



EPISCOPAL SOCIAL SERVICES

175 Years of Helping New Yorkers in Need

Fall 2007

FAMILY PRESERVATION: KEEPING TROUBLED FAMILIES SAFE AND WHOLE

Taking a child out of a home that is abusive or neglectful is obviously the right thing to do. But when a child is taken from its family of origin, no matter how dire the need or how loving the foster care that is subsequently given, the separation creates an additional trauma that the child must also deal with. It is much better, when possible, to work with a troubled family to find solutions to their problems before they escalate to the point where separation is the only answer.

ESS' Family Preservation Program does just that: working with families who are facing difficult circumstances, dedicated caseworkers help parents and other family members recognize and deal with the root issues of the family's problems. Counseling, substance abuse programs, anger management, parenting skills, and interpersonal communications are just some of the ways in which families can get the assistance they need to stay together safely. The result is a happier home environment, healthier children,



and significant savings for the public over time.

"It makes sense to deal with a family's problems early, before they escalate to the point where drastic intervention is required," notes Robert H. Gutheil, ESS'

Executive Director. "Obviously there are some cases where the situation is so bad that children need to go into foster care for their own good. But many other families just need a helping hand to turn things around; when we can get them the assistance they need to do that, it's a win-win situation for everyone."

ESS has an impressive track record of success in

keeping families together. In fact, New York City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS) recently increased the number of slots available in ESS' Family Preservation Program to 105 families in the Mott Haven neighborhood of the South Bronx, up from 90; this represents over 350 children in those families.

The process of helping families back to stability can take a year or more, during

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ESS CHOSEN TO ROLL OUT PILOT CHILD WELFARE INITIATIVE

ESS has been selected by New York City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS) as one of 14 foster care and family preservation agencies to roll out a new child welfare initiative called *Improved Outcomes for Children (IOC)*. This new approach is a key component of ACS' "Action Plan for Child Safety," and is designed to streamline the process of providing care for the city's 17,000 foster children and the 27,000 children whose families receive services to prevent the removal of children into foster care. ESS and the other agencies selected for the initial application of IOC represent approximately 38% of the New York City foster care population, and 10% of those in the family preservation process. The remainder of service providers in the city will be transitioned into the new approach in July 2008.

"It's really gratifying that ESS was chosen as one of the first agencies to implement this new system, and I think it speaks to our proven ability to provide high-quality foster

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**A Message from
Executive Director Robert H. Gutheil**



**GOOD NEWS,
GOOD WORK,
With More
to Come**

Dear Friends,

It's always a pleasure to report good news, and you'll see a lot of it in this issue. The good, hard, committed work of the staff in our child welfare programs – family presentation and foster care – being recognized in the request to expand the program and pilot a new approach to working with children and families.

And the expansion of our After-School Program into Brooklyn, along with the recognition of the leader of that program, Evelyn Castro, in being named to the governor's Children's Cabinet. More children and youth than ever before receiving academic support and personal development from ESS in ten public elementary, middle, and high schools.

And the new funding we have received from the New York City Council for our highly successful work in prisons and with those re-entering society. Did you know the recidivism rate of those in our programs is one-fifth the national average? With all this, and more, it would be tempting to trumpet our success and rest our laurels. But so much more needs to be done, and we are determined to keep doing our part to address the continuing challenges children, families, and individuals face in the great city whose people we are committed to serve.

So in coming issues look for some dreams and plans that will set our agenda for the years ahead. It's too early to be specific – all of us on the Board of Directors and staff have some research and some hard thinking to do. But look for some new ventures in areas where we believe we'll be able to make a difference. It's an exciting time here at ESS as we look to the future, grounded in the achievements and experience of the years now behind us. We have six new Board members to help us get it right, and a growing cache of volunteers to expand our reach and our effectiveness. You'll read about that elsewhere in this issue as well.

So we give thanks for the success, hope we've learned valuable lessons from where we've erred, and look forward mightily to growing and deepening this good work.

