



2009-2010 Annual Report



*Above: Delores Moody, CCA/Brooklyn case manager, with Dasean Miller and his mother, Wana Joseph
Left: Venice Grant and her son, Conrad Williams*



Help for Troubled Youth: CCA Stretches Resources to Engage Families

The sun has long since set, but work still lies ahead for CCA/NYC staff and the parents of youth clients. Rukia Lumumba, Director of Youth Services, is setting out paperwork and snacks and glancing at the door as she waits for the first arrivals to show up at Parents' Night.

"It's tough for parents to come here," she said. "They have jobs where there is no paid leave and they juggle heavy responsibilities at home with very little money. But their cooperation is critical to their kids' compliance. So we make it as easy and rewarding as we can."

Family therapy with youth and parents together, conducted by a trained therapist, is an established best practice for youth in trouble with the law. In past years, when government funding was more generous, CCA was able to pay for family therapy for its clients in both New York City and Syracuse.

Recent funding reductions have forced the elimination of those programs as well as other painful service cutbacks.

"The grant we got for family therapy had a huge impact," said Josefina Bastidas, Deputy Director in charge of the NYC office. "The therapist held evening hours at our office. She also went to the families' homes. That was extremely effective because she could actually observe day-to-day issues in the home. The families responded well and enrollment steadily grew."

Since the family therapy grant ended, CCA/NYC has stretched resources to fill the gap. In addition to Parents' Night, partnerships with other nonprofits help to meet families' needs and engage them in positive ways.

One such partner is Per Scholas, which gives families free, refurbished, internet-capable computers, plus a month of

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Dear Friends of CCA:

Evidence-based practice for working with youth in the juvenile justice system calls for treatment within the community—not in prison—and includes a period of family therapy. Unfortunately, funding cuts have recently forced the elimination of family therapy programs at both CCA/NYC and CCA/Syracuse. Nonetheless, our staff continues to stretch resources to engage families, so we can do a better job of helping their children. In this annual report, we highlight a few families we have worked with closely, for the benefit of their children.

We highlight a few other accomplishments as well. Thanks to a grant from the Open Society Institute, CCA's Justice Strategies is taking the lead in organizing defense attorneys across New York State to implement the recent reforms in the Rockefeller Drug Laws. Among other measures, CCA now regularly conducts a monthly conference call among defense lawyers across the state to brainstorm and problem-solve issues related to the recent reforms. This is a remarkable and innovative instance of collaboration among busy and highly independent professionals who rarely work as a group on such issues.

Finally, we are delighted to be working in partnership with Onondaga County on several issues of concern to our community, and particularly to youth and adults involved in the criminal justice system.

As always, we thank you heartily for your past support. Please continue to be as generous as you can in these hard times, as the youth, adults, and families of CCA need your support more than ever.



Marsha Weissman, Ph.D.



Bonnie Catone



Marsha Weissman, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Bonnie Catone, President, Board of Directors

Families *Continued from front page*

classroom instruction. Another is Doing Art Together, which guides members of different generations in joint art projects, under the leadership of professional artists who volunteer their time.

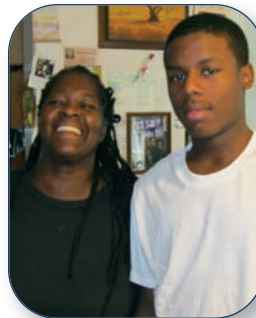
The Doing Art Together project culminated last spring with an exhibit and gathering at the ArtCurian Gallery in downtown Brooklyn. Venice Grant, the mother of both a teenaged CCA participant and a new baby, stepped up to address the crowd.

"After Conrad was arrested, I was ready to give up on him," she said. "He was an unruly child and I wanted the court to take him back. CCA helped me to see that he had grown up. When I saw how they believed in him, it changed me too."

She glanced at her tall, poised son, who was cradling his newborn brother in his arms. Smiling, she said, "I suppose CCA saw something in him that I didn't—and I'm very glad."

