

2018 Annual Report

Stories from the field





Message from the 2018 Board Chair and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This past year our enterprising Public Ally Intern Michaela Blain began a monthly staff Newsletter. It was meant to be shared internally to help the staff learn more about each other and our different programs. Some of it was funny, some of it was informative, but perhaps the most eye-opening was a monthly column she called 'Stories from the Field'. In it, members of our staff shared memorable experiences they had while on the job. Often poignant, these stories revealed a great deal about the children and families we serve. We are including some of them in this Report, and hope they help you connect to the work we do.

Michaela also increased our social media presence and we are now on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. This helps us keep you informed throughout the year about our work, our needs and what is happening in the community. Please consider following us to stay connected! Michaela was not our only intern – In fact, we had nine this year – and Family CT has become a training ground for future social workers and victim advocates. They are all part of the mix that makes Family CT a vibrant and energetic workplace.

We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the field of child abuse prevention and treatment. Thanks to all of you who read our posts, attend our events and generously offer financial support so that all families are safe and nurturing places where children can succeed.



Cheryl Burack, M.S.
Executive Director



Meghan Dahlmeyer
*Chairperson of
the Board of Directors*

Stories from the Field...

South Central Medical Home Initiative for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

I'm a single parent to four children. My youngest child is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. I was referred to Family CT by Infoline 211 and a Yale New Haven Hospital Social Worker. At first, I was very hesitant because I did not want another agency, another individual in my life, in my home. My life was very full, with doctor appointments, therapy appointments, and other services to assist me with the best care for my son. Yet after being accepted, and meeting and developing a relationship with my Care Coordinator, I was relieved; It was like a breath of fresh air. We worked together to implement a Care Plan that meets the needs of my son and my family. My Care Coordinator is supportive, has a flexible accommodating schedule and she is compassionate. I'm grateful for this Care Coordination program - it is vital for our community.

What I see that doesn't work is the referral waiting process. I was persistent in calling weekly to inquire whether my son's name was on the waiting list. What can be improved is an overall national concern: more funding.

What I see that works is when you have dedicated workers who are REAL and have a passion for meeting the families they work with right where they are emotionally, mentally, spiritually, educationally, socially, economically, and physically.

I want to say thank you to the Department of Public Health, without whom this program would not help the many families it does on a consistent basis. I also want to say thank you to Family Centered Services of CT.

I would like to leave two quotes to encourage all to take with them as they go into the community daily - and let you know that your services are needed and appreciated - even when it seems like a hectic day.

***"Every successful individual knows that his or her achievements depends on a community of persons working together."* - Paul Ryan**

***"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."* - Coretta Scott King**

~ A parent

Stories from the Field...

The Teen Outreach Program

During an ice breaker with my eighth-grade students, a seemingly amiable boy says to me, “I got shot before.” When the students around him saw the noticeable disbelief and uncertainty spread across my face, another boy in the class, who had just stated that he hates being black, told his friend to show me the scar. It was confirmed, by the still-purple entry and exit scars halfway between his knee and ankle, that he was shot. By a very real gun.

The shooting took place on a Saturday afternoon, where he had been playing sports with his friends. He is not affiliated with a gang. He was not loitering around or doing drugs past curfew. He was practicing his moves when a bullet, intended for someone else, landed him in Yale New Haven Hospital’s emergency department. Someone else in the class, a girl who had overheard the conversation, said that her family is fleeing their house after a recent drive-by shooting occurred and the intended victim ran through their home to escape the bullets. The same boy from before said that his family was moving, too, because his parents had just found out that it was formerly used as a ‘trap house’ by one of the city’s most perilous gangs.

You don’t have to spend much time in the Elm City before you are overwhelmed by the magnitude of the disparity. One hundred yards behind Yale’s infamous, iconic, breathtakingly beautiful campus lays a book bank that provides free tutoring to local students. On the wait list for these services includes middle schoolers who cannot read the words mat vs. mate. Middle school boys who will ask you on a date, but cannot even spell the word.

We know that the determinants of health, things like your physical environment, socioeconomic status, and exposure to violence and crime, things that you are born into, without a choice, determine your health. I am determined to affect change, for my community, for my students, who don’t even believe that change is possible. Because in what world is it okay for a child, who isn’t yet capable of growing armpit hair, to get shot?

