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FOCUS
THE NEW YORK FOUNDLING

Summer 2006

Angels Needed to Launch Camp Felix p. 4

One Woman's Legacy p. 7



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On our Cover: A little girl in the DeSales Mother Child Residence waits for her mother to come home from school

The New York Foundling 212.886.4043 www.nyfoundling.org





Helping children & families succeed.



July, 2006

Dear Friends:

These are extraordinary times for The Foundling. First, to follow up on reports from our last issue. I'm pleased to announce we have received written confirmation of COA accreditation, and we now proudly display the COA seal below. We have also been accredited by Praesidium Risk Management, and received correspondence about the excellence and dedication of our staff that is awe inspiring. We reported this winter on the closing of our St. Agatha Campus. I'm delighted to confirm that the St. Agatha property has been purchased by the Nanuet School District. This is a gratifying outcome, as St. Agatha's land will now continue to serve the needs of children just as it has for more than a century.

And, some new developments, which you will read more about in future issues. I am enormously proud to report that The Foundling has been selected by the Administration for Children's Services as the soul implementer in New York City of a new program to assess alternatives to incarceration for youth. We will report to you on "BlueSky" as the program evolves.

In this issue of Foundling Focus you will read about many of our caring partners. You'll read about how Sheila Jaffe and Darryl McDaniels (DMC), are turning their personal journeys as adoptees into an organization to help children. Their first venture is to partner with us in the development of a new summer camping program opening at the end of July.

Jessica Seinfeld has also used her celebrity to help children. Her innovative Baby Buggy program has provided clothing, buggies, car seats, -- a complete catalogue of baby supplies to hundreds of families in our care. Nancy Canfield, truly one of our own, has written the story of St. Agatha Home. But rather than profit from the sale of her book, she is donating the book sale income from "Home Kids" to support our services.

And service volunteerism at The Foundling is flourishing. Close to one hundred individuals are providing in the neighborhood of 8,000 hours of help to children, who are being read to, entertained and tutored. Thanks to the extraordinary caring of one family, the McLendons, a new mentoring program for children in foster care is in the works.

Our thanks to all that you all do to help children. I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,

William F. Baccaglini, Jr.
Executive Director





Angels Needed to Launch **Camp Felix**



Darryl McDaniels with Sheila Jaffe (Center) and Georgianne Walken at the Puccio Gallery event.

Rap Star Darryl McDaniels and Casting Director Sheila Jaffe Want Children to Have the Summer of Their Lives

Darryl McDaniels and Sheila Jaffe are looking for angels, angels to help give troubled children the chance at a fun and exciting experience they have never had: summer camp.

Darryl, a founding member of the hugely popular rap group, RunDMC, and an adoptee, along with long time New York Foundling supporter, Sheila Jaffe, also an adoptee, have created The Felix Organization/Adoptees For Children. In an effort to show young people a world they have probably never seen, The Felix Organization and The Foundling have partnered to create a summer camp experience for children. The collaboration is being launched this summer. Three groups of 60 campers aged 8 to 14 from The Foundling's Mott Haven Leadership Program, will initiate Camp Felix, to be located during this first summer on the grounds of a 155 acre camp belonging to the Archdiocese in Putnam Valley, New York.

Campers will live a lifetime of experiences in just one summer. Guided by expertly trained Foundling staff, the children will enjoy sporting activities, music, drama lessons, and arts and crafts. They will learn to swim and spend countless hours enjoying and exploring nature. Kids at Camp Felix will do things that all children should do in their lives. Some simply would not have the opportunity without Camp Felix.

Take, for instance, a 10-year-old boy currently enrolled in the Mott Haven Leadership Program. For years, he suffered with a chronic medical condition that brings with it painful treatments and emotional troubles. Couple that with watching his older brother being arrested and jailed, his school work taking a back seat, and violent behavior becoming the norm. Today, thanks to The Foundling, this young boy has curbed his violent outbreaks, succeeded in school, and learned to cope with his problems. He, and other young kids coping with similar problems, deserve the Camp Felix summer experience.

A Personal Mission for Darryl McDaniels

Both Darryl and Sheila made difficult discoveries about their lives that kicked off a series of events leading them to want to help troubled kids. For Sheila, it was the accidental discovery of her adoption when she was a little girl. Darryl also found out about his adoption accidentally, but he was 35 years old at the time.