In Syracuse, a federal grant formerly paid for Assertive Adolescent Family Therapy, an evidence-based practice that included both therapy and therapeutic case management. Pamela Weinberg, Director of Youth Services in Syracuse, said, "This program had a profound impact on the most challenging families, because families didn't just go through 12–16 weeks of treatment. They also had six months of case management

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Walta Williams and son John White



Parents and children work together on an art project

CCA Organizes Attorneys and Advocates To Make Full Use of Drug Law Reform

Since spring 2009, when the New York State Legislature passed a bill reforming the State's infamous "Rockefeller Drug Laws," CCA's Justice Strategies division has been working to assure that the reforms are implemented as intended on behalf of clients statewide. In recent months, their efforts have intensified with the help of a grant from the Open Society Institute (OSI). The grant supports CCA's role in organizing and training attorneys and other advocates and providing a statewide forum for collaboration.

Alan Rosenthal, Co-Director of Justice Strategies, explained: "The 2009 drug law reforms provide new opportunities for people to receive court-sanctioned drug treatment instead of prison. The reform also allows some individuals currently serving lengthy, indeterminate sentences for class B offenses to be resentenced to shorter, determinate sentences. But these reforms are not without opposition. Thanks to the OSI grant, we are able to provide defense attorneys with support to overcome this opposition so their clients have a real opportunity to turn their lives around."

Justice Strategies staff has conducted training sessions for lawyers and advocates about the reforms with sponsorship from the New York State Defender Association, New York State Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, and various county bar associations. The staff is also continuously updating its "Tools for Attorneys" with sample motions, summaries of the reforms, charts, and case law compilations, all of which are posted on CCA's website (www.communityalternatives.org). One-on-one consultation is provided to defense attorneys on the telephone and by e-mail.

Patricia Warth, Co-Director of Justice Strategies, said, "Perhaps the most important and exciting aspect of our work is the new forums we've created for collaboration among defense attorneys across the state. We hold a monthly phone conference on implementation of drug law reform, and we are continuously networking and sharing motions

"This collaboration has been enthusiastically welcomed by defense attorneys and we are all hopeful that it will make a tremendous contribution to our ability to implement drug law reform on behalf of clients."



Co-Directors of Justice Strategies, Patricia Warth (left) and Alan Rosenthal (at head of table) strategize with other defense attorneys to implement drug law reform

that address emerging issues. This collaboration has been enthusiastically welcomed by defense attorneys and we are all hopeful that it will make a tremendous contribution to our ability to implement drug law reform on behalf of clients."

The OSI funding has allowed Justice Strategies to bring aboard a new staff member, Andy Correia, an experienced, highly regarded defense attorney from Wayne County. Ms. Warth said, "Andy

will continue and expand on our current efforts and will also develop on-site intensive training and problem-solving sessions for local defender offices."

"CCA is creating opportunities for lawyers across the state to work together on this issue," she added. "Lawyers are welcoming this as a chance to make the most of the drug law reforms so they'll have real impact on people's lives."

Survey on College Admissions Practices Points to Need for Change

Juan spent his four years of college on disciplinary probation because of a criminal conviction in his past. His record in college was exemplary. He was selected for the Beta Alpha Psi Honor Society but his probation status prevented him from serving as an officer or representing the university. He graduated with honors and was accepted into a graduate MBA program. Nevertheless, because of his past criminal record, he was told he would have to remain on disciplinary probation in graduate school.

Juan was able to appeal his probation status successfully. But he remains concerned about the deterrent effect that the university's policies might have on students less assertive and

confident than he was. Despite the obstacles, he describes college as "part of his redemption. College helped change my life."

In collaboration with the American Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), CCA has now completed the first-ever survey of college and university practices with respect to the admission of students with criminal records. The results and analysis of the survey are available in a new report, "The Use of Criminal History Records in College Admissions Reconsidered."

The survey shows that colleges and universities differ widely in the way they question applicants about criminal records as well as in the ways they use that information. In addition to presenting the survey results, the report sets forth recommended best practices for college admissions officers that will promote fairness and avoid deterring or intimidating persons with criminal records from applying.

Because women and men with criminal records are overwhelmingly people of color, discouraging or deterring them from applying to college has the effect of reducing the pool of qualified applicants of color.

Since most colleges and universities are explicitly attempting to *lower* barriers to admission for persons of color, this is a bitter irony and could be construed as "structural racism."

