



# Fostering Futures NY

## InTouch



Supporting foster families in building better futures for children and youth

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ISSUE 4: SUMMER 2017

### When you wish upon a star . . .



Bishop Emeritus Howard Hubbard with Tony Cortese, executive director of St. Anne's Institute, and his wife, Jackie.

The many friends of FFNY who attended the "Star Light, Star Bright" benefit enjoyed a delightful buffet, live jazz music, and lively conversation with others in the foster care community. The event was held at the Shaker Ridge Country Club in Albany on June 1.

Among the special guests in attendance were the Honorary Committee, Fostering Futures NY Advisory Board, Schenectady

County Community College (SCCC) volunteer group, WRI staff and friends.

The program portion of the evening was hosted by JoDee Kenney, an anchor at Channel 1 Spectrum News. She thanked the foster parents and volunteer teams for their commitment to creating better futures for children in care.

The evening ended with a raffle featuring a range of donated items, including gift cards, sports memorabilia, original artwork and crafts, and baskets of goodies. "Star Light, Star Bright" was a resounding success, and we expect it will be even bigger and better next year!

### 'Shining Stars' award honors foster parents



Marcia and Ken Andersen

Foster parents Marcia and Ken Andersen were given this year's Shining Stars award at the Fostering Futures NY benefit event on June 1. The award honors foster parents and volunteers who have contributed to the success of FFNY over the past year.

Marcia and Ken were the first foster family to be matched with an FFNY team more than two years ago. They have been foster parents for 15+ years and have cared for more than 150 children, many with special needs. Six of their

nine children have been adopted from foster care.

"Despite having an obviously busy life, Marcia and Ken rarely turn down an opportunity to promote FFNY and fostering in general," said FFNY Director Meredith Osta. "It's an honor to have such unwavering support from these exemplary foster parents."

The Andersens's referral agency is St. Catherine's Center for Children and their team is from West Central Rensselaer County Lutheran Parish in Rensselaer County.



Fostering Futures NY (FFNY) recruits and trains small teams of volunteers from the community that give practical support to foster families and serve as 'extended families' for foster parents and children.

#### SOUNDBYTES:

"Thanks to our team members at Fostering Futures, my husband and I were able to sneak out for anniversary dinner alone tonight ♥ much appreciated!" – Candice, Foster Mom (April 2017)

Please support the mission of **Fostering Futures NY** by making a tax deductible donation at <http://www.welfaresearch.org/ffny.html#Donate>.

## FFNY 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Team Appreciation Social

FFNY held our second team appreciation social in April. The event was held at Awaken Church in Niskayuna. Awaken sponsors a team which assists a local foster family.

A huge thank you to Schenectady County Community College (SUNY SCCC) Student Volunteer group. The SCCC students raised money for the event & organized so many activities for the children.

What an amazing group of students! We are so grateful for the support of our local community organizations.



SCCC student volunteer group and Professor Renee Adamany (center)

### Thank You to Participating Community Groups

- Awaken Church
- Cobblestone Reformed Church
- Community Reformed Church of Colonie
- Delanson United Methodist
- First Reformed of Schenectady
- First Reformed of Wynantskill
- Greenbush Reformed Church
- Helderberg Reformed Church
- Lynnwood Reformed Church
- Macedonia Baptist Church
- Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Policy Research Associates
- St. Edward the Confessor Roman Catholic Church
- St. Henry's Church, Averill Park
- St. Joseph's Church, Troy
- St. Michael The Archangel Roman Catholic Church
- West Central Rensselaer County Lutheran Parish

### HELP WANTED

#### Team Coordinator Fostering Futures NY

Fostering Futures NY is a program of Welfare Research, Inc. that recruits and trains volunteer teams to provide practical supports to foster parents and families in the Capital Region. Due to the growth in the program, we are seeking an additional part-time Team Coordinator (up to 15 hours/week). Must be flexible with schedule, with primarily evenings and occasional weekend hours required. Requires local travel and must supply own transportation.

The Team Coordinator recruits volunteer teams sponsored by faith- and community-based service organizations, and manages the training and ongoing oversight of the volunteer teams, with supervision and support from the FFNY Program Director.

**Qualifications:** Bachelor's degree and experience in child welfare; ideal candidate will have experience with the NYS foster care system and working with volunteers.

**Compensation:** Commensurate with experience. Please email resume and cover letter to [info@welfaresearch.org](mailto:info@welfaresearch.org) or mail to WRI, 14 Columbia Circle Dr., Suite 104, Albany, NY 12203.

### Welfare Research, Inc.

Fostering Futures NY is a program of Welfare Research, Inc. (WRI), a nonprofit agency that provides technical assistance to both public and private human services agencies. FFNY is funded by private donations, a grant from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and is funded in part by the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, under a Cooperative Agreement, Grant # 90CO-1109. The contents of this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Further support and guidance are provided by [WRI's staff](#) and [Board of Directors](#).

### FFNY Advisory Board

Renee Adamany, LMSW  
Professor, Schenectady County  
Community College  
Kristen Esler  
Community Volunteer  
Bishop Emeritus  
Howard Hubbard  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany  
Carole Merrill-Mazurek  
Community Volunteer  
Shirley Readdean  
Community Volunteer

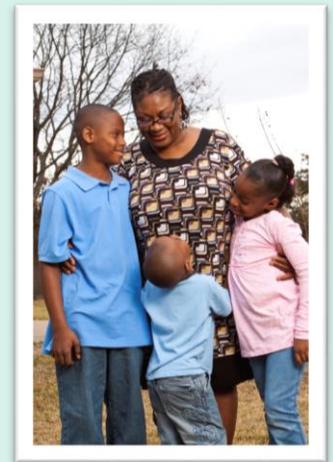
### FFNY STAFF

Meredith Osta, Program Director  
Debbie Favro, Team Coordinator

### Thank you to our 2017 supporters

The following charitable organizations have provided generous support for Fostering Futures NY. We also thank our many individual donors for responding to the need to expand the program to more foster families in the Capital Region.

- Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet
- Stewart's Holiday Match
- The Schenectady Foundation
- The Troy Savings Bank Charitable Foundation



### Interested in sponsoring a team or volunteering?

Contact Meredith Osta at  
518-713-4726, ext. 210  
or [MOsta@welfaresearch.org](mailto:MOsta@welfaresearch.org)