten through third grade.

USING COLORFUL PUPPETS, The NYSPCC's specially trained clinicians use role-play scenarios to help children recognize safe and unsafe touches, teach body safety and help children identify whom to tell if they have experienced an unsafe touch. The workshop emphasizes that if a child has been touched inappropriately, it is *never* the child's fault. Each child is given a copy of *Your Body Belongs to You!* or *Keeping my Body Safe!* activity and coloring books to be used with their parents and designed to reinforce the messages from the workshop.

THE NYSPCC'S *Safe Touches* workshop has received overwhelmingly positive feedback and many elementary schools have asked us to present *Safe Touches* to their students. Demand for this program is constant, as educating children about their bodies and teaching them how to keep safe is of vital importance. In 2008, The NYSPCC provided 75 workshops serving 1,787 children.

CRISIS DEBRIEFING SERVICES

From 2006 to the present, The NYSPCC clinicians have provided crisis debriefing services to the New York City Administration for Children's Services' (ACS) staff after traumatic events occur, such as child fatalities, violence in the field against a staff member, or after handling horrific cases of child physical and sexual abuse. The NYSPCC also conducts bereavement groups following the death of an ACS staff member. The "Restoring Resiliency Response" protocol, developed by Dr. Pulido, has been utilized in these sessions. Providing a safe space for everyone to voice feelings about loss is important for team-building and setting up needed support systems instrumental in returning staff to previous levels of functioning. As "first responders" to child abuse and neglect cases in New York City, ACS staff needs support to continue their noble but difficult mission. In 2008, The NYSPCC provided 50 crisis debriefing sessions to 257 ACS staff members. ●



POSITIVE PARENTING PLUS (PP+)

THE NYSPCC'S SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM, Positive Parenting Plus (PP+), provides specialized and intensive therapeutic supervised visitation services to New York City's most vulnerable children: abused and neglected children in foster care and children involved in high-risk custody and visitation cases in family court proceedings. The services are designed to help parents who cannot have unsupervised access to their children due to a history of child physical or sexual abuse, domestic violence, substance abuse or mental illness, restore or repair their relationships with their children. Rather than eliminating contact between a non-custodial parent and child, supervised visitation provides a one-on-one supportive setting where the relationship can safely continue while pending legal issues are addressed by the child protective and court systems.

IN PP+ SESSIONS, visiting parents spend time with their children in the presence of a Master's-level clinician. The sessions are enhanced by therapeutic intervention designed specifically for each parent. PP+ provides parenting skills workshops, individual parent coaching sessions for visiting parents during supervised visits with their children and, when needed, mental health counseling for children who have witnessed domestic violence. All families involved in supervised visitation receive these enhanced services. In addition, The NYSPCC has developed a range of specialized services that specifically target the unique issues fathers face as they work towards restoring their relationship with their child(ren). Services for fathers include group, individual and peer counseling, conflict resolution training, family budgeting and consumer education. A program with this level of intensive supervised visitation services is unique in New York City. The NYSPCC is also committed to eliminating language and financial barriers to parent-child contact. The NYSPCC is the *only* agency in New York City providing bilingual (Spanish/English) services, seven days a week, and PP+ services are provided free of charge.

SUPERVISED VISITATION is intended to be a temporary remedy with most parents moving toward less restrictive or unsupervised visits with their child whenever possible. When that happens, PP+ provides a neutral place for the safe transfer of children during unsupervised visits when there are restrictions placed on the contact between parents.

IN 2008, OUR SUPERVISED VISITATION SERVICES helped 153 families involving 237 at-risk children. A total of 736 supervised visits were provided for our families and the staff prepared 277 reports for the court regarding parent-child interaction. A total of 547 supervised transfers took place. Twelve full cycle parenting skills workshops were held for visiting parents. Other visiting parents also received their Certificate of Completion for cycles started in 2007 and ending in 2008. A total of 191 parenting sessions took place in 2008.