The stories of men and women who have enrolled in college serving prison terms add a human dimension to the report. They speak eloquently about the stresses and obstacles that continue to haunt them after they have paid their debt to society and are earnestly striving to live normal, law-abiding lives.

Marsha Weissman said, "No link has been established between having a criminal record and a risk to campus safety. Depriving people of access to higher education because they have a criminal record does not make campuses safer. Instead, it undermines public safety by preventing people from pursuing a college degree—when we know that higher education is one of the most effective ways to assure that they will *not* return to prison."

The study was supported by funding from the Fulfilling the Dream Fund. CCA plans to continue its work to ensure that people with criminal records have a fair opportunity to attend college by meetings with college administrators and training to help admissions officials understand the ramifications of using criminal records in making admissions decisions.



Financial Statements

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008

ASSETS

	2009	2008
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 101,622	\$ 74,486
Grants and contracts receivable	1,641,226	2,286,535
Client specific planning receivables	46,490	79,769
Prepaid expenses	17,932	6,088
Total current assets	<u>1,807,270</u>	<u>2,446,878</u>
PROPERTY:		
Furniture and equipment	161,076	161,076
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>157,011</u>	<u>154,923</u>
Property—net	<u>4,065</u>	<u>6,153</u>
SECURITY DEPOSITS	<u>112,121</u>	<u>112,954</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 1,923,456</u>	<u>\$ 2,565,985</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Short-term bank borrowings	\$ 160,749	\$ 917,717
Accounts payable	100,950	152,093
Accrued payroll and payroll taxes	344,744	295,251
Deferred revenue	<u>58,966</u>	<u>66,896</u>
Total current liabilities	665,409	1,431,957
NET ASSETS—UNRESTRICTED	<u>1,258,047</u>	<u>1,134,028</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 1,923,456</u>	<u>\$ 2,565,985</u>

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

	2009	2008
GRANT AND CONTRACT:		
City of New York	\$ 2,333,340	\$2,404,265
New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives	620,041	389,720
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)	2,545,540	2,567,001
New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services	549,025	585,924
New York State Department of Health	320,537	348,995
New York State Department of Correctional Services	108,434	134,015
City of Syracuse	7,525	7,525
Syracuse City School District (SCSD)	248,973	162,592
National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (CASA)	53,752	36,638
Public Health Solutions (PHS)/MHRA, Inc.	394,225	252,249
New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)	163,287	86,671
New York State Office of Children and Family Services	180,962	254,753
Onondaga County Department of Health	16,274	19,926
Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES	97,019	77,672
New York State Department of Education—21st Century	95,235	207,457
Total grant and contract support	<u>\$ 7,734,169</u>	<u>\$ 7,535,403</u>
FOUNDATION:		
Robin Hood Foundation	—	133,947
Public Interest Project—Fullfilling the Dream	76,135	49,606
Public Interest Project—U.S. Human Rights Fund	10,000	27,222
U.S. Conference of Mayors Foundation	35,353	—
Annie E. Casey Foundation	—	4,282
HIV Mac Global	360	255
New York Community Trust—Crossroads	—	11,211
Pinkerton Foundation	26,555	22,722
Central New York Community Foundation	17,199	27,801
Total foundation	<u>\$ 165,602</u>	<u>\$ 277,046</u>
TOTAL SUPPORT	<u>\$ 7,899,771</u>	<u>\$ 7,812,449</u>

	2009	2008
REVENUE:		
Client specific planning	191,584	185,223
United Way of Central New York	112,927	109,175
Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society	135,087	15,123
Rental income	19,454	—
Miscellaneous revenue	16,656	38,480
Contributions	34,627	31,786
Interest income	365	936
Total revenue	388,700	380,723
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$ 8,288,471	\$8,193,172

EXPENDITURES

PROGRAM SERVICES:

New York State Demonstration/Client Specific Planning	221,758	156,852
Crossroads	642,857	750,407
SAMHSA Programs	2,240,299	2,243,289
U.S. Conference of Mayors—SISTA Strong	31,378	—
Youth Advocacy Program—Syracuse	105,526	102,226
Strategies for Success	59,590	122,148
SCSD Connections	235,439	160,807
After School Alternatives—Syracuse	104,004	154,476
Youth Advocacy Program—New York City	926,022	762,082
Robin Hood Foundation	—	113,363
New York City—After School—Community Monitoring	661,763	604,425
Office of Children and Family Services	56,090	88,219
New York State Department of Health—CHOICES	289,341	310,754
Family Court Client Specific Planning	212,440	238,157
NYC Common Council Adult Specific Planning	—	49,476
CASA	92,572	99,160
PHS/MHRA/Choices-1A and Precise-A/Co-Factors	85,746	112,636
PHS/MHRA/Buddies/Women's Choices/Positive Choices	191,960	211,831
21st Century	92,621	201,209
HIV Mac Global	360	255
Parent Success Initiative	75,311	64,215
NYS OASAS/Medicaid	51,424	17,880
Re-entry Related Services	138,929	6,561
Total program services	6,515,430	6,570,428
Management and general	1,649,022	1,332,515
Total expenditures	8,164,452	7,902,943
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	124,019	290,229
NET ASSETS—BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,134,028	843,799
NET ASSETS—END OF YEAR	\$ 1,258,047	\$1,134,028

We ♥ Our Communities

CCA's mission to promote reintegrative justice is fulfilled when communities take the initiative to help and support their most vulnerable members. On these pages, we show a few examples of the community partnerships and the ongoing give-and-take among our clients, staff, volunteers, and communities. These positive exchanges sustain our work and help our clients—both youth and adult—live healthy, productive lives.



WALK/RUN FOR JUSTICE ATTRACTS 80 PARTICIPANTS

CCA/Syracuse held its first annual "Walk/Run for Justice" on August 28. The beautiful weather and opportunity to support a terrific cause helped attract 80 participants ages 7-63. A total of \$3,435 was raised in registration fees and cash donations. In addition to the cash support, many generous sponsors donated food and prizes.



ADRIAN FANUS HOSTS "DAY OF GROOMING"

Adrian Fanus, owner of a male grooming salon in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn, that has been featured in L'Uomo Vogue and Time Out New York, donated a day of services to CCA youth clients. Each client enjoyed a top-of-the-line hair trim and manicure. At left, clients relax over a game of chess while waiting their turn at the upscale salon.

CCA YOUTH ARE ACTIVE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CCA youth are encouraged and supported to become knowledgeable about public issues that concern them and to participate knowledgeably and speak out in public forums. Below, a group of nine CCA/NYC youth met with New York State Assemblywoman Annette Robinson in Albany to discuss the importance of alternative-to-detention programs. Youth also participated in a panel at Columbia University on the U.S. government's international obligations to protect human rights. At a gathering on juvenile justice at the New York Society for Ethical Culture, they heard such presenters as State Senator Velmanette Montgomery, NAACP Director Robert Rooks, and the Hon. Michael Corriero. One youth described the experience as "inspiring...They made me believe in what I want to do and remember the sky is the limit."





MEETING THE NEIGHBORS

For CCA/NYC youth, a visit to the Suffolk County (NY) Farm and Education Center was a rare opportunity to get away from the asphalt jungle and appreciate another side of life. Youth toured the farm and slaughterhouse, got acquainted with the goats, sheep and cows, and participated in a recycling and environmental workshop. Youth gave as good as they got, contributing their help to mend some broken fences alongside the farm staff.



MEN'S WEARHOUSE DONATES BUSINESS ATTIRE

For the second year in a row, CCA/Syracuse partnered with Men's Wearhouse to distribute suits, shirts, and other men's clothing to participants in employment training and job readiness programs. Here, clients Gregory Moore (l) and Floyd Robinson (r) pose in their new clothes with a Men's Wearhouse representative. Mr. Robinson said, "The clothes will help me present myself better to employers and hopefully I will find the cooking job I really want."



ARTISTS DONATE THEIR TIME FOR CCA FAMILIES

Doing Art Together, a community-based nonprofit arts organization, partnered with CCA/NYC last spring to lead parents and youth together in creative arts projects. The workshops were led by professional artists who generously volunteered.



The Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) is a leader in the field of community-based alternatives to incarceration. Our mission is to promote reintegrative justice and a reduced reliance on incarceration through advocacy, services and public policy development in pursuit of civil and human rights.

