

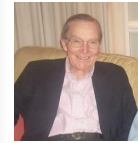
Portraits of Hope



Child and Family Services

SUMMER 2016

In this issue . . .



Honoring Edwin T. Bean, Jr.

A story of his 50 years advocating for children. See page 5.



Working Together for Change

Every day, we learn of new development and economic resurgence happening in the Buffalo Niagara region. During the past year, I have watched our community come together with determination and a shared sense of purpose, working effectively together as a unified voice of change. As leaders looking toward the future, we do not just accept change, we embrace it. We are determined to have sustainable programming and provide for children, individuals and families in our communities for generations to come. We are committed to improving the quality of life for the children we serve and the families we support, by identifying the needs of our community and finding solutions to meet them.

All of this work is made possible because of the partnerships explored and strengthened with every volunteer, donor, committee member and partner of Child & Family Services. In this edition of Portraits of Hope, you will learn how our incredible stewards recognize the change that needs to take place in our community and have the vision it takes to truly make a difference. I am humbled by the outpouring of support we have from the community.

Because of you, great futures for our children can begin here!

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

SAY YES BUFFALO AND CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES PARTNER

Child & Family Services was selected for a \$3.5 million contract to support the Say Yes School-Based Preventive Program in the Buffalo Public Schools. Our partnership also establishes Child & Family Services as the human resources, payroll and informational technology provider for all 73 Say Yes Buffalo personnel.

“In this process, we were looking for an agency that both understands the extent of the work we’re doing with the Buffalo Public Schools and that can enhance our ability to do that work,” said David Rust, Executive Director of Say Yes Buffalo. “Child & Family Services’ reputation for serving children and families in Buffalo through quality programs is well-established and we look forward to embarking on this new partnership.”

Child & Family Services and Say Yes Buffalo are committed to a synergistic partnership that focuses on child development and safety through the provision of School-Based Preventive Services within the school environment, where caseworkers have daily access to their students. School-Based Preventive Services allow for early assessment and intervention when students experience difficulties with their behavior, truancy or other environmental concerns.



MEMBERS OF THE SAY YES STAFF POSED WITH THEIR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DAVID RUST, AT THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION OF FRIENDS.

Children and their families can access the services they need before issues escalate. This approach affords family support specialists the ability to intervene at an earlier stage when problems are identified at school.

Child & Family Services President & CEO, Francisco M. Vasquez, Ph.D. stated, “The Agency’s foundation is built on quality, sustainability and having a positive impact on the lives of those we serve. This partnership reinforces our vision as we remove barriers for children and their families to access resources and services they need in the education system. Together, Say Yes and Child & Family Services are building brighter futures for our young people.”



Child and Family Services

2016-2017

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FALK SCHOOL: A CULTURE OF CARING

Walk into any one of the Falk School buildings and you feel an overwhelming sense of positive energy that is fueled by its faculty. Floors are polished, the environment clean and well-appointed classrooms are bright and welcoming. It is a culture of caring that has been cultivated over a period of 30 years.


“Schools are more than bricks and mortar; schools are about the extraordinary people who put their hearts and souls into their work; and, the Falk School is fortunate to have a talented team of employees who truly go above and beyond the confines of the work day to ensure that the school experience is a positive one for our students,” said Teri Byrne-Knell, Superintendent.

Lisa Dombek, Principal of Stanley G. Falk School's Cambridge location, gave dozens of examples of how the teachers and students perform random acts of kindness. She told us how one teacher takes students to sell copies of *The Buffalo News*, Kids' Day edition, to raise money for local charities. Another teacher helps students create resumes, complete job applications and transports the students to and from job interviews. Another teacher turns her classroom into a thriving marketplace during the holiday season. She and her colleagues purchase items and donate them to the market. The students are then able to shop for quality gifts to give to their family and friends.

