Annual Report 2006-2007

Meeting the Challenges of Community Engagement and Education
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annual report 2006-2007
We have not, in recent history, been as well positioned to secure the future of the Agency, our employees, and our children, youth and families, as we are today. In a relatively brief period of time, Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families (EGSCF) catapulted into the ranks of top agencies within the industry; formed an alliance with a foster care agency which introduced us into the broader community with additional services; and gained positive visibility as a “lead agency” with significant philanthropic and governing groups.

This year our energies were focused on maintaining sustainability and delivering the support and development services that our community needs.

As we expanded our services in New York City and in keeping with ACS’ model of Community Partnership, EGSCF started to develop a community engagement strategy that will help the community we serve to develop skills it needs (e.g.: Stepping Stones to Success Program - a job readiness program for women in the community), seek community views and foster community participation through our service coalitions. In 2006, EGSCF revisited the education of our foster children as a key issue on our agenda. This has resulted in the strengthening of our education Unit with former NYC school administrators and an allocation of more resources to effectively address the educational, physical safety and permanency needs of our children/adolescents. At our recent Annual Meeting in October, 2006 we honored approximately (40) forty adolescents who have completed high school and are continuing their education in college. Of these children, two were honored for obtaining full academic scholarships.

With your support, EGSCF will continue to distinguish itself as an Agency of choice – preferred by children, youth, and families, and to provide the best service possible through responsible and caring interventions, education, support and advocacy.

Jean L. Schmidt
President

Aubrey Featherstone
Executive Director
Placement Services was formed in October 2002 and is the combination of the Homefinding and Intake Units. The Homefinding Unit licenses new foster homes and re-certifies those homes already licensed with the agency for another year, if the home meets all safety requirements. The Intake Unit manages all new placements in the foster homes referred by ACS.

For the 2005 period, Edwin Gould's Placement Services Department maintained an overall Very Good rating in the EQUIP score, which is ACS's way of giving each agency a "report card". The scores for 2005 are as follows:

- In the area of foster parent training timeliness Edwin Gould scored 4.00. The system wide average was 3.86.
- In the area of foster home re-certifications Edwin Gould scored 2.92. The system wide average was 3.12.
- In the area of Validated Placement complaints Edwin Gould scored 2.40. The system wide average was 2.85.
- In the area of Neighborhood Based Services Edwin Gould scored of 8.50. The system wide average was 7.84.
The department faced many challenges in 2006. Specifically, the alliance of EGSCF and CDSC increased the need to monitor approximately 100 additional foster homes. At the same time, due to the death of Nixmary Brown in January 2006, the agency had to respond to the increased number of children being removed and in need of placement. The department was additionally faced with the challenge of assessing all homes for safety, while recruiting homes within additional Community Districts, obtained via the alliance with CDSC.

Accomplishments
The Department successfully maintained the same level of quality service after the alliance and adjusted our services to accommodate a larger clientele. Since it was one of the agency’s goals to increase the intakes, this was actualized with the large influx of clients via the alliance and additional placements from ACS which increased census overall. Based on the infra-structure of Placement Services we were able to accommodate the increase number of cases after the child’s death in January 2006.

In this year’s EQUIP-2006, the scores in Placement Services showed a decrease in the areas of NBSI, Vacancy Complaints and Recertification. However, the department has recovered, and is committed to the challenge of regaining the overall rating of Excellent, specifically, through internal measuring via Quality Assurance. If ACS were to come in “today” to monitor the above noted areas, the “report card” would be scored as Excellent.

At this time, the Placement Services Department has the challenges of continued monitoring of homes for compliance and safety on an on-going basis, increasing the availability of potential homes for placement in Community District 8 – North Crown Heights in Brooklyn via developing support networks within Community Districts for purposes of referrals and promoting faster, stable and effective placements of children. This will be done via filtration into new Community Districts, as an opportunity to achieve more positive visibility through community involvement & outreach; cultivation of community linkages i.e. churches, daycare centers and increased development of suitable homes.

[services provided]
- Initial foster care placement
- Initial formulation of service plan
- Initial service plan referrals for children and families
- Initial medical/mental health screenings
- Initial 90 day casework before transfer to undercare units
- Recruitment of non-kinship foster parents
- MAPP certification training
- Licensing/re-certification of kinship and non-kinship foster homes
- Replacement of children currently in care with EGSCF
- 24 hour emergency cell phone coverage for new intake referrals and foster care emergencies.
permanency services

The primary goal of the foster care and adoption units is to ensure that every child we serve obtains permanency by way of a loving and stable home. While under the auspices of Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families, each child receives a variety of services required by the Administration for Children Services: an annual medical examination and medical treatment if needed, dental coverage and treatment, mental health services, educational services, ongoing recreational activities, liberal visits, and most importantly reassuring that the bonds and attachments are maintained between the child, birth parents, siblings or other identified family or community supports.

[statistics]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children served by East Harlem Community Based site</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children served by Brooklyn community based site</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children served in the Bronx unit</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children freed for Adoption</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of children in Permanency Services</td>
<td>471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescents in College in 2005</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescents in College in 2006</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years agency consecutively achieved outstanding in adoption</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoptions achieved last year</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescents adopted last year</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster parents providing care to children</td>
<td>350</td>
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</table>
Family reunification continues to be our mission at Edwin Gould. Workers are focused on mobilizing the needed services for birth parents that will sustain the family unit and ultimately support reunification. In securing services to support the families, we strive to locate community-based providers. In doing so, families are more likely to access services.

