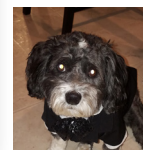


Portraits of Hope



Child and Family Services

In this issue . . .



Haven House begins a partnership with SPCA's Paws for Love.

Page 2



President's Column

Summer is often a time to celebrate accomplishments and relax before taking on new challenges for the rest of the year. At Child & Family Services,

we reflect on the success of the expansion of the Stanley G. Falk School while preparing for a major improvement project that will add to our focus of offering inclusive, quality programs to strengthen our community.

There is a mural at the new Roosevelt Campus of the Stanley G. Falk School where silhouettes of students reach up to a city skyline. It conveys the spirit of collaboration that helped create the school, and that optimism remain to usher in this new era. The Stanley G. Falk School now serves more than 600 students. Administrators and teachers are looking ahead with a focus on further integrating technology to help students discover their passion.

Child & Family Services is looking forward to positive change through the renovation of 330 Delaware Avenue. The project will start this summer to make the building more accessible. It is possible only because of significant community investment. We received a one million dollar grant from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York's Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program. The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation funded an additional \$150,000 for the project. The renovation will remove accessibility barriers for clients and will include the installation of a new elevator, improvement to the HVAC system and other significant building modifications.

Commitments like these promote positive change. Combined with your dedication to our mission, we are all inspired to do more. Thank you for believing that change is possible.

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

LEGACY OF SERVICE TO CHILDREN

Remembering Edwin T. Bean, Jr.

Child welfare, as we know it today, exists in part because of the dedicated work of Edwin T. Bean. His quiet resolve lead to lasting changes for our entire community. Mr. Bean served on the Child & Family Services Board of Directors for more than 50 years. In May, he died after a brief illness at the age of 92. We dedicate this issue of Portraits of Hope in his honor for all the opportunities his advocacy has created for children and families in our community.

There was a time when it was not mandatory for a doctor to report signs of child abuse. Ed helped to change that by writing legislation that became state law in 1964. There was a time when domestic violence survivors did not have a state-of-the-art facility to escape to and rebuild their lives. Ed also helped to change that, by leading a capital campaign with his wife Susan. There was a time when students with behavioral and emotional needs did not have the Stanley G. Falk School to turn to for an education. Ed was one of the founders of the school.

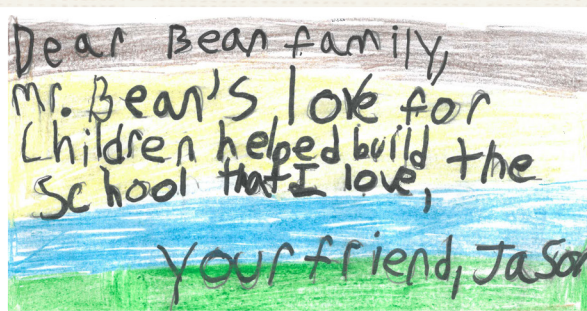


EDWIN BEAN, LONG-TIME CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES' BOARD MEMBER.

Falk students sent messages to the Bean family as part of the memorial service that celebrated Ed Bean's life. They remind us all of the lasting legacy one person can have by giving hope, truly caring and showing kindness. Six-year-old Tryse wrote, "Thank you for giving me a school." A 6th grade student used these words to remember Ed; Founder, Amazing, Leader, Keeping Faith in us." Jason may have summed it up best with, "Mr. Bean's love for children helped

build the school that I love." It helped build a more compassionate community.

Kristina Young served on the Board with Ed for almost three decades. In that time, the Agency grew from a four million dollar operation



FALK STUDENTS SENT CARDS TO THE BEAN FAMILY .

Continued on page 2.



Child and Family Services

2017-2018

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Legacy of Service to Children...continued from page 1.



