

# CCC Celebrates Outstanding Leadership for Children

In what has become an annual fall event, Citizens' Committee for Children, with lead corporate sponsor Kaplan, Inc., hosted the annual Celebration Breakfast in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf=Astoria Hotel to honor leaders for their personal and professional commitments to advance the well-being of New York City children and families.

**Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs**, Director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University and author of *The End of Poverty* delivered the keynote address to the nearly 700 New Yorkers in attendance. Dr. Sachs, drew from his work with the UN Millenium Project in emphasizing the connections between impoverished communities and centers of power and wealth. From an anti-malarial bed net in a rural African village to the decisions in the boardrooms of global financial institutions, he made the case for the unique potential and shared responsibility to end global poverty within a generation.

Accepting the Eleanor Roosevelt Award was **Dr. Sharon E. Carpinello**, whose



(Left) Dominic Carter, NY1 Senior Political Reporter and Host of *Inside City Hall*; (below, left) Sharon E. Carpinello, Former Commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Health; (below, right) Judith A. Garson, CCC Board Chairman and Maryann Marston, CCC Board President, with Awardee Hill Harper.



leadership as Commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Health led to the development and adoption of "Achieving the Promise for New York's Children and Families," the single largest investment in children's mental health services in New York State history.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Award is presented to an extraordinary individual who demonstrates a life-long commitment to child well-being and civic life. Accepting the award, Dr. Carpinello evoked Roosevelt's belief that human rights begin in small places, close to home.

The Samuel P. Peabody



Award for Journalism was presented to NY1 Senior Political Reporter **Dominic Carter** for his commitment to "getting the story behind the story" on important political issues facing New Yorkers and New York City children and families.

Samuel P. Peabody Awards for Community Activism were awarded to actor and author, **Hill Harper**, and **New Alternatives for Children (NAC)**. Mr. Harper's commitment to youth mentorship and outreach is reflected in his recent book, *Letters To A Young Brother*, through his personal outreach to young audiences across the country, and the founding of the Manifest Your Destiny Foundation dedicated to youth development and mentorship.

**Dr. Arlene Goldsmith**, the **Director of New Alternatives for Children**, accepted the Samuel P. Peabody award on behalf of NAC whose work with medically fragile children has resulted in major gains in the life chances and quality of life of children, helping them to reach their potential and giving them the opportunities to succeed that every child deserves.

**Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs** (pictured at right) with CCC Board Member **Samuel P. Peabody**.



CCC Board Members (left to right) **Audrey Rosenman**, **Priscilla Bijur** and **Elizabeth Sheehan**.





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## Governor Spitzer

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children will remain insured and can continue accessing needed health services.

The Executive Budget takes affirmative steps to protect vulnerable children by permanently extending legislation, which preserves the uncapped 65%-35% reimbursement for the non-federal share of preventive, protective, adoption, after care and independent living services. The Executive Budget also pulls out funding from the TANF Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS) to establish a stand alone Summer Youth Employment Program, guaranteeing annual financing. Further, the SFY'08 Executive Budget increases investments for community-based alternatives to detention programs and continues the multi-year commitment to improve outcomes for court-

involved youth, reduce out-of-home placements and increase public safety.

While overall a good news budget for children and families, some issues remain. The availability of programs and classrooms will be a challenge in implementing the proposed UPK expansion and investments are needed to increase child care slots to ensure that families struggling to meet the demands of work have safe, affordable and high quality child care for their children. The proposals to expand health insurance for children leave some gaps in health insurance for children in and aging out of foster care. Additionally, while homeowners and renters both bear the brunt of the increased property taxes and rising energy costs, only homeowners will benefit from the proposed tax breaks in the Governor's Executive Budget.

Finally, there are built-in revenue risks that will affect resources available to New York City in the out-years when deficits are anticipated. Currently, New York City provides close to 49% of the state's tax revenues, contributing \$11 billion more each year than it receives back. While New York City can afford to be generous in helping the state this year, its financial position will not always be as strong as it is today. In fact, significant shortfalls are anticipated in the out years, with a gap of \$2.6 billion in CFY '09 expected to grow to \$3.7 billion in CFY '10. There should be provision made in the state budget anticipating a downturn in New York City's financial future such that balanced revenue-sharing and funding formulas are maintained to protect New York City and other counties in the hard times ahead.



### GET INVOLVED!

Join the CCC E-Action Network today to learn more about our *Securing Every Child's Birthright* Campaign to promote economic, housing and developmental security for all New York City children.

Visit [www.cccnewyork.org](http://www.cccnewyork.org) and click on Take Action for Children.



# NEWS

MARCH 2007 | CITIZENS' COMMITTEE for CHILDREN of NEW YORK, INC.

## Building Momentum to Secure Every Child's Birthright

**C**CC has been moving ahead with its work of *Securing Every Child's Birthright*®

(SECB) to economic, developmental and housing security.

To advance developmental security, CCC held a briefing in September to educate New Yorkers, colleagues and elected officials on *Nutrition and Hunger: Improving Access to Nutritious, Affordable Food*.

