



FPWANews

FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT WELFARE AGENCIES

SUMMER 2007



FPWA CELEBRATES 85 Years of Service to New Yorkers In Need

Our Mission

The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies promotes the social and economic well-being of greater New York's most vulnerable by strengthening human service organizations and advocating for just public policies.

CONTENTS

page 1

FPWA's Annual Conference

page 2

Executive Message
Aftercare Publication

page 3

Policy, Advocacy
& Research

Legislative Update

page 4

Donor Development
Planned Giving

page 5

Donor Development
Historic Gramercy Park
Walking Tour
85th Anniversary Gala

pages 6

Member Services
Programs for Seniors
Historic Legacy of Founding
Members

In the Spotlight

page 7

Volunteers
Make a Difference
Holiday Toy & Gift Drive

page 8

Partnership with
Commerce Bank
Mother's Day Gifts

2007 Annual Conference Honors 11 Remaining Founding Agencies

Forums, vendors and birthday cake were the order of the day on May 1st as FPWA celebrated its 85th year of service to New York City during our Annual Conference and Luncheon. Held at New York University's Kimmel Center, the Annual Conference afforded staff from FPWA member agencies and affiliated churches opportunities for professional development and networking.

The morning began with three concurrent forums. The **Contingency Leadership and Succession Planning** forum, which was designed for executive directors and board members of nonprofit organizations, addressed the basics of succession planning and reviewed the action steps to be considered in the transition process. **Dynamic Supervision: Lead, Motivate and Inspire!** included a panel of experienced managers representing the FPWA membership who offered leadership strategies for new and seasoned nonprofit managers to help them develop more collaborative, team-oriented supervisory styles. **Conversation in Policy: Creating Meaningful Opportunities in the Transition from Youth to Adulthood** featured sociologists Kathryn Edin and Maria Kefalas, who discussed the findings and policy implications of their recent book *Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood Before Marriage*. At the conclusion of the forums, participants had an opportunity to peruse the Group Purchasing Service-sponsored vendor showcase and network with colleagues both old and new.

The formal celebration began at lunchtime, as members, donors and longtime friends gathered to wish a happy 85th "birthday" to FPWA. Attendees were treated to a dramatic performance by Pearls of Wisdom member Amatullah Saleem, whose performance, incorporating

elements of song, spoken word and dance, energized the audience. Keynote speaker Dr. Barbara Levy Simon of Columbia University's School of Social Work illustrated the social conditions surrounding FPWA's founding, and explained how FPWA was and continues to be a trailblazer and leader in the fight for social justice for all New Yorkers.

Executive Director Fatima Goldman and FPWA Board Chairman Rev. Dr. Thomas Pike presented FPWA Keystone Awards to eleven of the founding 22 agencies still in our membership: Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth, Children's Village, Episcopal Social Services, Forestdale, Harlem Dowling—Westside Center, Inwood House, Leake and Watts, Partnership With Children, Salvation Army, SCO Family of Services, and St. Christopher's, Inc. The event



culminated in the unveiling of the FPWA 85th Anniversary quilt. Designed by artist/designer Nikki Lindt and sewn by students from Hudson County Community College, the quilt represented a beautiful and unique way to commemorate FPWA's 22 founding social service agencies, as well as the over 200 agencies currently in our membership. After being admired at the Conference, the quilt is now permanently on display in FPWA's landmark building.

All in all, FPWA's 2007 Annual Conference was a wonderful event and one that will be remembered for years to come. The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies gratefully acknowledges the support of JPMorganChase, the primary sponsor of our 2007 Annual Conference; Commerce Bank, sponsor of the 85th Anniversary Quilt, and Ridgewood Savings Bank. ■

Pictured above: Dr. Jeremy Kohomba, Executive Director of Children's Village, receives a Keystone Award from Fatima Goldman, FPWA Executive Director. Photo Credit: Amilcar



EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

Dear Friends...