~ Allie Beaulieu

**Some details have been changed to protect the identity of those mentioned*

Holiday Adopt a Family Program

Thank you so much for all the gifts. I am filled with so much joy. This year my journey through recovery has been amazing. Blessings have been coming my way, from being nine months clean and sober, developing a sober support network, getting my family back, my housing came in, and most of all the gifts you gave me and my daughter. I am at a loss for words when I look at the gifts. My baby girl is going to be so excited Christmas morning. Just watching her eyes light up will bring me so much joy. Without you there would not have been a Christmas.

~ An 'Adopted' Family

The Nurturing Families Network

Jennifer (not her real name) joined the Nurturing Families Network (NFN) when her baby Andi was a newborn. NFN works to help first time parents by offering primary prevention home-based services including developmental screening, parenting education, and promotion of positive parent-child interactions and social activities. When Jennifer joined, she had just graduated high school and her goal was to become a nurse. Through encouragement and her own tenacity, Jennifer started schooling to become a nurse when Andi was six months old. She completed the intensive two-year program with dedication to achieving her goal.

Soon Jennifer and her partner Todd were able move into their own apartment, supporting themselves and baby Andi. Jennifer is now working full time as a nurse in a cardiologist's office, and Andi is now three, and registered for preschool. Jennifer is incredibly grateful for the opportunities NFN provided her. She wrote "Thank you so much...You've honestly made an impact on our lives and helped us out so much!"

~ Ashley Minihan



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Rome

On May 24, 2018 five lucky staff members at Family CT embarked on a trip to Rome together to attend the 16th WAIMH World Congress. WAIMH is the World Association for Infant Mental Health and gathers professionals from all over the globe to come together to share their work and research in this field. Infant mental health is at the core of the work we at Family Centered Services are committed to as we engage families with the goals of nurturing and safety.

Over the course of the week in Rome we attended workshops and conference presentations on parent-child relationships, cultural influences, trauma experiences, prenatal aspects, the effects of the digital age, and many, many topics relating to the healthy development of infants and children. It was a week rich in information and experience as we heard from our counterparts across the world. Everyone's dedication to the work and the human condition was evident and passionate. Our differences were enlightening and our similarities unifying.

In addition to the conference we were also privileged to experience the city of Rome. It is a beautiful city rich in history and warm, friendly people. We took in the sights, learned about Rome's role in civilization and the art world, and enjoyed strolling the streets to discover surprises big and small...and sitting in street side restaurants for great Italian meals each evening was fantastic! We were sad to see it end and came away agreeing that the trip was a success in every way - the group traveled well together and enjoyed each other's company; the destination was amazing and the conference was educational and enlightening.





7th Annual Walk Against Domestic Violence

Teen Outreach Program



Southern CT State University Student Involvement Food Drive



Our Public Ally Michaela Blain Graduates!

2017-2018 Financial Supporters

We are grateful for the generosity of individuals, businesses, organizations, community groups, foundations and funders. If anyone has inadvertently been left off this list, please accept our apology and let us know.

Advanced Grow Labs, LLC
Advanced Office Systems
Heather Agid
Donald & Theodora Ahern
Amazon Smile
Anonymous
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield of CT
Beth Auerbach
Sheree Baldwin-Mahammad
Jodi Baloga
Bank of America
Bank of America Employee Giving Campaign
Biller, Sachs, Raio & Zito
Joseph Bishop
Michael Boas in honor of Steve Levine
Booster LLC
Jennifer Borer
Cheryl Burack
Lori Burack
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Paula Caron
Robin Caron
Susan Cassidy
Adam Cerbone
Adam Cerbone
Shawn Chadd
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Barry Chernoff
James Clark
Irene Clementino
Frederick and Susan Cohan
Connecticut Association of Optometrists
Robert and Sue Croce
Richard Cuomo
Vera DeBrito-Esdaile
Joy Degennaro
Darrin Dellavecchia
Marianne Drapeau