STRENGTHENING ITS POSITION AS A LEADER in supervised visitation services, The NYSPCC published *The NYSPCC Professionals' Handbook—Supervised Visitation Services for High-Risk Families* as a best practice publication, in February 2008. It is one of the few resources available nationwide for professionals who wish to enhance their current supervised visitation programs, or for organizations interested in starting a supervised visitation program. It is also a helpful resource for judges, referees, foster care agencies and others who refer families for supervised visitation services. This publication promotes best practice and facilitates program replication. ●



Paul

Paul, a divorced father of two girls, was referred to The NYSPCC's Positive Parenting Plus Program after an order of protection was made against him by his ex-wife, Lynn. This action resulted in the suspension of contact with his daughters, Sarah and Tricia. The weeks stretched to months. Paul wanted to see his daughters after their prolonged separation. He admitted to an adversarial relationship with his ex-wife, but indicated that his main priority was to "be the best father he could be" to his girls.

Paul started supervised visits with his daughters while attending the required parenting education classes at The NYSPCC. At first, Paul had difficulty attending the weekly sessions. He offered many excuses as to why he "didn't need them." The NYSPCC clinician reinforced how these educational classes are essential as they are building blocks for the parents to use in the sessions with the children. Paul soon realized the importance of attending classes, both as a condition of visiting with his daughters, and as a way of bettering his parenting skills. As the classes progressed, Paul became an enthusiastic participant and received his Certification of Completion.

As a result of the classes and the parent coaching he received from The NYSPCC clinician, Paul became more comfortable interacting with his daughters. He developed increased confidence in his abilities as a parent. His visits with Sarah and Tricia were the high point of his week. After six months in our program, Paul was granted unsupervised visits in the community, with the transfer between the parents taking place at The NYSPCC to ensure safety. Paul achieved what he always wanted: time with his daughters and a new foundation to build a lasting, loving relationship. ●



CHILD PERMANENCY MEDIATION

Working in partnership with the New York City Family Court, The NYSPCC operates the first and only Child Permanency Mediation (CPM) Program in New York City. CPM mediates child protective proceedings where the Family Court has placed children in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect. Children and families referred to CPM are usually at a stage in the court proceeding when a decision must be reached about the child's permanent home. Mediation provides a forum where parents, attorneys, social service agency staff and other interested parties can focus on resolving problems that pose barriers to permanency for the child. In this non-adversarial setting, everyone can explore options and find mutually acceptable solutions that will facilitate a child's return to the family or expedite placement to another permanent home. CPM enables those participating in child abuse and neglect proceedings to focus on problem resolution, treatment, education and prevention. CPM also helps to avoid prolonged, contentious legal proceedings that can extend a child's stay in foster care.

By improving communication among the various parties, mediation can minimize delay and lessen frustration and conflict between parents and service providers. Because families are given an active and respected voice in overcoming obstacles to permanency, CPM can reduce their feelings of alienation, confusion, distrust and apathy. Parents who become more engaged in permanency planning for their children are better able to assist in a positive resolution.

Recently, CPM has mediated many cases with older children and adolescents who are aging out of foster care. There are approximately 17,000 children living in out-of-home placements without permanency. More than half the children living in foster care in New York City are over the age of 12. This population needs additional support as many teenagers have horrific trauma histories, mental illness and substance abuse problems. These youth are at risk of leaving foster care without permanency, adult supports, education or job prospects. Their long-term prospects, without behavioral changes, are grim. Although young people are now being encouraged to attend their court hearings, many teens are estranged from "the system." Mediation can help these teens become more receptive to assistance by offering a safe setting where they can express their frustrations and be heard. An informal mediation session offers a protective and comfortable environment for children and teens, with their attorneys, to address difficult issues and to participate in planning their futures. With the mediators' preparation and support, teenagers can meet with birth parents, foster parents, caseworkers or anyone else who can help them prepare to move forward in their lives.

The NYSPCC provides CPM services in the Brooklyn, Manhattan, Bronx and Queens Family Court buildings. In 2008, the Child Permanency Mediation program handled 234 cases and conducted 347 mediation sessions serving 381 children from 234 families.