Summer is here and FPWA is busy celebrating its 85th year of serving New Yorkers in need. In May, we kicked off our 85th birthday celebration at FPWA's Annual Conference and Luncheon, which, in addition to providing our almost 300 member agencies and churches an opportunity to come together and discuss issues of common concern, honored the 11 remaining Protestant Child Welfare Agencies that were founding members in 1922. This was followed by our spring fundraising event, **A Historic Walking Tour of Gramercy Park & Environs**, hosted by Barry Lewis (see page 4). Our 85th Anniversary celebration will culminate with FPWA's 85th Anniversary Gala on October 23rd honoring New Yorkers who are dedicated to serving our community and featuring fine dining, dancing, and a silent auction.

Also in this issue of FPWA News, we highlight some of our work with seniors and children and offer a summary of our advocacy work during the busy State budget season. Two valuable programs that FPWA offers to elderly New Yorkers, the senior vacation program and our newly established senior stipend program, are described on page 6. Both of these initiatives, which have helped hundreds of seniors, are vital to the well-being of the participants. **"True Stories of Investment, Innovation and Inspiration: Celebrating Creative Partnerships in Child Welfare to Strengthen Families and Keep Children Safe"**, a publication released by FPWA in January (see opposite), highlights excellent practices in our member agencies in reunifying children in foster care with their families. FPWA has been active advocating for a variety of initiatives of importance to low income New Yorkers as Albany lawmakers finalize the FY 2007-08 budget. These initiatives range from creating a paid leave benefit for working families to care for newborn children or sick family members, to streamlining the State contracting process for social service providers.

Finally, this issue answers questions about how individuals and companies can become involved in our work, and help ensure that FPWA continues serving New Yorkers in need for another 85 years. Thank you for supporting our work. We wish you an enjoyable summer.

FATIMA GOLDMAN
Executive Director and CEO



**"TRUE STORIES of Investment, Innovation and Inspiration:
Celebrating Creative Partnerships
in Child Welfare to Strengthen Families
and Keep Children Safe"**

FPWA spotlights excellent practices in member agencies in this January 2007 publication, which documents the stories of families served by five FPWA foster care agencies through the Administration for Children's Services Reinvestment Aftercare Initiative. Each of these programs works intensively to reunify children in foster care with their families, helping to ensure that children who leave foster care do so permanently. The member agencies featured in the booklet are Leake and Watts, SCO Family of Services, Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families, Episcopal Social Services, and Children's Village.

In addition to illustrating the value of aftercare services, the publication identifies core components of quality aftercare services, and presents recommendations to improve the current network of aftercare services available in New York City.

This booklet is the third in a series of research products created by FPWA to present information and public policy recommendations that include the perspectives of those most directly affected by policy decisions. Two previous publications highlighted issues surrounding grandparent headed-households, and custody planning for children of mothers living with HIV and AIDS.

"True Stories of Investment, Innovation and Inspiration" can be downloaded at www.fpwa.org/advocacy or mailed by request by calling 212.801.1316. ■

visit us online at www.fpwa.org

New York POLICY ROUNDUP for 2006-07

As the NY State Legislative season enters its final stretch, FPWA's policy experts are tracking a number of programs and policies that we have actively advocated for throughout the season. Each of these bills would benefit our member agencies and the children, families and individuals they serve.

Prompt Contracting

This bill would close existing loopholes in the current contracting law that have an adverse impact on nonprofit agencies. Among other things, the bill would reinforce the current 90-day notification requirement including reimbursement for services provided after the expiration date of a contract when notification has not been made.

Working Families Time to Care Act

The federal Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 made it possible for employees to take 12 weeks of job-protected, unpaid leave to care for a sick family member or to care for a newborn or newly adopted child. But 12 weeks of unpaid leave is not feasible for most working people. The successful passage of this bill would create a new employee-paid benefit that would allow employees of private companies to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave to care for a child, spouse, parent, domestic partner, grandparent, sibling or in-law.