Joanne Durazzo
Sally Edwards
Elm City Industrial
Eye Doctors
Pamela Faith
Jacquelyn Farrell
Norman Forrester
Terence Foster
Kevin Fowlkes
Marybeth Galilgano
Gary George
Susan George
Steven Gernhardt
Amanda Giaimo
Asia Goubourn
Debra Green-Gilhuly
Michael Greenspan
Joyce Harrell
Henry C. Lee College, University of New Haven
Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church
Jan Sykes
Robert Jerminie,
Steven Kaplan
Marilyn Keenan
Constance Keirstead in honor of Pamela Matocha
Mark Kirschbaum
Kowalski Group, LLC
Megan Kuchta
Amy Labrie
Michelle Lawler
Paula Lenart
Jack Levine
Steven Levine
Barbara and Robin Levine-Ritterman
Robert and Debbie Margolies
Joel Mastroianni
Joseph Matocha
Jessie McHeffey
Eli Meyer
Jacqueline Miconi
Loriann Moran

Laila Munawar
Network for Good
Margaret O'Brien
Bernadine Orintas
Diane Orlowski
David Ortoleva
Alfrado Osborne
David Osborne
Deborah Osborne
Gary Osborne
Karen Osborne
Nicole Osborne
Pepe Pizza
Debra Peschell
Anthony Poccia
Renee Poet
Robert and Linda Reger
Robert Reger in honor of Steve Levine
Remax Alliance
Arthur and Nancy Rossi
Barbara Saltman
Arnie Sher
Merle Silver
Rosanne Skerritt
Ana Marie Stern
Albert Stiewing
Blanca Torres
United Way of Waterbury
Frank Vezzoli
Kimberly Vezzoli
Mike Vezzoli
Visconti & Associates, P.C.
Anita Visentin-Perito
Paul Wang
Webster Bank
LisaBeth Weinstein
West Haven Democratic Town Committee
Briana Wheatley
Monique Williams
Suna Woods
Keith Wortz

Adopt A Family

1st Church Preschool
Lori Alexander
Lisa Baehre
Camille Barnhill
Leisa Baumgartner
Brownie Troop 06389 Hamden
Cheryl Burack
Caldwell Banker
CAPS Woodworking & Home Improvement
Barbara & Tim Carney
Sean Carney
CAVCOMM
Katie Chesaneck
Danielle Coppola
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Cornwall
Erin Coyle
CT Chapter of IU Alumni Assoc.
Lauren Cushman
CW Resources
Lindsey Dionne
Susan Dionne
Sarah Doran
Katie Doucet
Drillmasters-Eldorado Tool, Inc.
Kristin, Ian & Declan Evans
Jacquelyn Farrell
Mario Gaboury & Family
Dave Gallagher
Danette Guay
Kim Guerino
Bernadette Hackett
Matt Hale
Cinque Hall
Hamden Plains United Methodist Church
Bernadette Hemmer
Holy Transfiguration Church
Georgianna Hull
Ian McMahon CT Air Guard
Stephanie Kane
Marissa Kitz
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Katie Liebenberg
Littler Mendelson
Monica Lou
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Noreen McElroy & Family
Kate McKenna
Medtronic
Milford Mathewson School
Ashley Minihan
Augusta Mueller
Keith Murphy & Family
Emily Palten
Maureen Pawlak
Maggie Pittala
Rachel Polansky
Mindy Porell
Lisa Randi
ReMax Alliance
Carol Richards (Girl Scouts)
Lakesha Rivera
Sandra Robinson
Sectra
Dani Selkridge
Galit Sharma
Sania Siddiqui
Lynn Smith
Diane Solkowski
Southern CT State University Student Involvement
Danielle Spadaccino
Rich Sparago
St Rita's Church
State Attorney's Office New Haven
Rosemary Sterling
Ryan Stone
Anita Suraci
Tao Center Vitality
Test Logic
Tooket Valley Elementary School
Jennifer Tyrrell
USA Martial Arts
Visconti & Associates, PC
Sally Voegeli
Nishimura Wajhowski & Family
Pamela Whitman
Workers Compensation
Yale New Haven Hospital
Pre-Surgical Evaluation
Yale Alumni Association
Yale Graduate School of Arts & Science
Yale New Haven Hospital Clinical Materials Management
Yale New Haven Hospital Community & Government Relations
Yale New Haven Hospital Corporate Supply Chain

