FOUNDED IN 1875, The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (The NYSPCC) is the first child protective agency in the world. Throughout its 130 year history, The NYSPCC has met the urgent needs of New York City’s most vulnerable children through the development of new and innovative programs. It is with this same spirit of innovation, concern and compassion for the City’s children that The NYSPCC seeks to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

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SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM
Our Mission

The Mission of The NYSPCC is to protect children and strengthen families through mental health, legal and educational services.

**HOW WE PREVENT THE ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN:**

**Mental Health Services**
- Provide court-ordered therapeutic supervised visitation services to children and their families in a safe and supportive setting
- Counsel children who have endured traumas of child abuse or neglect
- Provide group counseling to “high-risk” children in New York City schools
- Support the families of New York City during times of crisis and trauma with mental health services and information

**Legal Services**
- Deliver effective legal representation for children to ensure their best interests are served in Family Court
- Investigate the child’s home and community environment to provide The NYSPCC attorneys and the court with critical information
- Provide mediation services to resolve issues that prohibit children from leaving the foster care system and to expedite their move to a loving, permanent home

**Education**
- Promote healthy parenting through guidance, research and education
- Educate professionals about child abuse and maltreatment
- Provide resiliency restoration training to child welfare agencies to help staff during times of stress, grief and loss
- Advocate for legislative action that protects children and strengthens families

**WHAT MAKES THE NYSPCC UNIQUE:**
- The first child protective agency in the world—over 130 years of *trailblazing* in child protection and abuse prevention services
- Excellent relationships with social service providers and the court systems in New York City
- Flexibility—as an independent non-profit—to develop and implement enhanced levels of service to children and families
- Warm, caring and dedicated professionals
FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Friends,

The NYSPCC has served New York City’s most vulnerable children and families for over 130 years with cutting-edge programs that provide mental health, legal and educational services. We now serve over 3,000 children and families each year. It is an honor to be part of this organization.

One of our most exciting developments in 2005 involved our Child Permanency Mediation (CPM) program. CPM has been so successful in Brooklyn and Manhattan that with the support of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and The New York Community Trust, we opened offices in both the Bronx Family Court and Queens Family Court.

Working alongside a dedicated group of young New Yorkers, The NYSPCC held its first spring event, “Cinco de Mayo.” The evening’s proceeds benefited our Trauma Recovery program and, more importantly, spread the word about The NYSPCC and the valuable services it provides to New York City families.

Finally, The NYSPCC’s Annual Gala was held October 24, 2005, honoring Marlo Thomas, National Outreach Director, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, and Neil Friedman, President, Mattel Brands. The evening was a success, raising over $400,000 for our work with New York City’s children. It was a wonderful night by every measure.

The remarkable staff of The NYSPCC makes all of this possible. On behalf of the Directors, I thank our staff and our many friends for their steadfast commitment to eliminating child abuse and neglect.

Sincerely yours,

David R. Stack
President
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

RECENT CHILD ABUSE FATALITIES in New York City have brought the topic of child abuse and neglect to the forefront of public awareness. The NYSPCC believes that child abuse and neglect are preventable and that everyone can play a role in protecting children. While governmental and non-governmental agencies play a critical role in detecting and preventing child abuse and neglect, the responsibility also falls upon family, friends, neighbors and the community.

THE NYSPCC’S EXPERTISE in providing trauma recovery services to children who have endured horrific abuse is well-known. We are often called upon to provide expert consultation to the NYC Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) and other providers of child welfare services to aid them in handling their most complicated cases. We also help their staff handle the stress of working on child abuse cases with resiliency response training. Our therapeutic supervised visitation program, Positive Parenting Plus, is also in high demand and is running at full steam. Children and their parents are reconnecting in a safe and supportive environment and benefiting from our “coaching” skills.

I AM SURE that you understand the positive impact The NYSPCC is making in our City. Our thanks to all of our supporters whose contributions bring hope—the hope of safe, healthy children and strong families.

