

Portraits of Hope



Child and Family Services

FALL 2017

In this issue . . .



Falk School: New Doors Have Opened

A fresh start for our youngest students at Stanley G. Falk School. See page 2.



President's Column

You may all recall your early years in grade school during Thanksgiving season when you were asked to draw a picture depicting something for which you were thankful. Predictably, most of us drew pictures of family, of bountifully laden tables of turkey and trimmings, of turkeys (remember tracing your hands with crayons!), of pilgrims and native people and the “first Thanksgiving” (history defies that construction), and of trees and plants with the brilliance of fall colors. I remember one of my schoolmates, Alberto, drawing something rather unusual, assumingly unrelated. He drew a picture of new sneakers. Yes, sneakers; Converse, black, high-top, sneakers. I recall the teacher, Mrs. Sproul, being somewhat puzzled, asking Alberto to talk about his drawing. She asked him about the sneakers and to whom they belonged. Alberto responded with delight in his eyes, “They belong to me. You gave them to me!”

The back-story is that Alberto, like many of us in our community, was poor. He and his family had little in the way of worldly possessions. He walked barefoot to school on his first day. He had no shoes. Our grade school served much of the poverty-stricken, small community of my youth and to its credit, recognized the disfavor of profound need. They offered shoes to kids who needed them.

Continued on page 2.

GIVING BACK FROM GOOD FORTUNES

Buffalo Bills player spends time with children at the Agency.

At 6’3,” Offensive Lineman for the Buffalo Bills, John Miller is a force to be reckoned with on the football field. When you meet John in person his humble demeanor and light-hearted spirit make him a breath of fresh air. When he enters the room, the young children in Child & Family Services’ Residential Treatment program pounce on him.

John Miller feels very fortunate for all the success he has had in his life. He grew up in Miami, Florida with both parents supporting him in a tight family unit. Still, he was aware that many children were not as lucky. When he was drafted into the NFL, he vowed to share his triumphs with



BOYS IN RESIDENTIAL SERVICES WERE INVITED BY JOHN MILLER TO ATTEND A BUFFALO BILLS GAME.

children who had so much less. He wants more for them.

For over a year, John has been a close friend to Child & Family Services. He stopped by for a holiday party with the children in residential services where he brought footballs to autograph. He sent a group of boys to a Buffalo Bills game, complete with VIP access to the field before the game. Most recently, he modeled his fashions on the runway at Fashion Show with a Twist, helping to raise awareness for domestic violence.

It is through John’s appreciation of his family that he feels the need to support children less fortunate than himself. “I want to give back to the children at Child & Family Services because they deserve to have the very best despite their circumstances.”



JOHN WAS A NATURAL ON THE RUNWAY AT FASHION SHOW WITH A TWIST. HE MODELED TO HELP BRING AWARENESS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.



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President's Column...Continued from page 1.

It was Mrs. Sproul who had handed Alberto his black, high-top Converse sneakers on his first day of school and helped him put them on.

As we reflect on our own lives in the approaching holiday season – on our blessings and on our relationships with our loved-ones and friends – may we be mindful that so many in our community endure depths of basic needs that we may take for granted. There is no greater calling than to serve others and no greater contribution than selfless commitment to the people whose lives we touch. I am grateful for your benevolence, for helping lighten the burden for others. I wish for you and yours peace, kindness, and grace.

Francisco M. Vasquez, Ph.D.
President & CEO

FALK SCHOOL: WE HAVE MOVED!
A fresh start for Stanley G. Falk's youngest students.

It is a new school year inside a brand new school building! This means a fresh start with lots of opportunities for our young students at the Stanley G. Falk School. Wolfgang is a first grade student who attends the Stanley G. Falk School's new Roosevelt site. Wolfgang is new to Falk School and has demonstrated tremendous growth since starting. Wolfgang and his mother recently attended Roosevelt's open house event. Wolfgang was proud to show her around and introduce her to his classmates and teachers. His mother and Laura Collins, Principal at Roosevelt campus, conversed about how much Wolfgang enjoys coming to school now that he has found a place at the Roosevelt Falk School location! Wolfgang's mom commented that his success in school has carried over into their home, and that she has seen improvements!