“Darryl is a late-discovered adoptee,” said Wendy Freund, MEd., LCSW, of The Foundling’s Record Information Department, who helped guide Darryl as he undertook a search for his birth mother. “In addition to learning he was adopted, he also had issues of identity, trust, and questions why his family did not tell him for so long. Most people have questions about their identity, and asking those questions does not mean there is a rejection of the adopted family.”

Depression and anxiety filled the next stage of Darryl’s life as he tried to deal with his feelings. He needed an angel to help him sort it all out. One day that angel appeared. Darryl’s rescue came in the form of a song, “Angel,” written and recorded by fellow musician, Sarah McLachlan, who, ironically, is also an adoptee.

“ Our mission is to plant a seed of hope in children living without parents so they can have life-altering experiences. ”

– Sheila Jaffe

Inspired to accept his situation and find joy in it, Darryl also wrote a song, “Just Like Me.” The song, which includes Sarah McLachlan singing a chorus of Harry Chapin’s “Cat’s in the Cradle,” attempts to identify with other adoptees while also trying to ease the concerns of his adoptive family.

In yet another effort to help those in similar situations, Darryl invited VH1 documentary filmmakers along on his “Adoption Journey,” recording his first attempt to uncover his adoption records through to his eventual reunion with his birth mother. Darryl’s “Adoption Journey” was broadcast nationally for several weeks this past winter.

Today, many of Darryl’s and Sheila’s questions have been answered. They are quick to recognize how fortunate they were to be adopted. Darryl and Sheila are now on a mission to make life easier for those children who are not as lucky as they were to be adopted by a loving family.



Foundling Board member Juliana Curran Terian with Lorraine Bracco.

Be An Angel

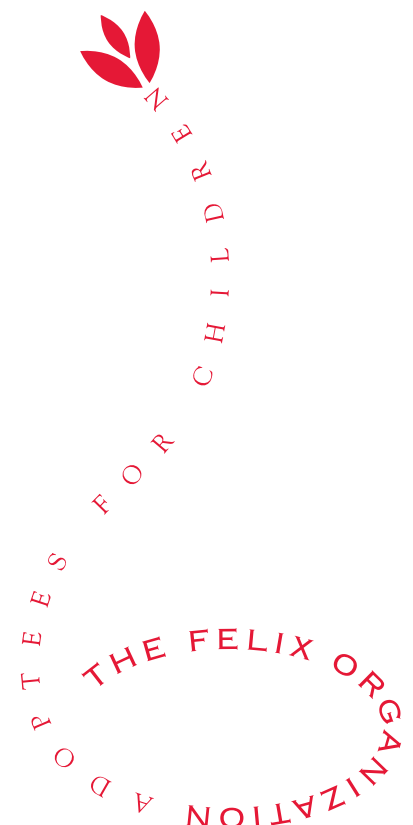
A roomful of angels, 150 to be exact, helped kick-off Camp Felix at a special launch event held on May 4 at the Puccio Gallery. In addition to Darryl and Sheila, and many Foundling friends, actress Lorraine Bracco and actor Aidan Quinn were there to lend their support to launch the Camp Felix project. More than \$21,000 was raised at that event alone, but more is needed.

“Our mission is to plant a seed of hope in children living without parents so they can have life-altering experiences,” said Sheila. “When Darryl and I met, we realized how fortunate we were to have been adopted, and that many children never are – we want to give back something to them,” she said. In addition to the summer camp, The Felix Organization is ultimately planning to offer a mentoring program for teens soon to leave foster care.

There are many opportunities to fund Camp Felix, from adopting a cabin, to sponsoring the cost of sending one child for one week or for the entire summer. For more information on how to support Camp Felix, call Ginny Keim at 212-886-4036, or e-mail ginny.keim@nyfoundling.org.



(l. to r.) Michael Lang, Sheila Jaffe, Darryl McDaniels, Bill Baccaglioni and Lorraine Bracco launching The Foundling’s partnership with the Felix Organization/Adoptees for Children.



An Even Better Dream for Stephen's House

Dreams do come true. Here at The Foundling, we have seen it many times as loving parents adopt abandoned children, and young victims of abuse learn to smile again. We have yet another dream that will soon come true —Stephen's House of The New York Foundling.

