



FPWA NEWS

Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies *Fall 2008*



**DYCD Commissioner
Jeanne Mullgrav
addresses FPWA's
Disconnected
Youth Forum**

FPWA HOSTS *New Directions for Disconnected Youth* FORUM

Young people in New York City who are not in school or the workforce have been termed “disconnected”. “Nearly one in six (almost 170,000) of New York City's youth is disconnected,” said Rev. Dr. Ray-Andrew Giddings, Executive Director of ACT* for Children, who delivered the opening address at FPWA's *New Directions for Disconnected Youth Forum* on Friday, June 6, 2008, at the Baruch College School of Public Affairs.

With the number of disconnected youth in New York City increasing rapidly, FPWA hosted this forum for youth service and workforce development providers to discuss strategies to address this issue, particularly for youth with mental health and other special needs. The forum also highlighted programs that are effectively engaging young people in education and the workforce. The event featured panels moderated by Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav, Assistant DYCD Commissioner Miguel A. Almodovar, and Senior Youth Employment Advisor Robin C. McClary, Esq. Panel topics included:

- ◆ Multiple Lifelong Learning Options in Education for Disconnected Youth
- ◆ “Tough Love” Approaches in Workforce Development for Disconnected Youth
- ◆ Integrating Special Needs/Mental Health Services for Disconnected Youth

“We do not need to recruit students for our program,” said Derrick Griffith, Director/Principal of CUNY Preparatory Transitional High School, indicating the large numbers of young people looking for assistance in completing high school and entering college or the labor force. Many of these young people face multiple barriers to success including homelessness, immigration issues, incarceration, mental health issues and other special needs, which must be addressed before they can achieve success at school or in the workplace.

The final charge to the audience, issued by Dr. Giddings, was to identify one thing that they could do to improve the lives of disconnected young people in New York City, and to commit to doing it as soon as possible. For more information on FPWA's work with disconnected youth contact Deborah E. Reid at dreid@fpwa.org or ph. (212)801-1356.

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



This is a tough economic time, especially for low-income New Yorkers who can't make ends meet. Our member agencies and

churches face a growing demand from clients who rely on them for vital services. This is creating a financial strain for agencies trying to meet these needs while operating with decreased funds from City and State governments. And this is happening in the face of New York City's major redesign of services in child welfare, senior programs and child care. Restructured services, decreased funding, and increased need – any of these would be challenging enough, but to deal with all three at the same time puts enormous pressure on our agencies and threatens the services and the safety net that our clients rely on.

FPWA and its members have weathered tough times before. We've persevered through a world war, a great depression and many recessions, political administrations that have disregarded the needs of those less fortunate, and terrorist attacks on our City. And together with our member agencies and churches, and with the support of friends like you, we will persevere through the challenges that lie ahead and remain true to our mission of bringing important services to New York's most vulnerable residents in the communities where they live. This newsletter highlights some of the ways we are doing this.

Fatima Goldman

Fatima Goldman
Executive Director / CEO

Welcoming the Stranger in Our Midst

Churches and faith-based agencies are one of the first places that new immigrants and refugees go to for help when they begin the difficult process of creating new lives for themselves and their families. At the request of the American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York, FPWA has designed *Welcoming the Stranger in Our Midst*, a day-long seminar created to help churches address the needs of the immigrants and refugees seeking their assistance. The seminar begins with a reflection and reaffirmation of the faith communities' calling to respond to the needs of immigrants and refugees. This is followed by a series of workshops designed to help participants understand the physical and emotional plight of immigrants and refugees, learn about current and pending legislation governing immigration, and participate in public advocacy on behalf of immigrants and refugees. Upon completion of the seminar, participants are considered "Mentors for Ministry to Immigrants".

The seminar was designed as a model that can be replicated at other churches and faith-based organizations that need assistance responding to the human service needs of this growing community. Any faith-based organization that wishes to participate in this program or otherwise address the needs of immigrants and refugees in their communities should contact Rev. Joel Gibson, Director of Faith-Based Services, at jgibson@fpwa.org or ph. (212)801-1331.