ED AND HIS WIFE, SUSAN, WERE MARRIED 65 YEARS.

to a forty million dollar operation. Kristina explained, "Numerous new priorities evolved to keep Child & Family Services current with system and services challenges. Ed was always tuned into current issues and thoughtfully rendered his well-considered opinions." She goes on to describe Ed as respectful and reflective about issues under discussion. "Ed was indeed a 'model' Board member in every respect."

Child & Family Services honored Ed several times, most recently with the Lifetime Service Award. He was a young lawyer when Susan encouraged him to get involved. She had seen the great need to help children in our community after witnessing many young people suffering from traumatic experiences through her work at a local hospital. She knew her husband was in a position to help, and he did. He was Chair of the Board of Directors for two terms, including when the Buffalo Children's Aid Society and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children merged to form Child & Family Services in 1972.

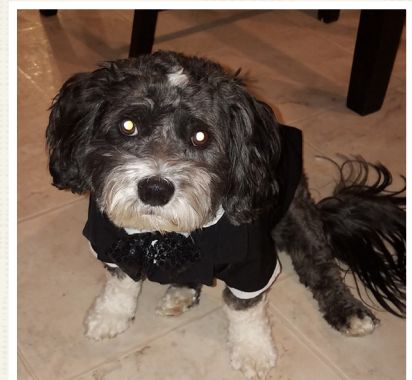
Ed's legacy of service to children continues with his own family's support of Child & Family Services and the Stanley G. Falk School. Ed's legacy of thoughtful resolve continues with the Board of the Directors facing today's challenges. Ed's legacy of courage continues in the domestic violence survivors he helped make a safe space for and in the students he refused to allow to settle for any less than a quality education. His legacy of selfless dedication lives on at Child & Family Services in endless gratitude for giving a voice to the children and families we serve in our community.

SIT. STAY. LOVE!

Paws for Love helps children at Haven House heal from trauma.

Three-year-old Ryan has a deep love for four-legged animals, especially the kind that play fetch. His mother informed Haven House staff that when they lived in their home Ryan's dog would sleep in his bed with him every night. Unfortunately, when Ryan and his mom had to leave their home because of heightened domestic violence, the little boy had to part with his beloved canine and leave him behind in order to come to Haven House. Ryan was too young to understand that this move was the best thing to keep him and his Mom safe. All he felt was sadness to be separated from his furry, four-legged best friend.

Not long after Ryan and his mother's arrival, Haven House started a partnership with Paws for Love. Paws for Love is an organization, run through the SPCA, that brings dogs and cats to area service settings such as nursing homes, doctor's offices and not-for-profit organizations to help reduce stress,



Continued on page 3.

BRUNO TROTS THROUGH THE HALLS OF HAVEN HOUSE READY TO GREET EVERY RESIDENT AT THE SHELTER.

THE NATURE OF WANTING TO HELP

Board Member Matthew Spencer Shares His Story



MATTHEW SPENCER, CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES' BOARD MEMBER.

Matthew Spencer is the General Manager at Holiday Inn Express & Suites Downtown Buffalo, owned by Vision Hotels. Matt has served on the Board of Directors of Child & Family Services since 2014. Matt recently received the John N. Walsh Jr. Board Appreciation Award during the Celebration of Friends annual ceremony. Matt shared how his experience as a board member and a volunteer has made an incredible difference in his own life.

"I began my career working in a residential group home with children ages 12 to 18-years-old. Spending those eight years in the early part of my career really shaped the person I became, both professionally and personally. I began to understand what it means for a child to experience trauma and what I can do, as an adult, to help a young person in need. I have spent the last 15 years working in the hospitality industry, but I still believe in pursuing my passion to help children in our community who are less fortunate. That is what brought me to Child & Family Services.

I first became involved with the Agency when I volunteered for the annual fundraiser, Heartlight. When I saw everyone in our community come together to support programs such as foster care, residential, domestic violence prevention, I knew I was in the right place and I wanted to be a part of Child & Family Services. I joined the board of directors knowing each board member brings his or her own unique set of talents to use to make the Agency better.

