

Yale Law Professor Anne Alstott: Keynote for Justine Wise Polier Lecture

On Monday, April 18th, the annual Justine Wise Polier Lecture took place at the offices of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP. CCC Board Member, Trudy Festinger, daughter of Justine Wise Polier and Professor of Research at New York University's School of Social Work, introduced Keynote Speaker, Yale Law School Professor Anne L. Alstott, co-author with Bruce Ackerman of *The Stakeholder's Society* and author of *No Exit: What Parents Owe Children and What Society Owe Parents*.

Anne Alstott's work reflects current research, which shows that holding assets in early adulthood, leads to better health outcomes and superior labor market performance. By providing economic resources at an early age, the cycle of poverty can be mitigated and the burden imposed on the federal government through welfare supports, administered later in life, can be significantly reduced. Among other initiatives, Professor Alstott has proposed an \$80,000 "stake" for young adults and \$5,000 "caretaker resource accounts" that would help parents fund childcare, continuing education, and retirement savings. Her ideas reframe public discourse on government policy with regard to children, families, and the welfare state. Alstott reported that support for government investments in children proposed in *The Stakeholder Society* is gathering momentum worldwide, including Australia, Germany and in the United Kingdom where a



Board Members Trudy Festinger and Michael Kalogerakis with Professor Alstott.

Child Trust Fund Account has now become "the law of the land."

Alstott supported CCC's advocacy efforts to help increase families' earnings through the local New York City Earned Income Tax Credit. She noted that money matters in terms of equality of opportunity and described how government investments for children could create the opportunity for economic security that is not available to most children today. A similar initiative, the ASPIRE Act has been proposed by both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Recently the House of Representatives voted to repeal the Estate Tax, which taxes inheritance of over \$1,000,000. If this tax is not repealed, the revenue could be invested so that every baby born would receive \$30,000 at age 21.

The Stakeholder Society by Bruce Ackerman and Anne Alstott, Yale University Press, 1999.

State Budget

continued from page 3

- Rejects the proposed elimination of presumptive enrollment in Child Health Plus for Medicaid eligible children as they await eligibility determination

Mental Health

- Adds \$6 million for Article 31 outpatient mental health clinics
- Adds \$2.3 million for home and community based waiver slots for children with a serious emotional disturbance (SED) who are in foster care or at-risk of institutional placement
- Adds \$6.5 million for supportive housing programs to address the rehabilitative and support needs of priority populations, including children with SED

Income Support

- Rejects full family sanction and automatic notification to Child Protective Services
- Rejects a decrease in the Earned Income Disregard for families on public assistance for more than five years
- Rejects a 50% work participation rate requirement for counties

Education

- Increases the school aid by \$848 million over school year 2004-05. This funding includes only \$325 million more than last year for New York City schools despite a recent ruling that ordered \$1.4 billion more for city schools this year
- Reimburses approximately 50% for costs for new school buildings and renovations in New York City rather than 30% and 40% of their capital cost.



CITIZENS' COMMITTEE for CHILDREN
OF NEW YORK INC.

105 East 22nd Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10010
V: (212) 673-1800
F: (212) 979-5063
E-mail: info@cccnewyork.org
website: www.cccnewyork.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
NEW YORK, NY
PERMIT NO. 2883

Securing Every Child's Birthright[®] Healthy • Housed • Educated • Safe

Save the Date for CCC's Celebration Breakfast Oct. 25, 2005



On May 25th, New Yorkers urged the Mayor and the City Council to negotiate a budget for Fiscal Year 2006 that restores \$90 million in funding cuts for children's services and enhances services that make ***New York City, A Great Place to Live, Learn and Grow***. The press conference drew over 200 concerned New Yorkers to the steps of City Hall, including children, young people and City Council Members.

Above: CCC's YouthAction NYC

speakers Melissa Sierra and Caliph Mathis II with Council Members Bill Perkins, Robert Jackson and Eva Moskowitz.

Right: Speaker Gifford Miller (right) joins New Yorkers at the press conference.