WOLFGANG EXCITEDLY BEGAN HIS FIRST DAY AT ROOSEVELT.



LAURA COLLINS (CENTER), PRINCIPAL AT ROOSEVELT, WELCOMED STUDENTS ON THEIR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

Falk moved out of its campus on Delaware Avenue in Buffalo when the doors opened at the former Theodore Roosevelt School in Kenmore this past September. Falk School has a lease agreement with the Kenmore Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District and operate a K-6 program at the site. The school has been approved by the New York State Department of Education to serve an additional 66 students, bringing its capacity to over 600, including all three campuses and four satellite locations.

SHINING A LIGHT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Fashion Show with a Twist helps to build awareness and educate the community.

It was not hard to get wrapped up in the excitement at Child & Family Services' annual Fashion Show with a Twist. There was shopping to be done, baskets to be won, fashions to wish for and delicious food to be eaten, but we all remembered the real reason of the event - bringing awareness to domestic violence. It was a time to understand the impact Haven House, Erie County's only domestic violence shelter, has on our community and the people in it. Most importantly, the event was also a time to recognize and appreciate the journey of a domestic violence survivor.

EVERY YEAR, FIVE
MILLION CHILDREN
WITNESS DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE.

Domestic violence remains one of the most underreported crimes in the United States, occurring across all demographics. Over the past two years, New York State ranks the highest in the nation for having the greatest need for domestic violence services. We are fortunate to have Haven House in the community, providing life-saving services to help victims become survivors.

Jill, a domestic violence survivor who modeled in this year's event, attributes the staff at Haven House for encouraging her to escape her abuser. "At Haven House, my support system there felt my

pain. They validated it. Every person really took the time to get to know me and care about my situation," Jill explained. The staff at Haven House connected Jill to individuals that helped her advocate for herself and her children, "The people that Haven House connected me with confirmed that something was wrong in my relationship. They helped me realize what my children and I were experiencing was not right. The advocates and counselors I worked with pushed me to seek the help I needed."

Since its inception in 2009, Fashion Show with a Twist has raised over one hundred thousand dollars as well as tremendous support and awareness for domestic violence prevention.



HEATHER LY (CENTER) FROM WGRZ, CHANNEL 2, WAS MASTER OF CEREMONY AT THE EVENT PICTURED HERE WITH CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES EMPLOYEES LOIS WEAVER (LEFT) AND TERRI ROZELLE.

Fashion Show with a Twist

Benefiting Haven House - Erie County's Only Licensed Domestic Violence Shelter

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THANK YOU TO INDEPENDENT HEALTH

Independent Health helped 'Carry on the Heartbeat' in 2017.

Independent Health was a key sponsor with a gift of \$4,500 for our "Carrying on the Heartbeat" campaign. This campaign supported the Agency as we moved our signature event Heartlight from the fall to the spring. Heartlight 2018 will be held on Thursday, April 19 at the Foundry.

Over the span of 25 years, Independent Health and Child & Family Services have forged a strong partnership to shape the lives and futures of those in our community.



The company has supported the agency through numerous sponsorships for both Heartlight and Fashion Show with a Twist, IHA sponsored dress down days, adopting countless families during the holidays and more! Independent Health's employees are also active in the mission of Child & Family Services. Independent Health's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, John Rodgers, serves on the Child & Family Services and the Stanley G. Falk School Board of Directors.



JOHN RODGERS (LEFT), EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF INDEPENDENT HEALTH, WAS HONORED AT THE 2017 CELEBRATION OF FRIENDS. DAVID BARRETT (RIGHT), BOARD MEMBER, PRESENTED JOHN WITH THE AWARD.

"Child & Family Services is an easy organization for Independent Health to support," said Rodgers. "Through its impactful work to strengthen families and promote the well-being of children through a variety of opportunities, our employees jump at the chance to help others and make a difference in our community. It is what we refer to as the 'RedShirt Treatment' and sets us apart."



HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Child & Family Services' Adopt-a-Family matches families in need with neighbors in our community to make the holiday season special.



