

New York City FY'05 Adopted Budget Summary: **Advocacy Produces Results**

On June 24th, after two months of negotiations between the Mayor and the New York City Council, the Council adopted a \$47 billion budget for fiscal year 2005. The budget restores more than \$100 million for children's programs and also adds new funds, including \$10 million for 1,400 new child care slots and \$50 million for a New York City Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-wage earning families. The EITC is part of the City's tax package that awaits approval in Albany. The joint tax package the Mayor and the Council sent to Albany, attempts to strike a balance to benefit all New Yorkers by providing tax breaks for property



Invest in Our Future – Protect Our Kids, a City Hall press conference that brought over 300 New Yorkers to City Hall on May 11th gave voice to children's issues and the need to fund children's programs. Pictured above, Youth Action NYC member, Caliph Mathis III, urges City officials to restore funding for essential children's services.

owners and low income working families. If passed by the State Legislature and the Governor, The NYC EITC will

provide households earning under \$34,692 with a refundable tax credit of up to \$215
continued on page 3

Improving Systems In and Outside of Government **2004 Founders Awards**

Congratulations to Dr. Trudy Festinger and the Honorable Michael A. Corriero, who CCC honored with the 2004 Founders Awards. Awardees were chosen for their unflagging advocacy on behalf of children.

Dr. Festinger, CCC Board Member and Professor of Research at the School of Social Work, Ehrenkranz Center, recently conducted research on New York City adoption services and found a way to reduce a child's time in foster care by nearly one

year. Understanding the time commitment, perseverance, and necessity of a research base for child advocacy and children's programs, Dr. Festinger encouraged CCC to

continue its fact-finding approach by emphasizing how "the results have strong policy implications" that will guide our advocacy to improve child well-being in all of New York City's agencies and systems serving children.
Serving as a catalyst for
continued on page 5

INSIDE

A Message from Board Leadership.....	2
2004-04 Task Forces: Advancing Reforms.....	3
Mayor Responds to Homelessness Panel Report Calling for Major Reform	4
Out of School Time: A Wealth of Opportunity for New York City Youth	5

A MESSAGE FROM BOARD LEADERSHIP

THE BOARD



Nancy Locker, outgoing Chairman, Gail B. Nayowith, Executive Director, Heidi Stamas, Chairman, and Judith A. Garson, newly elected President.

It is always exciting to begin the new program year, but especially so this year – CCC's 60th Anniversary. To mark that milestone we will be kicking off a substantial new program initiative – the product of the work done this past year by the 60th Anniversary Task Force that gathered insights from experts locally and nationwide in all areas that affect children and families. Recommendations from this Task Force – Our 60th Anniversary Initiative should seek to improve the lives of the broadest number of children possible and will become an overarching focus for CCC, complementing the research, public education and advocacy efforts in the issue areas we traditionally cover.

Our founders,
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As always, our staff will need the help of volunteers to make this effort successful. Sixty years ago at CCC's beginning, our founders, Eleanor Roosevelt, Adele Levy and Ruth Field were not unlike the volunteers we have today – citizen activists who care about the well-

being of New York City's children. In that tradition, we encourage you to attend Policy Briefings this Fall and for our Board and Advocacy Council members to become involved in the Task Forces that are discussed on the next page.

Our Celebration Breakfast, on October 19 at 7:30 at the Waldorf=Astoria, will unveil the 60th Anniversary Program Initiative. At that event we will honor our Executive Director, Gail Nayowith, with the Eleanor Roosevelt Award. It is Gail's superb leadership, tenacity and intelligence that have helped CCC to attain the stature it holds today as the premiere child advocacy organization in the City. Gail and members of the staff are regularly called upon by policymakers in New York City and in Albany for their input on issues critical to children and families. There is no better choice for the Eleanor Roosevelt Award on our 60th Anniversary. We are also fortunate to have New School University President Bob Kerrey as keynote speaker at the Celebration Breakfast. As the former Governor and Senator from Nebraska and current resident of

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New York City FY '05

continued from page 1

to offset their tax burden as well as the high cost of living in New York City. The reach of New York City's EITC legislation is vast – 700,000 New York City households, and when combined with the New York State and federal EITC's, families could receive a refund of \$5,600 each year.