In 2008, The NYSPCC and the New York City Family Court were selected to receive the Association of Conflict Resolution of Greater New York's (ACR-GNY) annual ***Alternative Dispute Resolution Achievement Award*** for its Child Permanency Mediation program. The award was presented at ACR-GNY's sixth annual conference held in June. ●



Kim

Kim, a three year-old girl, was removed from her mother's home due to chronic drug use and recurrent homelessness. Kim's initial placement was with her maternal grandmother Marcia. However, Marcia was worried about her past involvement with ACS, so she asked her sister, Janice, to take the child, as she was afraid that Kim would be sent to strangers. Janice willingly took Kim into her home, and she and Marcia shared taking care of her. Succumbing to her addiction, Kim's mother stopped cooperating with social service agencies and missed several court appointments. Marcia then began proceedings to become Kim's legal guardian. Complicating matters was Janice's realization that she loved Kim too and retained legal counsel to fight for custody. Marcia felt hurt, betrayed, and angry and a very adversarial custody dispute between the two sisters began. This case was referred to CPM to resolve competing custody petitions between a maternal grandmother and the maternal great aunt.

In mediation Marcia and Janice were able to discuss their feelings of hurt and betrayal. Once those feelings were acknowledged, with the help of the CPM mediators, they redirected their energy to focus on the best interests of Kim. Marcia and Janice saw how they complemented one another as caregivers and how they had divided the caregiving chores and responsibilities as a two-parent household typically would. They realized that in focusing solely on who had physical custody of the child, they had lost track of the bigger picture—that if they entered a prolonged legal battle, they would no longer have each other as a resource for Kim's care.

At the end of mediation, they were able to put Kim's needs first and decided to split legal custody, with Marcia becoming the physical custodian and Janice receiving liberal visitation rights. Attorneys were concerned that the judge would not agree to this creative solution. However, the judge praised the agreement that was reached through The NYSPCC's Child Permanency Mediation program and granted a final order of custody. ●

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Professionals who come into contact with children in the course of their everyday activities play a vital role in identifying and assisting children who are victimized by abuse or neglect. The NYSPCC provides training and education to professionals, in addition to the general public, on issues surrounding maltreated children. Law enforcement officials, teachers, social workers, doctors, nurses and other mandated reporters learn to recognize signs and symptoms of maltreatment and how to appropriately report it.

The NYSPCC, approved as a training provider by the New York State Education Department, delivers the training by onsite lecture or by correspondence course. The NYSPCC has also written and published *The NYSPCC Professionals' Handbook: Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect* as an adjunct to this program. The program will be launched as a distance learning course on The NYSPCC's website in 2009. This will enable The NYSPCC to reach a greater number of individuals and agencies and increase the number of people who are able to accurately identify and report cases of child abuse and neglect.

In 2008, staff members made 41 presentations to professionals and the public reaching 1,250 practitioners and concerned citizens in New York City. In addition, 170 people enrolled in and completed The NYSPCC's correspondence course. Since the program's inception in 1990, over 45,000 individuals have been trained regarding their legal responsibilities as mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect.

SAFE (SENTENCING ALTERNATIVES FOR FAMILY EDUCATION)

In conjunction with the Chief of the Crimes Against Children Bureau of the Kings County District Attorney's Office, The NYSPCC developed and launched a new program, SAFE (Sentencing Alternatives for Family Education), a multi-day training program for parents who are criminally charged with "endangering the welfare of a child" due to leaving their children alone and unattended either at home or in automobiles. SAFE will provide an alternative to criminal conviction and/or incarceration. Also collaborating on this program are the New York City Fire Department, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the New York City Administration for Children's Services. The NYSPCC will provide training on general safety issues that affect children (discipline, bathing safety, injury prevention, Shaken Infant Syndrome and the stages of child development), child welfare, and related legal issues. The program held two sessions in 2008 which provided training to approximately 25 parents.

RESEARCH

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg appointed The NYSPCC's Executive Director, Mary L. Pulido, Ph.D., to the New York City Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) in 2006. The CFRT was established to review all *preventable deaths* among New York City children ages one to 12 and to make recommendations for expanding the City's child safety efforts.