Yale New Haven Hospital Vascular & Heart Council
Yale New Haven Hospital Legal & Risk Service
Yale New Haven Hospital Managed Care
Yale New Haven Hospital Marketing & Communications
Yale New Haven Hospital Office of Development
Yale New Haven Hospital of Privacy & Corporate Compliance
Yale New Haven Hospital Pharmacy Department
Yale New Haven Hospital Physician Services
Yale New Haven Hospital Planning Department
Yale New Haven Hospital Radiation Oncology, Smilow Cancer, Center
Yale New Haven Hospital Verdi 5 North
Brenda Zambrello

Back to School

Crystal Ayala
Café Nine
Robin Caron
Cavconn
Christine Hodge
Marissa & Alex Kitz
Jack Levine, DDS
Steve & Joan Levine
Leslie Slater
mActivity
Amie Melillo
Nally Sahin
Jane Scarpellino
Leslie Slater
Southern CT State University Student Involvement
Tuff Girl Fitness

7th Annual Walk Against Domestic Violence

Archie Moores
Artspace
Ashley's Ice Cream
Blue State Coffee
Campus Customs

2017-2018 Financial Supporters

Capatorto's Pizza
Crossfit New Haven
CT Science Center
GANT
Guilford Art Center
Hartford Wolfpack
Hartford Yardgoats
Hull's Art Supplies
John & Maria's Pizza
Mystic Aquarium
Orange Hills Country Club
Otterbox
Pet Valu
Planet Fitness
Rain Spa
Savin Rock Roasting
Subway
Ten Thousand Villages
The Clay Date
The Yarn Barn
Wave Gallery
Willoughby's

Spring Cocktail Party and Auction

Leadership Sponsor
Yale-New Haven Hospital

Sponsors and Ad Book
Advanced Office Systems
New Haven Health Department
T.M. Byxbee Company, P.C.
The Eye Doctors
University of New Haven
Visconti & Associates, P.C.
Webster Bank
Yale New Haven Hospital

Guest Auctioneer

Mathew Scott Cohen

Auction/Raffle Donors

American Museum of Natural History
Amity Wine & Spirits
Andrea Sangrey

Arthur Murray Dance Studio
Ballous
Beardsley Zoo
Bigelow Tea
Blue State Coffee
Breathing Room
Bromley Mountain
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Brownstone Exploration & Discovery Park
Caseus Fromagerie & Bistro
Children's Museum of Southeastern CT
Christmas Tree Shops
Connecticut River Expeditions
Conway Scenic Railroad
CT Science Center
Discovery Museum
District Athletic Club
Dr. Jack Levine
Ecotarium
Essex Steam Train & Riverboat
Foxglove & Madison Cheese
Funny Bone Comedy Club
GANT New Haven
Guilford Art Center
International Tennis Hall of Fame
Jackie Miconi
Jennifer's Ice Cream
John & Maribel Baloga
KidCity Children's Museum
Lake Compounce & Crocodile Cove
Launch Trampoline Park
Long Wharf Theatre
Lutz Children's Museum
Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory & Gardens
Massage Savvy
Metro Bis
Mohegan Sun
Mount Snow
Moxie
Museum of the City of New York
New Bedford Whaling Museum
New England Air Museum
Newport Murder Mystery
Numi Organic Tea
Okemo Mountain Resort
Olives and Oil
On Location Tours
Paul Revere Memorial Association
Pawtucket Red Sox

Peabody Essex Museum
Pet Valu
Petco
Petsense Westbrook
PEZ Candy, Inc.
Pittsburgh Steelers
Preservation Society of Newport
Project Oceanology
Providence Bruins Hockey Club
Putter's Paradise Mini Golf
Quassy Amusement Park & Waterpark
Ricciuti Hair
Rock Climb Fairfield
Roger Williams Park Zoo
Salon J
Santa's Village
Savvy Tea
Seamen's Church Institute
Shaw's Supermarket
Shoreline Pet Lodge
Shubert Theatre
Sports Center of CT
Starter Jackets
Steve Levine
Stony Creek Brewery
Stop and Shop
Subway
Sunny Nails & Spa
Take the Cake
The Cheesecake Factory
The House of the Seven Gables
The Institute of Contemporary Art/ Boston
The Land of Witches and Pirates
The Stomp Company
Thimble Island Brewing Company
Toad's Place
Total Wine & More
Town Fair Tire
Trader Joe's
Traveler's Championship
Vineyard Vines
Yale Peabody Museum
Zoar Outdoor