FPWA Hosts Forum on Poverty Coverage in the Media

On April 1, 2008 the Welfare Reform Network and FPWA hosted *How Poverty is Presented in the Media*, a panel discussion moderated by Erica Gonzalez from *El Diario* which examined the media's presentation of poverty in its news coverage. The panel featured Errol Louis from the *Daily News*; Neil deMause from *Metro NY*; Jarrett Murphy from *City Limits*; and Fred Scaglione of the *NY Non-Profit Press*.

Panelists explained that because poverty is often addressed in the context of a natural disaster, such as Hurricane Katrina, there is an initial spike in coverage that quickly drops off and fails to address the underlying reasons for systemic poverty. All agreed that coverage of the working or “deserving” poor is more favorable than coverage of the “undeserving” poor, or those who are not working or are unable to work. Errol Louis asserted that journalists should challenge these negative assumptions about people in need and make poverty relevant to other mainstream issues. Panelists also gave audience members advice on how to maximize press coverage for their organizations. Over 70 people attended the event.

For more information or more on FPWA's work on income security issues contact Jill Poklemba, Senior Policy Analyst for Income Security and Workforce Development, at jpoklemba@fpwa.org or ph.(212)801-1393.

Annual Conference

Two hundred colleagues and member agency staff attended FPWA's 2008 Annual Conference, *Putting Your Best Foot Forward with Clients, Community and Funders*, which was held on May 6, 2008 at New York University's Kimmel Center.

Morning workshops were followed by a lunchtime program, which featured an inspiring keynote address by Dominic Carter, Senior Political reporter for NY1 and author of *No Momma's Boy*. Carter shared his moving story about growing up with a mentally ill mother and being placed in foster care, and praised the social workers who helped him then and those gathered at the conference, telling them “You are my heroes.” He and his colleague, Cheryl Wills, also gave practical advice on how agencies can attract media coverage.

Keystone Awards for outstanding contributions to the well-being of all New Yorkers were presented to Phipps Community Development Corporation; David S. Taylor, CEO of Presbyterian Senior Services; and Valerie Reardon, Sr. VP of HIP Health Plan of New York and FPWA Board member.

Fatima Goldman exhorted participants to be vigilant in advocating for the disadvantaged in our City: “We must ensure that those who depend on us don't get lost in a flurry of unfunded mandates and untested re-structuring....we must advocate and make our voices heard in support of humane and fair policies and adequate funding for quality services.”



Dominic Carter pictured with Fatima Goldman and former FPWA Board Chair, Rev. Dr. Thomas Pike



FPWA Meets Emergency Needs

Jackie S. was referred to FPWA by a case manager at The Floating Hospital. Ms. S. suffers from a serious illness and is receiving Social Security Disability and food stamps. After a stay in a shelter, Ms. S. was able to move into her own apartment. About half of her \$950 rent is covered by a grant from the City. Although she was able to pay the first month's rent and security deposit, she did not have any additional money to purchase furniture for her new apartment. An emergency cash grant from FPWA allowed her to purchase a proper bed and mattress. She is now rebuilding her life.

Hundreds of needy families and individuals who face short term financial crises have received emergency assistance from FPWA this year, thanks to support from the *New York Times* Neediest Fund, the deKay Foundation, the Jarvie Commonweal Service, and others. Most of these grants pay for rent arrears, helping families avoid eviction and subsequent homelessness. But funds are also used for other purposes, such as purchasing replacement furniture for people's homes, or moving and storage fees for families in homeless shelters. FPWA expects to distribute almost \$350,000 in financial assistance grants in 2008. We also awarded grants to nine of our member agencies this year, so that they can meet the emergency needs of their clients. For more information on FPWA's financial assistance program contact Judy Milone at jmilone@fpwa.org or ph.(212)801-1350.

