

STEPS TO END FAMILY VIOLENCE
Edwin Gould Services For Children and Families
ANNUAL REPORT 2004

STEPS To End Family Violence began 2004 with enormous growth that almost doubled the number of clients we currently serve. This growth came as a result of an award last October of two new contracts from New York City's Human Resources Administration that now allows the program to provide non-residential domestic violence services to women and teens, not just those who are involved with the criminal justice system. With these contracts, STEPS has gone from formerly serving 200 women to approximately 400 women this year.

Our other adult domestic violence program is our signature program – alternatives to incarceration for abused women. This ATI program has demonstrated a huge savings to both the City and the State as our staff, and particularly our Legal Services Coordinator, Cathy Selin, document the victimization these women have experienced. This is then presented to the courts. Our little program has saved New York City jail space over \$1,000,000. this past year, and saved New York State prisons over \$2,000,000. What a better use of our tax dollars! Both of our adult domestic violence programs are coordinated by Lucia Riviuccio. We were so happy to welcome her last year and she has proven an excellent supervisor and leader within our programs.

In September we received news that we will be receiving a grant in February from New York State Office of Children and Family Services, allowing us to expand the Children's Therapy Program. With this, we will be able to serve more children, providing nurturing and support with youth who have witnessed domestic violence. This added position will allow us to accept children who in the past year have been on a waiting list because of a lack of staff. As a result of the hard work by our Children's Therapy Coordinator, Laura Lombardi, the Children's Therapy Program has gained an outstanding reputation within the community for providing therapeutic services to children in need.

September also brought five new MSW Interns to STEPS from Columbia and Hunter Universities School of Social Work. This group of students is among the best from their schools. They began with great eagerness and have continued to provide supportive and educational services for our clients. We are proud to have them as part of STEPS and are proud of the many social workers that we have trained over the years.

In October, STEPS celebrated our 18th Annual Anniversary Awards Party. This was coordinated by our wonderful Fund Developer, Beth Quartin. Along with Sonia Olmo who did some tremendous outreach, our Awards Party was a great success. The event spotlighted New York City's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, honoring Yolanda Jiminez for her commitment and that of the Mayor to support efforts to eradicate domestic violence in New York City. STEPS was also pleased to honor Deputy Commissioner Leasa McLeish of the New York City Department of Correction. She has been steadfast in her support and collaboration with our programs. Additionally, Janice Arroyo was recognized for her generous contribution of her talent by designing a new logo for STEPS. Printing of new letterhead, envelopes, labels and business cards are being completed at this time, giving a fresh new face to the program. Please

look for them in the new year! We think you will be as pleased as we are with the design and layout. We are now designing new brochures to better advertise our services.

The Teen RAPP program, now in four New York City high schools, has continued with wonderful results. During the summer, the staff trained peer counselors who have now returned to their schools to assist the Coordinators with outreach and advocacy. It is marvelous to see high school students now understand and speak well about domestic violence, its effects and how to intervene. They will be the next generation of adults who will truly understand domestic violence and be able to change society's attitudes about abuse!

The Teen Accountability Program has grown significantly this past year. The courts have sent us many young men who are starting to be abusive of girlfriends or other family members, usually mothers. This accountability program provides the young men an alternative to jail and an opportunity to change their behavior.

Our third teen program is Youth CAP (Youth Changing Abusive Patterns). Our wonderful staff are providing needed counseling and education and advocacy for teens who are involved with abusive relationships or abuse within their homes. There are so few safe places for teens (as well as adults) and all of us at STEPS are pleased to provide this safe haven for our next generation of adults who will know that abuse is not deserved. These three teen programs are coordinated by one of New York City's experts on teen abuse: Michele Richard.

Our employment readiness program, Stepping Stones to Success lived up to its name this year. Jobs and training programs were found for 65 women. The busy staff with their supervisor, Savannah Lilly, outreached and networked with agencies and employers to assure our clients that their skills were noticed as well as their efforts to improve their lives.

As always, December is busy as we organized a family visit on December 20th for children to visit their mothers at Rikers Island. Children had a special day with gifts given by generous individuals and churches. On December 17th, with the support of GOYA Foods, Inc. Coca Cola, the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration and the radio station 105.1, we had a wonderful Christmas party for our clients and children at All Souls Church. Our offices are now beautifully decorated for the holidays and our families have received more wonderful gifts than ever, as a result of the generosity of many churches, various agencies and a collaboration with New York Cares Secret Santa Program. Sonia and several staff coordinated all the gifts for the families. With so many more families this year, it was a tremendous undertaking but all our families were happy with their gifts.

Please know that we are here to help you or anyone that you know involved in a domestic violence situation. We thank you for your support and your continued partnership with all of us at STEPS to End Family Violence. We look forward to an even more remarkable and exciting year in 2005.

Sr. Mary Nerney, CND Director STEPS To End Family Violence
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