Stephen's House, the envisioned new home for The Foundling's Staten Island Diagnostic Reception Center, is a dream for the children who make the Center their home. The Center is a refuge for youngsters whose bodies and hearts have been broken by unthinkable physical or sexual abuse and devastating neglect. Their old home, though serving its purpose, is antiquated and simply does not provide the environment needed to aid in their recovery. But the new home, "Stephen's House," will provide a single room for each child, visiting and study spaces, entertainment rooms, as well as much-needed indoor and outdoor recreational space.

"I never ask what I am doing with my life while working on this project."

– **Russell Siller**

A new home, a new life—that's what Stephen Siller, for whom this new house will be named, would have wanted for these children. Having suffered the devastating loss of both his mother and father by the age of 10, Stephen fought his way through the pain and found an inner peace. As an adult, Stephen joined the New York Fire Department, found love with his wife, Sarah, and became the father to five beautiful children.

Nearly five years ago, on the tragic day of September 11, 2001, while Stephen fought to save others, his life heroically ended. But his spirit lives on—it will be admired and emulated by the children who will call Stephen's House "home."

Readers of Foundling Focus know that our original plan was to build a three-story residential building to be attached to the existing Civil War era building. After much thought, we have determined that a far better plan is to remove the old building and create a modern, five-story structure that will become home not only for Stephen's House, but for all Staten Island services. Construction will begin in fall, 2006, with a planned opening by spring of 2008.

With the support of the Stephen Siller FDNY "Let Us Do Good" Children's Foundation, there has been an outpouring of support from the community for Stephen's House. The Foundling recently celebrated a pledge of \$300,000 from Councilman Michael McMahon on behalf of the City of New York. "In the times we live in, so many children are in dangerous and abusive situations," said the Councilman. "That we can create this oasis for them makes this project irresistible and of vital importance."

Stephen Siller would be proud of the community's response to this project. Though he will not be here to see his legacy come to life at Stephen's House, his heart definitely inspires the project. "I know there is a place in heaven for people who are good to children," said Russell Siller, one of Stephen's six older siblings. "I never ask what I am doing with my life while working on this project."

Please support the dream for Stephen's House. For more information, call Lynsey Kraeuter, Manager of Institutional Giving, at 212-886-4037, or e-mail her at lynsey.kraeuter@nyfoundling.org.



"Baby Buggy" Makes Stop at Crisis Nursery



Baby Buggy board members and friends visit the Crisis Nursery with Victoria Pena (far right).

Think of a baby buggy, and the images that come to mind might include a typical child stroller or maybe a large wagon that can take young children for a fun ride around town. But to the staff and volunteers of our Crisis Nursery, and the children who stay here, "Baby Buggy" has a different and much more special meaning.

Baby Buggy began in 2001 as a spark in the mind of Jessica Seinfeld. As she and her husband, Jerry Seinfeld, watched their first child grow out of clothes and baby gear, Jessica knew that her daughter's used, "but very usable" baby items could be "recycled" to help children in need. Her idea quickly grew into a non-profit organization that has tirelessly collected and distributed more than one million items to more than 70 social service agencies in New York City, including The Foundling.

"Baby Buggy's goal is to help families in need access the basic day-to-day essentials they need to ensure their safety and well-being," said Jessica. "We want to help alleviate some of the stress that so many people are burdened with." The organization enlists the help of individuals

who coordinate drives in their areas, as well as numerous corporate sponsors who generously donate new items.

Recently, Jessica and other Baby Buggy board members and friends, including actress Sarah Jessica Parker, paid a visit to The Foundling's Crisis Nursery to see first-hand how they've helped. "It would undoubtedly be a struggle for The Foundling to continue to provide a safe haven for children and their families without the constant support from organizations like Baby Buggy," said Victoria Pena, Coordinator of the Crisis Nursery. "We are forever grateful to them for sending us baby clothing, furniture, and other items that make it so much easier to take care of our children."

"Baby Buggy's goal is to help families in need access the basic day-to-day essentials they need to ensure their safety and well-being." – **Jessica Seinfeld**

One Woman's Legacy

No matter how children arrive at The Foundling's Diagnostic Centers for emotional and behavioral problems, they always come from someplace dark and sad. It takes very special people, like volunteer Laurie McLendon, to help ease the children through their suffering.

Fifteen years ago, Laurie met eight-year-old Celeste Holmes at The Foundling, and the two became instant friends. Laurie made an immediate connection to this little girl that would evolve into a life long relationship. On the day when Celeste was placed in a foster home, Laurie was thrilled, until she learned that city regulations prevented the two from seeing each other again.