Warm regards,

Mary L. Pulido, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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Executive Director
Mary L. Pulido, Ph.D.
Established in response to the terrorist attacks on September 11th, the Trauma Recovery Program initially provided crisis counseling, education and support services to parents, teachers and children in the communities of lower Manhattan most directly impacted by the attacks. Over time, our services have increasingly focused on the mental health care needs of the City’s most vulnerable populations, including homeless children and families, and children served by the NYC Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) child protective, preventive and foster care systems.

The NYSPCC provides a specialized therapeutic program for children who have experienced physical or sexual abuse or have witnessed family violence. In order to begin the healing process, a safe, supportive and nurturing place must be available to help children recover from these traumatic experiences. Through individualized, child-friendly and child-focused counseling sessions, the clinician helps children to more effectively understand and manage their emotions. Most children in our program have never received the mental health counseling needed to help them develop coping skills and recover. The NYSPCC clinicians have also found that individual sessions with the child’s caretaker, in addition to family therapy sessions, improve therapeutic outcomes in all cases where family violence, including sexual abuse, physical abuse and domestic violence, has occurred.

Another component of the Trauma Recovery Program is the Child Empowerment Program (CEP) which aids children deemed “at-risk” by the New York City public school system. At the request of teachers, parents and school counselors, the CEP provides group mental health services to support vulnerable children’s emotional stability and academic achievement. The CEP focuses on children who are susceptible to trauma due to their prior history of abuse or neglect, experiences in the foster care system or loss of family members or friends through homicide, HIV or substance abuse.

Through in-class workshops and group and individual counseling sessions offered on-site at local schools, the CEP addresses the critical needs of children experiencing behavioral, emotional and psychological problems stemming from traumatic experiences. Group topics can include understanding normal reactions to trauma, dealing with grief and loss, conflict resolution, stress management techniques, promoting healthy relationships, self-esteem, bullying prevention, teen dating violence awareness and prevention and anger management.

In 2005, the Trauma Recovery Program served over 279 children, parents, social workers, teachers and foster care agency workers. The NYSPCC clinicians showed professionals how to identify and assist children with mental health needs. Over 756 individual, family and group counseling sessions provided the educational and counseling services they needed to cope with traumatic events that occurred in their lives. The CEP served over 200 children.
Tara,

Tara,* a four year-old girl, witnessed her father murder her mother. Her father was subsequently jailed and later committed suicide. Tara went to live with her paternal aunt.

One year after this tragedy, she was referred to The NYSPCC for therapy. Outwardly, she was an extremely playful child, constantly chatting and singing. But our clinical team recognized that while Tara was coping through play and song, she was escaping into her own fantasy world. She had trouble following directions or focusing on structured activities. She also had difficulty tolerating feelings of sadness or anger and her memories about her mother’s death were fragmented—she had been told that her mother was sleeping. Her play and disjointed speech were indications of her confusion surrounding the loss of her parents.

Using a family therapy approach, our clinicians worked with Tara and her aunt. The aunt needed help to manage her own grief, cope with her new parenting tasks and guidance on how to talk to Tara about this family tragedy. Tara’s aunt was encouraged to read age-appropriate books about death and dying with Tara and to answer any questions she may have in an honest and supportive way. Tara finally learned that her parents died and our clinician has taught her coping skills to help manage her trauma-related thoughts and feelings. Tara was encouraged to talk about what happened to her mother and father and helped to make sense of her memories in order to establish a coherent narrative of her life. Ongoing work with her aunt is also important to Tara’s well-being. Strengthening this family is a fundamental aspect of our goals—and our mission.