ENROLLMENT IN CROSSROADS/NYC REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH

Enrollment in Crossroads, CCA/NYC's programs for adult men and women who are recovering from substance abuse, has reached record high levels. Crossroads for Women reached an all-time high of 84 women. Crossroads for Men enrolled 99 clients in a six-month period in 2010. Both programs are now serving double the numbers required by funders. The increased demand has occurred over the past year, even while program funding has been cut.

Crossroads programs employ a holistic approach, incorporating counseling, peer support, nutritional counseling, acupuncture, and other treatment modalities, along with attention to such human service needs as housing and family unification, to support recovery.

CCA/SYRACUSE WILL TAKE LEADERSHIP ROLE IN COUNTY-WIDE MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

ON CARE is a new federally funded program in Onondaga County, New York, designed to transform the provision of mental health services for children and youth who have significant emotional and behavioral challenges. CCA/Syracuse has been chosen to lead the "youth-driven care" portion of this initiative. CCA will recruit teens to be trained in peer leadership and advocacy so that their voices and those of other youth will be reflected in the mental health service delivery system.

ON CARE is designed to be a family-led project with an emphasis on youth leadership. Parents, caregivers, and youth will partner with major systems that serve youth so they can be actively involved in all decisions about the youth's care.

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

CCA/Syracuse has undertaken two initiatives to reform criminal justice practice in Syracuse and Onondaga County. With funding from New York State, CCA is working with the County to reduce the disproportionate numbers of youth of color who are involved in the juvenile justice system. CCA and key County stakeholders are examining when and how young people of color become involved in the system and will make recommendations on reducing disparities. Youth and parents who have been impacted by the system will be trained and supported to participate in the reforms. In a separate initiative, the CCA Justice Strategies team was commissioned by the Alliance for Transforming Syracuse (ACTS) to study the accuracy of the CHAIRS report, a local criminal records system maintained by Onondaga County. The report found that nearly two-thirds of the records contained errors and many included information that should not be disclosed under the law. ACTS is working with the County Legislature to urge the Sheriff to discontinue the sale of CHAIRS reports.

CCA/SYRACUSE BREAKFAST RAISES \$12,000 FOR COURT- APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES PROGRAM

CCA's Onondaga CASA program has been giving a voice to children in family court for 13 consecutive years. This year, the annual Light of Hope Breakfast for the CASA program, held on September 21, attracted 160 guests to Drumlins Country Club and raised over \$12,000. The Light of Hope award was presented to the Family Court Unit of Hiscock Legal Aid.



The staff of Hiscock Legal Aid Society's Family Court Program, recipient of this year's Light of Hope award, shown here with Marsha Weissman (third from right). Betty Carroll, CASA Coordinator (not in picture), presented the award.

2009 Donor Honor Roll

CCA is grateful for the support of private donors.
Your generosity is a vital part of the struggle for reintegrative justice.

Foundations, Corporations and Organizations

Over \$100,000

Public Health Solutions
(PHS/MHRA)
United Way of Central
New York

\$50,000–\$99,999

Public Interest Project–
Fulfilling the Dream

\$25,000–\$49,999

U.S. Conference
of Mayors Foundation
The Pinkerton Foundation

\$10,000–\$24,999

Public Interest Project–
U.S. Human Rights Fund
Central New York
Community Foundation
Frank H. Hiscock
Legal Aid Society
CNY Works

\$1,000–\$9,999

Kappa Alpha Theta*
CNY Infusion Services*

\$500–\$999

The Baruch Fund*
First Unitarian Universalist
Society of Syracuse*
The Edward W. Hazen
Foundation

\$50–\$499

Aloha Foundation*
HIV Mac Global
Testone, Marshall
& Discenza, LLP*
Cannon Recreation Corp.*
New York Anesthesiology
Medical Specialties, PC*
Purcell's Wallpaper
& Paint Co., Inc.*
The John L. and Corrinne
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Individuals

\$1,000–\$4,900

Steven Budker
Margaret Macchetto

\$500–\$999

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Christine Abaté†
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Louise Birkhead
Phillip and Helen Buck*
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David Northrup*
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Marsha Weissman*
Darlene Winkler*

\$250–\$499

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Steven Belenko†
Leonard Berman†
Larry Consenstein
Michelle Henry†
Susan Horn†
William and
Rosemary Pooler
Alan Rosenthal
Douglas and Elaine Wolf†