Keeping Track of New York City's Children Online at cccnewyork.org

On April 7th, Citizens' Committee for Children of New York released the seventh edition of *Keeping Track of New York City's Children*, the most extensive data available in one place on the status of children in New York City neighborhoods. This latest edition of *Keeping Track* reports improved conditions for children growing up in New York City, particularly in the areas of health and

continued on page 4



Children Better Positioned In City Budget

On May 5th the Mayor issued his FY'06 Executive Budget proposals that reflect many shared priorities with the City Council. Proposals include funding for services to prevent child abuse and neglect, childcare, after school programs, summer jobs for youth, classroom services and school building upgrades. New initiatives proposed include a Housing Trust Fund to build more affordable housing; a COLA

package to support the non-profit human service workforce; and the elimination of the city sales tax on clothing purchases under \$110 to reduce the tax burden on working families. Notable however, are over \$90 million in cuts that threaten health and mental health services for children, as well as childcare, youth development and homelessness prevention and services.

Many legitimate, com-

peting interests demand city resources. The challenge for the Mayor and the City Council now is to negotiate a budget for FY'06 that ensures that New York City continues to be a great place for children to live, learn, and grow.

Instead of budget cuts to essential children's services, the city's rebounding economy and stronger revenue forecast should strengthen and expand children's services.

CCC encourages the Mayor and the City Council to find even more common ground as they negotiate a budget that restores the balance of proposed cuts to children's services and plans for a future in which every child is healthy, housed, educated and safe.

INSIDE	A Message from Board Leadership.....	2
	Works on Paper.....	3
	FY'06 State Budget Advocacy.....	3
	Justine Wise Polier Lecture.....	5

A MESSAGE FROM BOARD LEADERSHIP

THE BOARD



Heidi Stamas,
Chairman



Judith A. Garson
President



Gail B. Nayowith
Executive Director

The winter and early spring months have been busy ones at CCC with several significant events, and the launch of a new advocacy campaign—*Securing Every Child's Birthright*, in addition to the usual full complement of research, advocacy and budget activities. More on these activities is detailed in this newsletter, but we thought we would touch on some of the high points.

Our preview night of the *Works on Paper* art show in March was CCC's most successful fundraising event ever. This was our fourth year of partnering with Sanford Smith and Associates, and over 1200 people enjoyed a festive evening. We received generous corporate support from among others, the Hearst Corporation, new to CCC this year, and from Lehman Brothers, which has sponsored the event every year. The benefit's success is attributable to many people: we would like to thank our co-chairs: Kathy Mele, Nancy Locker, and Alexander Cortesi for all their efforts; the Steering Committee of volunteers who helped to plan the event, and our hard-working development staff.

Equally exciting was the publication and launch of the latest edition of *Keeping Track*, CCC's flagship publication, a comprehensive encyclopedia of statistics on child well-being in New York City. *Keeping Track* is an invaluable resource for policy-makers, academics, advocates, journalists, parents and others interested in how New York City's children are faring. A standing room only crowd attended the press launch and a demonstration of *Keeping Track Online*. A community education Task Force will begin shortly to disseminate the information and illustrate how *Keeping Track* and *Keeping Track Online* can be used in presentations by staff and volunteers.

New Yorkers attending the Justine Wise Polier lecture were inspired by a thought provoking talk by Yale Law School Professor Anne Alstott, author of *The Stakeholder Society*, which provided CCC with inspiration to undertake a new initiative – *Securing Every Child's Birthright* campaign (see article on page 5).

Because CCC's ambitious work plan each year relies on a small corps of hard-working staff, our unique collaboration with volunteers is crucial to getting the work done. They expand our reach, maximizing our effectiveness. Recruiting for the fall Community Leadership Course (CLC) is underway as well as for the fall Youth CLC for high school students. These courses are our entry point for New Yorkers who want to become CCC volunteers. They provide a "101" course on New York City government and the social service delivery systems for children. Please feel free to call us if you have questions or you want to become involved in CCC's important work for children.