In May, the CFRT released the second annual assessment of children's fatalities in New York City. It found that fire is the number one cause of death to children in the home. From 2001 through 2006, 95 New Yorkers died in residential fires; 66 of them were children age 12 and younger. About a quarter of these fires were started by children playing with matches and lighters—often in their own bedrooms. And nearly half of the deaths resulted from careless adult behavior such as leaving burning candles unattended, overloading electrical outlets, or failing to extinguish cigarettes. The CFRT's report can be viewed on The NYSPCC's website, www.nyspcc.org. Please read it and make sure your home is safeguarded against fire hazards.

PREPARING FUTURE LEADERS

Each year, The NYSPCC partners with Columbia University School of Social Work, New York University, Fordham University and the Hunter College School of Social Work by accepting social work students as interns. The students actively assist in one of The NYSPCC's program areas, including the Executive Office, Positive Parenting Plus and the Trauma Recovery Program. Through hands-on experience, guided by talented and seasoned NYSPCC professionals, students obtain valuable knowledge and experience that will prepare them for future employment in the child welfare field. During 2007-2008, The NYSPCC trained five MSW interns. ●

As the first child protection agency in the United States, The NYSPCC maintains the most comprehensive and oldest set of records on child abuse and neglect cases and laws for maltreated children. The George Sim Johnston Archives, named in memory of a long-standing member of The NYSPCC's Board of Directors, contains a wealth of original and compiled material on the origins, history and development of the child protection movement from 1875 to the present day.

The Archival holdings include:

- Microfilm copies of The NYSPCC cases from the organization's incorporation in 1875 to the present, including more than 650,000 files concerning over 2,000,000 children
- Newspaper clippings of note concerning child protection issues, including 15 bound volumes regarding The NYSPCC's efforts regarding child labor as it pertains to children working in the theatre
- Annual Reports of child protective statistics and case summaries

Archive photos, records and advice and consultation from The NYSPCC Archivist have been used in several feature length documentaries, short films, dissertations and books dealing with children's rights. The NYSPCC has also participated in three major museum exhibits: The New York Historical Society, The Museum of the City of New York and the Hoboken Historical Society. In each exhibit, The NYSPCC's artifacts were prominently displayed highlighting the story of The NYSPCC and its founding of the organized child protection movement in the United States.

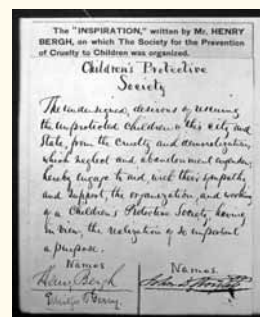
A recent significant event was the commencement of the Archives Preservation Project. This project will enable The NYSPCC to increase the number of people who utilize the archives and will adequately preserve the materials and history for future generations. When completed, all case

records, the case index and retrieval system and all historic books and documents will be digitized and the original books, documents and priceless artifacts, such as the original dress that Mary Ellen was wearing during her rescue in 1874, will be professionally conserved.

In 2008, 18 professional and private inquirers received assistance from the Archivist at The NYSPCC, including one from a pediatrician who is publishing the first German textbook on the medical diagnosis of child abuse. The Archivist also addressed the Huntington Historical Society of Long Island on the history of The NYSPCC, patterns of immigration, the holdings of The NYSPCC archives and how to access them.

CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE SOCIETY

The undersigned, desirous of rescuing the unprotected children of this City and State from the cruelty and demoralization which neglect and abandonment engender, hereby engage to aid, with their sympathy and support, the organization and working of a Children's Protective Society, having in view the realization of so important a purpose. ●



The "INSPIRATION," commemorating the founding of The NYSPCC on December 15, 1874.

