

NEWSLETTER NAME?

A NEWSLETTER OF these Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families Programs:
November 2001



- ☼ STEPS to End Family Violence
- ☼ Stepping Stones to Success
- ☼ Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI)
- ☼ The Children's Therapy Program
- ☼ Adopt a School Program
- ☼ UNITED
- ☼ The Incarcerated Mothers Project (IMP)
- ☼ The Achievers / Boys & Girls Shine!
- ☼ GAP (Grandparents as Parents)

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POEM

All that matters is what you have
and what you have is who you are
and who you are is where you are
and where you are is where you will be
when death takes you across the river

You can't avoid the journey but
you can wake up...now
and see where you've been
and where you are going

-John Squadra, This Ecstasy



THE ACHIEVERS is:

A Group of Youth aged 12-19

Boys Shine/Girls Shine is:

A Group of Youth aged 9-12

The groups meet together on Saturday. In the past the groups have attended conferences and workshops, participated in the Student Lobby day in Albany, participated in making a documentary about the effects of incarceration on women's families and have taken social trips.

- **Mission** – the mission of ACHIEVERS and Boys Shine & Girls Shine is to break the intergenerational cycle of incarceration and to build positive futures for the pre-adolescent and teen children of incarcerated mothers.
- **Coordinator** – The new coordinator for these programs is Shreya Janssens-Sannon (212-410-4200 ext. 108). Lauren Berkman, an intern from Hunter School of Social Work, will be working with the youth and their families as well.
- **Goals** – Shreya and Lauren are looking forward to a great year, and plan on working with your families to create an amazing program. If your family has not participated in the past, and you would like your children to become involved, please contact them at IMP.



THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The Children's Program has been servicing STEPS to End Family Violence, IMP, and Stepping Stones Clients for ten years.

Domestic Violence has serious impacts on children! Research has shown that school age children who have witnessed Domestic Violence exhibit symptoms of anxiety, depression, aggressive behavior, and sometimes PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder).

The Children's Program works with children aged 3-14 who have experienced domestic violence in their homes. Through play and talk therapy, we try to help children to find a safe space and to begin to trust adults again. We also explore with children, new, more constructive ways to express anger and frustration.

Our program is a small piece of breaking the intergenerational cycle of violence.

If you have any questions about the effects of violence on children, the Children's Program staff will be happy to answer them. You can find us in the play room!

Director: Lisa Rachmuth Interns: Laney Cline, Enza Papparalla (ext. 110)

Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) is a program which gives women who have been arrested the opportunity to have their victimization considered in their court cases.

The goal... is to secure lesser sentences or to provide a suitable alternative to incarceration.

This year, ATI will continue to expand their client base and available services. ATI provides individual and group counselling, domestic violence education and court advocacy. The Program is directed by STEPS to end Family Violence Director, Sr. Mary Nerney.

We have also started a new 10 week group called "Understanding Your Anger". If you would like to participate in the next 10 week cycle, please contact Kaerensa at 212-410-4200 ext: 112



HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Hispanic Heritage Celebration. We enjoyed wonderful food cooked by staff and clients including FRIED CHICKEN, RICE and BEANS ...We all marked the countries of our heritage on a map and found we came from many diverse backgrounds. Many children spent time drawing pictures of the places they were born, or the places where their parents were born. Others read stories about Hispanic traditions including how to make flan.



Halloween Party



TRICK OR TREATERS CAME DRESSED IN COSTUMES – SOME SPOOKY, SOME LOVELY – AND PARADED AROUND THE OFFICE TO COLLECT CANDY FROM THE STAFF MEMBERS.

STAFF MEMBERS OOOHED AND AAAAHEd AT THE PAINTED FACES AND CREATIVE COSTUMES AS THEY PASSED OUT CANDY.

TYQUON HAD HER FACE PAINTED AS A WAREWOLF, “DON’T FORGET MY NOSE,” SHE SAID. DEVON WAS TOUGH AND SERIOUS DRESSED AS A NINJA, ALL IN BLACK.

ALL IN WHITE, LASHAE DRESSED AS A SKELETON BRIDE. KEKE, AEMA, NAHJEE AND ARTISHA PAINTED PUMPKINS IN ONE ROOM, WHILE JANORA, SHAQUANA, SHADAY AND SHAKEEM MADE PICTURES OF BATS AND GHOSTS TO TAKE HOME AND DECORATE THEIR OWN HALLOWEEN PARTIES.

AS THE PARTY WENT ON, THE COSTUMED TRICK OR TREATERS BECAME TOO NUMEROUS TO COUNT...BUT THEY LAUGHED AND PAINTED AND CHOMPED AWAY ON TREATS...AND HAD A SAFE AND HAPPY HALLOWEEN.



The Newsletter Naming Contest

Naming the newsletter is not easy.

SUGGESTED NAMES

We all need to brainstorm and think about
What the newsletter means to us.

The Following Names Have Been Suggested:

This newsletter represents the many groups of people who use the services at STEPS to End Family Violence, Incarcerated Mothers Program, and Stepping Stones to Success. That means the newsletter should represent the strengths and needs of:

- mothers who are in prison
- mothers who have left prison and are working to gain the skills they need to get a job
- children who are living without their mothers
- caregivers (many of whom are grandparents) who are raising children whose mothers are incarcerated
- women who are victims of domestic violence and are fighting for their rights and freedom.
- children who have been exposed to violence in the home
- highschool students learning about teen relationship abuse.