Chairman
Heidi Stamas

President
Judith A. Garson, Esq.

Vice Presidents
Katherine Kahan
Nancy Locker
Samuel P. Peabody
Emily U. Satloff
Elizabeth Sheehan
Nancy F. Solomon

Treasurer
John T. Reid

Secretary
Arlette Ferguson Mathis

Executive Director
Gail B. Nayowith

Board of Directors
Amy D. Bernstein
Priscilla Bijur
David Chen
Constance L. Christensen
Marna Dann
Judy Tobias Davis
Veronica Dillon
Gloria Faretra, M.D.
Mrs. Arthur A. Feder
Carol J. Feinberg
Susan J. Feldman
Trudy Festinger, D.S.W.
Jennifer A. Hand, Esq.
Ricki Tigert Helfer
Chris Stern Hyman, Esq.
Anne K. Jones
Michael G. Kalogerakis, M.D.
Sheila Kameron, D.S.W.
Jonathan A. Knee
James Krauskopf
Daniel Kronenfeld
Frances Levenson, Esq.
Lee A. Link
Katherine S. Lobach, M.D.
Ernesto Loperena
Elinor G. Mannucci, Ph.D.
Maryann Marston
Katherine Mele
Sally Mendel
Sue Nager
Martha J. Olson, Esq.
Laverne Parker-Robinson
Susan L. Raanan, Ph.D.
Audrey Rosenman, A.C.S.W.
John Sanchez
Jean Schrag
Rebecca J. Simmons
Joanne M. Stern
Hee Sun Yu

Honorary Directors
Edythe W. First
Nancy Hoving
Sr. Mary Paul Janchill, D.S.W.
Hamilton F. Kean, Esq.
Pam S. Levin
Marge Scheuer
Mrs. Robert S. Siffert
Mrs. Jesse D. Wolff

State FY'06 Budget Advocacy

On March 1st, CCC volunteers and staff met with state lawmakers in Albany to advocate for children during FY'06 budget negotiations. This year's state budget-making process was complicated by three factors: revenue shortfalls and a growing state deficit; proposals to collapse and consolidate funding for essential social service programs into a block grant funded at levels far below the actual cost of care; and last December's New York State Court of Appeals decision that redefined and limited legislative authority in the process. This year's state budget was the first on-time budget in over 20 years.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW YORK STATE FISCAL YEAR 2006 BUDGET:

REDUCTIONS

Childcare

- Cuts \$60 million from New York City's child care allocation
- Collapses TANF funding for child welfare, Persons in Need of Supervision and employment and training services into a new Flexible Fund for Family Services. This block grant reduces funding for these programs and causes children to compete with adults for essential social services.

ENHANCEMENTS

Homeless/Housing

- Increases the maximum length of stay from 12 months to 18 months in residential homeless youth facilities to mirror federal law

Child Welfare

- Adds \$1.5 million for a 3-year phase-in of rate increases for congregate care providers

- Adds \$4.5 million for preventive services

Juvenile Justice

- Adds \$5.2 million for expansion of community-based alternatives
- Adds \$1.25 million for Evidenced-Based Community Initiatives

Youth Development

- Adds \$10 million for the Summer Youth Employment Program
- Restores \$500,000 for Runaway and Homeless Youth
- Restores \$1 million for Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention

Child Health

- Rejects proposed changes to impose parent fees and allow counties to reimburse providers below state established minimum rates for Early Intervention services, restoring \$4.6 million and \$4 million respectively