Laurie felt that banning the children from those who help them through the darkness was like turning off another light. "Laurie just could not believe that she reached this wall that was going to separate her from Celeste," said Judy McLendon, Laurie's mother. Laurie refused to say goodbye to Celeste, and fought vigorously to change these regulations, right up to the office of the Deputy Mayor of New York, where Laurie finally found support.

"Officials agreed with Laurie that Celeste and children like her need consistency in their lives, and she soon won the right to visit with Celeste," Judy recounted. Laurie and Celeste, who lovingly referred to Laurie as her mother, remained close friends until Laurie's untimely death last year.

"Laurie just could not believe that she reached this wall that was going to separate her from Celeste." - Judy McLendon

Today, Celeste is on her own and studying to be a Medical Technician. She is forever thankful to Laurie for giving back her hope. This Spring, Celeste came back to The Foundling and she will be one of the first specially trained volunteers who will launch The Laurie McLendon Mentoring Program. This new project matches adult volunteers with children in foster care. This was Laurie's model. At its core, the program hopes to show the children that excelling in school and making smart choices can lead to happiness and success. Volunteer mentors will participate in a specialized training program to ready them for the special challenges presented by children in foster care.

This new initiative is made possible through the generous support of Laurie's friends and family. The Laurie McLendon Mentoring Program now stands at The Foundling as a lasting tribute to a remarkable young woman, and an enduring reminder of how one person can help light the way for another.

For information about becoming a mentor at The Foundling please contact Alan Shatz at 212-886-4039, or alans@nyfoundling.org.



Celeste Holmes (left) with Judy McLendon and Sr. Teresa Kelly.

There are no words

Dear Judy and Heath, the letter read...

We received a letter from Mr. William Baccaglioni describing the Laurie McLendon Fund at The New York Foundling. This is a magnificent testament to Laurie and her spirit of giving without expecting accolades or anything else in return.

We have enclosed two checks in her memory and hope to be able to contribute to the fund in the future. Please let us know what else we can do to help this fund succeed and grow.

Best regards, Freida and Michael

When Judy and Heath McLendon realized that Laurie was not going to survive the sudden cardiac arrest that did prove fatal, they told her nurses they thought Laurie would want her organs transplanted. But, the McLendons learned, Laurie had already thought of others, and had previously completed an organ donation card.

Meanwhile Dr. Michael Harris was dying, waiting for a transplant to replace his liver destroyed by hepatitis C. It was Laurie McLendon's liver that saved his life. As a pediatric oncologist, he knew perhaps more than most of the unfathomable sadness one family was suffering, just as his family was experiencing the joy of the possibility of his recovery. His first thought was to reach out to the family of his organ donor. Dr. Harris' letter reached the McLendons two months after they had received the call that Laurie's organs had been successfully transplanted. An extraordinary meeting between the Harris and McLendons sealed the connection and, in December, 2005 they appeared together on "The Today Show." Laurie McLendon "saved" a little girl named Celeste at The Foundling and, through her prescient advocacy, she has also helped champion saving thousands of future lives through the miracle of organ transplantation.

When the McLendons and Harris were interviewed together on the "Today Show" they each repeated "there are no words."

There are no words to describe this connection. We at The Foundling just note the astonishing and continually evolving legacy of Laurie McLendon's life.



Laurie McLendon (center) with her parents, Judy and Heath McLendon.



Memories of Home

Author's Life at St. Agatha Retold in Book to Benefit The Foundling

Think of home and most people think of warmth, love, happiness, and family – a security blanket, so to speak, with four walls and a ceiling. And when pieces of that security blanket get torn apart, threatened by abuse, death, or poverty, home simply becomes a place, any place at all, where one may hang a hat.



The author, Nancy Canfield (second from left), shares memories with friends and St. Agatha's alumni at a recent St. Agatha's Reunion. (l. to r.) Nelsi Lopez, Nancy Canfield, Mercedes Vasquez, Margo Classe, and Vernon Fields.