Education is a value that is strongly encouraged at Edwin Gould. We are committed to developing our children to become productive contributors to society, who will be able to function independently upon discharge from care and also thereafter. Currently, we have twice the amount of adolescents attending college/university as last year. The agency is committed to emphasizing the importance of and supporting educational development and achievement.

We maintain strong collaborative efforts with other departments to assure that all children’s educational needs are being addressed. The Foster Parent Crisis Intervention Unit has employed an educational consultant who conducts educational reviews for children whose promotions are in doubt and for children who are not in school. Collaboratively the permanency services' caseworkers and educational consultant have successfully been able to find the appropriate programs/classroom settings and placed a number of children who were out of school in their rightful educational programs. The Adolescent Services unit’s vocational/educational specialist supports the permanency services’ caseworker in helping to identify colleges, complete college applications, secure tutoring services, assist with educational expenses such as room and board and book reimbursement and resume and job preparation.

Edwin Gould continues to work diligently to assure that practices are consistent with the governing legislative, regulatory policies, and that results are always achieved. Permanency Services has employed several strategies over the years to disseminate information on foster care and adoption within the communities we serve and play an active role. We continue to attend the city’s adoption fair, Wednesday’s Child, ACS’ Adoption Exchange, You Gotta Believe It (agency for children over the age of 13 that matches children with foster/adoptive parents) and consistently photo list our children who are freed for Adoption. In 2005, Edwin Gould obtained an outstanding rating in Adoption for the 5th consecutive year proving that we are committed to move quickly to permanency.

[services provided]

- Foster Care
- Family reunification counseling
- Family preservation counseling for children at risk of re-entry
- Adoption
- Liberal visitation of families with children in care
- Recreational activities
- Link families with community based service providers
- Service plan reviews for all families
- Court representation for all children we serve
- Crisis intervention
Expansion of Edwin Gould Permanency Services Department

In January of 2006 Edwin Gould Services for Children formed an alliance with Child Development Support Corporation, in the process merging the two foster care departments. This alliance enabled Edwin Gould to broaden our horizons by expanding the number of children and community districts we serve. Permanency services acquired an additional 200 plus children and was afforded the opportunity to work in three additional community districts in Brooklyn. (Bedford Stuyvesant CD3, North Crown Heights CD8 and Brownsville CD16). The integration of the agencies’ two foster care departments enabled Edwin Gould to rebuild the agency into a stronger and more effective organization, while realizing minimal disruption to the children, families, and foster parents by retaining the maximum amount of CDSC’s human resources as was possible. This Alliance has enabled Edwin Gould to remain consistent with the agencies’ Vision statement.

SUCCESS STORY:
daniel wine

At 18 years of age, Daniel Wine has become a shining star among Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families [EGSCF] adolescents. Contributing to the aforementioned are Daniel’s academic achievements and humble demeanor. In June of 2006 Daniel graduated from the prestigious Cardinal Hayes High School with a better than 80% average. More impressively was Daniel’s course workload at the time of graduation that consisted of Religion, Government, Accounting, Advanced Mathematics and English. When his social worker inquired as to Daniel’s ability to manage his schoolwork and the current trends of youth life, Daniel shared with the worker that his ability is given to him through faith, the influences of his kinship foster parent [Ms. Artrude Anderson] and the family he has gained at EGSCF. Furthermore, Daniel said that in the Edwin Gould family and the fellowship with other teens in foster care, he has found a sense of belonging that has enabled him to excel both interpersonally and academically. In the Fall of 2006, Daniel entered the realm of higher education, and is currently a freshman at New York City Technical College majoring in Liberal Arts. In the future, Daniel said that he would like to work with children to reciprocate the services that he believes has enriched his life.

For those of us at the agency who have had the pleasure of working with Daniel, we share a common opinion that Daniel is a unique teenager and some would say close to perfect, if such a teenager does exist. His worker describes him as pleasant, consistent and helpful. Most of all, Daniel is a humble person and accepts praise with resistance. However, we commend Daniel for his achievement and offer our continued support in his educational endeavors.
The Office of Youth Development, formerly known as Adolescent Services, continues to enjoy success in meeting the challenges emerging from new thinking on youth and how we could best help them develop and transition successfully into adulthood. Our new title, Youth Development, is reflective of the current school of thought which calls for youth to play a more significant role in making decisions about their development, owning those decisions and accepting responsibility for the outcomes. To this end, the Youth Development team remains committed to providing the necessary supports and services that are critical for preparing youth for successful adulthood.

**Statistics**

**Youth Development:**
- 40 youth in college or vocational school (approximately 50% increase from previous year)

**Aftercare Services:**
- Served a total of 33 families with 62 children
- Of 62 children only 2 were returned to care
- Program achieved 105% of required 10% reduction of care days for FY ’06 mandated by the Administration for Children Services
**MOVING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & AFTERCARE SERVICES TO THE FUTURE:**

**Youth Development:** The Office of Youth Development regards educational achievement as foundational in the process of preparing youth for adulthood. Thus, we have made Education Exploration, Planning & Achievement the centerpiece of our youth development model; emphasizing both academic and vocational education. Currently, the agency boasts a college/vocational enrollment population of 40 youth – a more than 50% increase from the previous year. This year, at our Annual Board Meeting, we honored these college students; high school grads and other educational achievers. Additionally, our mentoring program continues to grow; increasing from 12 youth in 2005 to 17 in 2006.