Adult Basic Education

FPWA is advocating to expand access to adult basic education for people receiving public assistance. This includes access to programs that provide basic literacy training, English for Speakers of Other Languages and GED programs.

Eliminate the 185% of Standard of Need Income Cap

This bill would eliminate the cap on the income of public assistance recipients, allowing them to keep their benefits while earning incomes that are often at the poverty-level.

Renters Tax Credit

Home owners receive substantial tax benefits. The passage of this bill would provide over 1.1 million New York City households living in rental units with a \$300 refundable tax credit on their local personal income tax.

Automatic Medicaid Eligibility for Foster Youth

Foster youth lose all medical benefits when they reach the age of 18. We are advocating for the amendment of the Social Service Law to automatically extend Medicaid

eligibility for independent foster care youth through the age of 21.

Differential Reimbursement Rates for Accredited Child Care Centers

This would authorize the Office of Children and Family Services to provide higher reimbursement rates for child care programs that achieve accreditation through nationally recognized child care accreditation programs.

Loan Forgiveness for Early Care Professionals

Child care workers receive very low salaries. We are advocating for funding for loan forgiveness to individuals who graduate from institutions of higher learning and are committed to working in child care.

Prescription Drug Assistance

This bill would create a prescription drug assistance program that would allow states to join together to purchase prescription medication at a reduced cost.

Increases in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

We are advocating for annual increases for aged, blind and disabled persons who receive SSI based on the cost of living adjustment.

Amend Income Standards for Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemptions (SCRIE)

This would exclude 100% of Social Security income from the calculation for SCRIE eligibility in the real property tax law.

Blended Adult Day Care Demonstration Program

This would allow for an intermediate model of services between the social and medical models to better fit the individual needs of the elderly, chronically ill and disabled.

FPWA can notify you if action is needed to contact lawmakers in support of any of these bills. Please contact us at jstevens@fpwa.org if you'd like to be added to our advocacy alert email list. The memoranda of support can be viewed on our website as well. ■

ENSURING FPWA's FUTURE for the NEXT 85 YEARS

"I assume poverty will not magically disappear in my lifetime. It's satisfying to know I can keep making a difference after I'm gone. Including FPWA in my will leaves me confident that my money will be well spent in the service of goals I hold dear."

—A long-time friend and donor

New York City has counted on the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies for 85 years. Your generosity and support is an essential part of FPWA's success, both today and in the years to come.

Many donors choose to make a gift of ongoing significance and name the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies in their wills. They faithfully support FPWA programs that help disadvantaged children, youth and elderly in our city.

Their legacy to the neediest residents of New York continues.

How?

Through the bequests they have entrusted to the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies.

Why leave a legacy?

A bequest to the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies gives you the satisfaction of knowing that your money will continue helping FPWA well into the future.

Making a gift is simple.

Bequests can take various forms:

- ★ A gift included in your will — FPWA receives a specific dollar amount or particular assets, such as royalties or art objects, or specific securities.
- ★ A gift of retirement assets, such as pension plans or Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) may allow you to give more than you thought possible while

eliminating taxes that may otherwise consume assets.

- ★ A gift of life insurance.

You can...

...add a line to your will that states:

I give and bequeath the sum of _____ Dollars (\$_____) to the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies.

Estate planning guidance

An attorney, tax advisor or investment professional can help you determine which options fit in best with your estate plans, and can help you draft the necessary documents.

For more information about making a planned gift to FPWA

Please contact Susan Latham, Director of Development and Communication, at 212.801.1307 or at slatham@fpwa.org if you have any questions, or if you would like further information.

A commitment to people in need

The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies is committed to helping those in need now and for many years to come. A bequest or legacy can help ensure your gift will keep helping New York's neediest.

Our continued work is our legacy to New York.