A Busy Summer for FPWA Volunteer Services

FPWA recruits volunteer groups and individuals from all over New York City and puts them to work on projects at our member agencies. Summer 2008 was an especially busy time for corporate volunteer groups. Teams from *Deloitte* worked at a food pantry and painted a community center at Inwood House, planted a garden at Henry Street Settlement and cleaned out a kitchen pantry at Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center. A group from *Acumen Solutions* planted a second garden at Henry Street Settlement. *American Express* volunteers staffed a poetry reading at AIDS Service Center NYC. *Co-Active Marketing* volunteers staffed a summer-games day at Hamilton-Madison House. A *Morgan Stanley* team packed back-to-school backpacks at Inwood House. And this fall, teams from *Siemens* will build a playground at Soundview Day Care Center, *Archstone Consulting* will do a garden project at Union Settlement, and *Wells Fargo* will conduct mock job interviews at Vocational Foundation.

Individual volunteers visited the homebound elderly, performed administrative tasks, served meals and assisted with preparations for FPWA's 2008 *Youth Day*, among other projects. In addition, FPWA began recruiting volunteers with professional experience who are interested in serving on boards of our member agencies. FPWA will launch our next round of training sessions for potential board members in October.

To find out more about corporate service days, individual volunteer opportunities or becoming a board member contact Karen Giacalone, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, at kgiacalone@fpwa.org or ph.(212)801-1332.



Volunteers from Deloitte packing food baskets at the Yorkville Community Pantry

FPWA Supports College Bound Young People

Higher education remains the single best way for young people to ensure a strong and prosperous future for themselves and their families. Recognizing this fact, FPWA awards scholarships to young people who have overcome significant challenges to achieving educational success, such as physical disabilities, domestic violence, immigration issues, and early parenthood. Scholarships are given to graduating high school students and college-bound GED recipients.

On Thursday, June 19 FPWA held its 2008 scholarship awards dinner, where eight students from five of our member agencies – Center Against

Domestic Violence, Inwood House, New Alternatives for Children, New York City Mission Society, and Phipps Community Development Corporation – received scholarships. The recipients are attending a variety of colleges and universities and will use their scholarships for school-related needs such as tuition, books and living expenses.

The FPWA Youth Scholarship Program is supported by *The New York Times* Neediest Cases Fund. For more information about the Youth Scholarship Program, contact Deborah E. Reid at dreid@fpwa.org or ph.(212) 801-1356.



Scholarship Awardees pictured with Bonda Lee-Cunningham, Director of Member Services, Deborah E. Reid, Director of Training and Professional Development, and FPWA Board Chair, Craig MacKay

Career-Wear Clothing Donation Aids Women in Job Training Programs

Hundreds of women from six member agencies received new outfits and a big boost of confidence thanks to a donation of women's career-wear clothing from Kids in Distressed Situations (K.I.D.S.) valued at \$90,000. Women training for new careers at New York Therapeutic Communities, Phipps Community Development Corporation, Project Greenhope Services for Women, STRIVE/East Harlem Employment Services, Vocational Foundation and Women's Prison Association all received stylish outfits that will serve them well as they venture into the working world, many for the first time. "This contribution will help our young women make a good impression on their first job interviews," said Hector Batista, Vocational Foundation Executive Director. Michael Schreiber, Director of Development at Women's Prison Association wrote, "Thanks again for your support. Your partnership makes a real difference in the lives of criminal justice-involved women, their families and communities."

To donate new clothing, toys, books or school supplies to those in need, please contact Karen Giacalone, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, at kgiacalone@fpwa.org or ph. (212)801-1332.

Despite Budget Surplus, City Social Services Receive Substantial Cuts

On June 26th Mayor Bloomberg and City Council Speaker Quinn announced an agreement on New York City's FY 2009 operating budget, totaling \$59.1 billion, which was subsequently adopted by the City Council. Despite a surplus of \$4.5 billion this year, \$288 million in funding for essential human services programs was not restored to the budget.