We continue to aggressively seek opportunities to build relationships with community organizations specializing in Employment Readiness and Placement. We are now established clients of Ameriworks and Career & Educational Consultants, two agencies that provide job preparation and on-the-job training opportunities for youth. This programming goes hand-in-hand with our very effective Housing Advocacy outreach. All youth 18 years and older have been registered for housing services through New York City Housing Authority; either for Section 8 or New York City Housing assistance. To date, this year, we have a core of 15 youths in a mentoring relationship.

**Aftercare Services:** The Family Solutions Aftercare Program (FSAP) collaborates with the case-planning units to effect timely discharges from care thereby expediting family reunification. The FSAP promotes stability, safety and well-being among families by linking them with community-based services and supports.

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT:**
Higher Education Exploration & Planning; Career & Employment Readiness; Housing Advocacy; Life Skills Development, Recreation – dinners, trips, movies; Mentoring Coordination; Human Sexuality & Family Planning

**AFTERCARE SERVICES:**
Family stabilization; Service referrals; Discharge-Grant shopping; Home safety assessments; coordinate birth-parent support network
The Family Solutions Aftercare Program currently serves 33 families with a total of 65 children and youth. The program has been effective in providing relief to families by reducing and/or eliminating stressors that threaten their stability. The program has intervened in critical moments to offer both therapeutic and financial supports to families in need. Some of the family stabilization services rendered include medical and mental health referrals; discharge-grant shopping; emergency and monthly home safety assessments; satisfaction of accounts payables; holding monthly birth-parent support network sessions.

Of the 65 children served so far, only 5 were returned to care. Additionally, the program has over achieved (105%) in terms of meeting its required 10% care-day reduction for year 2006.

Lucia Rojas was 15 years old when she came to the United States of America from Mexico, where she spent most of her life on a farm. She decided to migrate in search of a better life but soon found herself alone and without support in the new country.

When she came into Edwin Gould’s care, she could hardly speak any English and so trying to help her presented particular challenges. Lucia decided that she would do whatever it took to become fluent in English and get a good education.

When she graduated from Park West High School last June, she ranked fourth out of a class of 354 students, was fluent in English, had penned two major poems about her experiences in America. Lucia’s academic achievements, participation in extra-curricular activities and community-service involvement earned her the attention of the Seinfeld Family Foundation which awarded her a four-year full scholarship to any college of her choice.

Presently, she is majoring in Spanish at SUNY Potsdam, plays an active role in the Student Government Association and plans to pursue a career in International Affairs.

We are extremely proud of her achievements and congratulate her.
Meeting the goal of preparing youth for adulthood gives impetus to Edwin Gould’s pro-active educational approach to youth under its care. To that end, a team of key personnel with expertise in the fields of social work, education and law has been assembled. This group comprises an Educational Committee that has developed a plan of intervention for foster youth that will focus all efforts and resources on helping foster youth meet their educational and personal development goals.

Members of the Educational Committee include an Educational Consultant, an Educational/Vocational Counselor, a Director of Youth Development and Aftercare Services, a Director of Foster Parent Support and a Foster Parent Advocate.

Specific objectives of the educational intervention include:

• A decrease in the percentage of foster children on the Promotion in Doubt list.
• A decrease in the percentage of foster youth referred for disciplinary action
• A decrease in the percentage of foster youth not attending school or with poor attendance.
• A decrease in the percentage of AWOL foster youth
• An increase in the reading and math scores of foster youth

The intervention plan developed by the Committee occurs at an Educational Review which is a meeting scheduled for youth in need of an educational intervention.

The educational review is attended by the Educational Consultant or Educational/Vocational Counselor, the foster youth and foster parent and possibly the caseworker. Central to the plan’s success is the ability and willingness of foster youth to set and work towards defined goals. Foster and birth parents and professionals are key players in the intervention plan as they accept responsibility for assisting youth to meet their goals. A review is considered successful if the foster youth accepts responsibility for his/her own education and sets both short and long term goals for his/her future.

The support of foster parents, birth parents, caseworkers and other professional personnel is a key factor in the success of the intervention plan as these actors are charged with providing the encouragement, assistance and resources necessary to help foster youth achieve their goals.

The philosophy which informs all participants of their role in the intervention plan is encapsulated in the Three R’s of Edwin Gould’s Educational Philosophy:

RESPONSIBILITY- each child is encouraged to accept responsibility for his/her education and to take charge of his/her future by making positive decisions today. Youth are assisted in setting immediate and long term goals.

REINFORCEMENT- Foster adults, parents and professionals have the responsibility to support, encourage and assist foster youth in meeting their goals.

REWARD —Foster adults must provide positive feedback to youth who strive to meet their goals. Professionals must provide verbal affirmation to foster youth who try to reach their goals.

A system of follow-up by caseworkers via monthly progress reports will provide regular feedback and help provide timely identification of problems, which must be addressed. Assessment of progress towards meeting specific objectives will be ongoing.