In November 2006, Mayor Bloomberg and City Council Speaker Quinn announced an effort to increase access to healthy foods in low-



income communities by creating a Food Policy Task Force and a new staff position of Food Policy Coordinator. New Yorkers joined

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## Commending Governor Spitzer for Resolving CFE and Investing in Children's Health and Safety

**G**overnor Spitzer's first budget address brought good news regarding services for children and families in New York State. The SFY'08 Executive Budget addresses the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) lawsuit by proposing a \$7 billion increase in state education aid over the next four years. The proposal provides \$1.4 billion the first year, of which \$637 million is for New York City. Education increases are made possible by a state-city agreement in which New York City will contribute \$532 million in the first year and its contribution will grow to \$2.2 billion in the next four years, bringing

the combined contribution of both city and state resources to \$5.4 billion in 2011 for New York City schools. The Governor's Executive Budget also includes a \$99 million statewide increase for the expansion of half-day Universal Pre-kindergarten (UPK) for four year olds and incentives to provide full day UPK by 2011.

Similarly, the Governor's budget includes proposals to realign revenue and redesign the health care delivery systems to make vital health services available, affordable and easier to obtain. The SFY'08 Executive Budget allocates funding to provide coverage for the 400,000 New York State children who are uninsured and expands subsidized premiums for Child Health Plus from 250% to 400% of the federal poverty level, reducing the price of health insurance for children in low income households. The proposal also includes streamlining the insurance re-certification process, which will help provide continuous coverage and reduce drop-off rates so more

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## A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

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Executive Director

As always, it's been an exciting fall and winter at CCC. In September, the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) presented its recommendations to Mayor Bloomberg in City Hall's Blue Room. This blue ribbon panel included CCC's Executive Director, Gail B. Nayowith, and CCC Board Members David Chen and John Sanchez. The Mayor gave Deputy Mayor Linda Gibbs 90 days to come up with an implementation plan. Already, many efforts are underway and the Mayor's Financial Plan commits \$150 million to fund CEO initiatives.

The alignment of the CEO recommendations with the tenets of CCC's *Securing Every Child's Birthright®* (SECB) Campaign is no accident, and we're very proud of CCC's impact on this important anti-poverty initiative for New York City.

At our October 2006 Celebration Breakfast, CCC honored Dr. Sharon Carpinello, Commissioner of the New York State State Office of Mental Health. Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, our keynote speaker, inspired us all with his insights on global poverty. The Waldorf=Astoria Ballroom was filled with CCC friends and supporters, enabling us to continue to press our priorities for New York City children.

This fall and winter we expanded our advocacy outreach to elected and appointed officials on the in-person and electronic fronts. CCC's e-advocates have sent messages to both sides of City Hall urging support for a NYC Child Care Tax Credit, the transfat ban in foods, and a coordinated effort to increase access to healthy, affordable food for New Yorkers. If you have not yet logged onto [www.cccnewyork.org](http://www.cccnewyork.org) and signed up for our E-Action Network, please do so. Make your voice heard for children!

Throughout the fall and winter, seven standing-room only Policy Briefings were held, and for the first time ever, CCC's YouthAction NYC members facilitated a Policy Briefing on *Incorporating the Student Perspective in High School Reform*. Additionally, the fall Youth Community Leadership Course (YCLC), comprised of students from 19 public and private schools, ended the program with a presentation at City Hall to Council Members and their staff on their semester-long assessment of youth issues in Mott Haven. CCC's youth have been busy!

Finally, CCC's Works on Paper Benefit Preview and Silent Auction, on March 1st at the Park Avenue Armory, was a resounding success. Our annual Albany visit for State Advocacy Day on March 6th focused the energy generated by the Benefit on CCC's state budget priorities. Thank you for joining us!

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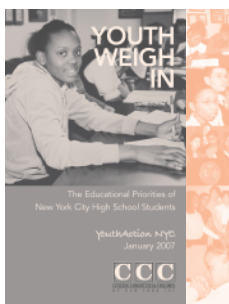
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## YouthAction NYC Members Weigh In

In 2006, YouthAction NYC undertook a year-long fact-finding project to better understand and meet the needs of New York City high school students. YouthAction NYC members were interested in improving the high school educational experience and saw an historic opportunity to weigh in on high school reform. After extensive research, four roundtable discussions, a focus group of peers and a survey of 102 high school students throughout the city, YouthAction NYC members formulated policy recommendations and produced a report entitled *Youth Weigh In: The Educational Priorities of NYC High School Students*. This report offers 14 policy recommendations incorporating the perspectives of high school students and other stakeholders.

YouthAction NYC is transitioning to the next phase of its advocacy, which will involve communicating findings and garnering support from peers and community leaders in advancing their recommendations. In January, YouthAction NYC members began meeting with leaders in the fields of education and youth development to share findings, collect feedback and strengthen alliances with



knowledgeable and influential community and educational leaders. In Spring 2007, YouthAction NYC members will meet with representatives from the Chancellor's Office, the New

York City Council Education Committee and key community-based organizations.