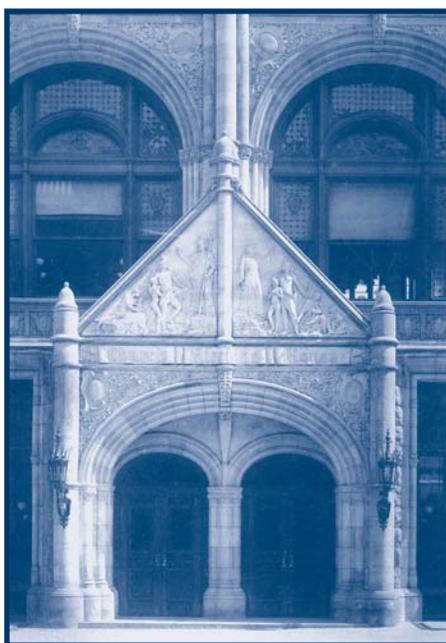
A donor's bequest to the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies is your legacy to us.

A WALK through *the Past*: GRAMERCY PARK

FPWA Examines Local History and Raises Money through Walking Tour

FPWA's spring fundraising event, a walking tour of Gramercy Park and its environs, examined the rich history of this iconic New York City neighborhood and its role as a germinating ground for progressive movements.

Held on May 6th, the tour is one of several events centered around our 85th Anniversary. The event began at the historic Church Missions House, the landmark building that houses FPWA's New York City headquarters. Celebrity host Barry Lewis, a noted architectural historian who is perhaps best known for his WNET series of walking tours through New York City neighborhoods with David Hartmann, kicked off the event with a fascinating lecture about Gramercy Park, its history, and the unique



architecture of the many landmark buildings that surround it. He later gave an insider's tour of the famed National Arts Club, pointing out the stained glass skylights and lavishly decorated interiors of the period parlor and ballroom. Walking tour attendees also had an opportunity to visit the sanctuary of the old Friends Meeting House (now the

Brotherhood Synagogue), which was built in 1859 and was once a stop on the Underground Railroad.

The 90-minute tour featured 21 different sites, including the site of the nation's first free public institution of higher education; the first vocational school developed exclusively for girls in 1902; the site of the home of Cyrus West Field, who developed the first trans-Atlantic telegraph cable; the homes of many great artists and thinkers; and some of the first social services organizations in the city. The tour ended with a lovely reception and wine tasting, provided courtesy of Moore Brothers Wine Company, in

FPWA's board room.

We are grateful to HIP Health Plan of New York for their generous sponsorship of the event. Thanks also to Moore Brothers Wine Company for hosting the wine tasting, and to the Brotherhood Synagogue and the National Arts Club for allowing us to include their buildings on our tour. ■

Pictured above: The historic Church Missions House, now FPWA headquarters

SAVE THE DATE

FPWA's 85th Anniversary Gala

Featuring fine dining, dancing, and a silent auction

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

The Lighthouse, Pier 61

Chelsea Piers, New York City

For reservations or more information, please contact Jason Kelly, Development & Communication Associate, at 212.801.1359 or at jkelly@fpwa.org



Spirit of Service

07

City Seniors GET A BREAK, Courtesy of FPWA

A great number of our member agencies provide services to New York City's growing population of senior citizens, many of whom live on extremely limited incomes. FPWA has developed two very different programs to help improve the quality of living for our city's seniors who struggle to make ends meet.

"Most Exciting Was the Boat Ride..."

Each year, FPWA sends groups of low-income seniors on an all-expenses paid "vacation" to Incarnation Camp Center, a member agency located in central Connecticut. For two days and two nights, participating seniors are treated to first-class hospitality at Incarnation's beautiful facility, which features acres of sprawling fields that teem with wildlife, a scenic lake, and a petting zoo with animals ranging from rabbits to llamas. For an older person who could not otherwise afford to leave the city, the change of environment and new experiences are an enriching break from their routine. One senior writes: "The grounds are beautiful. Most exciting was the boat ride up the Connecticut River, seeing different birds. The food was delicious. I'm now 85 and God has been so good to me; I was blessed to be chosen for this trip. May you continue the good work for us seniors."