The Educational Review structures the network of responsible adults as a team, whose goal is to assemble all available resources to support youth, as they move toward a future as successful adults.
United Families is a community based program which has been empowering families with preventive services since 1979. The program serves the Fort Green, North Crown Heights, Bedford-Stuyvesant and Williamsburg communities in Brooklyn. It provides comprehensive services to a minimum of 135 at-risk families at any one time. In the previous year, we have served over 185 families and 404 children. We have flexible hours in the mornings and evenings; weekends are extended to accommodate family members who work, attend treatment or school, or are otherwise engaged in essential activities.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families who completed program due to achievement of goals</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families who moved out of area</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families who withdrew or requested closure</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children served</td>
<td>404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children placed in Permanency services</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Casework Contacts per month</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total referrals received by ACS</td>
<td>101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monthly ACS Referral Average</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Community Referral Average</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall Utilization</td>
<td>93%</td>
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WHAT WE OFFER:

Year after year, we help the residents of this community. United Families offers several services which prepare children and families for a bright future. These include:

- In-House Casework Counseling in Spanish and Creole
- Anger Management/Parenting Skills in the mornings and evenings
- Adolescent Independent Living Skills Workshops
- Emergency Goods

OUR STAFF:

United Families’ participants are supported by a multi-lingual, multi-gender staff which reflect and are sensitive to the uniqueness of the population services. The Administration For Children’s Services has given the approval to hire two additional Case Planners to help reduce caseloads from 15 to 12. The current staff consists of a 16 individuals with pivotal roles: 9 Case Planners; 2 Casework Supervisors; 1 Program Director; 1 Maintenance Person; and 3 Social Work Interns from Adelphi, Fordham and Columbia Universities.
preventive services

The Incarcerated Mothers Program works to strengthen families with the goal of preventing out of home placements for children and breaking the intergenerational cycle of incarceration by fostering the resiliency of children, families and communities. Our youth programs and support groups seek to promote mutual aid and community change efforts to better support healthy development.

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[statistics]

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Families receiving preventive services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children served</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of ACS Referrals</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families receiving home visits</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teenagers receiving after-school programming</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children being matched with mentors</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children participating in Kids Shine</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women attending prison-based groups</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preventive cases closed due to meeting their goals</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
INCARCERATED MOTHERS PROGRAM

This last year has been a challenging one in the child welfare field due to the many child fatalities in New York City, but also one of new opportunities as ACS has continued to see Preventive Programs as key partners in the efforts to keep children safe and families together whenever possible. We have been working closely with ACS to better understand the issues impacting our community districts, like the high rate of adolescent placements in residential care, as well as some of the issues that are plaguing the system overall, such as the challenge of working with families who are chronically neglectful. Through our active participation and leadership in community collaborations, we are hoping to develop innovative interventions and reduce the system obstacles that families often face.

After five years as the program director, I have been excited this year to see the many benefits to our clients and to our program, the relationships that we have built in our community and in the field of serving families affected by incarceration. One partnership allowed us to offer five children an in depth course in documentary film making in collaboration with Mayles Institute. This summer program allowed children to take home video cameras, capture their lives, and then learn the process of editing from film makers. The skills that they learned in filming and computer editing cannot compare to the excitement and empowerment these children felt in being allowed to tell their own stories, in their own voices. We hope to continue this collaboration and allow more children to have this amazing experience. This is one example of many, where our partnerships allow us to offer innovative and creative services even when additional funding is not available.

Our relationships also help individual clients. When a former client came to our office in a crisis after realizing that her long-term substance abuse problem was ripping her family apart, we were able to connect her to a substance abuse provider, Liberty Management, a partner in our community network, the East Harlem Child Welfare Collaborative. The client, Ms. F, was supported by Kathy Adamson, from Liberty Management, during the weeks that it took to make arrangements for a special needs daughter. Despite the wait, she entered and successfully completed detoxification. Ms. F is incredibly grateful. When she was ready, we were here for her even though her case is technically closed and we were able to connect her to such a great program. These types of connections are possible, when relationships are developed that allow us to overcome the many system barriers, and to call upon our fellow providers, when we have clients in need of their services.

Not only have our relationships had an impact on our local community but we have also made an impression on an international level. Idalmin Santana traveled to Sweden for the third year in a row to represent children of prisoners on the International Children’s Jury for the World’s Children’s Prize for the Rights of the Child. Idalmin shared her inspirational message of surviving the experience of having both parents incarcerated with hundreds of children across Sweden. She also met other amazing children and adults from around the world like Jetsun Pema, the sister of the Dalai Lama.
services training education prevention and self help

STEPS To End Family Violence provides holistic services to abused women, teens and children in New York City. With eight programs, STEPS is able to provide comprehensive services including legal advocacy, outreach, educational programming, therapy for children who witness abuse and individual and group counseling for adult women and teens who experience abuse. STEPS has several specialized programs including an alternative to incarceration program for abused women arrested for charges that relate to the abuse they experienced, a teen accountability program for young men who abused their girlfriends or other family members, mostly mothers, and a parent education program, Families In Transition, which provides a two session parent education program for divorcing or separating parents.

[statistics]

70 women received alternatives to incarceration advocacy, counseling, and services
35 women successfully completed the alternatives to incarceration program with 14 of them who had their felony level cases dismissed or acquitted
over 500 women received domestic violence counseling, advocacy, and services
75 children received individual and/or group counseling about the abuse they had witnessed or experienced
250 women received legal advocacy
over 120 community workshops on domestic violence
employment readiness services for 100 mothers
educational sessions in four high schools and two middle schools
teacher training sessions on domestic violence
counseling sessions in the schools
33 peer leaders trained in domestic violence during the summer.
STEPS TO END FAMILY VIOLENCE

STEPS ATI (Alternative to Incarceration) program this year overachieved on our program milestones for 50 new clients, achieving a 117% successful completion rate for 35 clients. During this fiscal year, through our program’s advocacy, we have saved the City over $1 million and the State over $7 million.