*All names in the case vignettes have been changed.*
Rosie, a single mother, was referred to The NYSPCC’s Positive Parenting Plus (PP+) program because she used excessive corporal punishment on her eight year-old daughter, Susie. Susie was removed from her mother and placed with her paternal grandmother. Rosie admitted to The NYSPCC clinician that she hit Susie when the little girl would not listen to her, and now realized how hurtful her actions had been to Susie. She wanted to learn how to re-engage her daughter so that a loving, trustful relationship could grow. Rosie also disclosed that she had experienced domestic violence in prior relationships. The NYSPCC’s plan was to work with Rosie to teach her appropriate discipline techniques. She was also given information about creating a safety plan and was provided with a list of domestic violence resources as a preventive measure.

Rosie began supervised visitation sessions with her daughter on Sundays and attended the parent education classes. During visits, The NYSPCC clinician guided Rosie on re-engagement activities and parenting practices with Susie. As the visits progressed, Susie became more relaxed and engaged with her mother in conversation and play. Rosie incorporated what she learned from the parent education classes into the visits with her daughter. She listened to Susie about what was going on in her life. Rosie and Susie talked about memories they shared. Rosie was able to listen to Susie express her feelings about her fear of being hurt by her mother and respond appropriately.

After five months of supervised visits at The NYSPCC, Rosie was granted four hours of unsupervised visits with Susie. At first, Susie was nervous about being alone with her mother. With support from The NYSPCC clinician, Susie became more comfortable being alone with her mother. Recently, Rosie was granted unsupervised visits for a longer period of time. It is hoped that mother and daughter will soon be permanently reunited. •
The Positive Parenting Plus (PP+) program focuses on providing specialized and intensive therapeutic supervised visitation services to New York City’s most vulnerable children: abused and neglected children in foster care and children involved in high-risk custody and visitation cases in family court proceedings. Supervised visitation services are designed to help parents who cannot have unsupervised access to their children due to a history of child physical or sexual abuse, domestic violence, substance abuse or mental illness. Rather than eliminating contact between a non-custodial parent and child, supervised visitation provides a one-on-one supportive setting where the relationship can continue while pending legal issues are addressed by the child protective and court systems.

The NYSPCC has been providing supervised visitation to NYC families since 1992. Its services allow visiting parents to spend time with their children in the presence of an MSW-level clinician. Families receive support from skilled clinicians to strengthen or repair the relationship with their children. Supervised visitation is intended to be a temporary remedy with most parents moving toward less restrictive or unsupervised visits with their child whenever possible. When that happens, PP+ can provide a neutral place for the safe transfer of children during unsupervised visits when there are restrictions placed on the contact between parents.

Our supervised visitation services are enhanced by therapeutic intervention. The program includes parenting skills workshops, individual parent “coaching” sessions to visiting parents during supervised visits with their children and mental health counseling to children who have witnessed domestic violence. All families involved in supervised visitation receive these enhanced services. A program with this level of intensive supervised visitation services is unique in New York City. The NYSPCC is also committed to eliminating language and financial barriers to parent-child contact. The NYSPCC is the only agency in New York City providing bilingual (Spanish/English) services, seven days a week, and PP+ services are provided free of charge.


In 2005, PP+ services helped 160 families involving more than 252 at-risk children. The NYSPCC clinicians conducted 812 supervised visits and 694 supervised transfers. The staff prepared 256 reports for the court. Clinicians also conducted sixteen, eight-week parenting skills workshops (143 in all) for visiting parents.
OVER A CENTURY OF ADVOCACY
FOR THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

The NYSPCC played a central role in the establishment of children’s legal rights in the United States. Much of modern child protective legislation is rooted in laws advocated by The NYSPCC and enacted in the late 1800’s. The most significant of these laws required custodians to provide food, clothing, medical care and supervision to children, prohibited child abuse and endangerment, regulated child employment and prohibited the use of child workers in sweatshops and factories—a widespread practice at the turn of the century. The NYSPCC continues to advocate on behalf of children to this day. Through its integrated program of legal advocacy, mediation and parental education, The NYSPCC continually seeks to achieve judicial outcomes that are in the best interests of children.

VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Since 1975, the attorneys and investigators of The NYSPCC’s Guardian ad Litem Program, “Voices for Children,” have served as tireless advocates on behalf of children who are the subject of child custody, visitation, family offense, child abuse and neglect or foster care proceedings. These children need effective, independent legal representation, as their voices can often go unheard in court. Based in Manhattan Family Court, the attorneys represent children in court proceedings after the investigators complete a thorough examination of the child’s home environment and confer with schools and medical providers. The investigators also conduct substance abuse screens on parents when needed. Every effort is made to ensure the child’s ongoing safety.

During 2005, Voices for Children provided legal representation to 253 children from 160 families. Attorneys made 545 court appearances and participated in 44 hearings. Investigators conducted 238 community visits and 1,534 interviews and prepared 334 court reports.
Due to their mother’s substance abuse problem, Mia, Annie and Mike, ages 4, 5 and 13, were removed from their home and placed with their grandmother. The NYC Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) was working with the grandmother toward adopting all three children when Mike began seriously misbehaving at home. The grandmother started having second thoughts about her ability to handle Mike and she felt it might be better if another family member adopted him. ACS began to reconsider the grandmother’s ability to care for the children. The agency’s concerns included her age, health and questionable lack of follow-through on the children’s medical and psychological needs. ACS identified a pre-adoptive foster home for the children and began weekend visitation between the children and the prospective foster parents. An NYSPCC Voices for Children attorney was appointed at that time to ensure the best possible placement for Mia and Annie. Another agency represented Mike because of his significant age difference and he was referred to therapy for his behavior issues.

After interviewing the grandmother several times, The NYSPCC learned that she was willing to do whatever it took to keep her family together. The investigation determined the children’s medical needs were being met and that they were happy and doing well in her care. The children wanted to remain with their grandmother. The NYSPCC’s Voices for Children attorney advocated for Mia and Annie to remain with their grandmother rather than being placed outside the family. ACS and all parties involved entered into an agreement whereby the children were able to remain in her care. Everyone is now working together to ensure the timely adoption of all three children by their grandmother.
Jackie, Andy and Toby, ages 2, 4 and 6, were removed from their mother, Julie, by the NYC Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) because of her drug addiction. The children were sent to live with their father, Tom. During a random visit to Tom’s home, an ACS caseworker found the children alone with Julie. Tom said he had to do some errands and left them with their mother, even though ACS had said that the children could not be with her in an unsupervised setting.

The children were then removed from Tom and placed in foster care. The court ordered an evaluation of Tom’s capacity to care for the children and his ability to understand agency instructions regarding them. Although the children wanted to return to Tom, their Law Guardian believed that the evaluation showed the children would not be safe with him. Tom’s attorney strongly disagreed with the Law Guardian’s position. At the time the court referred the case to The NYSPCC for mediation, the attorneys’ hardened positions had become an obstacle to any progress in resolving the case. To complicate matters more, Tom explained that since he had to go to court so many times, he was in danger of losing his job.

During the first mediation session, the attorneys were able to carefully review and discuss the evaluation in detail. Through the skilled guidance of our mediators, the attorneys and parties were able to agree that with proper supports, Tom did have the ability to safely care for the children and follow agency instructions. At that point, the Law Guardian was willing to discuss a trial discharge of the children to their father. At the second mediation session, the details of the trial discharge were worked out and it is expected that Tom will be reunited with his children in the next few months.
CHILD PERMANENCY MEDIATION

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP with the New York City Family Court, The NYSPCC is currently piloting the City’s first Child Permanency Mediation (CPM) Program. CPM mediates child protective proceedings in which the Family Court has placed children in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect. Children and families referred to CPM are usually at a stage in the court proceeding when a decision must be reached about the child’s permanent home. Mediation provides a forum where parents, attorneys, social service agency staff and other interested parties can focus on resolving problems that pose barriers to permanency for the child. In this non-adversarial setting, everyone can explore options and find mutually acceptable solutions that will facilitate a child’s return to the family or expedite placement in another permanent home. CPM enables those participating in child abuse and neglect proceedings to focus on problem resolution, treatment, education and prevention. CPM also helps to avoid prolonged, contentious legal proceedings that can extend a child’s stay in foster care.