Moving forward, YouthAction NYC plans to use its report as a tool for sharing the experiences and perspectives of high school students, a model for incorporating the youth voice in school reform and a vehicle for advancing youth-generated recommendations in New York City high schools. In the months ahead, YouthAction NYC members will take their report on the road – coordinating meetings with student leaders and staff at the high schools they attend, to discuss their findings and foster collaboration around school improvement and authentic youth-adult partnerships.

*Youth Weigh In* will be released in spring 2007.

## Focusing on Healthy Food

Many families in New York City have limited access to healthy, affordable food. Studies suggest that poor access to healthy foods is a contributing factor to the growing obesity rates and related health problems that disproportionately affect low-income children and families. CCC conducted focus groups in two communities – Mott Haven (Bronx) hosted by East Side House and Red Hook (Brooklyn) hosted by Good Shepherd Services – to understand how families obtain food.

Participants in the focus groups expressed having difficulty in finding fresh food at reasonable prices close to home. In Mott Haven, participants noted that while most of the food in the neighborhood was affordable, its quality was below par and they expressed a desire for a better selection of nutritious food at affordable prices. Residents of Red Hook reported a somewhat different experience noting that the quality of the food in Red Hook is of good quality but is too expensive.

Participants reported that they travel once or twice a month to make large grocery purchases at stores outside their

neighborhoods that offer a wider selection of food at competitive prices. In Mott Haven, residents spoke of traveling to Manhattan to get “good vegetables,” but, like families in Red Hook, they expressed concern about the high cost of quality food and the added cost of travel. In Red Hook, participants said that they relied on car service and other forms of transportation once a month to shop mostly for groceries because, while there is a large, new supermarket that offers quality food in the area, few participants shopped there regularly as they found it too expensive and intimidating.

In addition, participants identified several barriers to consuming more fresh foods and vegetables. In Mott Haven, the fresh produce available spoils quickly and the overall quality and selection of food is poor. In Red Hook, participants reported wanting lower prices and guidance on how to use and cook healthier foods. This information will help CCC develop and amplify policy options and proposals to increase access to affordable, nutritious food through the *Securing Every Child's Birthright*® Campaign.

## CCC Applauds the Mayor's Preliminary Budget and Calls for Increased Attention to Child Care and Preventive Services

CCC applauds Mayor Bloomberg's CFY'08 Preliminary Budget for its strong child and family focus. The Preliminary Budget includes a New York City Child Care Tax Credit and expands access to higher education and job training for low-wage workers. The plan also includes new education funding totaling \$2.2 billion over the next four years, which, when added to education aid proposed by Governor Spitzer, will result in \$5.4 billion more resources for NYC schools. The Mayor has also baselined \$10 million to enable the city to provide uninterrupted family child care for nearly 1,500 children already receiving services.

Despite this very good news, there are several areas in the Administration for Children's Services' (ACS) budget which

warrant immediate attention. These include serious risks in the child care budget associated with continued program transfers among city agencies and consistent underfunding of essential child care programs. CCC remains concerned that child care funding needs to be stabilized and enhanced in order to preserve child care opportunities and increase the availability of safe, affordable child care. The CFY'08 Preliminary Budget also fails to carry forward funding that reduce preventive service caseloads and improve the intensity and frequency of work with children and families at risk of child abuse and neglect.

For more information and a detailed list of CFY'08 Preliminary Budget restorations, reductions, additions and transfers, please visit [www.cccnewyork.org](http://www.cccnewyork.org).

## Building Momentum

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CCC in an e-advocacy effort to thank the Mayor and Council Speaker for taking steps to develop a coordinated agenda to ensure that more New Yorkers have access to healthy, affordable food. Along with meetings and conversations with city agency officials and food and anti-hunger colleagues, CCC held two focus groups—in Mott Haven, Bronx and Red Hook, Brooklyn—to field test policy options designed to improve access to healthy, affordable food in underserved areas of New York City.

CCC has also been working to promote the Universal Newborn Home Visiting Program and build on efforts to expand the Newborn Home Visiting Program to 9,500 households in Brooklyn, Manhattan and the Bronx. CCC has been meeting with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to monitor and promote the expansion of the program into all of New York City's 59 community districts.

To enhance housing security, CCC has been working to increase tax relief for New York City renters by advancing a Renters Tax Credit. CCC will continue to work with the Community Service Society and meet with elected and appointed officials to gather support for extending tax relief to renter households.

To promote economic security, CCC engaged New Yorkers in e-advocacy efforts

sending letters to Mayor Bloomberg, City Council Speaker Quinn and City Council Members in support of a New York City Child Care Tax Credit (CCTC). Mayor Bloomberg proposed creating a NYC CCTC and, in December, committed approximately \$50 million to support it.

CCC also produced new fact sheets on the Renter Tax Credit, Newborn Home Visiting Program, Child Care Tax Credit and Healthy, Affordable Food and has distributed them to stakeholders and policymakers to increase the reach of *SECB* efforts.

The new fact sheets are available online at [www.cccnewyork.org](http://www.cccnewyork.org).



CCC says farewell to Rose Anello, Associate Executive Director for Public Affairs (pictured, right), with Jennifer March-Joly, Associate Executive Director for Program and Policy), as she departs after two decades of effective advocacy and service to NYC children.