Visit CCC's website at www.kfny.org to view highlights of restorations and enhancements to children's programs.



Above: Speaker of the New York City Council, Gifford Miller and CCC Executive Director, Gail B. Nayowith speak out on the importance of the local EITC, at a June 16th press conference.



Left: Councilmember John Liu (on the steps of City Hall with children from Chung Pak Daycare Center of the Chinese American Planning Council) demonstrates his support for funding children's services at the May 11th press conference.

Message

continued from page 2

New York City, we are looking forward to hearing his perspective on issues that affect children and families.

Our 60th Anniversary also coincides with a change in Board leadership. After four years of wonderful leadership, Nancy Locker will step down as Chairman to become Vice President for Nominating, and we are thrilled to have Judith Garson as our new President. Judy has been a committed volunteer and board member for six years, with particular involvement in the juvenile justice area. Many thanks to Nancy and a warm welcome to Judy in her new role.

Please join us for what promises to be a hallmark year with much important work to be done to improve the lives of New York City's children and families.

2004-05 Task Forces

Focusing on specific areas of child need, CCC's 2004-05 Task Forces are gearing up to: investigate issues and identify solutions through fact-finding and program monitoring; educate New Yorkers about our findings and recommendations, and with their support urge state and local officials to advance necessary legislative, policy and program reforms. In partnership with our professional staff, CCC's cadre of trained volunteers will take part in the work of the following Task Forces:

- Local and State Policy for Homeless Youth
- Girls in the Juvenile Justice System
- Understanding the Service Needs and Experience of Youth in Detention
- Early Care and Education Opportunities for Children with Special Needs
- Implementing Child Care Oversight and Quality Improvements
- The Health and Mental Health Needs of Children in Foster Care
- 60th Anniversary: Making New York City Government Responsive to Children
- Exploring a Youth Commission for New York City Government
- *Keeping Track VII* – Informing the Community
- New York City Candidate Task Force

SMP Releases Second Report on Family Homelessness

The New York City Family Homelessness Special Master Panel (SMP) released its second evaluation report entitled, "The Emergency Assistance Unit and Shelter Eligibility Determination." The report details a comprehensive approach to address the City's front door to the family shelter system – the Emergency Assistance Unit (EAU), and shelter eligibility determination. The EAU and Eligibility Determination Report calls for a fundamental restructuring of the EAU into a Family Shelter Intake Center and a functional transformation of shelter application and eligibility processes to shift from a shelter-only system of care to one with a homelessness prevention focus where shelter is only one of many housing-related services and supports

offered to homeless families with children. The report provides an unvarnished review of EAU operations and the limitations of the facility and speaks directly to the hardships experienced by families in crisis and staff working under difficult conditions. In

The report fulfills a key charge in the historic agreement entered into on January 17, 2003 by the City of New York, the Department of Homeless Services and The Legal Aid Society calling for a new way to address family homelessness through evalu-

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced his intention to end chronic homelessness in New York City at a historic breakfast meeting on June 23, 2004.

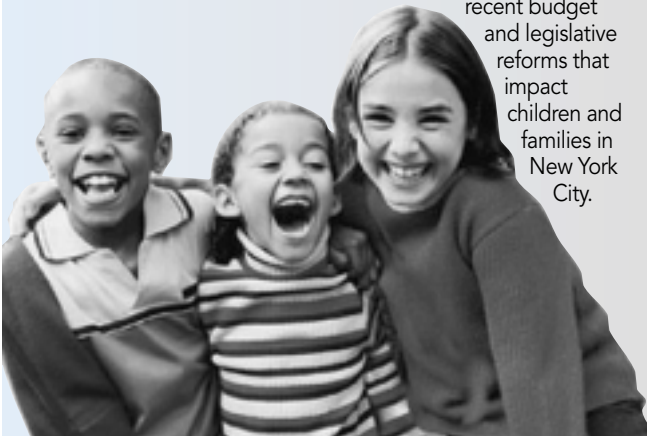
drafting the report, the Panel sought to strike the proper balance between a compassionate response and need for shelter and safety net services to be provided by government and the reality of tremendous need and finite public resources.