With financial support from the City Council and additional funding from the Criminal Justice Coordinator’s office, our program can now expand this current year to service 100 additional women with misdemeanor cases. While these cases are less serious than our ATI program, we can now prevent abused women from further involvement in the criminal justice system, educating and counseling them to understand their options and know more about the power and control of abuse.

Our two non-residential domestic violence programs: This year Taking STEPS and Youth CAP (Changing Abusive Patterns) provided counseling, advocacy, domestic violence and substance abuse services, and legal advocacy for over 500 women and teens. We have offered over 120 workshops on domestic violence for the community.

STEPS Children’s Therapy Program continued our services for children who have witnessed or experienced abuse in their homes. We provide individual, group, play and art therapy. We receive many referrals from ACS as well as many community agencies.

Our newest program is a parent education program for divorcing and separating parents. Called “Parents In Transition” this program provides a two session curriculum to assist parents to help their children during this difficult time. Our program is fully credentialed by the State, and the referrals are starting to increase.

Our Teen RAPP (Relationship Abuse Prevention Program) had a busy year with their four high schools and two middle schools. During this summer, they trained students to be peer leaders and return this year to their schools to assist the RAPP Coordinators. Also during the summer they produced a video of their learning about abuse.

Our Teen Accountability Program has worked for many years in collaboration with the Center for Court Innovation and the Domestic Violence courts. This year this program has expanded and provides a comprehensive accountability program for teen young men who are being abusive of their girlfriends or other family members, mostly mothers.

Stepping Stones To Success, our employment readiness program works with women preparing for release from prison and after their release. Workshops, computer training, resume preparation and job search are all completed. Then case management is provided during this process and for six months, after obtaining a job or training program.

[services provided]
- counseling, both individual and group, for adult women, teens, and children
- domestic violence and substance abuse counseling
- domestic violence education – a 12 week series
- understanding your anger – a 12 week series
- legal advocacy
- alternatives to incarceration for abused women (both felony and misdemeanor)
- teen abuse education in four high schools and two middle schools
- outreach and educational workshops on domestic violence for the community and community agencies
- teen accountability
- services in English, Spanish, Arabic, Creole, Russian, Romanian, and American Sign Language
- employment readiness services for mothers released or soon to be released from prison
Yu-Kwan Soon kept her eyes on the dirty tile floor of the Rikers Island women’s clinic, her voice barely audible over the cacophony of the jail. I immediately noticed the thick, angry purple scars running from wrist to elbow on both of Yu’s forearms. The newspaper had said only that Yu had “snapped” and murdered her husband while she was eight months pregnant, but the jail chaplain who had referred her to the STEPS ATI (Alternatives To Incarceration) program mentioned the suicide attempt, the trauma, the baby born by emergency C-section, and the extreme degree of domestic violence Yu had experienced at the hands of her husband. Yu was charged with the highest possible level of homicide and faced 25 years to life in prison and deportation to South Korea, where she had previously been the victim of a rape.

Yu remained on suicide watch for many weeks at Rikers Island while she awaited trial. While she was initially reluctant to discuss her situation with anyone, Yu gradually began to talk to the me about the severe abuse her husband had inflicted upon her, including beatings, isolation, forced hours of kneeling prayer under the threat of a knife, re-enactments of her rape in Korea, forcible sodomy, and death threats to her family and to her unborn child. For several months, Yu insisted that while the counseling was helping, she did not want legal help; she said that she deserved whatever punishment she received. Yu began attending New Beginnings, our domestic violence education group run by STEPS on Rikers Island. As she began to hear the stories of other women who had experienced domestic violence and were now incarcerated for defending themselves against abuse, her shame began to lessen. Finally, she consented to allow me to bring her son, now living with his paternal grandmother to visit with her at Rikers.

Eventually, Yu agreed to be evaluated by a forensic psychologist contacted by STEPS. This psychologist diagnosed Yu with severe depression with psychotic features precipitated by extreme domestic violence. The District Attorney’s evaluator agreed. STEPS then helped to mobilize an extraordinary advocacy effort in which anti-violence groups from all over New York City petitioned the judge for leniency. These groups took on Yu’s cause whole-heartedly, mobilizing hundreds of people and spending countless hours assisting with Yu’s defense. Yu never stopped expressing her amazement that so many people cared about her case and went to such lengths to help her.

A little over two years after I first met her at Rikers, Yu stood in front of the judge, again with her eyes to the floor. With dozens of advocates from domestic violence groups, I sat on the edge of a bench awaiting the judge’s decision. After making a moving statement addressing the abuse that Yu suffered and the tragedy which could have been avoided had she been able to connect with domestic violence groups such as STEPS before it was too late, the judge sentenced Yu to the minimum sentence of five years. Yu and her advocates cried tears of relief and gratitude.