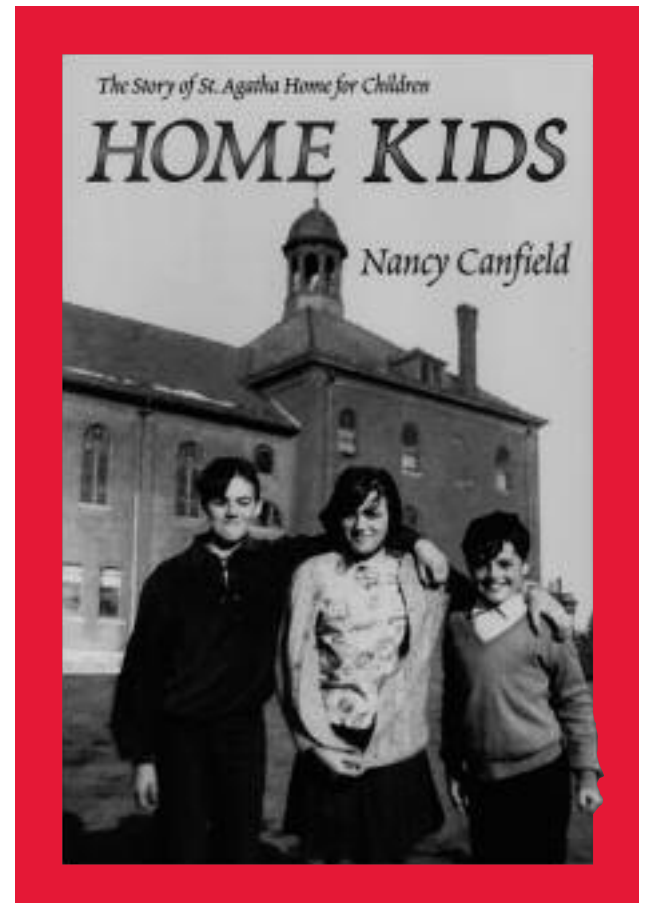
Nancy Canfield knows all too well how homes can be shattered. From the tragic death of her father when she was only nine, to the devastating loss of her beloved home to fire; from the alcoholic downfall of her depressed mother, to the constant moves from place to place, young Nancy hung her hat in many places. In the end, a desperate uncle placed Nancy and her siblings in St. Agatha Home for Children, to hopefully end their struggles. Nancy and two of her siblings stayed at St. Agatha's for four years, until they could make life work on their own.

Today, after years of reflection, Nancy has put her experiences to paper in "Home Kids, The Story of St. Agatha Home for Children." In addition to retelling her own story, Nancy intertwines personal stories with the history of St. Agatha Home from its very beginnings to the present day, and explains how it came to be a refuge for so many abandoned children. For three years, Nancy reached out to St. Agatha's alumni and conducted in-depth interviews to provide a realistic account.

"Home Kids" has been well-received by both literary critics and St. Agatha alumni. Stephanie Haiar of Crossroads Magazine, the official publication of the Orphan Train Heritage Society of America, calls the book "a touching and engaging autobiography of the author's life as a child, and a biography of her siblings and other children that resided at St. Agatha's throughout the many years it was in operation."

In addition to Nancy memorializing St. Agatha's Home for Children, and the important work of The Foundling, we are also privileged to receive a donation from Nancy of all proceeds from the sale of Home Kids. We are grateful to her for that donation. "Since October, 2005, when the book first became available, we have been able to raise \$8,000 toward our \$10,000 goal in the book's first year," said Nancy.

Nancy Canfield's role as the keeper of an important part of St. Agatha's history is dynamic and ongoing. Everyday she receives emails, photos, letters and reminiscences from other "home kids" that are shared by that group of children who, for a poignant time in their lives called St. Agatha home.



St. Agatha's Services Today

As our readers know, St. Agatha Home closed its doors to residential clients in 2005 as The Foundling endorsed the Administration for Children's Services directives to substantially reduce the numbers of children in congregate care.

To our great joy, the Nanuet School Board has approved the purchase of the St. Agatha property. While The Foundling will continue to provide residential services to adults with developmental disabilities on one section at the border of the property, the remaining 135 acres of open land will be used by the school system for recreational purposes, continuing the property's tradition of enriching the lives of children.

"Home Kids is a touching and engaging autobiography of the author's life as a child, and a biography of her siblings and other children that resided at St. Agatha's throughout the many years it was in operation."

– Stephanie Haiar, *Crossroads Magazine*, March 2006

How to Get Your Copy of "Home Kids"

To purchase your copy of "Home Kids," and help support The Foundling as well, go to

www.stagathahome.org

and click on "Buy A Book."

While you're on the website, take a look at the photos, news briefs, and other information about the children of St. Agatha's Home.