Over the past few years hundreds of seniors of all religions and ethnicities have enjoyed the two day trip, for which FPWA covers all costs. The seniors have ranged in age from 51 to 95 and, to Incarnation's credit, all are welcomed and made to feel a valuable part of the activities. Clients of FPWA member agencies who are healthy seniors at least 60 years of age (age 50 if they are legal guardians of grandchildren) may apply for the program. The application form is available on our website at www.fpwa.org.

"I Can Now Continue Living in My Home of Over 40 Years..."

For many seniors, who worked hard throughout their lives but now find that their retirement benefits do not cover the high cost of living in New York City, financial issues are a daily struggle. Last spring FPWA initiated a senior stipend program for people over 60 who are facing this difficult situation. The stipend program provides a monthly grant to help cover basic living expenses — rent, in most cases — for people who show financial need and are working with a case management agency. One senior, upon learning of her acceptance into the program, wrote "May I express my deepest appreciation for the Federation's generous grant of a monthly stipend toward my rent. I can now meet my rent obligation with a sigh of gratitude and relief at my ability to pay the remaining balance and continue living in my home of over 40 years. What more can I say but bless you all."

Both the senior vacation and the senior stipend programs are funded by The Helen M. deKay Foundation. We are grateful for their support and generosity, and for what it has made possible for our clients. For information about either program, please contact Judy Milone at 212.801.1350 or jmilone@fpwa.org.

THE "BABY" IS ALMOST 100 YEARS OLD

FPWA was founded in 1922 by 22 child welfare agencies, eleven of which survive and are still in our membership. The oldest is Inwood House, which was founded in 1830. The "baby" of the group is Partnership with Children, which was founded in 1908 as Big Sisters and is just shy of 100 years old. It is a testimony to the long history of social service provision in New York City that there is such longevity among its social service providers.

Big Sisters was founded by Ann Harriman Vanderbilt and other prominent women of the early 20th Century who volunteered to work towards a mission of mentoring "wayward girls", and later young boys, in the New York City court system. In 1914, the Big Sister Home was founded, which provided a residential setting for the agency's work. The agency's early work served their target audience through Fresh Air funds, holiday gift drives and scholarship programs.

By the 1950s Big Sisters had transitioned from a completely volunteer-based organization to a predominately professional staff of social workers. The agency shifted its focus from aiding children in the court system to working with youngsters in the New York City school system, with the notion that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." In 1998 Big Sisters changed its name to Partnership with Children to more accurately describe its current mission of strengthening the emotional, social and cognitive skills of at-risk children so that they can succeed in school, in society and in their lives.

Partnership with Children currently serves over 7,000 children and their families in 40 public school settings through its "Open Heart- Open Mind" school-based program, and its Center for Capacity Building, which was developed in 2005 to focus on student support institutes and trainings for school staff. Coming back full circle to its founding structure, Partnership with Children also engages corporate volunteers for its mentoring programs. These programs match volunteers one-on-one with students for activities that include monthly trips to cultural institutions, school beautification projects, and partnerships with local banks for lessons in financial literacy.

FPWA is proud to include Partnership with Children and its other surviving founding member agencies in its network of caring.

How Can I MAKE a DIFFERENCE?

Q: I'm an individual with a lot of motivation, but not a lot of time. How can I get involved?

A: There are many ways you can get involved with FPWA — one is to make a donation. Your contribution is tax-deductible and helps us deliver quality training, advocacy and services to the community-based agencies that serve as the last lifeline for many of New York's poorest citizens. You can donate through our website (www.fpwa.org), or by mail.

We can also tailor an individual volunteer opportunity just for you. A volunteer assignment can be matched to your availability, interests and special expertise. Then, we match you with a member agency in need of your particular skill set. We have member agencies that embrace clients of every age, ethnic group, and walk of life. Our agencies serve those with HIV/AIDS, the elderly, children and youth, the mentally ill, homeless, the hungry and poor.

Q: I think I'd like to serve on a nonprofit board — how do I go about doing that?