Principals encourage teachers to turn ideas into reality; to make great things happen for kids! Teacher Matthew DiCanio and his aide began an after-school basketball program to help students refine their athletic skills. DiCanio, along with many of his coworkers, stay after school a few hours, two days a week for students to play basketball. “When it's the off season, they need something to fill their time after school,” DiCanio explained. “Often when the athletic season ends, their behavior slips up. Our after-school basketball program helps to keep students on track.”

Mark Blesy, Principal at the Rossler school location, is modest about the gracious deeds. “Staff at our school often go the extra mile for their students...it is common practice now. During a busy week of testing they buy pizza for their homeroom, or they buy ice cream for their class if they did exceptionally well on a test. It's just become the norm,” Mr. Blesy said with simplicity.

This concept is not unique to our main locations, either. Several faculty members from our Buffalo Public School #97 satellite location have organized the Sunset Club which is an after-school incentive program designed to inspire students to join their teachers in fun, seasonal activities such as ice skating and snow shoeing. “This is the way our teachers build meaningful relationships with our students...they are a very giving group of educators,” said Laura Collins, Principal of our Delaware Campus.

It is evident that our faculty is driven by the school's mission and vision...to inspire students to find their purpose so that each will go on to contribute to society in a meaningful way. 



THE GIFT OF TIME

Agency Ambassador Lauren Jeckovich collaborates with Child & Family Services

The support we receive from our corporate and individual partnerships helps make the work of Child & Family Services possible. Lauren Jeckovich shows us how donating her time can make an incredible difference for the Agency. Lauren is a member of Child & Family Services Ambassador Committee and first learned about the Agency through one of our board members. It was not long afterward that she became passionate about the cause and wanted to support the mission.

At her first Ambassador meeting, Lauren learned about the Adopt-a-Family Program. She had a strong desire to help realizing so many families in our community are not fortunate enough to feel the joy of the holidays the way she did while growing up. "I experienced more joy shopping for the family I adopted than I ever had shopping in the past," Lauren says.




ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS, CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES, CHILDREN LIVING ON CAMPUS AND STAFF ALL ENJOYED A FUN DAY IN THE SUN.

"It was contagious! My mom and my sister became involved too. We all went shopping together and made sure we got everything on the wish lists." It was an experience that made last year's holidays as enjoyable as the ones she had as a child.

Lauren's employer has the same commitment to giving back that she does. Enterprise Holdings has a set of founding values that guides the way the company does business and treats its customers and employees. One of these values is, "We strengthen our communities, one neighborhood at a time." Likewise, building stronger communities is an important part of the Agency's mission. Lauren, Enterprise Holdings, and Child & Family Services soon found a way to collaborate.

Lauren, a Business Rental Sales Executive with Enterprise in New York, and Enterprise Area Manager Patrick Fawls developed a survey which they sent out to local Enterprise employees to determine what type of involvement with Child & Family Services would garner the most interest. Employees elected to create a mentorship program with children in our Residential Treatment program.

The program involved a series of fun activities for Enterprise employees and our children throughout the year. For Easter, Lauren and coworkers brought Easter eggs to one of the residential homes and spent hours decorating with the children. Lauren fondly speaks of one little boy that she teamed up with to make sure he had enough eggs to decorate. He told her about his family members as he decorated the eggs to give to them. "His joy came from decorating the eggs for each of his family members. He was just so happy, and it made my day," Lauren recalled.

Lauren loves the special touches she can contribute by being an ambassador. She realizes how significant the donation of her time is when she participates with the children, or in donor thank you phone-a-thons. Child & Family Services is grateful to Lauren for everything she does! 



LAUREN PRESENTED CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES WITH A DONATION FROM ENTERPRISE THIS SPRING.

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OR YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN
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CALL 716-335-7235

HONORING EDWIN T. BEAN, JR.

Lifetime Service awardee, Edwin Bean has served more than 50 years on the Board

Child & Family Services recently honored a former Board of Directors member with the Lifetime Service Award. Edwin Bean, affectionately known as Ed, has truly given a lifetime of service to our Agency. For more than 50 years, Ed served on the Board of Directors including two terms as Board Chairman.