FINANCIAL CONDITION SUMMARY**ASSETS**

Cash	\$	892,002
Investments at fair value		20,329,451
Other assets		798,173
<i>Total Assets</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>22,019,626</i>

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$	100,937
Accrued pension benefits		986,117
Other liabilities		53,388
<i>Total Liabilities</i>		<i>1,140,442</i>

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$	16,828,597
Temporarily restricted		362,732
Permanently restricted		3,687,855
<i>Total Net Assets</i>		<i>20,879,184</i>
<i>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>22,019,626</i>

FINANCIAL ACTIVITY SUMMARY

OPERATING REVENUE

Contributions	\$	835,275
Government contracts		655,305
Special events		410,258
Investment return		1,557,496
Other support and revenue		21,855
<i>Total Support and Revenue</i>	\$	<i>3,480,189</i>

OPERATING EXPENSES

Supervised visitation	\$	686,554
Trauma recovery		787,948
Child permanency mediation		588,362
Professional education		212,655
Archives		108,656
General administration		414,004
Special events		195,874
Fundraising		278,173
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$	<i>3,272,226</i>
<i>Excess of Operating Revenue Over Operating Expenses</i>		<i>207,963</i>
Investment return – non-operating		(6,877,482)
Adjustment to accrued pension benefits		(1,354,145)
Increase in temporarily restricted net assets		68,414
Decrease in permanently restricted net assets	\$	(547,086)

NET ASSETS

Decrease for the year	\$	(8,502,336)
Beginning of year		29,381,520
<i>End of year</i>	\$	<i>20,879,184</i>



On October 27, 2008, The NYSPCC held its Annual Dinner Gala at The Pierre Hotel in New York City. Honorees Liz Smith, famed journalist, and Gerald L. Storch, Chairman and CEO of Toys“R”Us, Inc., exemplified the highest level of commitment for their dedication to enriching the lives of children. They are truly an inspiration. Guests were treated to a special musical performance by Barbara Carroll, renowned jazz pianist, composer and vocalist. Emcee Deborah Norville thrilled the audience when she announced that The NYSPCC would be the recipient of her winnings from the hit television show “Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?”

Our Gala Co-Chairs, David Patrick Columbia, Joan Ganz Cooney and Peter G. Peterson, Amanda and Neil Friedman, Deborah Norville and Karl G. Wellner and Sherrie and David Westin, did a fabulous job, as did Tatiana G. P. Perkin and Tatiana Fix-Katsambas, who chaired the Silent Auction. The evening was a success, raising approximately \$450,000.

Special thanks to all who contributed to the silent auction and Mattel/Fisher-Price who gave each guest “Think! Think! Think! Darby” dolls to take home to a child, and to At Home Pampering, Condè Nast Publications, Laforce + Stevens, Quest Media, methodkid and Deborah Norville and Karl G. Wellner for their wonderful gift bag items. The Gala was sensational! ●



On May 21, 2008, The NYSPCC's Junior Committee hosted *Sail into Summer*, a cocktail party at Grotto in New York City, benefiting The NYSPCC's programs protecting New York City's children. Highlights of the evening included: gourmet cuisine by Monterone Caterers; music by DJ Geo and Greg Parr; and a super silent auction. Many thanks to Stephen Czeck for designing the event invitations, Caspari for the printing, Peter Neu for photographing the event and 10 Cane Rum for sponsoring the evening's signature drinks. The evening raised approximately \$25,000 for The NYSPCC's programs. ●

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The NYSPCC's continued commitment to protecting children and strengthening families would not have been possible without the generous support of individuals, foundations, corporations and government agencies that share the mission of ensuring the safety and well-being of New York City's most vulnerable children.

Thank you for supporting The NYSPCC's critical, life-saving work.

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1. Individual donations
2. Employer matching gifts
3. Donations of stocks or bonds
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5. Designating The NYSPCC as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy
6. Organize a toy drive during the holidays
7. Volunteer at The NYSPCC's children's holiday party
8. Support the annual dinner gala
9. Purchase note cards designed by the artist Caroline Almy Gerry from our website (www.nyspcc.org)

To discuss the range of opportunities for making gifts to The NYSPCC, please call Maryann Lauria, Director of Development at (212) 233-5500 ext. 216.

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