\$100–\$249

Charles and Lois Abate
Joe and Kathi Abate
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Alejandro Amezcua†
Bill and Gina Andrews*
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Bea Gonzalez
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Louis Mannara*
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\$5–\$99

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Eileen Jervis*
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David Kieber and
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Steve and Kathy Kuehner
Michael Landauer
Christine Larkin*
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Ellen Leibowitz
and Muffin Lord
Darrel Lewis
Vince Love
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Olive Maxwell and Marcia
Maxwell Rand Poa*
Lora McCooley*
Brian McKee*
Victoria Meguid*
Michael and Carolyn
Messina-Yauchzy
Nancy Mitchell*
Roy Moore*
Bill Morris and
Leslie Noble
Rasta Muhammad
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Emily Napier
Edward Nowak
Maureen O'Hara*
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John Peterson
Robert Pirozzi*
Tamika Pitts
Brandy Pought
Paulette Purdy*
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Terri Reilly*
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Eric Rodriguez*
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Myron and Lois Schaffer
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and Marcia Carlson
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Wendy Powers
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Martha Walsh Hood*
Gale Warren*
Stephen and Rosalyn
Weinstein
Susie Weiss
Stephen and
Norma Weitman
Lawrence White
Louella Williams*
Joy Yoffa*
Larry and Rosalie Young

*CASA Only

†Both CASA and CCA

‡Board Member

This Honor Roll acknowledges all contributions received by CCA from January 1–December 31, 2009.

Families *Continued from page 2*

that could help them with employment, school, housing, and legal issues that helped sustain recovery.”

As a result of the most recent funding cuts, CCA/Syracuse has lost not only its family therapy program but all its after-school programs for youth. The staff is scrambling to fill the gaps, because the need is so great, but staff and program participants are dismayed at the loss.

Annette McFadden, a Syracuse mother of three, said, “This program kept my son off the streets. It was a program he stuck with. He learned a lot. It was good to come to the parents’ meetings and talk with different parents. We miss that. I don’t understand why they would take away such a positive program.”

Walta Williams, mother of four boys, agreed. “CCA helped my son understand and listen. He focused on the things he was supposed to be doing. This program can help a lot of children and their families. When they’re in trouble, they got a place they can go and sit down and talk.”

The toughest challenges for CCA staff, whether in New York or Syracuse, occur when no functioning adult is at home for the youth. Brendan O’Connell, a CCA/NYC case manager, described poring over court files and pounding pavements to find a family member or trusted friend who will take a troubled youth in hand.

“One young man I dealt with had no one who would take responsibility,” said Mr. O’Connell. “His father was in a homeless shelter. The mother was out of the picture. Through court papers, we were able to identify an aunt. I went to her house to talk to her. I can’t say enough good things about her. She had her own son, age 8, and she was working as a teacher’s aide, but she went all out for her nephew.”

In countless situations, the parent is trying as hard as she can but the challenges are overwhelming. Wana Joseph realized



Annette McFadden with her children, Precious and Alejandro, in the Syracuse office

that her son, Dasean, was going through a difficult time. “I had a son who was murdered,” she said. “My father passed away a year ago. As adults, we don’t always realize how our kids are affected. Kids don’t always tell us they have a problem. They act out. I felt this program was what Dasean needed.”

For yet other parents, the problem is not indifference, but an inability to bridge the generational gap. Omayma Ahmed, a working mother born in Egypt, now lives in Brooklyn with her husband and three sons. She has tried to raise them to be obedient to their cultural traditions, but her middle son’s defiance has thrown her for a loop. Speaking candidly at the Parents’ Night meeting, she says, “I don’t know my teen. He’s very wild. He chooses a bad crowd, and I don’t know why.”

Delores Moody, a staff member, assures her that her son will be okay. He is following all the rules at CCA and has volunteered for community service. “Your child is good,” says Ms. Moody “He has so much potential. He’s just going through a hard time. It will work out.”

Mrs. Ahmed takes a sip of fruit juice as a look of profound relief crosses her face. “I didn’t want to come here tonight,” she said. “I was so tired and I have so much to do when I get home. But I feel so much better now. Every parent needs this encouragement.”



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