Volunteers Honored For Their Service

Mother Teresa, perhaps the world's greatest volunteer, once said, "Make us worthy, Lord, to serve those people throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger." Volunteering is not always an easy undertaking, especially when working with children and families who have suffered greatly. But here at The Foundling, there are nearly 80 people who give selflessly of themselves to do whatever they can to help. Grateful does not begin to describe how the children and staff of The Foundling feel about our wonderful volunteers.

"Our volunteers have put in more than 8,000 hours of service this past year," said Bill Baccaglini, *Executive Director* of The Foundling, at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event on April 27. "The largest number of volunteers come from the Crisis Nursery and Blaine Hall," he said.

Several volunteers received special accolades. Bill presented the Board Members of Rebuilding Together with the Community Rehabilitation of the Year Award for its magnificent home makeovers of New York Foundling facilities in Manhattan, Queens, and, most recently, on Staten Island. (See story on page 11).

Our volunteers are ambassadors of nurture for our children. Readers interested in learning about current volunteer opportunities should contact Alan Shatz at 212-886-4039 or alans@nyfoundling.org.

John Patrick, recipient of the Designer of the Year Award, hosted a birthday party at which his guests made donations instead of bringing gifts. John used the money to purchase furniture and other necessities for the Laurent Clerc Group Home. He also used his professional eye to create a bright palate of colors for the Laurent Clerc Home, which recently relocated to our Sixth Avenue building.

The "Come Back Kid" Award was presented to Alma Nittoli. Alma worked at The Foundling for many years, and has now come back as a volunteer in the Development and Public Relations Department. Alma also helps regularly in our Record Information Department.

Finally, Bill honored Mary-Jo Vergano, a volunteer in "Our Place" at The Fontana Center, and Lonnie Haymes-Schwartz, a volunteer in the Crisis Nursery, with Certificates of Appreciation for five years plus of volunteer service. And Joan Hassard received a special Certificate of Appreciation for her 15 years of volunteer service at Blaine Hall.



(l. to r.) John Patrick, Joan Hassard, Alan Shatz (Manager of Volunteers), Alma Nittoli, Mary-Jo Vergano & Jack Needham.

“ Our volunteers have put in more than 8,000 hours of service this past year. ”

– Bill Baccaglini

Volunteer Gives Back After Adopting Son from The Foundling



It was 34 years ago when Wendy Amo first came to know of The Foundling. She and her husband adopted their son, Bobby, who had lived at The Foundling for three years before being taken home and loved with open arms by the Amos. And though The Foundling often was in her thoughts through the years, it wasn't until recently that Wendy decided it was time to reconnect.

After nearly three years of retirement following a 37-year career in teaching, Wendy wanted to get active again. "I realized that I am young and I still have 20 good years left, so I wanted to be sure to do something helpful with my time," said Wendy. "The Foundling was the only organization that came to my mind."

“ I want very much to help these women further their education and be more aware of the importance of education. ”

– Wendy Amo

With Wendy's background as a school teacher, it was clear she was a perfect match for The Foundling's Pathways program for women overcoming substance abuse. Many of the young women in the program never

finished school—a result of their substance abuse problems. Others simply stopped going to school so they could take care of their own young children. Wendy's task is to get the women back on an educational track.

"Some of the women are 30 years old and haven't been in school since the seventh grade," said Wendy. "I work with them to reintroduce vowels, nouns, and basic concepts, sometimes starting with children's books and flash cards just to get them used to reading." Wendy helps the women feel more confident in their literacy abilities so they can find the inner strength to take a GED course and eventually receive their high school diploma. "Unfortunately, when you are not totally literate, even a GED course can be intimidating," said Wendy.

Wendy makes a three-hour round-trip trek once a week from her Bayhead, New Jersey home to the Pathways program. "I want very much to help these women further their education and be more aware of the importance of education," said Wendy. "And I want to make them realize they have to be an active part in their children's education so that we can break this cycle of illiteracy."

Giving back is a most special gift, and we are grateful to Wendy and others like her, who have unique connections with The Foundling and choose to volunteer with us.



Make a Gift In-Kind, Make a Big Difference

“Service is the ultimate gift,” said 17-year-old Colin Wheeler of New York City. “The feeling you get from giving of yourself to benefit someone else is better than any material gift.” Colin should know – he spent countless hours planning and implementing a baby food and diaper drive to benefit the children of The Foundling.

Colin, a member of Troop 422 that meets at the Epiphany Church, spoke before hundreds of members of the Epiphany congregation urging them to drop off donations. Over the course of two weekends, Colin collected more than \$2,500 worth of baby food, diapers, and other baby items. In addition, when parishioners arrived at mass without items to donate, they made cash donations.

