Giving Help & Hope

Family & Children's
Celebrating 127 Years of Caring

2011 Stewardship Report
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Family & Children’s is dedicated to protecting and strengthening Long Island’s most vulnerable children, youth, seniors, veterans, families and communities. We offer assistance to those who are experiencing social, emotional and economic challenges.

IN 2011, FAMILY & CHILDREN’S IMPROVED THE LIVES OF NEARLY 25,000 PEOPLE.
Our son left home in February 2011 and was living with friends, was in and out of the hospital, and was sometimes living on the street. During one of his hospital stays, a social worker reached out to Nassau Haven and put him in contact with the shelter. There he met caring staff that helped him find a facility that would offer him treatment as well as provide a place for him to live.

My son is still in that facility and is getting the correct treatment that he needs and will continue to need. The support, guidance, patience and care that was given to him as well as to me and my husband was immeasurable. Your staff continues to follow my son’s progress; their involvement and insight has been crucial to his success and getting his life back on track. I don’t know where my son would have been if Nassau Haven was not open.

Dear Friends of FCA,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, dedicated staff and loyal volunteers, we are proud to present you with our 2011 Annual Report. In 2011, we served nearly 25,000 individuals through community-based and residential programs funded by government, public and private foundations and generous individuals.

As one of the largest providers of human services on Long Island, we have several contracts with Nassau County to provide services to its residents. Unfortunately, the execution of many of these contracts and the subsequent payment of claims were either delayed or cancelled completely. These delays forced us to extend lines of credit to meet our financial obligations and the cancelled contracts resulted in both staff reductions and curtailment of services to the children, families and seniors who come to us for assistance.

Our Board of Trustees is engaging in an effort to move the agency away from our dependence on government funding and to uncover new sources of revenue from private and public foundations and corporations. We can no longer afford to have our fiscal well-being tied to the financial health of Nassau County, because ultimately it is our clients who suffer when funding is delayed or reduced. We hope you will assist us in this effort for financial independence and we welcome your participation in our “community of caring” that encompasses all the staff, volunteers and supporters of our mission.

As we move into our 128th year, we hope to garner additional financial support for our programs to meet the growing needs of at-risk children, youth and families who desperately need our help to not only survive, but to thrive.

Sincerely,

Philip M. Mickulas
President/CEO

Drew Crowley
Chairman,
Board of Trustees

*Some names and photos have been changed to protect client confidentiality.
Family & Children’s Association (FCA) provides a wide-range of services that support needy and at-risk people in a way that translates into positive results. We offer help and hope to those struggling to build better lives while also promoting healthier communities by engaging volunteers, other non-profits and the business community in our mission.

- We were chosen as the #1 agency to receive grants from the NY State Department of Probation to create a juvenile justice program that focuses on youth development instead of incarceration, thereby saving hundreds of thousand of taxpayers’ dollars and more importantly, young lives.
- We were selected by Nassau County to establish a diversion program that helps families keep their teens out of the court system. To date, we have kept more than 1,500 teenagers from becoming part of the “system”.
- We are responsible for almost all of the runaway and homeless youth services in Nassau County including the only shelter and transitional living programs for runaway and homeless youth. Our shelter for runaway teens, the only one between Manhattan and Montauk, helped over 450 teens stay safe and avoid prostitution, gang involvement and life on the streets.
- We offer the only independent living skills program for children in foster care who reside in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.
- We have the only spousal abuse program that works with batterers to hold them accountable and help change their behaviors so that families will remain safe and intact.
- We have the only program in Nassau County that helps families with children challenged by severe emotional disturbances keep their children at home, avoiding placement in psychiatric hospitals.
- NY State continues to rely on us to be the local provider of the national Ombudsprogram.
- Close to 200 individuals and dozens of community groups joined us in our mission as volunteers.
My substance abuse started with alcohol at 18 years of age and progressed to crack, heroin and barbiturates. I finally entered a detox program when I was too sick to continue my daily habit. Now, at 44, I completed 14 months in your Hempstead Chemical Dependency Treatment Center’s Intensive Day Program and enrolled in your Vocational Education program. With the help of FCA’s tutor, I strengthened my math and reading skills. I recently celebrated one year of sobriety and was referred to VESID (NY State Department of Education’s Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities) and was accepted into a building maintenance program. I continue to attend meetings weekly, communicate with my sponsor and attend my local church. My goal is to stay clean, get my GED and become a productive member of society.