Robert H. Gutheil
Executive Director



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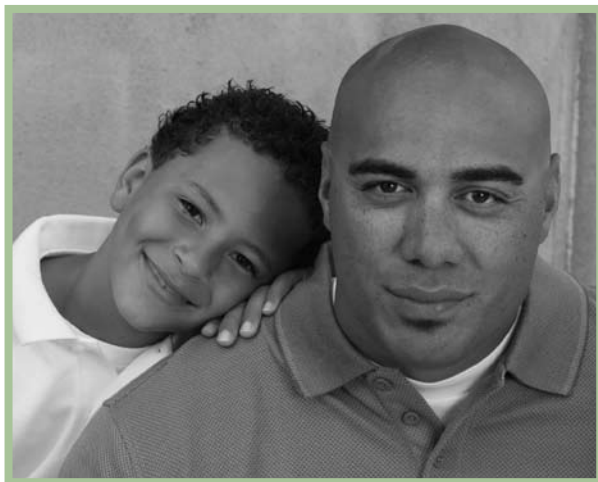
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Family Preservation *continued from page 1*

which caseworkers become trusted helpers over time. This was the case with Maria, a single mother of two children: 10 year-old Beatrice, who had a paralyzed arm as the result of a medical mishap during delivery, and Tony, her younger brother. The case came to ACS' attention when Beatrice came to school disheveled and unkempt; that fact, coupled with Beatrice's difficulties in her special



education classes, prompted an investigation by ACS. This resulted in allegations of inadequate guardianship by Maria, amid concerns that she lacked either the will or the experience to be a good parent to her children. The family was referred to ESS' Family Preservation Program in an attempt to avoid placing Beatrice and Tony into foster care.

When ESS' Family Preservation caseworker visited the family, it quickly became clear that Maria certainly wanted to be a good mother to her children, but she was lacking in some basic parenting skills and often felt overwhelmed by the stress of caring for her disabled daughter along with the demands of a young boy. But she was adamant about one thing: she wanted to keep her children and learn how to be the best mother she could.

ESS arranged for Maria to attend parenting classes designed for parents of special needs children, individual counseling to help her manage her stress and organize her time, and family sessions with Beatrice and Tony to improve their communication with one another. A parent aide provided additional counseling on hygiene and home management. In addition, Maria began taking the children to the public library and encouraging them to read, while she began to study for her GED.

Over time, Maria began to remark on the positive developments in the family's life that had taken place because of the Family Preservation Program.

A year later, Maria was well on her way to becoming a model parent. Beatrice's schoolwork has improved and she is now socially well-adjusted. Tony is a

happy and healthy youngster who delights in helping out around the house. What could have been yet another tragic family break-up had instead been turned into a stable, loving home.

Building upon the success of its Family Preservation Program, ESS also operates an Intensive Preventive Program, aimed specifically at helping families experiencing problems with adolescents ages 12-18. The issues facing these families can include involvement in gang activity, substance abuse, truancy, disruptive behavior, or even mental health issues – all things that can put tremendous strain on a family's ties. Intensive Preventive caseworkers utilize a short-term form of family therapy designed to help family members repair the problems in their relationships and open lines of communication to establish a healthy relational dynamic. Now entering its second year, the Intensive Preventive Program works with up to 156 families in the South Bronx and Manhattan.

Helping families stay safely together can be hard work, but it yields tremendous benefits over time. With a history of effectiveness in improving troubled homes, ESS is committed to continuing to help parents and children forge strong and loving bonds in healthy, happy homes.

Child Welfare Initiative

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care services," says Robert Gutheil, ESS' Executive Director. "We look forward to playing a leading role in something that could radically improve the child welfare system in New York City."

The goals of IOC include reducing the number of times foster children move from one family to another, and expediting their placement into permanent, loving homes. Reducing the number of children placed in group foster care rather than in families is another priority, as is strengthening the family preservation process to lower the frequency of mandatory removal of children from their families of origin.