Ed was a young lawyer working in the City of Buffalo while his wife Susan worked at Children's Hospital. Susan knew there was great need to help children in our community after witnessing many young people suffering through traumatic experiences while at her job. Susan was also a part of the Junior League of Buffalo and volunteered to serve on the Children's Protection Committee. During this time, she knew her husband, who was not from Buffalo, would be a tremendous asset to our community and was in a position to help. She pushed him to get involved.

Ed, with his lovely wife Susan by his side, sat down with us to share his favorite memories of five decades of service.

I started my volunteer experience by serving on the Child Protection Committee. I soon became Chair of that committee. It was then that I met B. Marguerite Gane who was the Director of the Buffalo Children's Aid Society, one of the precursor organizations of Child & Family Services. Ms. Gane introduced me to the Buffalo Children's Aid Society and asked me to serve on the Board of Directors. Ms. Gane was a pleasure to work with and really understood how to get things done in our community. Her legacy lives on today as one of the Agency's residential homes is named after her.

I am very thankful for that opportunity from over 50 years ago. It has always been fun watching this organization develop and grow. One of my fondest memories will always be drafting legislation which required physicians to report suspected cases of child abuse. In 1964, I received a call from a doctor at Children's Hospital. He was taking care of a child who had experienced significant trauma and asked me what I was going to do to make sure this does not keep happening. I knew other states had laws about protecting children that required doctors to report signs of abuse. As a result, I worked to draft legislation that requires signs of abuse be reported to designated social service agencies, child protective agencies then police. It was sent to Albany and adopted into law.

Another one of my favorite success stories was the establishment of the Stanley G. Falk School. I worked with wonderful people over the years, such as Stanley G. Falk for whom the school is named after. To see the school thrive and



ED BEAN AND HIS WIFE SUSAN SHARED THEIR FAVORITE MEMORIES OF OVER FIFTY YEARS WITH CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES.

care for children is quite amazing. Over the years, Susan and I had great fun accomplishing goals for the organization. I was chair of the Board of Directors for two terms including the time 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. In addition, Susan and I chaired a capital campaign which raised funds for the Falk School and money to build a new, state-of-the-art shelter for Haven House. I am very thankful I was allowed to stay on the board for so long. I certainly appreciated my time serving and enjoyed every moment.

Ed served on the Board of Directors for 54 years; he resigned from his position this past February. He and his wife Susan have three children, Doug, Phil and Emily and are blessed with many grandchildren.




ED AND SUSAN NOT ONLY HAD AN IMPACT ON MANY CHILDREN'S LIVES DURING THEIR TIME SERVING CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES, THEY MADE A LASTING IMPRESSION WITH THE FRIENDSHIPS THEY FORMED.

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

Creating a Buffalo that provides prosperity for all

As we see Buffalo grow, the challenge grows more urgent to create a future where opportunity is not just available to all, but action is taken to address barriers to achievement for all. This year's annual Community Dialogue concentrated on equity in the workplace, our neighborhoods and our schools. More than 65 leaders from government, education, healthcare, business and human services engaged in a dynamic discussion about recent findings on race in our community.

Feedback from the Community Dialogue will be incorporated into the work of presenting research commissioned by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. The Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo empowers generosity by investing where the greatest impact will be to improve lives in Western New York. 



NEW MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Collin Gehl and Laura Terrell recently joined the Child & Family Services' team as part of an innovative one-year Management Fellowship Program. This program hopes to increase diversity throughout the Agency by bringing in individuals without previous experience in the human services field and providing them with an opportunity to become leaders. Fellows rotate throughout the Agency to develop a comprehensive understanding of programs and services while honing their leadership skills. Laura and Collin also receive monthly leadership development coaching from Performance Management Partners, Inc. Upon the completion of the Fellowship, Laura and Collin will present a final project that chronicles their experience. 