By improving communication among the various parties, mediation can minimize frustration, delay and conflict between parents and service providers. Because families are given an active and respected voice in overcoming obstacles to permanency, CPM can reduce their feelings of alienation, confusion, distrust and apathy. Parents who become more engaged in permanency planning for their children are better able to assist in moving these cases to a speedier and positive resolution.

THE PROGRAM began in early 2003 in the Brooklyn Family Court and proved so successful that it expanded to the Manhattan Family Court in January 2004. Expansion into the Bronx Family Court took place in June 2005, followed by the Queens Family Court in November 2005. In 2005, the Child Permanency Mediation Program handled 162 cases and conducted 204 mediation sessions serving 363 children from 162 families.
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Professionals who come into contact with children in the course of their everyday activities play a vital role in identifying and assisting children who are victimized by abuse or neglect. The NYSPCC provides professional training and education to professionals, in addition to the general public, on issues surrounding maltreated children. Law enforcement officials, teachers, social workers, doctors, nurses and other mandated reporters learn to recognize signs and symptoms of maltreatment and how to appropriately report it.

The NYSPCC, approved as a training provider by the New York State Department of Education, delivers the training by onsite lecture or by correspondence course. The NYSPCC has also written and published The NYSPCC Professionals’ Handbook: Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect as an adjunct to this program.

Since the program’s inception in 1990, over 42,000 individuals have been trained regarding their legal responsibilities as mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect. In 2005, staff members made 71 presentations to professionals and the public reaching more than 1,500 practitioners and concerned citizens in New York City. The NYSPCC also provided testimony at public hearings and continued its advocacy efforts on behalf of child protection and related issues.

PREPARING FUTURE LEADERS

Each year, The NYSPCC partners with Columbia University School of Social Work, New York University, Fordham University and the Hunter College School of Social Work, by accepting social work and law graduate students as interns. The students actively assist in one of The NYSPCC’s program areas, including the Executive Office, Positive Parenting Plus and the Trauma Recovery Program. Through hands-on experience, guided by talented and seasoned NYSPCC professionals, interns obtain valuable knowledge and experience that will prepare them for future employment in the social work field. During 2005, The NYSPCC trained five MSW interns and four legal interns.
As the first child protection agency in the United States, The NYSPCC maintains the most comprehensive and oldest set of records on child abuse and neglect cases and laws for maltreated children. The George Sim Johnston Archives, named in honor of a longstanding member of The NYSPCC’s Board of Directors, contains a wealth of original and compiled material on the origins, history and development of the child protection movement from 1875 to the present day.

The Archival holdings include:

- Microfilm copies of The NYSPCC cases from the organization’s incorporation in 1875 to the present, including more than 500,000 files concerning over 2,000,000 children
- Newspaper clippings of note concerning child protection issues including 15 bound volumes regarding The NYSPCC’s efforts regarding child labor as it pertains to children working in the theatre
- Annual Reports of child protective statistics and case summaries

In the past decade, Archive photos, records, advice and consultation have been used in several feature length documentaries, short films, dissertations and books dealing with children’s rights. Also, The NYSPCC has participated in two major museum exhibits: The New York Historical Society and the Hoboken Historical Society. In each exhibit, The NYSPCC received a prominent position telling the story of The NYSPCC and its founding of the organized child protection movement. In 2005, 32 professional and private inquirers received assistance from the archivist at The NYSPCC. The Archives also provided assistance to John E. B. Myers for his book “A History of Child Protection in America.” (Xlibris, 2004.) Under a 2005 Documentary Heritage Grant from the New York State Education Department, the holdings of The NYSPCC’s Archives were arranged and described according to the professional standards of archival computerized cataloging and finding aids.