For ESS, the IOC initiative should also provide more dependable and flexible city financing, permitting more individualized planning for each child in foster care and allowing for investments in program-wide improvements that will benefit all the children in ESS' care.

ESS is proud to have been chosen as a leader in the implementation of this new child welfare initiative, and looks forward to working with ACS to ensure that every child it cares for grows up in a safe and nurturing home.

ESS HISTORY: Preserving Families in Ages Past

The struggle to keep families together in difficult circumstances is not a new one for ESS. In fact, during the Great Depression, ESS (then known as the Episcopal City Mission Society), found its resources strained almost to the utmost to keep families from breaking apart. Reprinted below from the Annual Report of 1932, is an account of the steadfast work of ESS' forebears.



Mrs. Lenton of the Society's Social Service Department recalls a professional man who had received notice that his family – a helpful, understanding wife and five intelligent, well-mannered children – must leave the tenement into which he had been forced to move them. On the day when he called upon Mrs. Lenton, he had absolutely no money. He had walked from daylight to dark, offering to do any kind of work, but without a shred of success.

That morning the children had gone to school without food. As he admitted this, tears stood in his eyes. "I can no longer struggle against fate," he said. "I cannot let them starve, and so I had to come to you."

Through the Relief Funds provided for the Social Service Department, this man's rent was paid and employment was provided in the Goodwill Industries. The small regular income – unbelievably tiny – has nevertheless eased the mother's burden of fear – fear that her children were to be denied even the simple food and shelter necessary to protect them from illness and permanent handicap.

"Years have dropped from the parents' shoulders," Mrs. Lenton says, and it is characteristic of Mrs. Lenton herself that quick tears come to her eyes in reminiscence. "One cannot help but think of how this family might have come to tragedy, but has been saved to stay together happy and whole."

It has been the constant effort of our workers to bring about as many such "happy endings" and lasting reconciliations as possible.

ESS RECEIVES FUNDING from City Council

ESS has received funding from the New York City Council for two of its programs serving the city's adults and children in need. Network in the Community, which provides transition services to help formerly-incarcerated individuals reintegrate into society as stable, productive citizens, was given a grant of \$25,000. The Council's generosity will help the Network Program continue and expand its successful therapeutic approach, which has resulted in a low recidivism (relapse) rate of only 13% over the last five years, as opposed to a national recidivism average of 67%.

Additionally, the office of Council Member Annabel Palma awarded a grant of \$7,000 in support of ESS' After-School Program at PS 36 in the Bronx. Council Member Palma has partnered with ESS in the past to support its work of helping public elementary and middle school children make the most of their lives and opportunities. The After-School Program provides academic tutoring, mentoring, and personal development services, as well as cultural and artistic activities to broaden students' life experience.

ESS expresses its deep gratitude to the entire New York City Council for these endorsements of its work, and especially wants to thank Speaker Christine C. Quinn, Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo, and Council Member Palma for their support.

NEW FACILITY OPENS Office and Program Space

The expansion of ESS' programs and services in the South Bronx has necessitated expansion of another kind, too – additional administrative and program space has opened at 412 East 147th Street in the Mott Haven neighborhood of the South Bronx. The new facility, located just one block from Paul's House, ESS' early childhood center, underwent an 8,000 square foot total renovation to provide office space for a number of programs, including After-School, Family Preservation, and the Network Programs, who were previously located at Paul's House. The space also includes a computer lab with laptops for Project College Bound's Cyber Academy, which teaches youth in ESS' programs basic computer and Internet skills.

“FUN IN THE SUN:” ESS’ Summer Day Camp Program

The summer of 2007 was a time of cultural and artistic exploration, education, and yes, old-fashioned summertime fun for 80 elementary school students from the Bronx and Harlem, thanks to ESS’ Summer Day Camp Program. The Summer Camp, an extension of ESS’ After-School Program, offered public school children a range of activities that introduced them to the city’s cultural resources and encouraged them to develop creative responses to what they encountered – with time for recreation and fun outdoors too.