Grants, Foundations and Public Funds

City Missionary Association of New Haven, Inc.
Community Foundation of Greater New Haven
Connecticut Department of Children and Families
Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Connecticut Department of Public Health
Connecticut Department of Social Services
Connecticut Office of Early Childhood
Connecticut Office of Victim Services
Friends of Jimmy Miller, Inc.
Lamando Family Foundation
The Ethel & Abe Lapides Foundation
Swift Foundation
UCFS Healthcare
United Way of Greater New Haven



Who We Serve



Family Centered Services
of CT

Family Centered
Services of CT
served 1,517 families
from July 1, 2017
to June 30, 2018



Children's Ages

Birth-5	47%
6-12	38%
13-17	15%



Ethnicity

Black	33%
Hispanic	30%
Caucasian	20%
Multiracial	9%
Asian	3%
Other	2%
Unknown	3%



Reason for Referral

Domestic Violence	36%
Child Abuse, Neglect, Family Strengthening	27%
Care Coordination	16%
Youth Empowerment	8%
Foster Care Support	6%
Substance Abuse/ Mental Health	5%
Other	2%

Fiscal Year Ending 6.30.2018 Income and Expense (Unaudited)

Income

CT Department of Children and Families	2,441,193.00
CT Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services	73,212.00
CT Department of Public Health	274,592.00
CT Department of Social Services	225,000.00
CT Office of Early Childhood	334,717.00
CT Office of Victim Services	422,897.00
New Reach	80,851.00
Foundations	33,000.00
Restricted	9,000.00
Fundraising and Special Events	51,480.19
TOTAL	3,945,942.00

Expenses

Salaries	2,314,298.00
Fringe Benefits	424,310.00
Program Supplies, Travel, Training, Communications	407,487.00
Subcontractors	372,419.00
Facilities	140,549.00
Administrative Expenses	279,234.00
Fundraising and Special Events	7,645.00
TOTAL	3,945,942.00

Family Centered Services of CT 2017-2018 Board of Directors

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Hartford, CT

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Law Office of Anita Visentin-Perito
Branford, CT



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Dedicated Staff

Administrative Staff

Keisha Barnes, Administrative Assistant
Cheryl Burack, M.S., Executive Director
Jacquelyn Farrell, LCSW, Assistant Director
Kara Rotheram, BS, Finance Director

Caregiver Support Team

Sarah Sedlak, LCSW, Program Director
Sammeisha Caporale, M.ED
Sandy Gonzalez, MSW
Laura Rainey, M.ED
Christina Stratidis-Macrine, MSW
Stefanie Thach, LCSW

Family-Based Recovery

Erin McNeff, LMFT, Program Director
Abigail Berkson, LMSW
Marenid Carattini, BS
Johanna Piper, LMSW

Intimate Partner Violence – Family Assessment Intervention Response

Katie Chesaneck, M.A., LCSW, Program Director
Jodi Baloga, LMSW
Bryanna Cotto, BA
Michelle Covert, LPC
Ashley Hernandez, MS
Amarillis Lopez, MA
Taylor Neubauer, LMSW

Multisystemic Therapy – Building Stronger Families

Alix Mury, MS, LPC, Program Director
Trudy Granston, BA
Shannon Jacobs, MFT
Nicole Osborne, LMSW
Heather Skiffington, LMSW

Neighborhood Victim Advocacy

Vanessa Cathey, BSW, Program Director
Gisela Taveras, BSW
Yoselin Coyotl, BS
Melissa Masayda, MS
Alivia Roseboro, MS

New Haven Family Partnership

Rolanda Chandler, LPC

Nurturing Families Network

Jessica Palmer, LMFT, Program Director
Robert Fernandez, BS
Noreen McElroy, BA
Ashley Minihan
Mirella Ortiz-Ramos
Evelyn Padilla, AS

Parenting Support and Parental Rights Initiative

Kristina Beckert, LMSW

Parenting Support Services

Irene Clementino, MA, Program Director
Heather Agid, BA
Crystal Ayala, BA
Geanella Lara, BA
Sarah Tracey, BS
LaRonda Winfrey, BS

South Central Medical Home Initiative

Tracy Lynch, MSN
Lucy Melendez
Lakeisha Sims, MS

Teen Outreach Program

Raycean Wright, BS, Program Director
Allie Beaulieu, BS
Wes Stover, MA



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of CT

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