VOLUNTEER

GIVE A GIFT CARD

DONATE FROM THE WISH LIST

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Child & Family Services Chair of the Board of Directors, Betsy Constantine, shares her story.



BETSY HAS SERVED ON THE AGENCY'S BOARD FOR ALMOST EIGHT YEARS AND IS CURRENTLY BOARD CHAIR.

Betsy Constantine is the Executive Vice President of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. She has served on the Child & Family Services' Board of Directors since 2010, including a term as Vice Chair and Treasurer and is currently serving as Board Chair. She sat down with us to share her passion for Child & Family Services.

As I begin my tenure of Board Chair in 2017, I reflect on what brought me to serve at Child & Family Services. In 2008, I had returned from New York City to reside in Buffalo after working in the financial industry for several years. Back home, I was looking to do something meaningful to help others and affect positive change. I began volunteering with the Agency – working on a campaign to attract potential foster parents and was hooked.

The first time I realized the true impact of Child & Family Services was when I toured Haven House. I witnessed the thought and care that went into each decision that was made in the

shelter. I learned how the women, men and children who seek the safety of Haven House find much more than that when they arrive. They find their physical and emotional well-being are cared for. The amount of support given to each person to help them rebuild their lives was overwhelming.

Each year, I look forward to Heartlight, Child & Family Services' premier fundraiser, to learn more about the depth of this tremendous Agency. It is wonderful to hear the families and donors who have been inspired and helped by the mission of Child & Family Services share their stories.

I am honored to be a part of an organization that I so admire. It is with Child & Family Services that I get much more out of it than I give.

When Betsy is not busy with work and the Agency, she most loves spending time with her family. She and her husband are fortunate to have three amazing children and a wonderful extended family. We are honored Betsy has the time to give to Child & Family Services and to serve as Board Chair!



PICTURED FROM THE LEFT TO THE RIGHT ARE, KARY FRONK CLARK, STEPHANIE SWIFT KROTH, BETSY CONSTANTINE AND TRACY HENEGHAN ENJOYING HEARTLIGHT.

2016-2017 GRANT AWARDS

Child & Family Services is sincerely grateful for the grants we received during the 2016-2017 fiscal year (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017).

HAVEN HOUSE

Mary Kay Charitable Foundation

\$20,000.00

Verizon

\$20,000.00

The John R. Oishei Foundation

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STANLEY G. FALK SCHOOL

The Children's Guild Foundation

\$24,250.00 (and Residential Services)

FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Garman Family Foundation

\$7,500.00

HOW YOU'VE SUPPORTED CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES



The ladies of Revolution Buffalo were in attendance at the 2017 Fashion Show with a Twist. The indoor cycling studio, Indo-Row and TRX fitness center in downtown Buffalo, NY sponsored the event.



Thank you for your generous donation Delaware North! They donated wagons full of handmade teddy bears and board games. Pictured here are Delaware North employees who made the gifts.



Employees from Bonadio Group visited children in the Residential Treatment Program to celebrate the start of the school year. Pictured left to right are Debbie Honsberger, Nancy Cox and Kim Mack.



Amherst Town Courts provided Haven House with \$1,000 from a grant they received from NYS. Lauren Gousy (left), Community Relations Coordinator at Haven House and Eileen Logsdon (right) from Amherst Town Courts shopped for shelter needs.



Over 80 youth served by Child & Family Services received backpacks filled with school supplies from the School Supply Drive. Carlos Ortiz de Jesus with Preventive Services is pictured here receiving the donations.



Models at the 2017 Fashion Show with a Twist strike a pose. Pictured here top row from left to right are Adam Paul, Jeff & Cindy Moore, Rachael Brown, Addy Ng and bottom row from left to right are Toni Paul and Nancy Cox.



Spiderman trick or treats with employees from Spectrum Cable.



To celebrate survivors of domestic violence, the Buffalo Jamberry team and the FADV (Fight Against Domestic Violence) hosted a night of pampering.



In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Child & Family Services' Haven House hosted a press conference at Broderick Park where District Attorney of Erie County, John J. Flynn spoke and the Peace Bridge was illuminated purple.



Congratulations to the entire Wall family. Jackson and his new forever family celebrated his adoption in Erie County Family Court with the Honorable Judge Margaret Szczur.



