

Annual Report

FY July 1, 2008—June 30, 2009

Dedicated to protecting children by supporting families since 1976



The Danbury Regional Child Advocacy Center, Inc.

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Letter From the President

2009/2010 is a difficult year for most service organizations. Funding is at best slow in arriving, or in some cases non-existent. That said, I am grateful for the continued support and effort of a Board of Directors and staff that continue to keep our organization one of the best run and most respected agencies in the Danbury area.

We are continually seeking new avenues to increase our fundraising challenge, enabling us to continue on the path we have chosen; to provide continued excellent service to the greater Danbury community. Under the tireless leadership of Mark Stirling, Fund Development Vice President, we are making great strides in that direction. We are most fortunate to have the continued support of so many folks that are diligently putting forth the extra effort needed to make our goals attainable. Reading through the Annual Report you will note the many people dedicated to protecting children by supporting families.

We are looking forward to another memorable Dinner Dance/Auction on March 27th at the Am-

ber Room. This year we will again enjoy the great entertainment of the Clark Eno Orchestra and Auctioneer extraordinaire, Joe Pepin, one of our most diligent Board members.

Most organizations also face challenges that are not financial. This coming year our wonderful Executive Director, Susan Thomas is planning to retire. As a Board, we have our work cut out for us over the next few months. Sue has given of herself unselfishly and puts DRCAC ahead of all else. Finding a suitable replacement is going to be the most difficult challenge of my presidency.

This year also brought with it tremendous loss. Bunny Jacobson, a devoted supporter, consistently created overflowing children's baskets for our auction tables; her long struggle with cancer ended in June. Nan and Bob Joy,

two founders of the agency, also passed this year. Active in our organization for more than 25 years, Bob was a local pediatrician until retirement. Nan was his helpmate and nurse. I considered Bunny, Nan and Bob great friends and wonderful humanitarians. I'm sure I speak for all at DRCAC, when I say, "we will miss you dearly."

Finally, thank you to all who continue to make my position one of pride. Our Board of Directors really extends itself when it comes to the financial well-being of the Child Advocacy Center, and our dedicated staff provides the best care and training possible to those we serve. We continue to be a source of community leadership in the area of child advocacy. I see continued growth in our ability to continue to serve all who are in need.



Bernadette Kallas

Letter From the Executive Director

The economy left its mark on us this year as it did with the nation as a whole. Fortunately, the past generosity of funders and donors provided resources to absorb financial deficits without reducing staff hours and, consequently, services to families. We are grateful for the dedication of our Board, staff, and community which are critical to sustaining high risk families during the year to come.

During the '08-'09 Fiscal Year over 1000 residents of the greater Danbury community learned information and skills which contributed to reduced risk of child abuse and neglect, and improved family functioning. Over 85% of these live below the Federal Poverty Level, and they are deeply affected by the current economy. 23% more than the previous year faced eviction or foreclosure when they began working with us. As a result, we are supplying more basic needs than in previous years: our small store of food is more quickly depleted, we handle more requests for winter coats for children and adults, and we use more resources helping families manage overdue rent, fuel and utility bills. Although this kind of

assistance is collateral to our core services of developing healthy parenting skills and education, these more immediate needs must be stabilized before the family can focus on providing a safe and nurturing home for children.

The Child Advocacy Center is fortunate to have gifted staff who helped families meet over 80% of the goals for their work. The Department of Children and Families has re-written the service contract for Family Enrichment Specialists, (previously Parent Aides). Staffing in the program remains stable and the work of these specialists continues with characteristic expertise. Reassigning responsibilities, Lisamay will coordinate the Mentor Program and Danielle will coordinate the Child Protection Teams. Congratulations to Danielle who successfully completed the requirements for her Ph.D.

Berni Kallas provides experienced leadership as President of the Board of Direc-

tors. We are grateful for the commitment of our Board members. They are responsive to the needs of the community and the Center, and they continue to seek opportunities to understand the needs of the families and to express their appreciation to the staff for their work.