ESS’ After-School Program seeks to help children improve their academic skills and sharpen their critical thinking capabilities – and that goal was carried over into the summer as well. The primary educational focus of the day camp was enhancing the students’ communication abilities in a variety of media while introducing them to a broad range of the cultural offerings of New York City. Visits to such institutions as the Museum of Natural History, the New York Hall of Science, and the South Street Seaport Museum were combined with opportunities for the children to reflect on their experiences through journaling, oral presentations, and visual arts. Students designed and produced thematic banners that reflected what they had learned and discovered. Art exhibitions of the student’s projects and a Talent Showcase gave the children opportunities to share their creativity with their peers, families, and friends.

Day trips to water parks, fishing expeditions, and camping in the countryside made memories that will last long into the school year. The summer culminated in the “Summer Fun Olympics” where age-appropriate contests and games modeled friendly competition and the offering of one’s personal best efforts.

For these students, education during the summer turned out to be something that was enjoyable as well as valuable. In the words of one young participant: “I’ll be back next year!”

VOLUNTEER EXPO 2007

On September 29th, ESS teamed up with Episcopal Charities of New York to sponsor a Volunteer Expo that introduced potential volunteers to social outreach programs that need their help. Held at St. Bartholomew’s Church in Manhattan, which donated the space and many of the support services for the event, this first-time collaboration featured 15 programs, many of these small, parish-based organizations who are particularly dependent on volunteers for their operations. Nearly 100 individuals who attended received information on volunteer opportunities and signed up to lend their time and abilities.

Helping ESS and Episcopal Charities produce the event were St. Bartholomew’s Church, the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York City, Grace Church Manhattan’s GO Project, and Trinity Saint Paul’s Church, New Rochelle.

Interested in volunteering at ESS? Contact Andrea Erdman, Director of Volunteer Services at 718-401-5159, or by email at erdmana@e-s-s.org.

HEARST FOUNDATION and CLEVELAND DODGE FOUNDATION Make Grants to After-School Program

ESS’ After-School Program received generous grants of \$100,000 from The Hearst Foundation, Inc., and \$25,000 from the Cleveland Dodge Foundation for program expansion. The support of these Foundations will help to fund ESS’ initiative to open after-school activities beyond the ten New York City public schools currently served.

“A good education is essential for success in adult life, and children from low-income communities particularly need help to succeed in school,” noted Paul Dinovitz, Executive Director of The Hearst Foundation. “We are pleased to support ESS in its efforts to bring academic support and cultural awareness to more public school students in the city.”

Expansion of the After-School Program is one of ESS’ highest priorities, and ESS is deeply grateful for the support and endorsement of the Hearst Foundation and the Cleveland Dodge Foundation of this vital work.

Program **UPDATES**

ESS MAKES GRANTS TO PARISH SUMMER DAY CARE PROGRAMS

In what has become a yearly tradition, ESS made a number of grants to parishes in the Diocese of New York to support local summer day care programs. For many low-income parents, childcare during the summer months can be a significant problem, with after-school programs often closed and both parents at work. By making these yearly grants, ESS seeks to help local parishes provide safe, engaging, and enjoyable activities for neighborhood children. This year 16 grants were made for programs in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Westchester County. These grants call to mind ESS' own history of operating summer camps for nearly 80 years beginning in the 1890s, and ESS is proud to help others build cherished memories for additional generations of children.

Parishes receiving grants were: St. Edmund's (Bronx); Holyhood (Manhattan); St. John, St. Paul, and St. Clement (Mt. Vernon); Church of Our Savior (Manhattan); St. David's (Bronx); Church of the Mediator (Bronx); Haitian Congregation of the Good Samaritan (Bronx); St. Margaret's (Bronx); St. Matthew and St. Timothy (Manhattan); St. Ann's of Morrisania (Bronx); St. George's (Newburgh); Church of the Ascension (Mt. Vernon); Grace Community Church (White Plains); Christ Church (Poughkeepsie); St. Paul's Church (Yonkers); and Grace Church (Nyack).

