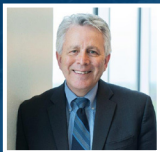




Child and Family Services

Portraits of Hope

Summer 2019



President and CEO Francisco Vasquez Announces Retirement

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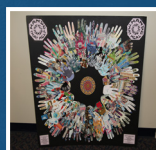
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Art Empowerment Helps Commemorate 40 Years of Haven House

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Child and Family Services

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



After 46 years in human services, including seven years as President and CEO of Child & Family Services, I have decided to retire in March of 2020. My time at Child & Family Services will always hold a special place in my heart. Recently, though, I have been reflecting on a quote that I heard some time ago: "I'm so busy, I forgot to live!"

A colleague asked what I will miss most and several things came to mind. Seeing a project come to fruition after years of planning, such as our Onward and Upward elevator and renovation project. The creative problem solving required when faced with an unexpected challenge. Daily routines that develop over the course of time. These are all elements of the job that I cherish in unique ways. Ultimately, I believe I will miss the people I have met along the way.

I have partnered with an extraordinary team of people who embrace the mission of service to others. I have also marveled at the resiliency and courage with which the people we serve have met life's challenges. I am blessed to have worked for an organization that directly improves the lives of children and families in Western New York. My time at Child & Family Services has been defined by great professional and personal fortune, and I attribute this to the people whom I have met along the way.

Sustainable success is not built on the effort of one, but rather the efforts of the whole. I have no doubt that Child & Family Services remains in the capable hands of the skilled and passionate supporters. I look forward to my future as I plan to continue teaching, mentoring emerging leaders, pursuing racial justice, and writing.

Thank you for your support during my time as President and CEO of Child & Family Services.

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

YOU CAN HELP "RAISE 716"

Last year alone, Erie County received more than 13,000 reports of child abuse or neglect according to the Department of Social Services' Annual Report. Investigations led to 600 children being removed from unsafe situations and placed into care. At the same time, another foster care provider closed its program. Child & Family Services was there for the children and families caught in the middle, but what if that was not possible?

Without a safe place to turn, a child like Jim might have ended up living on the streets or incarcerated. Eight-years-old and full of anger when he came into foster care, it was best for him to live with us. Residential Services helped him deal with how he had been hurt. He is now looking forward to the future with his forever family.

We have no way of knowing exactly how many families will need us each year. We have no way of knowing if our community will most need foster care, domestic violence prevention or schooling for children with emotional and behavioral needs. We know we need to be here when the call comes, and we need your support to stay strong. We are starting a fundraising campaign called Raise 716. We need to raise \$716,000 to help cover operating costs with room for innovation and growth. \$716,000 also gives us the ability to fill in some of the gaps that can be barriers to success for families. We cannot do it without you. You will hear more about this effort throughout the next year, and we hope you will consider supporting us even more. Help us Raise 716.



HEALING THROUGH CREATION

HAVEN HOUSE COMMEMORATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A SPECIAL ART PROJECT



SOCIAL WORKER LUCY TSCHACHTLI STANDS WITH ART MADE BY HAVEN HOUSE CLIENTS.

This year marks Haven House's 40th anniversary of serving the Western New York community. During this time, over 29,000 clients have walked through the doors at Haven House. When Maya* first came to Haven House, she remained mostly silent in her counseling sessions. There was so much going on in her life – forms

to fill out, court appointments, worrying about her housing situation, handling her emotions and more. Maya felt helpless, and she did not know what to say. In cases such as Maya's, alternate forms of support can provide opportunities for enlightenment. As artist Jackson Pollack once said, "Painting is self-discovery. Every good artist paints what [he or she] is."

Social worker Lucy Tschachtli helped create Haven House's Art Empowerment Program in 1994, offering clients an outlet to reflect and visually express their emotions. A 2010 study of eight different art therapy groups found that "all the art therapy interventions under study yielded benefits for their respective participants."**

"The projects are geared toward helping them heal," explained Lucy. "It is less about how the art looks, and more about what it means to them. They get a chance to express how they feel through these projects and can come to realizations about their feelings. It is a personal, safe outlet for them."

After a few sessions in the Art Empowerment Program, Maya began to see positive results. Though still reserved, Maya gained a better understanding of how she felt. She began to reference her art in her counseling sessions. "A lot of pain can come out in it, but also a lot of optimism about the future," said Lucy. "They can really see what they are envisioning for themselves."



A "SUITCASE" MADE BY A CLIENT IN THE ART EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM AT HAVEN HOUSE

The Art Empowerment Program recently began work on a project for the 40th anniversary of Haven House – a forty-panel piece entitled "Windows to Our Future." The survivors will create individual 6' x 6' canvases that will later be joined together to create a single united piece. This project will be on display at Haven House's annual Shine the Light event on October 3rd.

LIFTING CLIENTS UP AT 330 DELAWARE ONWARD AND UPWARD RENOVATION PROJECT COMPLETED



EXTERIOR OF THE NEW ELEVATOR AT 330 DELAWARE.

Nora* has had custody of her two grandchildren for the past several months. Her seven-year-old grandson has been in counseling at 330 Delaware Avenue and – without anywhere else to take her during this time – Nora brings her two-year-old

granddaughter. While the counseling helped her grandson, there was an innocuous moment that Nora would dread: going up the stairs to the second-floor counseling offices.

"I have two grandchildren, and one of them is only two. I also use a cane when I walk," Nora said. "Climbing a flight of stairs with my cane while making sure two energetic kids are okay has not been easy."

It is because of people such as Nora that Child & Family Services undertook our Onward and Upward project. At a June 13 ceremony, C&FS' President/CEO Francisco Vasquez and Vice President of the John R. Oishei Foundation Lawrence Cook cut the ribbon on Onward and Upward, marking the completion of the project. Construction began in September of 2018, with the highlight being the new

elevator that provides easier access to the counseling offices on the second floor. In addition to the elevator, sections of our HVAC system were upgraded, bathrooms were updated and modified to adhere to ADA codes and the waiting area was expanded to accommodate more clients.

"These upgrades will benefit our clients in ways that allow them access to the care that they need," said Dr. Vasquez. "With these renovations, we have equipped ourselves for future to continue serving the people of Western New York."

Onward and Upward was made possible by the generosity of several organizations within the community. Child & Family Services would like to thank the Dormitory Authority of the State New York, The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation, The John R. Oishei Foundation, The James H. Cummings Foundation and The Rupp Foundation for their contributions.

With the elevator open, Nora no longer worries about getting upstairs. "I usually have one of the kids push the buttons for me," she told us with a smile.



FRANCISCO VASQUEZ AND LAWRENCE COOK AFTER CUTTING THE RIBBON FOR ONWARD AND UPWARD

*Name changed to respect confidentiality.

**Slayton, S., D'Archer, J. and Kaplan, F. (2010). *Outcome Studies on the Efficacy of Art Therapy: A Review of Findings*.



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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

Connors 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

824 1/2 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209
(716) 882-0555

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(716) 884-6000

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848 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209
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