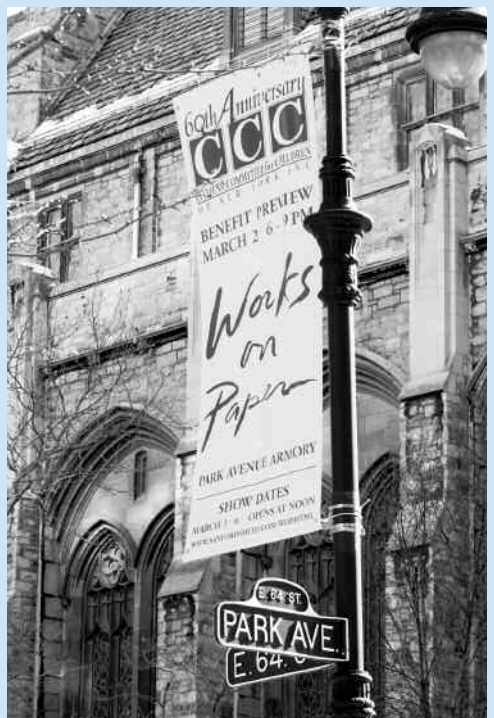
continued on page 5

Works on Paper

On March 2nd, over 1,200 people came out to support CCC's fourth annual benefit preview of the Works on Paper show at the Park Avenue Armory. The event was the most successful fundraiser in CCC's history.

The benefit preview also included a silent auction that raised over \$20,000 with pieces from Richard Avedon, Max Ernst prints, and an original Tim Lovejoy. The works were donated by the Richard Avedon Foundation, Pace Prints, the Mary Ryan Gallery, the Ruth O'Hara Gallery, Tim Lovejoy and Kathryn Markel Fine Arts.

Thank you to everyone who planned, attended and exhibited at the event.



Keeping Track

continued from page 1

safety. The general improvement reflects the city's social and economic recovery. However, in some neighborhoods and particularly among African American and Latino children, improvement has been markedly slower.

For the first time, *Keeping Track* is now available online at ccnnewyork.org, offering a new interactive database, allowing users to create customized reports that aggregate 200 government source indicators by community districts, borough or citywide.

Despite notable gains reported in *Keeping Track*, too many New York City children still face a future where achievement and economic security are out of reach. *Securing Every Child's Birthright*, CCC's new campaign, offers new thinking about old problems and challenges policymakers and New Yorkers to create structural and lasting improvements for all children. *Securing Every Child's Birthright* builds from *Keeping Track's* base of factual evidence to champion bold policies and initiatives that will reduce barriers to economic, housing and developmental security that stand in the way of a productive future.

Find out more about *Securing Every Child's Birthright* by visiting our website, ccnnewyork.org.



Above: **Works on Paper** Co-Chairs Kathy Mele, Judith Garson, Alexander Cortesi and Nancy Locker.



Left: Boardmember Elizabeth Wolff and Leona Hess at **Works on Paper**.

"*Keeping Track of New York City's Children* has been an invaluable tool for ACS – both for directing resource allocation on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis, depending on need, and deepening the public dialogue around better serving our most at-risk communities."

—John Mattingly, Commissioner,
Administration for Children's Services

"I know from growing up, living and working and raising my children in New York City that more must be done for children so that they are prepared for their future and ours. Our unique personal experiences enrich our appreciation of what children need, but the facts are more powerful. And *Keeping Track* has them all. As I make decisions about spending priorities and legislation, I can turn to *Keeping Track* for the ammunition I need to make good things happen for the children living in the neighborhoods I represent.

As well as in neighborhoods and communities all over the city."

—Hon. Leroy G. Comrie,
Majority Whip, New York City Council

"Each year, the City Council must make difficult decisions about how to allocate resources to best serve the needs of the children of New York City. And each year, we turn to *Keeping Track* for the information we need to make those tough calls. It's an indispensable resource for elected officials and other policymakers."

—Hon. Bill de Blasio,
Chair of the General Welfare Committee,
New York City Council

"As *Keeping Track* tells us year after year, too many children in communities throughout this city go hungry, are failing in school or have nothing to do after school.

Keeping Track also tells us that when we have come together to improve children's lives and prioritize city spending on addressing their problems, we are successful. Just look at the relationship between increased spending on efforts to reduce infant mortality and the lowered rates of infant deaths in our city."

—Hon. Christine C. Quinn
Chair of the Health Committee
New York City Council