Partnerships with diverse sectors provide essential support. We are grateful for sustaining financial support from the United Way, Exchange Club, Moose Lodge, The Leir, Tow, Perrin, Howe and Keren Family Foundations, Fairfield County Community Foundation and Donor Advised Funds, St. Stephens and St James Churches. We appreciate consistent contributions from GE, Bedoukian Research, and Taunton Press, and renewed public support from the Department of Children and Families, the City of Danbury and other municipalities. Each of these contributors is a critical factor in the success of our mutual efforts to improve conditions for high risk families in need.



Susan V. Thomas

Danbury Regional Child Advocacy Center, Inc

Budget 2010 Fiscal Year

FY10 - BUDGET REVENUE	Total	CORE *	TEAMS	PA	VMP	COPEs	PNP
Unrestricted Contributions	48,500	48,500					
Restricted Contributions	91,950	4,000		56,600	4,350	19,000	8,000
Fund Development	40,000	67,015					
Membership Dues	500	500					
Grant Income	287,509		80,000	198,628			8,881
Contract Services	10,000		10,000				
Towns	45,904	5,350	1,300	25,118	5,300	3,384	5,452
United Way - All	103,251		17,760	60,499	7,351	17,641	
Interest Income	4,500	4,500					
TOTAL REVENUE	659,129	129,865	109,060	340,845	17,001	40,025	22,333
TOTAL EXPENSES	659,129	30,397	131,697	386,598	29,305	52,087	29,045
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	0	99,468	(22,637)	(45,753)	(12,304)	(12,062)	(6,712)

Actual 2009 Fiscal Year

FY09 - REVENUE	Total	CORE *	TEAMS	PA	VMP	COPEs	PNP
Unrestricted Contributions	53,283	53,283					
Restricted Contributions	60,360	2,800		30,560	4,000	12,000	11,000
Fund Development	70,253	70,253					
Membership Dues	555	555					
Grant Income	287,509		80,000	198,628			8,881
Contract Services	10,000		10,000		5,300		
Towns	43,672	5,150	1,300	25,118	5,300	1,352	5,452
United Way - All	109,843		22,695	63,671	6,450	17,027	
Interest Income	5,308	5,308					
TOTAL REVENUE	640,783	137,349	113,995	317,977	15,750	30,379	25,333
TOTAL EXPENSES	668,823	36,663	122,409	384,506	39,677	51,581	35,987
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	28,040	100,686	(8,414)	(66,529)	(21,927)	(21,202)	(10,654)

INCREASE/(DECREASE)	Total	CORE	TEAMS	PA	VMP	COPEs	PNP
TOTAL REVENUE	18346	(7,484)	(4,935)	22,868	1,251	9,646	(3,000)
TOTAL EXPENSE	(9,694)	(6,266)	9,288	2,092	(8,372)	506	(6,942)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(28,040)	(1,218)	(14,223)	20,776	9,623	9,140	3,942

* CORE surplus will fund program deficits.

Funders

We are grateful to the following funders for support during Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

Bedoukian Research, Inc.
Department of Children & Families
The Exchange Club of Danbury
Fairfield County Community Foundation
Donor advised funds of the Fairfield County Community Foundation:
The Pat and Shirley Howe Fund
The Nevas Family Fund and
Two Anonymous Donor Advised Funds
GE
The Keren Foundation for Children

The Leir Foundation
National Children's Alliance
The Perrin Family Foundation
Savings Bank of Danbury
St. James' Church
St. Stephen's Church
Taunton Press
The Tow Foundation
City of Danbury
Town of New Fairfield
Town of Newtown

Town of Ridgefield
Town of Sherman
United Ways of:
Capitol Area
New England
Special Distributions Division
Western Connecticut
Westchester & Putnam County
Valley United Way

Programs

Long-term outcomes include helping families reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect, improve family functioning, and increase independent functioning.

In all programs, activity volume has remained high; the activity reported with the following program descriptions refers to the period July 2008 through June 2009.

Parent Aides:

Provide weekly one-to-one home-based intensive education and support services: 84% of 507 clients achieved their goals.

Teams:

Coordinate services for individual families, and provide multi-disciplinary approaches to investigations of child abuse: 92% of 154 clients achieved their goals.

COPES:

Provides education and support through weekly Parent/Infant/Toddler groups offered in English and Spanish: 85% of 84 clients achieved their goals.

ParentNet:

Evening and weekend classes in English, Spanish, and Portuguese provide parenting information and skills in collaboration with DCF, Danbury Schools, and courts: 80% of 112 parents achieved their goals.