During the holiday season, the giving spirit comes alive at Vision Hotels. I spend the weeks leading up the holidays traveling throughout New York State hosting Santa Vision events. These are free, holiday-themed parties for children and their families to come and enjoy. The Santa Vision event hosted in WNY collected a huge truckload of non-perishable food items that were donated to Haven House. Vision Hotels also donates hotel stays throughout the year to families who have lost their homes to a fire and offers a free night stay to a family member visiting a loved one at a local hospital on a winter holiday.

For the past couple of years, I have hosted a weekend getaway at my hotel, filled with pampering, shopping, meals and treats for the women and children at Haven House. This weekend is a time for the families to enjoy themselves, get to know one another and leave their worries behind them. I cannot even imagine what it must be like to have to leave your home, without any of your personal belongings, because of domestic violence. Giving these survivors a weekend of peace and fun is one small way I am helping them to heal."

Matt's smile is as big as his heart! He very passionate about many organizations here in Buffalo, especially Packs & Purses which helps provide the bare necessities to people in need right here in our own community. However, Matt's number one pride and joy belongs to his son, Jordan, a burgeoning filmmaker.



MATT ORGANIZES VISIONS CARES COSTUME CHARACTERS TO VISIT CHILDREN IN THE LOCAL HOSPITALS.

Sit. Stay. Love!...continued from page 2.

sadness and bring joy and comfort to patients and clients receiving services. Volunteer owners and their pets act as therapy animals. They are certified before they visit any facility. The power of love these animals demonstrate, especially to our children at Haven House who have experienced such incredible trauma, is immeasurable. For example, every Monday, Bruno visits Haven House. Bruno is a tiny, six-year-old rescue with a large appetite for life! When Ryan first met Bruno, it was love at first sight! Ryan was sitting in the family room watching TV when Bruno pushed open the door and came into the room to see what was going on. In a matter of seconds, Ryan jumped off the couch and immediately ran to pet Bruno, touch his puffy tail and give him a big squeeze. Both Ryan and his Mom were grinning from ear to ear! Bruno left Haven House that day helping to fill a big hole in one little boy's heart!



PET THERAPY IS ONE WAY HAVEN HOUSE HELPS CHILDREN HEAL FROM THE TRAUMA THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED. BRUNO IS PICTURED HERE WITH HIS OWNER, JEN.

HELPING STUDENTS DOWN THE PATH OF SUCCESS

An inspiring gift to a Stanley G. Falk Graduate.

As Bill Loecher sat in the crowd of Stanley G. Falk School's high school graduation, he reflected on his own children's high school graduations. As a father, he understood the challenges that young people face. He understood the stress that school brings academically and socially. What he did not understand was how a child with numerous, some unimaginable, obstacles could graduate high school. He marveled at the young graduates and their families who were there to celebrate with them that day.

Many years ago, Bill and his wife Colleen created the William and Colleen Loecher Scholarship Award. The scholarship honors a graduating Falk student who demonstrates strong leadership skills and has a robust involvement in community activities, school clubs and organizations. Bill recognized he could help a student down the path toward a brighter future after graduation. This year, Zachary Koch is the recipient of the 2018 William and Colleen Loecher Scholarship Award.

Zachary came to the Stanley G. Falk School in his 8th grade year. He immediately stood out as a bright, resourceful, and energetic student. He has an incredible gift for recognizing and drawing out the talents of others. Being able to do that has made him a remarkable ambassador to our younger students in the elementary school where he volunteers. In addition, Zachary played on the basketball team and set the school's all-time record for most overall rebounds, defensive rebounds, and most blocked shots. He also played on the intramural volleyball team, as well as participated in various school clubs. He received multiple honor and merit role awards. At such a young age, Zachary is mature, organized, and solution-focused. He is an exemplary young man with a good head on his shoulders.

Zachary will attend Erie Community College to study Business Administration. His leadership has made a positive impact on the Falk school community. There is no doubt that Bill and Colleen Loecher have helped guide the way for Zachary as he pursues his goals at ECC.