No longer suicidal, Yu hopes to reunite with her son after her release, to finish the Master’s degree which she came to the U.S. to pursue, and to work as a spokesperson and advocate for other Korean women, who are the victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

SUCCESS STORY:
yu-kwan-soon

By Ashley Hatcher-Peralta
Senior Counselor
STEPS ATI Program

edwin gould services for families and children
The Crisis intervention/foster parent support unit is a new department within Edwin Gould Services for Children that was established in July 2006. The creation of this unit is a result of the Administration For Children’s Services’ (ACS) distribution of the $11.5 million reinvestment money that was awarded foster care agencies to establish supports aimed at stabilizing family based placements for all youth, especially teenagers.

[statistics]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total active number of children in care</td>
<td>613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of adolescents (13-21)</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of foster parents</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of support groups held per month</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As a result of the overwhelming increase of foster care placements in this past year alone, and the majority of these placements being teenagers, there is a much greater need for the recruitment and retention of foster parents who are able and willing to care for teens.

Edwin Gould realizes the challenges faced by all foster parents and has established the supports necessary to maintain all foster care placements. One of the supports is the availability of the crisis intervention team. The crisis intervention team responds to crises on a 24 hour basis. The team includes: a director; a supervisor; two social workers; a substance abuse counselor, and a foster parent advocate. In addition, the agency has an educational consultant who has over thirty years of experience with the board of education and is now the focal point and resource person for the foster parents and staff on educational issues. There will be an academic review of each child and educational intervention and support strategies are being developed.

The agency also has a foster parent support group which meets in Manhattan and in Brooklyn once a month. These groups are a continuation from last spring, and are viewed as an opportunity for the foster parents to meet with other foster parents and get support from each other. In addition, the agency has implemented adolescent support groups for all youth 13-21 years. These groups also meet in Manhattan and in Brooklyn once a month. These adolescent groups provide the youth with an opportunity to meet with other youth in foster care and voice their feelings about issues that might be affecting them. The other goal of the youth groups is to eventually have some of the youth in the groups become co-facilitators.

The agency is also focusing on providing more specialized training to both staff and foster parents in such areas as techniques for parenting adolescents and in other areas of child welfare. The agency is very pleased to hire Mr. Stephen McCall, who is a consultant with over eight years of being a therapeutic foster parent/adoptive parent. Mr. McCall is a motivational speaker, a trainer and father of seven teenagers, one of whom is living independently. Mr. McCall will be conducting some foster parent and staff training, and helping to facilitate the adolescent and foster parent support groups. Mr. McCall will also be involved in providing his expertise on some complex cases by making home visits to the foster home. He will be accompanied by the crisis intervention worker. With these supports, the agency will minimize the movements of children from home to home and reduce the likelihood of having Office of Confidential Investigation reports on the foster parents.

The establishment of the above mentioned supports will help with the agency’s recruitment, as its foster parents will be more willing to recommend other parents to Edwin Gould, since the supports will already be available for them. The contribution of the supports and the crisis team will also help improve the agency’s Equip (Evaluation and Quality Improvement Protocol) score by the Administration for Children’s Services.

CRISIS INTERVENTION/FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT UNIT

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The Health and Mental Health Services Department continues our commitment in providing quality care to the Communities, Families and Children that we serve. This year our focus is on utilizing evidence based practice to facilitate community engagement and improved educational outcomes for children and adult learners as well. The Health and Mental Health Services Department is headed by a Director who holds a Master’s Degree in Community Urban Health Nursing and a Master’s of Urban Public Health Education. Our Supervisor of Nursing is a Master’s degree candidate in Health Care Administration and she supervises four Registered Nurses and three Licensed Practical Nurses. The support staff that rounds out our Health Care Team consists of two certified medical assistants, an administrative assistant and a mental health coordination assistant.

**Statistics**

- Scored a 95% on 2005 PES Audit the highest ever for Medical Records
- The 2006 PES Audit had 100% perfect on the medical record review
- 220 children came through the health services intake department between January and October of 2006
- Over 700 children received health assessments
- Over 700 children and adolescents received mental health screens and were referred to services in the communities in which they live
- Over 350 foster parents received health counseling and health education sessions
- 400 adolescents received individual sex education and sexual health counseling
- 22 adolescents received health and mental health services in the SILP program
- 39 children and their families received health and mental health services in the After Care Program
- 32 adults with developmental disabilities received nursing services in our OMRDD group homes
- 36 Direct care staff received Medication Administration Training and Certification, First Aid and Environmental Health and Safety
The Health and Mental Health Services provides health care coordination and health counseling for children and their caregivers in the Foster Boarding Home Program.

On intake every child receives a health assessment by our Nurses and a mental health screen by our Mental Health Consultant. At this time the Resource parent is also counseled on the individual health and mental health care needs of the child and educated as needed on health interventions and community providers that will provide quality services, while the child is in their care. In the case of an adolescent over the age of 12 years, that adolescent is counseled as well, on Sex Education, Family Planning, Substance Abuse and HIV prevention. Both the Adolescent and the Resource Parent receive Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families identification cards with their Medicaid number, the office telephone number of their assigned health coordinator and after hours/weekend numbers to contact an agency nurse 24/7.