Chronicled in The NYSPCC’s Archives is the story of these two brothers who survived the Titanic tragedy. Through the dedicated efforts of The NYSPCC, they were eventually reunited with their mother.
### FINANCIAL CONDITION SUMMARY

#### ASSETS
- **Cash** $259,386
- **Investments at fair value** $28,686,495
- **Other assets** 1,867,814

**Total Assets** $30,813,695

#### LIABILITIES
- **Accounts payable and accrued expenses** $106,988
- **Other liabilities** 89,479

**Total Liabilities** 196,467

#### NET ASSETS
- **Unrestricted** $26,331,697
- **Temporarily restricted** 262,297
- **Permanently restricted** 4,023,234

**Total Net Assets** 30,617,228

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** $30,813,695
## FINANCIAL ACTIVITY SUMMARY

### OPERATING REVENUE

- Contributions $ 744,033
- Government contracts 559,579
- Special events 424,736
- Investment return 1,276,564
- Other support and revenue 48,264

**Total Support and Revenue** $ 3,053,176

### OPERATING EXPENSES

- Guardian ad litem $ 816,334
- Supervised visitation 475,645
- Trauma recovery 448,434
- Child permanency mediation 456,859
- Parent empowerment 33,378
- Professional education 164,210
- Archives 69,228
- General administration 395,853
- Special events 191,044
- Fundraising 234,229

**Total Expenses** $ 3,285,214

**Excess of Operating Expenses Over Operating Revenue** (232,038)

### NET ASSETS

- Decrease for the year $ (213,589)
- Beginning of year 30,830,817

**End of year** $ 30,617,228
On October 24, 2005, The NYSPCC held its Annual Gala Dinner Dance at The Pierre Hotel in New York City. Our honorees were Marlo Thomas, National Outreach Director, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, and Neil Friedman, President, Mattel Brands. They are an inspiration for their extraordinary commitment to helping children. The evening was a success, raising over $400,000. A Silent Auction of children’s books, selected and signed by various celebrities, helped us meet this goal.

Lester Holt, MSNBC News Anchor, was the Emcee for the evening. Our Gala Co-Chairs were Elizabeth E. Bartlett, NYSPCC Board Member, JuJu Chang, ABC News, Neal Shapiro, NBC, and Richard H. Lenny, Chairman, President & CEO, The Hershey Company. Last year’s honorees, Mr. Shapiro and Ms. Bartlett, presented the “Strength of Our Society” awards to Neil Friedman and Marlo Thomas.

Special thanks to Barnes & Noble.com for sponsoring the Silent Auction and Fisher-Price who generously provided singing and dancing “Elmo” dolls for each guest to take home to a child. Thanks also to a most wonderful sponsor, The Hershey Company, whose kisses and chocolates provided the guests with delicious treats. The Gala was truly a night to remember!
The NYSPCC partnered with young New Yorkers to host its inaugural spring event on May 5, 2005. The “Cinco de Mayo” cocktail party was hosted at the private Manhattan club, FIZZ. Chairing the evening were Elizabeth E. Bartlett, Caroline V. Gerry, Josiah C. Hornblower, Whitney Munn Miller, Dana C. Schiff and M. David Sherrill. Wellpath Holistic Spa and adam + eve generously donated wonderful gift bag items. The NYSPCC thanks all who supported our efforts.
Our Thanks

The NYSPCC’s continued commitment to protecting children and strengthening families would not have been possible without the generous support of individuals, foundations, corporations and government agencies that share the mission of ensuring the safety and well-being of New York City’s most vulnerable children.

Thank you for supporting The NYSPCC’s critical, life-saving work.
INDIVIDUALS

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Mr. and Mrs. John C. Hanson
Ms. Rosie O’Donnell
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sillerman
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Ms. Jennifer Potter
Mr. James D. Robinson, III
Mr. and Mrs. Brandon P. Ryan

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Ms. Christine D. Shiah
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Ms. Sandra Singh
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Mrs. David S. Taylor
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