BILL LOECHER, VICE PRESIDENT OF WEST HERR AUTOMOTIVE AND TREASURER OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS, POSED WITH 2018 GRADUATE, ZACHARY KOCH.

FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH

Adoption Adds to Forever Family

With a heartfelt drum roll from family, friends and supporters, the judge made it official in early May, during National Foster Care Awareness Month. Two-year-old Korey is now a forever part of the Castronova family. He raised his arm in celebration and shouted like a superhero. It was a powerful way for the little boy to share his excitement on his special day.

It took more than two years to get to this moment. Darrick and Jodi Castronova became Korey's foster parents shortly after he was born. They welcomed the baby boy knowing he would be with his biological sister who was also their foster child at the time. There is a lot of emotion for them surrounding this adoption day. "It's overwhelming a little bit," explained Darrick Castronova. "It's an opportunity to breathe," Jodi Castronova said.



KOREY AND HIS DAD, DARRICK CASTRONOVA CHEER AS THE JUDGE ANNOUNCED KOREY'S ADOPTION.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: SAM, JODI, DARRICK, KOREY, ISAAC, SAVANNAH AND CHARI ALL POSE AFTER KOREY'S ADOPTION CEREMONY.

This is the third adoption for the Castronovas. Korey's biological sister Chari was adopted when she was two. Jodi said it is important that they will have each other as they grow up. The Castronovas also have a son Isaac who was born in Haiti and adopted through an international process. They have two biological children; 18-year-old, Savannah and 21-year-old, Sam. Jodi said, "I feel so strongly that even just a picture of our family speaks a thousand words."

There are nearly 1,000 children currently in foster care in Erie County. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent through Child & Family Services, call 882-0555.



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS, DONORS AND FRIENDS FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EVENT! LEAD SPONSOR:

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HAPPENINGS AT CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES



Soccer Shots Buffalo volunteered their coaching skills to teach children in the Residential Treatment Program soccer skills, teamwork, respect and much more.



Leadership Buffalo Class of 2014 recently visited Child & Family Services' Delaware Avenue location to learn more about the Agency, our programs and the people we serve.



Child & Family Services' Haven House presented original artwork in a show titled, From Victim to Survivor: A Healing Journey. Produced by clients in the Haven House Art Empowerment Program, the artwork represented their paths through domestic violence toward survival and healing.



M&T Bank leaders conducted a teamwork activity where they built bikes to donate to Child & Family Services. The bikes were given to the children in our care.



Child & Family Services' Center for Resolution and Justice is developing a new pilot program which offers mediation and restorative justice practices. This will be a part of Erie County Family Court's strategy as New York State raises the age of criminal responsibility. CRJ's Director Julie Loesch and Erie County Family Court's Judge Brenda Freedman recently presented this plan to statewide leaders and other community dispute resolution centers in Albany.



For National Foster Care Awareness Month in May, Child & Family Services' Foster Care and Adoption Program held a Resource Parent Appreciation Dinner where each family received a personalized award with a fun twist that acknowledged their strength as a family.



JetBlue and Together We Rise donated 50 suitcase bags to children in our Foster Care & Adoption Program. Each sweet case has a teddy bear, blanket, crayons, coloring book, toothbrush and earbuds.



Child & Family Services celebrated March as Helping Professionals Month! To show the Agency's appreciation, a luncheon was given for the clinicians and staff.



The Yahoo (Oath) team in Lockport, NY coordinated a collection drive with their team for Haven House in honor of Women's History Month during March.



Child & Family Services' Center for Resolution and Justice recently partnered with the Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition to present workshops to more than 350 educators at Erie 1 BOCES.



Revolution Indoor Cycling held a class to benefit Child & Family Services' Haven House. A total of \$330 was raised for Haven House!



Congratulations to Child & Family Services' Counseling Program. They were recognized by the WNY EMDR Regional Network for outstanding dedication to trauma informed care in our community.



Child and Family Services

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Child and Family Services

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