

From: "Citizens' Committee for Children of New York" <ADVOCATE@cccnewyork.org>  
 Subject: CCC E-News: City Budget Advocacy to Keep Children Safe

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**Securing Every Child's Birthright(R) to be Healthy, Housed, Educated and Safe**

**April/May 2009**

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#### **Citizens' Committee for Children Mourns the Passing of Sister Mary Paul Janchill, D.S.W.**



The Board of Directors and staff of Citizens' Committee for Children of New York (CCC) mourn the passing of Sister Mary Paul Janchill, D.S.W. (6/5/1920-5/7/2009) and extend our condolences to her family, friends and the colleagues with whom we share a deep respect for her legendary commitment to child advocacy.

Sister Mary Paul became a Board Member of CCC nearly 40 years ago in 1970. At that time she was the Director of Social Services at Good Shepherd Services. After developing a series of innovative programs and services there, in 1978 she co-founded, with another Sister of the Good Shepherd, the late Sister Geraldine Tobia, the Center for Family Life in Sunset Park — where she continued to work actively until her death. The Center for Family Life continues to draw local and national attention for its blending of family development, youth work and

community building and serves as a model for many preventive and community service programs.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Sister Mary Paul consulted with New York State on social service planning and lectured at Columbia University School of Social Work, where she had been an Adjunct Professor since 1985. In 1991, Sister Mary Paul received CCC's first Founders Award, inaugurating a tradition of honoring New Yorkers working to ensure a better future for all New York City children, reminding us of the critical connection between practice, policy and advocacy.

In 2003, Sister Mary Paul received CCC's Eleanor Roosevelt Award, named for one of CCC's founders, and it was noted that, like Eleanor Roosevelt, Sister Mary Paul adhered to her values, keenly assessed other people's needs, and motivated others to take responsibility and work for change. And also like Roosevelt, she broke down isolation by bringing communities together and forging ties across racial and class lines.

Sister Mary Paul became an Honorary Director of CCC in 2006.

Sister Mary Paul once described CCC as a "practitioner's dream" in its unwavering advocacy and social policy focus. We remember Sister Mary Paul as a practitioner, educator, mentor, advocate and friend. For over fifty years in social work practice, Sister Mary Paul advised Mayors, taught Commissioners, prodded colleagues, inspired advocates and trained scores of workers, setting the gold standard in her work with families and community.

Sister Mary Paul earned a master's degree in social work at the National Catholic School of Social Work in Washington, D.C. and a doctorate in social work at the Columbia University School of Social Work. She served on numerous non-profit Boards and received many awards-- personally and for the programs she led.

She will be greatly missed.

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### **Over \$108 million in Proposed Cuts to Children's Services**

On May 1, 2009 Mayor Bloomberg released his Executive Budget for City Fiscal Year 2010, which begins on July 1, 2009. The City's proposed \$59 billion budget closes a \$6.6 billion budget shortfall, through \$1.2 billion in increased taxes, \$200 million in labor actions, \$2.2 billion in reductions to city services and \$850 million in Federal Medicaid Stimulus Relief.

While the economic downturn requires government to spend public dollars prudently, it is critical that investments in cost-effective programs and services for children and their families be protected. Over \$108 million in reductions would negatively impact child abuse prevention, foster care, child care, after school programs, primary health care and dental care, mental health treatment and eviction prevention, all programs that protect child well-being and prevent the need for more costly interventions.

CCC is particularly concerned that the proposed budget jeopardizes child safety by not

providing ACS and its community-based providers with the resources they need to keep children safe and strengthen families; threatens children's health by failing to fund primary and preventive health and mental health care such as child health clinics and zero to five mental health treatment among others; and impedes learning by failing to fund programs that provide youth with safe, productive, social and academic services year round and after school and by reducing the capacity of the subsidized child care system.

Please take action with us electronically in the coming weeks to urge the Mayor and the City Council to negotiate a budget that restores these critical services. And join us on the steps of City Hall throughout May and June to urge City Council Members to negotiate a budget that protects children.

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**"Keep Children Safe! Keep Families Together!"**



In recognition of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, CCC organized a rally on the steps of City Hall to urge the Mayor to develop a Fiscal Year 2010 Executive Budget that would not jeopardize child safety. Over 200 youth, parents, foster parents, providers and advocates held signs with symbolic blue ribbons and chanted, "Keep Children Safe! Keep Families Together!" Speakers, including Councilmember Bill de Blasio, CCC Executive Director Jennifer March-Joly, COFCCA Associate Executive Director Dianne Heggie, foster parents, parents and a young person from Lawyers for Children, among others, urged the Mayor not to cut funding for preventive services, foster care, and critical ACS staff.

Those at the rally were demanding that the Mayor treat ACS as the City's emergency responder for children. Sadly, we all remember what can happen when ACS does not have the resources it needs to keep children safe.

Our rally led to a partial victory. While the harsh budget cuts proposed in January still stand,

the Mayor's Executive Budget did not include additional cuts to child welfare services.

As we approach budget adoption in June, New Yorkers and the child welfare community will continue to call upon the Mayor and the City Council to restore critical child welfare services including funding to lower caseloads at preventive service programs, rescind the 5% administrative rate cut to foster care agencies, and protect staff positions at ACS.

[Click here to read the Press Release](#)

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### **YouthAction NYC's Peer Training Program**

CCC's YouthAction NYC's Peer Trainers provide community partners with teams of high school students who engage, teach, and promote fact-based, youth-led advocacy skills to their peers. This academic year, CCC Peer Trainers have facilitated nearly twenty different workshops, connected with over 30 different public and private schools and community-based organizations, and reached nearly 400 middle and high school students. For example, partnering with The After School Corporation, CCC Peer Trainers conducted monthly leadership workshops for 30 middle school students from MS 206 in the Bronx who are advocating to secure additional funding for after school programs. Peer Trainers also formed a new partnership with Sistas on the Rise (SOTR), a community-based organization for young mothers in the Hunts Point neighborhood of the Bronx. In their work with SOTR, Peer Trainers introduced CCC's *Keeping Track of New York City's Children* as a data resource to help inform advocacy efforts to secure greater resources and improve programs for teen mothers. Finally, as the academic year comes to an end, Peer Trainers had the opportunity to present on the impact of their advocacy and leadership activities at an Issue Update for CCC Board and Advocacy Council Members, "Civic Youth Engagement: Research and Reflections." CCC's Peer Trainers look forward to developing many new and fruitful partnerships in the coming academic year.

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### **Become a Child Advocate!**

Time is running out to apply for CCC's Community Leadership Course (CLC)! Once again, CCC will be offering its 10 week course to New Yorkers seeking to learn about NYC's children and how government programs and resources impact their lives. For more details on the CLC and to become an advocate for children, [click here](#). Application deadline is July 1, 2009.

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