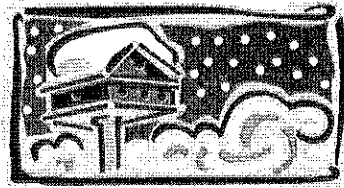
1. STEPS PRESS
2. GRANDMOTHERS NEWSLETTER
3. THE INFORMER
4. CONNECTED
5. STEP BY STEP
6. GOD BLESS AMERICA
7. HAND IN HAND
8. FAMILY TIME
9. NEWS AND VIEWS
10. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
11. COMMUNITY CIRCLE
12. VOICES UNITED
13. VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE
14. VOICES UNITED FOR STRONG FAMILIES
15. LISTEN UP!
16. STEP BY STEP PRESS
17. STEPS NEWS & VIEWS
18. VOICES OF ALL AGES UNITE

YOU CAN VOTE by calling in, writing or telling your caseworker your choice by
December 15, 2001. MAKE YOUR VOICE AND CHOICE HEARD!

LEAVE YOUR VOTE ON 212-410-4200 EXT. 214



Please Write In



YOU CAN WRITE IN TO THE NEWSLETTER!

PLEASE WRITE US WITH ANY IDEAS OR STORIES YOU HAVE!

OUR NEXT ISSUE WILL DISCUSS HOLIDAY TRADITIONS, AND HOW TO ENJOY SAFE AND HEALTHY HOLIDAYS THIS YEAR.

PLEASE SHARE YOUR HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AND STORIES WITH US!

YOU CAN ALSO GIVE IDEAS/SUBMISSIONS TO ANY STAFF MEMBER. AND THEY WILL PASS IT ALONG SO THAT IT GETS IN THE NEWSLETTER.

You can make a submission to the newsletter by:

1. Calling 212-410-4200 ext.214 (leave a message)
2. Writing in to 1968 Second Avenue N.Y., NY 10029
3. Giving your submission to your caseworker or any staff

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU...



Article

Hi, my name is Diania. I am a senior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. I am working on a project for an internship coordinating with Sr. Kathleen Kanet of Edwin Gould Services for Children. The shell of this project deals with opening a dialogue between the families of inmates and the Prison, specifically (for now) at The Albion Women's Prison. This is to better the relationship between the two so families that make the eight hour trek to Albion are treated with more compassion and respect, especially since the prisoner is really the only one being "reformed" or punished not the family.

The first task of this project has been to research persons and organizations both in NYC and Albion that may be interested in our project and/or have projects that are similar. The second task, which I am currently working on, is to contact these persons and organizations to see first hand what they do and, if interested, how they can contribute to this project. Finally, before the end of the year, if there is enough time, to coordinate a meeting with all interested parties. Parties that would be contacted are private and public organizations, prisoners and their families, legislators, the prison and the community the prison is in and who ever else would like to get involved. At that time this project will be given a formal name and can continue to reach its goal of this much-needed dialogue.

Even though I am much on my way this project will need a lot of help. There is a lot of resistance on many fronts that makes progress difficult. The other day when I contacted Orleans County, the county that Albion Women's Prison resides in, they were unable to give me any information about the prison. The prison is a large contributing factor to their population increase, where most of their jobs come from, and has a great economic presence in their county but still they are not able to give me any information about it. Why is this so when it must clearly be an intricate part of their community?

- Diania Martorano



GET READY FOR OUR HOLIDAY PARTY
 Thursday, December 20th
 AND OUR HOLIDAY VISIT TO RIKERS ISLAND
 Tuesday, December 18th



Save these Dates – MORE INFORMATION WILL BE COMING SOON

And Don't Forget...



GAP Meetings – for grandparents raising children: at IMP Office

Contact Sr. Kathleen Kanet (212-410-4200 ext. 106)

November 14 th	9:30-11:00	December 12	9:30-11:00
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November 28 th	9:30-11:00	December 26	9:30-11:00
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Achievers & Girls Shine! Boys Shine! Meetings – Saturday Gatherings

Contact Shreya Janssens-Sannon (212-410-4200 ext. 108)

November 10th December 8th

November 17th December 22nd

December 1st

As we send out our very first newsletter, we'd like to give a special Thank You! to our many friends and supporters who have believed in the important work of our programs and have helped us in achieving our goals. We would particularly like to recognize the organizations and groups who have funded our programs this past year, including:

Public and Private Agencies, Foundations and Organizations:

Administration of Children's Services

Alice C. Montgomery Trust

Altman Foundation

Basilian Human Development Fund

Brick Presbyterian Church

Brookdale Foundation

Caroline and Sigmund Schott Foundation

Catholic Charities

Church of the Heavenly Rest

City Council of the City of New York

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

Helping Hands

HRA Domestic Violence Adopt A School Program

Lincoln Fund

Mary M. Clancy Charities

New York City Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator

New York State Division of Probation &

Correctional Alternatives

New York City of Youth and Community Development

Ryall Fund

Society of the Holy Child

Donor A Day Supporters:

Marianne and Kevin Meenan

Marie and John Foley

Rose Dimartino

Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Tarrytown

Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Eastern American Province

Solidarity Fund

Betty Reardon

And the many other individual donors and supporters.

Wise Words:

May the *Great Mystery* make sunrise in your heart.

From: *Incarcerated Mothers Program and
STEPS to End Family Violence*
1968 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10029

(212) 410-4200
(212) 410-4345 fax

To: