

Newsletter

CFCSJ

focus



The Center for Family,
Community, &
Social Justice, Inc.

SUPPORTING THE STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES WITHIN
FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES, AND INDIVIDUALS

THEATER BENEFIT EDITION

A Message from the Board of Trustees

In late April of this year, the Board of Trustees joined by the Executive Director and Director of Training, spent a weekend in retreat at Asbury Park High School. In addition to the fortuitous gift of extraordinary summer-like weather, and the opportunity to collaborate in the interest of the future growth of the Center, we were privileged to meet Family Therapist Gail Pearsall, of the Center's Atlantic City Family Empowerment Program team. Ms. Pearsall introduced us to a mother and her two adolescent children, who, through the support, skills, and dedication of the team, created a new story for their family filled with new-found confidence, pride, and possibilities. Initially struggling and discouraged, the two teenagers, now thriving academically, are positive,

enthusiastic young people with optimistic visions for their future. This story, emblematic of the Center's work, and substantiated by the 89% school retention rate achieved by the Center's programs, is the basis for our dedication as trustees to the high standards of practice by the staff, clinical faculty/supervisors and administration. The Center's model, which features a collaborative and relational orientation designed to enable families to maximize the development of their children, has captured the interest and imagination of the trustees. We hope the Center's pioneering work will capture your interest too. To learn more about the Center or its Board, please reach out to a member of the Center staff or Board. Know your interest will be welcomed. - Curt Lindberg, Chair



Curt Lindberg

CFCSJ Board of Trustees

Curt Lindberg, D. Man, Chair
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Linda Shaw, MD
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Tarell Alvin McCraney

McCarter Theatre Center

Princeton, New Jersey

The Brother/Sister Plays Part 1:

In the Red and Brown Water by Tarell Alvin McCraney

Co-produced with The Public Theater in New York.

Directed by Tina Landau

Theatre
Benefit
May 17

We Remember

Departed: December 3, 2008

Community Resource Specialist, Family Empowerment Program, Pyne Poynt Middle School, Camden, NJ



Benita Smith

I remember Benita as a very welcoming, quiet, and timely person. May her soul rest in peace. - Jose Garcia, Community Resource Specialist, John F. Kennedy High School, Paterson

Working with Benita was a delight. Her warmth and caring was present in everything that she did. It was inspiring to witness her gentle and compassionate work with students and their families. I am grateful for the opportunity to have known Benita and to have learned from her. - Deidre Ashton, Clinical Supervisor, Camden FEP

Thank God for the opportunity to have worked with one of the most bright, kind and loving persons you could ever ask for, Benita Smith. I loved Benita, she was my friend and I will truly miss her presence; she will never be forgotten by me and I will cherish all that she taught me and share it with the world. Thank you Benita! - Your friend and colleague, Nefessa Wiggins, Family Systems Specialist, Woodrow Wilson High School, Camden

Director's Corner



I am inspired, each day, by the courage of the students and families with whom we work, by the dedication and skill of the staff, the collaboration of our community partners and the compassionate intellectual fortitude of the faculty/supervisors. Special thanks for the diligence and dedication of the Center's Operations Director, Mandy Leith. The Center is fortunate to have the endorsement of a distinguished, socially conscious board of trustees. Board Chair Curt Lindberg and I would like to briefly introduce you to the Center's newest Trustees.

The Center Board Welcomes the Following New Trustees:

Tyler Blackmore - grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. He began his career as a high school English teacher and coach. He is currently in his 8th year in high school administration. He has worked in urban high schools in South Los Angeles and is currently the Principal of Asbury Park High School. He is an advocate for family empowerment and believes that saving our urban schools is the single most important goal for our society in the 21st century. Mr. Blackmore has a master's degree in Educational Administration from University of the Pacific and enjoys spending time with his wife, Amy, and studying the art and science of leadership.

Don Burns - retired banker, worked for thirty years in the financial industry including stints at Citibank, JPMorgan and Bank of New York. Held senior management positions primarily in the areas of product development and business management. Served four years as a U. S. Air Force Officer. Enjoys golfing, traveling and working as a volunteer. Presently serve as a volunteer investigator for Centurion Ministries. Graduate of Lebanon Valley College with additional graduate studies at several schools. Two grown children and four grandchildren.

Brenda Leake - Teaching at the College of New Jersey since 1993: As Associate Professor of Elementary and Early Childhood Education, teaches graduate level courses and coordinates the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood M.Ed. Program. Additional activities include International Studies Committee Member; Graduate Studies Committee Member; and New Jersey State Legislature Council of Academic Policy Advisors. Primary research areas are Urban Education, Middle-Level Education, Education of children of color, Educational equity. She is excited about her work in the summers in Johannesburg South Africa. This is an innovative, integrated graduate program which she designed and coordinate for TCNJ. It attracts educators from all over the globe (Last summer there were students from: Bulgaria; Nepal; Ghana; Nigeria; Zambia; Mozambique; Taiwan; Bangladesh; and S. Africa).

Linda Shaw - is a mother of three and grandmother; a pediatrician, with a background in social work, who specializes in child abuse; sings in a small women's choir and enjoys aerobics and biking. Born and raised in the Midwest, lived on the West Coast, NW, SW and East Coast. On the clinical faculty of UMDNJ-RWJ Med School and Drexel College of Medicine. Medical Director of the Dorothy B. Hersh Regional Child Protection Center, one of the four regional diagnostic and treatment centers on child abuse and neglect for NJ.

The memories of yesterday of joy, happiness and love; we have lost a friend and loved one, but gained an angel above. - Atiba Sonnebeyatta, Community Resource Specialist, Morgan Village Middle School, Camden

She held a special place in my life. I spent so many hours mentoring her and I am grateful for all that she taught me, a very special person indeed, like losing a close family member. - Dr. Bob Lynn, former clinical supervisor, Camden FEP

I liked to sit next to Benita at the Friday meetings and feel her spirit and energy, also to make little jokes. - George Paulsen, FSS, Lakewood

Each time I think of Benita, I picture her smile and her laughter. Her happiness and good nature will be missed. - Sophia Greenberg, MA, Family Systems Specialist, John F. Kennedy High School, Paterson

Benita always had a warm, caring spirit to her. Vaya con Dios - Elissa Santoro, Community Resource Specialist, Plainfield High School, Plainfield



Benita with Camden FEP Colleagues: Top (l-r) Attiba Sonnebeyatta, Al Mumin Bey, Norman Parrish, Ryan Downs. On steps: (l-r) Tracey Newman, Camaline Williams, Terri Turner. On lowest level, (l-r) Nefessa Wiggins, Onya Croxton, Demetrius McKay, Benita Smith

Center Staff Present to the American Family Therapy Academy

On June 20, 2008, the Staff of the Family Empowerment Program (FEP) of the Center for Family, Community, & Social Justice presented their work at the annual meeting of the American Family Therapy Academy. The presentation, entitled, *Multi-Layered Challenges to Social Justice Accountability in a Community-Based Adolescent and Family Counseling Program*, was made possible by a special invitation from Dr. Jane Ariel and the Cultural and Economic Diversity Committee. The annual meeting was held in Philadelphia and the presentation highlighted the FEP model which is practiced in Middle and High schools in 18 sites throughout New Jersey. One of the components that make the FEP model unique is the team approach to counseling. The presentation included a performance piece in which staff acted out vignettes to convey the diversity and intricacy of family situations and staff experience. With the support of the Center's faculty supervisors, the FEP staff was able to articulate the many challenges and the deep satisfaction that is part of working to promote social justice and empowerment with adolescents and families in the context of complex interwoven systems. - **Tracey Newman, LCSW, Family Systems Specialist, Veterans Memorial Middle School, Camden**

Center Staff

at the
American Family Therapy Academy Annual Meeting
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
June 2008



Partners and Grantors

- Department of Children and Families, Division of Prevention and Community Partnerships, State of New Jersey
- Division of Addictions Services, State of New Jersey
- Atlantic City School Based Youth Services Program, Mr. Craig Cochran, Atlanticare
- Bridgeton School Based Youth Services Program, Mr. Richard Elwell, Kid's Corner
- Camden School Based Youth Services Programs, Ms. Sharon Shields, Camden Board of Education
- Elizabeth School Based Youth Services Program, Ms. Kathy Brown-Bragg, Trinitas Hospital
- Irvington School Based Youth Services, Ms. Beverly Canady, The Bridge, Inc.
- Lakewood School Based Youth Services, Mr. Dominick Riggi, Preferred Children's Services
- New Jersey Psychological Association Foundation, Dr. John Lagos, Chair
- Paterson School Based Youth Services Program, Ms. Paula Howe
- Plainfield School Based Youth Services, Mr. Stacey Greene
- Trenton School Based Youth Services, Ms. Melda Grant, Trenton Board of Education

Family Systems Specialists (FSS) are licensed Masters Level Counselors, Community Resource Specialists (CRS) are BA or BS level counselors. Mental Health Clinicians (MHC) are Masters Level Practitioners. Practicum students are doctoral or masters candidates.

Danielle Bennett, FSS, Bridgeton
Al Mumin Bey, CRS, Camden
Keith Byers, CRS, Atlantic City
Onya Croxton, CRS, Camden
Mary Drahofsky, MHC, Trenton
Ethan Evans, MHC, Trenton
Tina Frazier, FSS, Camden
Jose Garcia, CRS, Paterson
Debbie Gonzalez-Morgan, CRS, Bridgeton
Sophia Greenberg, FSS, Paterson
Kamess Haki, Senior CRS, Lakewood
Katharine Holtzman, FSS, Irvington
Eliza Jelliff, FSS, Camden
Zakiyya Jordan, MHC, Trenton
Tahira Lesure, CRS, Irvington
Sonja Malcolm, FSS, Elizabeth
Demetrius McKay, CRS, Camden
Tracey Newman, FSS, Camden
Abimbola Omisore, FSS, Plainfield
Norman Parrish, CRS, Camden
Evelyn Pastrana, CRS, Elizabeth
George Paulsen, Senior FSS, Lakewood
Gail Pearsall, FSS, Atlantic City
Tania Peterson, FSS, Brick Township
Elissa Santoro, CRS, Plainfield
Tyesha Scott, FSS, Camden
Atiba Sonnebeyatta, CRS, Camden
Melissa Tattia, CRS, Brick Township
Megan Tucker, CRS, Brick Township
Nefessa Wiggins, FSS, Camden
Camaline Williams, Associate FSS, Camden
Anna Yavener, FSS, Brick Township

**Center Staff
and
Supervisees**

To those who support the Center: Thank you!

Friends:

Mary Gay Abbott-Young Bill & Judy Lindberg
Charleen Alderfer Lois Lindberg
Deidre Ashton Bob Lindberg
Alison Badgett Cheryl Litzke
Scarlett Bellamy Glenda Mendelsohn
Sharon Benjamin Rosemarie Moser
Evan Imber-Black Peggy Papp
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Jack Lagos Norbert Wetzel
Brenda Leake Hinda Winawer
Mandy Leith Sidney Winawer
Herb Levine Carl Winterrose
Rhoda Lewis Ann Yasuhara

Benefactors:

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Lois Braverman
Kathleen Cassidy
Gerald Groves
John Holly III
Risa & Bob Lavizzo-Mourey
Constance Scharf
Ellen & Albert Stark
Erik Steiner

Guardian Angels

Claire and Curt Lindberg
Don and Linda Burns
Robin Mockenhaupt & Ralph Popp

Benefit Committee

Don Burns, Curt Lindberg and
Linda Shaw
Gerald Groves

Administration:

Hinda Winawer, Executive Director
Norbert Wetzel, Director of Training
Mandy Leith, Director of Operations

CENTER FACULTY SUPERVISORS

Deidre Ashton,
LCSW

Glenda Mendelsohn,
LCSW

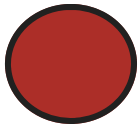
CharlesEtta Sutton,
LCSW

Norbert Wetzel,
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Hinda Winawer,
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Associate Supervisor

George Paulsen, MA



Center for Family,
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