“The feeling you get from giving of yourself to benefit someone else is better than any material gift.” – Colin Wheeler

In the end, Colin collected nearly \$4,500 in cash for The Foundling, as well as the baby supplies. Though Colin has participated in many service projects over the years, the drive he organized for The Foundling earned him scouting’s highest honor, the Eagle Scout Award.

“Sometimes, we reach out for donations of a particular item, like the baby food,” said Alan Shatz, Manager of Volunteers and Community Relations. “Other times, we get phone calls from people wanting to give us something – usually, lots of somethings.” Congregants at the Epiphany Church have been good friends of The Foundling, making numerous in-kind donations through the years.

“Storage space may be at a premium, but we have never turned down a gift of a new item,” Alan said. Just like the children who need help finding a loving home, a gift can always find a home at The Foundling.

The Christmas holidays are, of course, a very busy season for in-kind gifts, a time when hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of merchandise like toys, clothes, and electronics, are donated from generous individuals and organizations. “But we need help all year round, not just at Christmas,” added Alan.

For the first time, The Foundling’s In-Kind Program will host a drive to provide school supplies for kids returning to school in September. Pencils, notebooks, crayons, scissors, rulers, lunchboxes, and backpacks are all needed to help students who would not otherwise be able to afford these materials.

If you are interested in supporting the School Supply Drive or want to make an In-Kind donation of any new item, please call Alan at 212-886-4039, or alans@nyfoundling.org.

Beautiful New Beds for Crisis Nursery

Ellen Crown has a profound commitment to children. She signed up to volunteer in the Crisis Nursery last fall, and because she believes so strongly in the importance of “giving back” has, whenever possible, also included her own children in activities at The Foundling. During her first visit to the Crisis Nursery, Ellen’s eyes turned toward the cribs. Though the cribs were not in disrepair, Ellen was surprised at how outdated they had become—high bars, plexiglass, and dark green in color. When she left the Nursery that day, she vowed to personally make it a more home-like environment for these children whose lives could use a little more sunshine.



In a matter of days, Ellen bought and delivered five beautiful new, sparkling white cribs, five matching youth beds, bright bedding for all, three new swings, three new high chairs, and boxes and boxes of new toys. The Foundling is working to enhance all of our facilities, but we work with limited resources. Ellen Crown’s thoughtfulness has turned the loving environment of the Crisis Nursery into a beautiful one as well. The impact on the children and on all who work in the Nursery is palpable. After all, when children are surrounded by beautiful things, they too feel beautiful.

Thank you, Ellen. We are so grateful to you.

Young Professionals Support Mott Haven Teens

For the past three years a group of busy young professionals have taken time from their careers to consider and support youth from The Foundling’s Mott Haven Leadership Program. Under the leadership of Chris Calise and Robert Jacques, the Associates are committed to making a viable connection with the teens, while raising both awareness and funds to help respond to the program’s needs.

“The purpose of the Associates is not just to raise funds,” said Robert Jacques. “The opportunities we have to get together with the kids, and hopefully offer them a positive influence, mean just as much as the money we raise,” he said. In addition to events at Chelsea Piers and a bowling evening, the Associates have sponsored a Career Night for the teens. The boys from the program meet young professionals representing a variety of careers, who introduce them to a wide range of professional choices to be aware of as they consider their futures.

“The opportunities we have to get together with the kids, and hopefully offer them a positive influence, mean just as much as the money we raise.”

– Robert Jacques

Of course, there is always a need for additional funding for important programs like the Mott Haven Leadership Program. Throughout the year, the Associates host fundraisers to support the program in a number of ways. “We have spent the past three years raising money to purchase things outside the limitations of Mott Haven’s budget,” said Chris.

The group’s three inventive events this year have enabled them to reach their fund raising goal of \$10,000.

For more information about the Associates Program, call Aldervan Daly, Manager of Individual Giving, at 212-886-4041, or e-mail Associates@nyfoundling.org.



Support Our School Supply Drive

Donations of new school supplies, lunch boxes and backpacks are needed for the upcoming school year.

Call 212-886-4039
to make a donation today!