ation of the issues, constructive problem-solving and reduced reliance on the courts.

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced his intention to end chronic homelessness in New York City at a historic breakfast meeting on June 23, 2004. His plan is to shift the City's focus from shelter to prevention and supportive housing and he embraced the recommendations of the SMP Emergency Assistance Unit and Shelter Eligibility Determination Report. This vision will be realized by the Department of Homeless Services that will restructure the family intake and eligibility review process. The EAU redesign will expand prevention and housing-related resources for at risk and homeless families, improve eligibility determinations, and provide shelter only when families are determined eligible. Incorporated in the Mayor's five-year plan is a commitment to create one new intake center.

www.kfny.org
**Kids First
 New York**

Log onto CCC's newly designed website at www.kfny.org, home to CCC's latest reports and important facts and data about children in each of the City's five boroughs and throughout its 59 Community Districts. The site also includes timely e-cards that enable visitors to communicate with their elected officials. From our Kids First New York website learn of recent budget and legislative reforms that impact children and families in New York City.



To read the full report, visit CCC's website at www.kfny.org.

Out-of-School Time:

An Untapped Opportunity for New York City Youth

Untapped potential exists during the time when children and youth are out of school. Developing young people's skills and talents as well as their intellect, prepares the workforce of the future and helps secure economic prosperity for all New Yorkers. Out-of-school time (OST) programs motivate and prepare young people to succeed in school and life.

In 2004, with a grant from the Wallace Foundation, CCC undertook a comprehensive assessment of the need for and preferences of parents and youth for formal programs during out-of-school time. The research is part of the Learning in Communities Initiative in partnership with the City of New York and the Fund for the City of New York. CCC's efforts center on providing information about the ways children and families now spend their out-of-school time. To date the OST research, data collection and analysis has included:

Focus Groups with parents and youth, facilitated by the Partnership for After School Education, Inc. (PASE).

A citywide poll of 1,000 New York City parents conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart.

Data collection and analysis of the supply and demand for OST services.

This work is the first comprehensive needs assessment of what New York City's young people are doing in out-of-school time and identifies preferences for OST programs. It

reveals a significant gap between need and available services. The polling data show that only 57% of New York City school-age children are enrolled in OST programs during the school year and an estimated 28% who are currently not served in an OST program would likely use services were they available.

Awardees

continued from page 1

Right: Dr. Trudy Festinger



Left: The Honorable Michael A. Corriero

change inside the criminal justice system, Judge Corriero has led the country in work with juvenile offenders, supporting alternatives to incarceration. Each year Judge Corriero also inspires new volunteers recruited through CCC's Community Leadership Course and guides CCC's research, policy proposals and advocacy efforts.

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN OF NEW YORK INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR

A 60th Anniversary Celebration Breakfast

Keynote Speaker:

Bob Kerrey, President, New School University, Former Senator and Governor of Nebraska, Author of *When I Was A Young Man: A Memoir*, Member of the 9/11 Commission (The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States)

Eleanor Roosevelt Awardee:

Gail B. Nayowitz, CCC Executive Director

Tickets start at \$125

Please contact Greg Klemens at 212-673-1800 ext. 21 or email him at gklemens@kfny.org

OCTOBER 19TH, 2004 • 7:30 AM – 9:15 AM • GRAND BALLROOM, WALDORF=ASTORIA



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Housed, Educated and Safe**