Volunteer Mentor Program:

Provides role models, support, advocacy, and reinforcement of previous learning for families no longer receiving intensive services. Mentors are matched for weekly contact with parents at risk. Two Grandparents as Parents support groups meet weekly with trained and supervised facilitators: 16 mentors helped 82% of 16 parents, 15 grandparents, and 21 children achieve their goals.

Collaboration with other state and local agencies is a priority, and is essential for successful service delivery.

The Child Advocacy Center serves the towns of Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Sherman, Warren, and Washington.

***The Danbury Regional Child Advocacy Center recognizes those loved ones
in whose names donations were made***

In Memory of:

*Keren Alexander, Bud Barton, Lilly Jayne Evelyn Collins, Charline Daniels, Stella & Dorcas Lloyd Dawe,
George & Pat Foster, N. P. Herzegovitch, Bunny Jacobson, Nan & Robert Joy,
Henry J. and Erna D. Leir, Guy Metcalf, Jr., Alyssa Potraz, and Harry L. Vincent, Jr.*

In Honor of:

*Dorothy Barton, Elisabeth Booth-Barton, Mark H. Daniels, Yolanda M. Delgado, Celia Eizik,
MaryAnn Frede, the Rausch Family, and Dolores Stewart.*

2008-09 Contributors

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Danbury Regional Child Advocacy Center from 7/1/08 through 6/30/09. If we have missed or misspelled a name, please let us know by calling (203) 748-4542. Your gift is important to us.

Benefactors (\$500—above)

<i>Joanne Albanesi</i>	<i>Exchange Club of Danbury</i>	<i>Sealed Air Corporation</i>
<i>Amber Room Colonnade</i>	<i>Andrea Heap</i>	<i>State Farm Insurance, Mill Plain Office</i>
<i>George Bogart</i>	<i>Infinity Printing</i>	<i>Barbara & William Sullivan</i>
<i>Elisabeth Booth-Barton</i>	<i>Michael & Bernadette Kallas</i>	<i>Kate & John Thomas-Palmer</i>
<i>Lisamay Cleary-Cast</i>	<i>Brian Kelly</i>	<i>Paul & Alison Thompson</i>
<i>Danbury Hospital</i>	<i>Fran & Frank Kelly</i>	<i>Union Savings Bank</i>
<i>John C. Daniels</i>	<i>Michael Lofrumento</i>	<i>United Technologies</i>
<i>Edwin L. Dawe</i>	<i>Louis & Carolyn M^cAdams</i>	<i>Webster Bank</i>
<i>Jana Draper</i>	<i>Merrill Lynch</i>	<i>Bruce & Kathy Weinstein</i>
<i>DRS Consolidated Controls, Inc.</i>	<i>Moose Lodge 1373</i>	<i>Leonard Wengler</i>
<i>Clark Eno Orchestra</i>	<i>Planet Beach Contempo Spa</i>	<i>Westchester Classic Cars & Coachwork</i>

Partners (\$250—\$499)

<i>Terry & Douglas Cooper</i>	<i>Robert Joy</i>	<i>Savings Bank of Danbury</i>
<i>Sharon Wicks Dornfeld</i>	<i>John Katz</i>	<i>Susan & Frank Thomas</i>
<i>Isabelle Farrington</i>	<i>Lawrence & Patricia B. Larson</i>	<i>Nancy Urell</i>
<i>Debra Finn</i>	<i>Barbara & Arthur Phillips</i>	<i>Edward Younger</i>

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<i>Dorothy Barton</i>	<i>Fairfield County Bank</i>	<i>Andrew & Robin Keller</i>	<i>Patricia Rizzo</i>
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<i>Sharon Wicks Dornfeld</i>	<i>John Hoffer</i>	<i>Trish Rapoport</i>	
<i>Barbara & Roland Einhorn</i>	<i>Brenda Hunt</i>	<i>Cynthia & Ralph Redman</i>	

Friends (\$1—\$99)

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<i>Kathleen & Thomas Castagnetta</i>	<i>Phillipe Karam</i>	<i>Kenneth & Susan Osnoss</i>	<i>Ellen & Steve Tower</i>
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