A: Through FPWA's Governance Project, we identify appropriate candidates to serve as members of nonprofit boards. Member agencies searching for new board members contact us about the criteria they are seeking in board candidates. We then do our best to find a "perfect" match.

Q: Some people from my company would like to volunteer. Does FPWA set-up corporate service days?

A: Yes! Corporate volunteer groups have painted rooms, created libraries, planted gardens, delivered meals, refurbished playgrounds and staged mock interviews with clients in job training programs.

Q: My firm has done a couple of corporate service days, but we'd like to make a bigger and more lasting contribution. What can we do?

A: If you are interested in a long-term corporate partnership, please let us know. The FPWA "Adopt a Center" program seeks to foster long-term volunteer relationships between corporations, schools and member agencies. For example, a law firm that undertook a corporate service day at an early care center liked the agency so much that they "adopted" the center. The two organizations continue to work together to accomplish various projects that improve the learning experience of the children at the center.

The JOY of TOYS



Each year, the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies organizes a toy drive so that children and seniors throughout the city get to experience the joy of getting a gift during the holidays. Thanks to the support of generous contributors and our corporate partners, FPWA's 2006 Toy Drive was highly successful!

FPWA collected and distributed \$154,694 worth of toys, clothing, books, toiletries and gifts. Numerous volunteers assisted as Santa's elves to collect, pack and distribute gifts to 97 member agencies representing 60,000 children and seniors, as well as 1 church and 5 families helped by our direct assistance program. As Lisa Forgione at SCO Family of Services put it, "With the help of friends like you we were able to bring the magic of Christmas to children who, until now, have had very little magic in their lives."

For more information about the holiday toy and gift drive or volunteer opportunities, please contact Karen Giacalone at 212. 801.1332 or kgiacalone@fpwa.org.

Pictured above: Young beneficiaries of FPWA's annual holiday toy drive

Join Our List!

Join Our Email List!

If you would like this newsletter delivered to your email account — instead of to your mailbox...

If you would like to participate in our upcoming online Silent Auction...

If you would like periodic updates about FPWA...

Please send your email address to devintern@fpwa.org

FPWA Fundraising Partnership with Commerce Bank

FPWA has joined Commerce Bank's Affinity Program, which gives us the opportunity to receive annual cash donations from Commerce Bank in support of our Holiday Toy and Gift Drive. We invite all supporters of FPWA to participate in this program, which makes it possible to support FPWA at no personal cost.

Commerce Bank will calculate the average annual balance of all bank accounts linked to the FPWA Affinity Program and will donate a percentage of that figure annually to FPWA. Eligible accounts include checking, savings, CDs, money market and retirement accounts, and it in no way affects your account balances. There is no limit to the amount of donations that FPWA can receive from the program.

If you already have an account with Commerce, simply visit your local branch and ask any Customer Service Representative to link your account(s) to the FPWA Affinity Program. If you open a new account at Commerce, indicate that you would like to have your account linked to the FPWA Affinity Program. As a special thank you for new accounts, Commerce will start the account with a \$25 deposit.

For more information about the program and to receive the \$25 new account coupon, please contact Marie Paul at mcpaul@fpwa.org or 212.801.1336.

Helping Moms Look and Feel Their Best on Mother's Day

Mother's Day was an extra special day for clients at several of our member agencies who received new clothing and accessories, thanks to a donation of goods that FPWA received through its partnership with K.I.D.S. (Kids in Distressed Situations). Bernadette Perrette from Henry Street Settlement reports that their Mother's Day Appreciation Event, which serves clients from their Mental Health Clinic, was a great success because of these lovely donations. "These women really appreciated the gifts, which provided positive reinforcement of the great job they are doing with their families."

For more information about in-kind donations, contact Karen Giacalone at 212.801.1332 or kgiacalone@fpwa.org.



*Our Vision
The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies strives to ensure that economic and social opportunities are within everyone's reach.*

Executive Director
Fatima Goldman

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