Our commitment to community engagement was enhanced this year by our affiliation with The Child Development Support Corporation in the Bedford-Stuyvesant Community in Brooklyn. Our nurses at that site care for 150 children in the foster boarding home program and an additional 22 adolescents in the Supervised Independent Living Program, who are living on their own in apartments in the community. In addition to coordinating health and mental health services in and around the Community of Bedford-Stuyvesant, individual and family therapy sessions are provided on the premises on Saturdays. Once a month, 22 children receive their monthly medication reviews on site, and we provide a dental van on many of these Saturday afternoons to give the dental care to the children, whose Resource parent works during the week. This new affiliation with a community based foster boarding home program has been rewarding in the new relationships and bonds that have been formed not only with the service providers, but with our Resource Parents, their children and adolescents.

Health Services’ Nurses also provide the health coordination for our adults with developmental disabilities, who live in the community in group homes. In addition to the Health coordination, we provide Medication Administration Training for the Direct Care Staff and ongoing educational seminars on first aid, diabetes and hypertension management, environmental health and safety and recognizing changes in health status.

This year, Edwin Gould for Services and Families opened a new Individual Residential Alternative (IRA) facility in two beautiful apartments on Riverside Drive. Opening day was a very festive day as the families brought the young adults to their first “apartment of their own”. Every one was beaming as they toured the apartments that sport beautiful views of the George Washington Bridge. With the opening of this (IRA), our nurses now provide care to 32 adults with Developmental Disabilities and have met the challenges of engaging another community to provide quality health and mental health services.

Education has always been an important component of the Health and Mental Health Services Department. Our own staff continues to study nursing on the undergraduate, graduate and post graduate levels ensuring that we remain up-to-date on nursing interventions and health outcome indicators. Our Health Services Director, preceptors nursing students from Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing every semester. These internships in Community Health Nursing and Public Health Education are offered on the undergraduate and graduate level. The Diversity of our programs and multiple sites for community engagement makes Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families a much sought after site for these Community Health Internships. As students and educators, our Health Care Staff model the values of continuing education which in turn encourage our young people to maximize their potential and strive for excellence.

The services provided include:

- Health Assessments
- Mental Health Screens
- Health Coordination for Foster Boarding Home
- Nursing Services for OMRDD group homes
- Health Coordination for the SILP program
- Health Coordination for the After Care program
- Preparation of Medical Packets for Adoptions
- Foster and Birth Parent Counseling and Education
- Sex Education and Family Planning counseling for all adolescents 12 years and up
- HIV risk assessments, counseling and testing
In our efforts to improve the quality Mental Health Care Services at Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families, this year we have partnered with two institutions of higher learning in research studies to increase the knowledge base of evidence based practices in the realm of mental health interventions for children and adolescents in foster care. The first project was a 12 week pilot study conducted by The Children’s Center of New York University. Every Thursday a small group of children from ages 5-8 came to the 40 Rector Street site for “Dinosaur School.” This was a very special program that was funded by the Federal Government. The program’s goal was to teach the children self-control, problem solving and social skills. Edwin Gould and NYU staff served as teachers and facilitators for the project which gave all involved new insight on the mental health care needs of our children. We hope to replicate “Dinosaur School” in the Spring of 2007.

Our Second Partnership is with Columbia University New York State Psychiatric Institute. This project is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and targets improved outcomes for adolescents in foster care. The training provided through this project is extensive and designed to provide wrap around mental health interventions to best assist our adolescents to have full and meaningful lives as they approach adulthood. This project offers a train-the-trainer approach that includes clinicians, staff, resource parents, birth parents and adolescents. The “Youth in Foster Care Empowerment Sessions” will take place through a co-facilitated series of 5 small group training and discussion groups.

The program goals for the adolescent workshops are for youth in foster care to develop self-awareness and self-efficacy to advocate for social/emotional well being. We are proud that Columbia University’s Center for the Advancement of Children’s Mental Health reached out to Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families to participate in this evidence based research project. These evidence based activities make us an agency of choice as we are recognized as leaders in the industry.
The OMRDD division serves a total 32 consumers at seven different certified residential sites. These include four sites at Co-Op City in the Bronx, one at Sherman Avenue in the Bronx and our two newest sites on Riverside Drive in Manhattan. Six of our certified residential sites are operated as IRA (individual residential alternative) and the other is an ICF (intermediate care facility). The IRA programs are residential sites housing a maximum of four consumers. All of our residential sites are staffed by direct support staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our only ICF program is an eight bed residence, where our consumers are provided with intensive clinical care and training.

[statistics]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>32 consumers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youngest consumer is around 23 years of age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldest consumer is over 40 years of age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of the IRA programs have a census of four or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About 30% of our consumers are non verbal or present severe communication deficits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About 10% of our consumers possess independent traveling skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All seven residential sites were successfully recertified by OMRDD within the past six months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% of our consumers have ambulation difficulties.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eight individuals reside at this location. It is comprised of four men and four women with very diverse interests. Under the leadership of Ms. Milagro Santana, Program Coordinator, these residents have been able to form meaningful relationships with their friends, families and members of the local community as a whole. These activities include being able to attend church or synagogue services on a regular basis in accordance with their professed faith and/or religious denomination. In recent months, these consumers have gone on vacations trips that included destinations such as Bermuda and Virginia Beach. Regardless of the level of disability, every consumer was provided with an opportunity to enjoy a minimum five days of vacation. Consumers are encouraged to express themselves in regards to redecorating their bedrooms, clothes shopping and the leisure type activities in which they like to engage. The ICF care model allows for a complete clinical team comprising of a registered nurse, nutritionist, recreation therapist, behavior therapist, speech therapist and clinical coordinator (QMRP-Qualified Mental Health Retardation Professional). These clinicians have regular contact with our consumers and they play an active role in developing individualized treatment plan to address every consumer’s needs. These may take the form of providing one to one treatment to the consumers, monitoring specific therapies and providing staff training. The direct support staffs at RKF are very seasoned and the low staff turn over at that site has allowed for the formation of a long term bond between consumers and staff. More importantly, it has made it possible for ensuring a continuity of superior care and treatment.
Co-Op City IRA
Alcott Place Bronx, NY