AFTER-SCHOOL NEWS

New YABC Program Opens at Automotive High School

ESS has opened a new Young Adult Borough Center (YABC) at Automotive High School in the Williamsburg/Greenpoint neighborhood of Brooklyn. YABCs are alternative high school programs designed to help students who are more than two years behind in accruing credits earn their diplomas. It's an approach that works: while only 19% of all overage and under-credited teens ever finish high school, 44% of YABC students are able to earn their diplomas – not a GED – within one year. It's estimated that there are 70,000 high school students in the New York City school system who are more than two years behind in accrual of credits, and nearly as many who have already dropped out. The YABC Program at Automotive

serves 250 students with evening classes so they can work or take care of other obligations during the day. Tutoring, academic and career counseling, and workshops on personal development are available to keep students focused and on track. ESS initiated its YABC Program at Truman High School in the Bronx, which graduated 39 overage and under-credited students at the end of that Program's just-completed first year.

New Appointment to Spitzer's Children's Cabinet

Dr. Evelyn Castro, consultant to ESS' After-School Program, has been named to New York Governor Eliot Spitzer's "Children's Cabinet," a panel formed to develop and implement plans aimed at providing universal health insurance coverage for pre-kindergarten and school-aged children.

Dr. Castro, who holds a Master's degree in Education and a Doctorate in Education from Columbia University, serves as Associate Dean of the School of Education at Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus. She has been an advisor to ESS' After-School Program since 2006, working primarily on the expansion of the Program into additional school sites in Brooklyn.

ESS congratulates Dr. Castro on her new appointment!

EARLY HEAD START GRADS "MOVE UP"

Wearing mortarboards and marching in to the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance," 21 children from ESS' Early Head Start Program at Paul's House in the Bronx marked their passage to the next stage of pre-school learning at "Moving Up Day" on August 16th. Cheered on by a standing-room-only crowd of proud parents, grandparents, and friends, the three-year-olds received certificates attesting that they were ready to "move up" to local community Head Start programs or day care. ESS Executive Director Robert Gutheil marked the special occasion by addressing the children and their families. Afterward the young graduates and their guests celebrated at a reception in their honor. The ESS Early Head Start Program works with expectant families and children up to three years of age to spark curiosity and a love of exploration, preparing the children for a lifetime of learning.



ESS Welcomes NEW BOARD MEMBERS

ESS is pleased to welcome the following to its Board of Directors

ROBERT C. DAUM: A Managing Director and Partner at Growth Capital Partners, L.P., Mr. Daum brings to ESS a broad range of financial and investment management expertise. A graduate with high honors of Colgate University, Mr. Daum also holds an MBA from Harvard University, and worked as an investment banker at Dillon Read, Merrill Lynch, Prudential, and UBS. He also currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Visiting Nurse Service of New York and Out2Play, Inc.

ROBERT E. FORAN: Mr. Foran is a Senior Managing Director in the Public Finance Department of Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc., on whose Board of Directors he also serves. A graduate of Bob Jones University, he holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and is a Certified Public Accountant. He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of both The Bond Market Foundation and the Fellowship of Christians in Universities and Schools, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Riverside Park Fund.

JACQUELYN HAMILTON: A Senior Vice President in the Real Estate Private Equity Group of Lehman Brothers Holdings, Inc., Ms. Hamilton has served as Principal for real estate mezzanine funds exceeding \$1 billion in value. She received her BS (summa cum laude) from the Georgia Institute of Technology, and also holds an MBA with a concentration in Finance from the Stern School of Business at New York University. Ms. Hamilton has worked as a "wish granter" for the Make-a-Wish foundation, visiting children and documenting their wishes.