In order to prevent cuts to these vital services or keep them from being cut even deeper, FPWA policy staff worked with other advocates to inform City Council members of the importance of these programs, submitted testimony at budget hearings and responded to concept papers issued by the City. We were successful in several critical areas:

- ◆ FPWA remained a strong voice on the modernization of City aging services. We worked with member agencies, colleague organizations, and City officials to make recommendations on implementing proposed changes in case management, home delivered meals, and senior centers.
- ◆ FPWA played a key role, through our participation in the City's Project Full Enrollment Task Force, during the development of the new Pay-for-Enrollment initiative for early childhood programs, which modifies the City's payment policy to reimburse child care providers based on enrollment and attendance.
- ◆ FPWA along with the New York City Communities of Color HIV/AIDS Coalition successfully advocated for a full restoration of

\$1.664 million to address the disproportionate number of AIDS cases among communities of color and women.

- ◆ Funding for the Job Training Participant program was maintained at \$50 million to allow some public assistance recipients to participate in this program as paid employees, as an alternative to unpaid workfare. Also, \$1.5 million in funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program was fully restored.
- ◆ Funding was maintained for the Young Adult Internship Program and for CUNY Prep, which provides out-of-school youth an opportunity to study full time for a GED. \$1 million in funding for the New York City Adult Literacy Initiative was restored by the City Council and \$5.3 million in baseline funding was included in the budget by the Mayor.

Unfortunately, there are funding cuts that will have an adverse impact on our member agencies:

- ◆ The Department for the Aging received a \$5.5 million (3%) reduction in funding for their programs, although funding for home delivered meals and case management services was fully restored.
- ◆ The Child Safety Initiative, intended to reduce the caseloads of child welfare preventive services workers, was reduced from \$4.2 million to \$3.7 million. Also, \$3.2 million for preventive services enhancement and funding for 1,000 preventive services slots were eliminated from the budget.

- ◆ Funding for full-day Universal Pre-Kindergarten in child care programs was cut from \$5 million to \$2.6 million. Additionally, funding to purchase needed equipment and supplies for family child care providers was reduced by \$500,000.
- ◆ \$6.25 million was cut from the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative for English classes and legal services for recent immigrants.
- ◆ Funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program was reduced from \$8 million to

\$6.6 million, and funding for Beacon programs was reduced by \$3.3 million.

After the release of the adopted budget, FPWA surveyed its member agencies to assess the impact budget cuts would have on their services. FPWA will continue to monitor the impact of these budget cuts and advocate for effective services for those in need throughout the City. For more on our policy and advocacy efforts, please visit our website at www.fpwa.org.

FUNDING SPOTLIGHT

FPWA would like to acknowledge the following foundation, corporate and government donors for their generosity (since March 2008):

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- ◆ United Way of New York City

Thank you to all of our donors – we truly appreciate your support! For information on making a contribution to FPWA, contact April Banks at abanks@fpwa.org or ph. (212)801-1385.

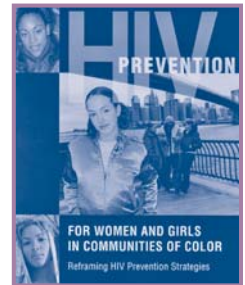


FPWA Brightens Holiday Season for Thousands of Youngsters

The holidays can be a bleak time for the needy children served by our member agencies. Will you please help? Since 1922, FPWA's annual *Holiday Toy & Gift Drive* has made sure that thousands of disadvantaged children in the New York metropolitan area are greeted with joy on Christmas morning. Thanks to your generosity, we provided new toys, clothing and books to over 60,000 children last year. We expect the need to be greater than ever this year, and we need your help! FPWA is currently looking for people interested in organizing a holiday toy drive at their organization, donating toys or money, or volunteering to sort, package and distribute toys during the holiday season (weekday business hours only). For more information contact Karen Giacalone, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, at kgiacalone@fpwa.org or ph. (212)801-1332.

FPWA Releases HIV and AIDS Report

HIV Prevention for Women and Girls in Communities of Color – Reframing HIV Prevention Strategies reports our findings on community-level factors that impede the effectiveness of HIV prevention programs for young women of color in New York City's low-income neighborhoods. This publication proposes that effective HIV prevention strategies require more than changing individual behavior, and that social and economic factors must be taken into account. To download the report visit www.fpwa.org. (release date: Nov. 3, 2008)



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