MANAGEMENT FELLOWS COLLIN GEHL (LEFT) AND LAURA TERRELL (RIGHT).

2015-2016 GRANT AWARDS

Child & Family Services is sincerely grateful for the grants we received during the 2015-2016 fiscal year (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016).

HAVEN HOUSE

The Almar Family Foundation

\$1,000.00

The Fatta Foundation

\$2,000.00

Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund

\$1,000.00

CENTER FOR RESOLUTION AND JUSTICE

National Association for Community Mediation

\$12,000.00

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Enterprise Holdings Foundation

\$1,000.00

Evans-Devereux Memorial Fund

\$3,000.00

Marie S. and Frederic K. Houston Fund

\$1,000.00

Morgan Stanley Foundation

\$1,500.00

STANLEY G. FALK SCHOOL

The Children's Guild Foundation

\$25,000.00 (and Residential Services)

First Niagara Bank Foundation

\$5,000.00

THE COLLABORATIVE: C&FS; GATEWAY-LONGVIEW; NEW DIRECTIONS

The Children's Guild Foundation

\$7,500.00

First Niagara Bank Foundation

\$10,000.00

Health Foundation for Western & Central New York

\$7,500.00

The John R. Oishei Foundation

\$7,500.00

The Peter & Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation

\$7,500.00

HOW YOU'VE SUPPORTED CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES



Stanley G. Falk School alumni Anthony Donalson and Brandon Newell (left to right) strike a pose as models in support of Haven House during the Fashion Show with a Twist.



Friends of the Agency modeled clothes from Lord & Taylor during the 2016 Fashion Show with a Twist. Over \$30,000 was raised to support Haven House.



Foster parent Marlon Lee attended the Resource Parent Appreciation Dinner. Each family received a personalized award with a fun twist that acknowledged their strength as a family. Marlon was presented the award for "Man of the Year" for his continued support of Foster Care.



Child & Family Services President & CEO Francisco M. Vasquez and Board Member Bill Loecher celebrate West Herr, recipient of the 2016 Susan T. Siwiec Distinguished Donor Award during our annual Celebration of Friends event.



Teri Byrne-Knell (left), Stanley G. Falk School Superintendent, presented Deborah Solecki with the Stanley G. Falk Memorial Award for Distinguished Educators during the Celebration of Friends event.



Patrick Fawls (right), Enterprise Area Manager, joined colleagues to celebrate the warm weather with children from residential treatment by playing games and sharing a few laughs.



Board Member Cheryl Duggan and husband Daniel enjoy a night on the Miss Buffalo during our Partnership Appreciation Event.



Students from Stanley G. Falk School celebrated their high school graduation in June.



During the Lunch & Learn Series the team from Kids Escaping Drugs (KED) presented to the Family Preservation Department about the trends and consequences of adolescent substance use and addiction. Pictured from left to right, Collin Gehl (Management Fellow), Jessica Hutchings from KED, Laura Terrell (Management Fellow), and Deanna Kocalski also from KED.



Board Members Cheryl Smith-Fisher (second from left) and Tammy Tempfer (third from left), along with their family and friends show their support for Child & Family Services during a gorgeous night on the Miss Buffalo cruise.



Child & Family Services Ambassadors held a Happy Hour for a Cause to introduce new partners to the Agency. Lisa Petronio and Adam Paul enjoyed the evening at Fat Bob's Smokehouse.



Child & Family Services and Stanley G. Falk School employees enjoyed the JPMorgan Chase Corporate Challenge. Over 60 employees took part in the annual race at Delaware Park.

SPECIAL THANKS TO CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES 2016 DONORS

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." ~Winston Churchill

Child & Family Services extends a sincere thank you to the following donors who gave financial contributions totalling \$100 or more during the 2015-2016 fiscal year (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016). 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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The Children's Guild Foundation

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