*Some names and photos have been changed to protect client confidentiality.*

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

In 2011, our focus on positive youth development directly impacted 1,122 clients under the age of 21, and through counseling and support services, touched an additional 2,332 family members. These families sought our assistance either on their own behalf or were referred to us by the Department of Social Services, law enforcement or the Nassau County court system.

We welcomed these young people into our after school and summer camp programs; our shelter/residence for runaway or homeless youth; our skill building programs for teen parents or youth in foster care; and our person in need of supervision (PINS) diversion program. We included their families in our counseling because research and experience tells us that coaching parents along with their children has a beneficial effect on all participants. A decade-long research and evaluation study by the *Harvard Family Research Project* confirmed that children and youth who participate in after school programs can reap a host of positive benefits in a number of interrelated outcome areas—academic, social/emotional, prevention, and health and wellness. This study acknowledges the impact of youth development programs in preventing risky behaviors such as drug/alcohol use, gang involvement, teen sex, juvenile crime and incarceration.

*After School Programs in the 21st Century: Their Potential and What It Takes to Achieve It* (Little, Wimer, & Weiss, 2008)

While a price cannot be put on a young person’s potential, there is data on the cost of a life lost: *Fight Crime: Invest in Kids*, a statewide, bi-partisan, non-profit anti-crime organization, estimates the costs to keep a juvenile in custody at $250,000/year.

It cost FCA $2,600 to keep a child in our after school and summer camp programs.

It cost FCA $2,695 to divert a child from the court system (PINS diversion).

You do the math.
PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS

Many of our programs directly or indirectly help keep young people and adults from becoming homeless. We offer financial support to those who are unemployed and facing evictions or a utility shut-off. And, we provide seniors residing in Nassau County with a one-time emergency delivery of heating oil through the S.A.F.E. program, funded by Nassau County.

In addition, our shelter and residences offer special, differently-abled or homeless individuals an opportunity to live in a group setting that provides shelter while supporting goal setting and skill building. We have residences in Elmont, Freeport, Wantagh and two in West Hempstead; each focusing on a particular population. Through our HomeShare/Nassau program, we were able to match homeowners experiencing financial difficulties with individuals seeking an affordable room to rent.

Our Senior Case Management and Financial Counseling programs help our aging neighbors keep and/or remain in their homes by offering reverse mortgage assistance, bill paying assistance and access to entitlements and available services. Census data reports those 55 and over make up 28% of Nassau County’s population and this number is growing. At present, seniors in the 80 – 100 years of age category represent the fastest growing group of individuals in need of our services. Also increasing is the number of seniors faced with mental health or substance abuse disorders.

FCA is seeking new revenue sources for these vital programs in order to meet the increasing need and to minimize reliance on government funding that remained stagnant or was reduced in 2011.
My 19 year old brother and I wanted to continue living with our parents and younger siblings, but our parents lost their jobs and when we went to stay at a homeless shelter, we were told that we were ineligible to stay because we were over 18. We were lucky to be able to stay at your Walkabout Residence where our lives took a turn for the better. Your staff helped us get our lives back on track and gave us the confidence to make changes. Before living at Walkabout, I was unfocused and irresponsible. Residing at Walkabout, however, turned me from a boy into a man and opened my eyes to a brighter future. I've gone back to college and am doing significantly better in school than ever before. I cannot thank Family & Children's enough for everything you've done for me. You've led me to the path of success, and now it's up to me to walk it; and I know I can.

Karen Feinberg, quilter and gift maker

What better way to say thank you for all the blessings I have in my life than to share them with others; it feels good to be able to make a difference in my own community. Family and Children's Association is a caring and loving group of dedicated individuals who create positive changes in people's lives every day. I am honored to be a part of it.

– Karen Feinberg, quilter and gift maker

Lorraine Waitz Gropper, interior decorator and volunteer

Giving feeds your soul. It is also a great influence on my children. They ask questions about the project I am doing and it leads to discussions we might not have had. Hopefully, in turn, they will become philanthropic.

– Lorraine Waitz Gropper, interior decorator and volunteer

Tom LoFaso, businessman and volunteer chef

As far as helping other people in need, usually I do what I can. Why, because people have helped me in the past when I was down or needed to get to the next stage and I feel it is necessary to live by the philosophy of “Pay It Forward”. Plus, it makes me feel good to help others and I try to be a good example to my children and family. I also have realized that God has blessed me with many things including specific talents. It would be a shame to not put that ability and experience to good use. Thanks for the great work that you do and for allowing me to be a part of your organization.

– Tom LoFaso, businessman and volunteer chef

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## INCOME

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## EXPENSES

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<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$(1,986,655.00)</strong></td>
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