MICHAEL GILLIGAN: Mr. Gilligan is the President of The Henry Luce Foundation, a grant-making organization that supports higher education, American art, environment, theology,

women in science and engineering, and understanding of Asia. He received his B.A. from Duke University, and M.A. and Ph.D. (in rhetoric and literature) from the University of Virginia. Today he serves on the boards of the Brooklyn Philharmonic, the Council of Independent Colleges, the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, and the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia.

MARGARET LANGAN: Ms. Langan's career in finance, investment, and strategic business planning has included positions at Chase Manhattan Bank, the Mutual of New York, McKinsey, Dillon, Read and Company, and Lehman Brothers. Ms. Langan was a member of Phi Beta Kappa at Boston College, where she received a B.A. (summa cum laude) in Political Science. Her MBA was awarded by the Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration with first year honors. She was a member of the Board of Managers of the McBurney YMCA in New York City. Her other community affiliations include The Brearley School, the New York Junior League, and the Boston College Alumni Volunteer Association.

SAMUEL N. LEVIN: Mr. Levin is currently the President of Swarthmore Asset Management Ltd., a money management firm investing in equity and fixed-income securities for charitable institutions, trusts, individuals, corporations, and pensions. Mr. Levin received his A.B (with honors) at Harvard College, where he was a Harvard Scholar, his M.A. in Law (with honors) from Oxford University, and his J.D. (with honors) from Harvard Law School. For the last 15 years Mr. Levin has served as the court appointed financial guardian for several children and adults who were the victims of catastrophic injuries, including brain damage and quadriplegia. He is currently the financial guardian of eight such individuals.

Network Funded by BODMAN FOUNDATION, DAVID ROCKEFELLER FUND

Network in the Prisons and Network in the Community, ESS' programs to help inmates and parolees prepare for release and re-entry to mainstream life, were the recipients of grants of \$15,000 from The David Rockefeller Fund and \$25,000 from The Bodman Foundation.

The grant from the David Rockefeller Fund will help to fund the work of the facilitators, psychologists, and counselors who help prepare inmates for release, and assist former prisoners in re-forging their links with family and community. The Bodman Foundation grant will support the newly-created position of Job Developer for Network in the Community. Finding employment is one of the most critical needs of parolees.

ESS Executive Director Robert Gutheil noted, "The Network Programs are highly successful in helping the formerly-incarcerated become stable and productive citizens; these generous grants will help literally hundreds get a second chance at life."

PLANNED GIVING *Letting Your Legacy Live On*

For over 175 years, ESS has looked to compassionate and generous supporters to help make possible the organization's outreach to New Yorkers in need. Generation after generation, such benefactors have responded during their lifetimes, recognizing the positive effect of their decision to share the bounty of their lives. But some went even further, making sure that their legacy of sharing continued even after their lives were over – using their estates to continue benefiting their disadvantaged neighbors, perhaps for generations to come.

ESS today still benefits from the forethought of those who came before us; and by making a planned gift to ESS, you can become one of those whom future generations will look back to with gratitude. Planned giving often brings to mind making bequests in a will, and that is certainly one of the most common ways to structure such a gift. But there are many other options for deferred giving, each of which provides particular benefits to both donor and recipient – life income gifts such as pooled income funds, charitable gift annuities, and charitable remainder trusts, which provide donors with income for the remainder of their lives; and gifts of real estate with life estate reserved, which permits the donor to continue living on the property as long as desired. Each of these structures will appeal to different donors, depending on particular circumstances such as age, and size and type of gift.

Please join with all those through the years who, by leaving a legacy, have helped to build ESS' foundation and sustained its vital work. From its earliest days, ESS has been blessed with benefactors with vision to foresee what their generosity would make possible. We are happy to assist you in becoming a part of this long-standing tradition of caring; for more information or to make arrangements for a planned gift, call Ms. Kerry Hishta Hui, Director of Development and Communications, at 212-886-5604.



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