Over 200 birthday in a boxes for children in our foster care program, residential program and Haven House were created at the United Way Work and Play Day at Child & Family Services.



Child & Family Services' Chief Operating Officer Elizabeth McPartland was among the honorees for the Buffalo 612': WNY's C-Level Executive Awards.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2017 DONORS

Child & Family Services extends a sincere thank you to the following donors who gave financial contributions totalling \$100 or more during the 2016-17 fiscal year (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017). All efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please contact Child & Family Services' Development Department at (716) 335-7234 with any questions or corrections.

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INGRAM MICRO DONATED \$40,000 TO HAVEN HOUSE FROM THEIR CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT. THEY WERE ALSO THE LEAD SPONSOR FOR FASHION SHOW WITH A TWIST. EMPLOYEES FROM INGRAM MICRO ARE PICTURED HERE WITH CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES PRESIDENT & CEO, FRANCISCO M. VASQUEZ (THIRD FROM LEFT).

Mr. and Mrs. Brian J. O'Mara
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Penfold
 Mr. and Mrs. Rick S. Pepe
 Performance Management
 Partners, Inc.
 Mr. and Mrs. Jan Pisanczyn
 Polish Falcons Club
 Presbyterian Women - First
 Presbyterian Church
 Ms. Catherine Protas
 R.W. Lindsay, Inc.
 Ms. Ann Marie Ralph
 Mrs. Andrea L. Rashad
 Ms. Elizabeth J. Rath
 Ms. Karen Reardon-Juliano
 Ms. Tamar Rothaus

Ms. Melissa Royer
 Ms. Anne Ryan
 Ms. Maggie Shea
 Mr. and Mrs. Carl L. Shepard R.A.
 Sherwin Williams
 SMC Metals, Inc.
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 Mr. and Mrs. Alfred R. Solpietro
 Ms. Brianna Sortland
 Dr. and Mrs. R. E. Spitzmiller
 St. Anthony's R. C. Church
 StaffBuffalo
 Mrs. Stephanie K. Sullivan
 Ms. Dana Szalay
 Mr. John H. Tattersall
 Mrs. Laura Terrell
 The Advantage Source
 The Fit Physique
 The Reds Group
 Unitarian Universalist Church of
 Buffalo
 Ms. Debra Vallett
 Vanner Insurance Co.
 West Seneca Auto & Glass
 Western Division Credit Union
 Western New York Administrative
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 Ms. Mary B. White
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 Mr. and Mrs. Wayne D. Wisbaum
 Ms. Camille M. Wolf
 Ms. Nina R. Wright
 Mr. Albert J. Wright, III
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 Mrs. Ellen F. Zupa



FRANCISCO M. VASQUEZ GREETED GUESTS ON THE MISS BUFFALO.



Child and Family Services

330 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202
www.cfsbny.org
(716) 842-2750

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Child & Family Services is a private, not-for-profit organization offering comprehensive programs to strengthen, support and enrich individuals and families. The Agency's mission is to strengthen families and promote the well-being of children through prevention, intervention, education and advocacy. Child & Family Services is accredited by the Council on Accreditation Services for Families and Children, Inc. and is a member agency of the United Way.

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES FREQUENT PHONE NUMBERS

Child & Family Services

Administrative Office, Suite 300
Counseling Offices, Suite 110
3901 Genesee Street
Cheektowaga, New York 14225
(716) 842-2750

Center for Resolution & Justice

Tri-Main Center
2495 Main Street, Suite 357
Buffalo, New York 14214
(716) 362-2323

Cheektowaga Counseling

3901 Genesee Street
Cheektowaga, New York 14225
(716) 681-5718

Conners Children's Center

824 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209
(716) 884-3802



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Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Tri-Main Center
2495 Main Street, Suite 357
Buffalo, New York 14214
(716) 681-4300

Downtown Counseling

330 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202
(716) 842-2750

Foster Care and Adoption

844 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209
(716) 882-0555

Haven House

Domestic Violence Hotline
(716) 884-6000

Stanley G. Falk School

848 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209
(716) 882-0090