A Brighter Home; A Brighter Future

Mother/Child Home Gets New Look from Rebuilding Together



One hundred pairs of hands, \$5,000 worth of material, and bucket loads of compassion and commitment came together on April 29 to provide a much-needed makeover for The Foundling's Mother/Child Group Home on Staten Island. Spearheaded by Rebuilding Together New York City, an affiliate of the national organization, Rebuilding Together, the group home project was part of the organization's "National Rebuild Day." Thousands of volunteers from across the country helped spruce up homes in low-income neighborhoods that are in need of physical or aesthetic facelifts.



The kitchen received new appliances and much needed repairs.

Six teenage moms and their young babies live at the mother/child home, a sanctuary for these young women who often escape violent situations. "I think this made the moms feel tremendously special," said Patricia Rossmly, The Foundling's Staten Island Regional Director. "They deserve this enhancement to their living space."

"The atmosphere that day was just terrific, because everyone knew they were there working for young mothers and their babies."

- Nancy Stanford

"The atmosphere that day was just terrific, because everyone knew they were working for young mothers and their babies," said Nancy Stanford, the Division Coordinator of Employee Volunteer Programs with Macy's New York, and a member of the Board of Rebuilding Together. "We did everything except wash the windows!" Nancy is dedicated to Rebuilding Together because its mission to renovate, rather than build new construction, allows a person to live in the comfort of his or her home.

The night before the "rebuilding," the moms and their children spent the evening in a local hotel. Bright and early the next morning, 100 volunteers, mostly from the corporate offices of several of Rebuilding Together's sponsoring organizations, including Macy's, Country Floors, HRH Construction, and Bovis Lend/Lease were eager to get to work hammering, painting and planting.



Hundreds of volunteers converge on the Mother/Child Group Home early in the morning on rebuild day.

"We painted every single room and every single bathroom. We hung new blinds, and made major ceiling repairs," said Nancy. But that was just the inside. On the outside, the volunteers laid new stone walkways and planted beautiful flowers. "It was amazing to see," Nancy recalls. "The volunteers were so happy to be there, so happy to be helping."

All it took was ten hours — ten hours to rebuild a home from the roof to the foundation. The following morning the young mothers and their children returned to a brand new home, inside and out.

This was not the first time that Rebuilding Together has reached out to provide a helping hand to a program administered by The Foundling. In the recent past, Rebuilding Together has spruced up Blaine Hall and the Commerford Maternity Shelter at our Sixth Avenue headquarters. In the fall of 2005 they masterminded another complete makeover — of our Sydney Group Home in Lefrak City. In the near future, Rebuilding Together will return to the Mother/Child Home to replace all the carpeting throughout the entire house, thanks to a donation of supplies from a Macy's vendor.

"When I have a newly painted room, and everything is fixed up — I feel good about where and who I am. That makes a huge difference," said Nancy, who is hoping that the women and children who live in the Mother/Child Group Home will feel the same way now that their home has been renovated.



The exterior of the Mother/Child Group Home after the extensive clean-up was completed.



Golf Outing Takes a Swing at Child Abuse



*Julie Costello, Barbara Costello,
and Mrs. Costello*

For the past four years the wife of the late Albert J. Costello and her three sons, Greg, Peter and Al and their wives, Christine, Julie and Dana, have hosted a Golf Outing to support the work of the Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection of The New York Foundling. This year's Albert J. Costello Golf Outing, held on June 12th at the Arcola Country Club in Paramus, NJ, netted more than \$75,000 to support the work of the Center.



*(l. to r.) Darryl Fry, Julie Costello,
Dina Robinson and Bob Berger*



*(l. to r.) Peter Costello, Bob Dipiro,
Bill Murray, Bill Liffers, Bob Berger*

While providing services for childhood victims of abuse, the Fontana Center is also a research hub for issues surrounding child abuse. "We see this event as an opportunity to help make this a better world for children," said Barbara Costello. "We're trying to help educate people so that we don't have battered and abused children. We bring a lot of love to this event."



Dr. Mel Schneiderman and Dr. Greg Costello



Mrs. Costello, Ron Costello and Vilma Costello

We extend thanks to all participants and our special thanks to our lead sponsors: The Costello Family, Pfizer, Inc., Primeco Construction, and to AOL, Inc. AT&T, Becton Dickinson, Clifford Chance, Deloitte & Touche, Darryl Fry, Medical Link, O'Connor, Davies, Munns and Dobbins, The Sella Foundation. The Costello family's tireless efforts on behalf of abused and neglected children set the tone for this great event.



Mark Lacey and James Stone



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