At this location, we operate four certified sites. Two four-bed male residences and two four-bed female residences. The IRA care model allows for individuals with varying levels of disability to receive individualized care and oversight suitable to his or her needs. To that end, some of residents have received travel training that now enables them to travel to and from work independently. A few of our consumers receive site-based [in their residence] ancillary services in the form of occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychological counseling and speech therapy. The services rendered are authorized by the consumer’s ISP [individualized service plan]. This document which is developed with the full input of the consumer and his or her advocate outlines all of services rendered. These may consist of the pharmacy where their medications are obtained to the name of their personal dentist and how often they go for treatment. This document also outlines the consumers’ aspirations and dreams. One of the precepts of IRA care model is the three Is & P. This stands for individualization, independence, inclusion and productivity. Our consumers are encouraged to be independent to the extent that it does not compromise their personal well being and they are encouraged to express themselves and to live fulfilling lives. Under the leadership of the Co-Op City management team (Ms. Torres and Mrs. Edwards), these consumers have been able to go on regular vacations, church, attend parties and maintained meaningful relationships.

Riverside Drive IRA
157th Street and Riverside

We operate two residential programs at that location, a four-bed male residence and a four-bed female residence. These programs were opened in January 2006. Since its opening the residents have been able to enjoy the myriad of opportunities afforded to them in their surrounding community. They attend Riverbank Community Park and Recreation Facilities, local theatres, eateries, synagogue, churches and etc. Under Ms. Glover’s [Program Coordinator] leadership all of these consumers who came from home made a successful transition. As in our other IRA programs, the three Is & P are the guiding principle. To that end, all of our consumers attend vocational day habilitation programs during the week. In the months since its opening, the consumers have formed lasting bonds with the staff, and they look forward to the weekly group dinner where they get to sample different foods.
The Presidential Award has been established to recognize staff for exemplary performance. This is the Agency’s way of recognizing staff, bringing their performance to the attention of others, and saying thanks for a job well done.

**October**
Everson Gibson
Associate Director of Programs

**November**
Fatima Howard
Permanency Services

**December**
Milagro Santana
Residential Services

**January**
Barbara Stewart
Residential Services

**February**
Edna Morales
United Families

**March**
Tito Carreno
Information Technology

**April**
Caroline McBride
Fund Development

**May**
Reynaldo Williams
Residential Services

**June**
Michaelene Edwards
Residential Services

**July**
Laura Lombardi
STEPS

**August**
Ameilia Swanigan
STEPS

**September**
Ana Davila
STEPS
Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families is funded through New York City and New York State contracts. These funds, however, must be supplemented by additional income to meet the current needs of the children and families that we serve.

Therefore, we depend on private individuals, corporations and foundations to help support the quality services and programs we provide.

We all agree that children are our future. We want them to grow up where they know happiness, believe in themselves and look to their future with confidence and purpose. Please join us in our mission to help enrich the lives of our children.

For more information on how you can help, contact the Fund Development Department 212-598-0050.

thank you to our supporters

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Christopher and Kim Polony
Jason and Alyssa Port
Joanna Pousette-Dart
Penelope Group Managers
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William Quigley
Terry and Denis Caron Quinn
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Keneth Reiss
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William Wegman
Mark P. Weingarten
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George A. Weiss
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Eric White
Roy Wimmer
B. Victor Williams
Tiger Williams
Williams Trading
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Myles and Barbara Wittenstein
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& Audio Video
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Coby Zekry
Antony Zito
Sophocles and Silvia Zoulias
Mortimer B. Zuckerman
The Walt Disney Company
The Estate of Roy Lichtenstein
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Coby Zekry
Antony Zito
Sophocles and Silvia Zoulias
Mortimer B. Zuckerman
Todd Zucoloc
### Financials

#### REVENUES

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<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Govt. Revenues (including Pass Thru)</td>
<td>$15,882,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Support</td>
<td>$1,421,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Revenues</td>
<td>$83,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,387,955</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### EXPENSES

**Programs:**

- Permanency Services: $8,147,911
- Residential Services (a): $2,742,692
- Independent Living Program: $232,845
- Preventive Services: $1,304,585
- STEPS(b): $1,650,832
- Youth Leadership/Achievers/Mentoring: $141,725
- Health/Mental Services: $711,667

**TOTAL PROGRAMS** $15,050,947

**PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES**

- Management & General: $1,487,588
- Fundraising: $658,078
- Total Program Support Services: $2,145,666

**TOTAL EXPENSES** $17,196,613

**Net Change in Assets** $191,342

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(a) Includes IRA, ICF, SILP
(b) Includes General STEPS, Teen Accountability, Stepping Stones to Success, OCFS Children’s Therapy, STEPS NYS- FFVS, Alternatives to Incarceration, HRA-Non-Residential Svc., Teen RAPP, Parent Education

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**statement of activities ending June 30, 2006**

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**edwin gould services for families and children**

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