

# Family Service of Greater Waterbury, Inc.

## IN FOCUS

STRENGTHENING LIVES SINCE 1909

WINTER 2006

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### Mission & Vision

Family Service of Greater Waterbury, Inc. is a private, nonprofit, multi-service Agency whose mission is to strengthen families, individuals, and children through quality services, community collaboration and social advocacy.

The Agency's vision is to create a healthy community where all families, individuals, and children are valued and can develop their unique strengths and achieve their full potential.

### A Message from the Executive Director

It is easy to become discouraged with what we are seeing nationally and internationally these days. The economic, environmental, religious, social, and political landscapes face enormous challenges. War, terrorism, and multiple natural disasters have caused me to pause and reflect on our world today.

Such reflection resulted in recounting the many encouraging moments I experience on any given day at Family Service of Greater Waterbury. For instance, I recently found myself staring in the bright eyes of a young child who now feels safe and has hope for the future. I met a mother who has successfully completed employment training and is anticipating securing and maintaining a job. And I watched a volunteer in our Therapeutic Child Center read a book to a toddler—a volunteer who continues to give time, support, and resources to

strengthen the lives of others.

These moments remind me that, despite global chaos and fear, our efforts lead to important successes. Each of these successes helps to shape and stabilize the individuals and families we serve.

I heard a quote by Brandi Snyder that encompasses why each of us is so important: *"To the world you may be just one person, but to one person you may be the world."* Every action, every interaction we experience can have a profound impact on how we alone help shape the life of someone else.

At Family Service, we positively impact lives—one person, one child, one family at a time. Our behavioral health services, children's programs, and employment-support services are designed to address each person's and family's needs.

I look forward to having the opportunity to keep you better

informed about our work, challenges, and successes through this newsletter and our soon-to-be launched, newly designed website, which has been partially funded by SBC—now AT&T.



Sandy Porteus  
Executive Director

For those who know us well, I hope this newsletter keeps you informed of our work. For those who are less familiar with our Agency, I hope you are encouraged to learn more about us. Thank you.

### New Board President Sets Priorities

As this is my first newsletter article since being elected Board President in January, I would like to introduce myself. I am Tony Edwards and have been a member of the Agency's Board of Directors since 2000. Until December, I was the Plant Manager of Hershey's Peter Paul at the Naugatuck manufacturing facility, responsible for making Mounds and Almond Joy candies. I am

now transitioning to a new life without the responsibilities that go along with being the Plant Manager and am very pleased to be concentrating more time on community activities.

I am delighted to serve as President of Family Service of Greater Waterbury's Board of Directors. In this position, I look forward to guiding the Agency through exciting opportunities.

Family Service of Greater Waterbury's highest priority is providing quality behavioral health services, children's programs, and employment-support services to all people throughout Greater Waterbury. This is achieved through qualified, dedicated, compassionate, and professional staff.

(Cont. on page 2)

### New Board President *(continued from page 1)*

In order to continue to provide effective services, the Board and staff have identified three priority areas.

First, we must continue to assess and implement strategies to attract and keep professional, compassionate staff.

Second, we must increase independent funding sources so as to reduce dependence on state aid. As part of this, we must increase the Agency's endowment, which is critical to future sustainability and growth.

Third, we must continue to meet the needs of the

community through research, evaluation, development, and growth of existing programs and critical initiatives. To this end, we have recently purchased a building on Hillside Avenue in Naugatuck to better serve the growing needs of Naugatuck residents.

Like our current Naugatuck site, this new location will continue to house behavioral health services, the Empowering People for Success program, the Naugatuck Social Service program, and the Parents of Preschoolers program.

As Family Service continues to serve the Greater Waterbury community and beyond, I want to thank you for your continued support. It takes all of us to make a difference.



Tony Edwards  
Board President

### Planning Today for Fiscal Vitality in the Future

Family Service of Greater Waterbury, a 501 (c) 3 agency, will celebrate 100 years of service in 2009. In that time, the Agency has helped tens of thousands of families, individuals, and children. To ensure Family Service continues addressing community needs for another 100 years, the Agency is working diligently to become more financially independent.

Currently, more than 81% of the Agency's funding is derived from the State. Grants, donations, and nominal service fees fund our

remaining \$3 million plus operating budget. Decreases in state funding could result in a loss or reduction of our programs and services.

To overcome this challenge, the Agency is working with stakeholders, close friends, and other philanthropists to substantially increase the endowment, which is currently valued at nearly \$1 million. Estate and planned legacy gifts are essential building blocks toward this goal.

Planned giving is for everyone and may involve

donating appreciated stock, remembering the Agency in one's will, or naming the Agency as a beneficiary in a life insurance or pension program. Planned gifts, particularly through IRAs and pension plans, will mitigate potential or substantial estate taxes, income taxes, non-trust probate fees, and legal expenses.

Anyone naming the Agency as a beneficiary through an estate plan will be acknowledged as a member of our 1909 Legacy Society. Legacy Society members are

key to the Agency's fiscal vitality as well as to future quality services. They are the primary force in helping us become less impacted by unforeseen changes regarding external funding sources.

For more information, contact Paul Parvis at 203-756-8317, ext. 3026 or [pparvis@familyservicegw.org](mailto:pparvis@familyservicegw.org).

### Outstanding Community Members Recognized

At its Eighth Annual Dinner this past October, Family Service recognized three people committed to improving the lives of children and families.

Ms. Cynthia Bartholomew, former Director of Covenant to Care for Children, and Ms. Darlene Dunbar, Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families, received Good Neighbor Awards acknowledging their

contribution to strengthening the lives of children and families throughout Connecticut.

Ms. Bartholomew and Ms. Dunbar have shown exemplary dedication to supporting our neighbors in need by continually going above and beyond to assist children and families.

Family Service also presented the Samuel A. Chapman Award. Named after a Waterbury

businessman, this new award honors a Greater Waterbury company who has shown ongoing commitment to supporting the mission and vision of Family Service. Waterbury Garment, LLC., was the first recipient of this award.

Mr. Larry Brownstein, President of Waterbury Garment, LLC., and an avid supporter of Family Service, accepted the award on behalf of the company.



Good Neighbor Award recipients Cynthia Bartholomew and Commissioner Darlene Dunbar



Samuel A. Chapman Award recipient Larry Brownstein and Executive Director Sandy Porteus

### Immediate Past Board President Makes Significant Contributions

Katharine (Kathie) F. M. Nichols recently ended her term as Family Service's Board President. In that position for more than 15 years, she affected extraordinary contributions to the Agency.

Ms. Nichols was instrumental in initiating and spearheading the expansion of the 34 Murray Street office to accommodate the Therapeutic Child Center and additional office space. This included chairing a capital campaign to raise \$1.2 million.

Ms. Nichols also played a

key role in the purchase and renovations of Chapman House, Family Service's safe home for children, which opened in December 2000.

Ms. Nichols' vision of continually improving the Agency and ensuring it meets ever-changing community needs has been a constant goal. She guided the Agency through several visits from the Council on Accreditation, championed the creation of the development office, and assumed a leadership role in the Naugatuck office expansion.

Under her leadership, the

Agency has received several awards. Most recently, the Connecticut Department of Children and Families recognized the Agency for its outstanding efforts on behalf of children.

Ms. Nichols remains on the Board of Directors at Family Service. She chairs the Development Committee and recently accepted the role of Co-chair of the 1909 Legacy Society Committee.

Board members, staff, and volunteers gratefully thank Ms. Nichols for her outstanding contributions and dedication to the Agency.



Katharine (Kathie) F. M. Nichols  
Immediate Past Board President

### Observing Child Abuse Prevention Month

Family Service of Greater Waterbury staff is reminded daily of the reality of child abuse and neglect.

In 2005, the Connecticut Department of Children and Families substantiated that 11,226 children throughout Connecticut were abused, neglected, and/or uncared for. Of these children, nearly 1,000 live in Greater Waterbury. These statistics are staggering, particularly since they do not reflect the many children who are unknown to DCF.

It is no wonder the need for

children's programming is overwhelming. At Family Service, there are children waiting for behavioral health services and enrollment into the Therapeutic Child Center. In fact, children under age six represent the fastest growing population requesting Agency services.

Dedicated to serving and protecting children, Family Service is committed to increasing awareness of the extent of child abuse. In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, the Agency, in conjunction with

the Waterbury Police Department, will be offering two events open to all community members: Stranger Danger and Internet Safety (see *What's Happening*, pg. 4).

While child abuse and neglect cannot be prevented in 30 days, April is an important month to bring attention to this widespread, nondiscriminatory problem.

You can help by spending quality time with your child, helping an overwhelmed mom or dad, or committing to volunteer at Family Service.

**" In 2005, the Connecticut Department of Children and Families substantiated that 11,226 children throughout CT were abused, neglected and/or uncared for."**

### Return of the Speller Bees—May 17, 2006

Family Service of Greater Waterbury's Sixth Annual Eleemosynary Spelling Bee is quickly approaching, and you are invited to join the fun.

The Eleemosynary Spelling Bee is a fun-filled evening where companies from Greater Waterbury come together to compete for the title of Best Spellers. Costumes, cheers, and laughter are all a part of the festivities supporting the many services and programs

provided by Family Service.

This year's event will be held on Wednesday, May 17 at 5:30pm at the Villa Rosa/Ponte Club in Waterbury. WATR Host Tom Chute will be the word pronouncer and local businessman Harry Cashin will be the emcee—A.K.A., the Son of the Bee.

Last year's spelling champions, Dr. Leone & Dr. Orellana & Friends will be returning to defend their championship while Carmody

& Torrance and Naugatuck Chamber of Commerce are preparing to move up from their respective second and third places to take first.

In addition to competing for the Best Spellers title, teams compete for best costume, best theme, and best cheer.

For more information about joining in the fun as a spelling team, spectator, or sponsor, contact Wendi Fralick at 203-756-8317, ext. 3036.

We would like to thank our current Buzzing Sponsors Naugatuck Savings Bank and Webster Bank.



Winners of the 2005 Eleemosynary Spelling Bee: Dr. Leone & Dr. Orellana & Friends A.K.A. The Spell Doctors

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## What's Happening?

### EVENTS

**Tuesday, April 18, 2006**  
**Internet Safety**  
**3:00pm–4:00pm**

A Waterbury police officer will present a talk on Internet Safety for middle and high school students and their parents. This program is free and open to anyone. Space is limited. To register, call 203-756-8317.

**Wednesday, April 19, 2006**  
**Stranger Danger**  
**3:00pm–4:00pm**

A Waterbury police officer will be presenting a talk on Stranger Danger for school-aged children and their parents. This program is free and open to anyone. Space is limited. To register, call 203-756-8317.

**Monday, April 24, 2006**  
**Volunteer Appreciation**  
**Noon–2pm**

In recognition of Volunteer Appreciation Week, Family Service is hosting a volunteer appreciation luncheon. All Agency volunteers are invited to

join us at this event. RSVP by April 21 to Wendi Fralick at 203-756-8317, ext. 3036.

**Wednesday, May 17, 2006**  
**Eleemosynary Spelling Bee**  
**5:30pm–9:00pm**

The Sixth Annual Eleemosynary Spelling Bee will be at the Villa Rosa/Ponte Club in Waterbury. For more information about entering a team, being a sponsor, or attending as a spectator, call Wendi Fralick at 203-756-8317, ext. 3036.

**Wednesday, June 7, 2006**  
**Spelling Bee Appreciation**  
**5:00pm–7:00pm**

Spelling Bee attendees and supporters are invited to join us for this appreciation event. The first place spelling team will be awarded its trophy and tours of the Agency will be offered.

**Wednesday, October 18, 2006**  
**9th Annual Recognition Dinner**  
The 9th Annual Recognition Dinner will be at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Southbury.

### GROUPS/MEETINGS

**Tuesdays & Wednesdays**  
**Parents of Preschoolers**  
**6:00pm–8:00pm**

Support program open to all Naugatuck parents with children between 2–5 years old. For more information, call Dawn Nave at 203-720-3375.

**Wednesdays Starting April 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Steps to Success**  
**6:00pm–8:00pm**

Eight-week support group for single mothers who are transitioning from being at home to entering or returning to the workforce. For more information, call Karen Brown at 203-755-5177.

**Anger Management Program**  
**New Groups Start Monthly**

Designed to establish emotional control and improve interpersonal skills. Meets court orders and other mandates. To register, call 203-756-8317.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Each Month**  
**Foster/Adoptive Parent**  
**Support Group**  
**5:30pm–7:30pm**

Open to licensed foster/adoptive parents, this free group promotes kinship and support. Meetings include guest speakers, special events, dinner, and limited childcare. For more information, call Ashley Turner at 203-756-8317, ext. 3029.

**Focus on K.I.D.S.**  
**Days/Times Vary**

This program is designed to help high-conflict divorcing or divorced parents give their children the care they need. Days and times are arranged based on parents' schedules. For more information, call 203-756-8317.

**Parent Education Program (PEP)**  
**Days/Times Vary**

PEP is required by the State of CT for all divorcing parents with children under age 18. For more information, call 203-756-8317.