

New Year, New Decade, New Leadership



NURTURING NETWORK NEWS

Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts

A crowd of people gathered on beautiful Dorchester Bay on Friday, February 4th to celebrate the Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts and acknowledge a wonderful decade of nurturing, a 10 year tenure of outgoing Executive Director Elise DeWinter Eckelkamp, and a new leader in Matt LiPuma.

Elise joined the Family Nurturing Center in December 1994, just two months after Sharon Shay Workman founded the program that was originally housed at Boston City Hospital, now Boston Medical Center. As part of the Developmental and Behavioral Pediatric Department, FNC was established to reduce child abuse and maltreatment by promoting the Nurturing Philosophy and Nurturing Parenting Programs throughout the hospital and neighboring communities.

In the last ten years a lot has happened at the FNC and Elise has been a part of much of it - as an organizer, advocate, trainer, supervisor, and most recently as Executive Director. FNC left the hospital and moved to its current community based location in Dorchester. It incorporated and became a distinct 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization with a dynamic Board of Directors. The staff team has grown from three to twelve people, and each year FNC engages between 2-5 Boston area student interns and more than 250 volunteers in its work. Staff members are frequent presenters at local, national, and most recently, two international conferences. The work has expanded from one to several Boston neighborhoods and other cities across the state. Local, national, private and public funders have taken an interest in FNC's unique strategies for supporting families and have strongly supported its work. Under Elise's strong leadership FNC has reached new heights, attracted local and national attention, and has become a valuable resource for families and organizations working to strengthen families.

After ten years of service to FNC, five years as Executive Director, Elise is leaving her role to spend more time with her growing family; but she will still be involved in spreading the Nurturing Philosophy and supporting the continued growth of the Nurturing Network.

FNC staff acknowledged and celebrated Elise's significant contributions with a witty slide show and expressed their appreciation by recalling special moments that characterized many of her strengths. Elise then passed the "magic wand" to Matt, who comes to the Family Nurturing Center with twenty-five

years of non-profit experience in Boston. As a Dorchester resident, husband, and father of two, Matt's background is clearly aligned with the FNC mission. He has worked diligently to build strong families and neighborhoods and to improve the systems of care for children. As Director of the Center for Therapy at Boston Children's Services (now The Home for Little Wanderers), he developed and expanded a school based therapy program to 25 Boston schools. He was co-founder and manager of Boston Excels, an award winning full-service school program that served over 2,800 youth and their families in 5 Boston elementary schools. He collaborated with the Department of Social Services and Casey Family Programs to develop, implement and evaluate an innovative sibling foster care program; and he is a co-founder and steering committee member of the Full-service Schools Roundtable, a Boston based coalition devoted to the healthy development and academic success of the city's children. Those who know Matt will know that this is a perfect fit.



As FNC begins a new decade, it is poised to expand its neighborhood "Circles of Caring" to the Roxbury and Jamaica Plain communities of Boston. As part of the *Boston Learns II* federally supported project, FNC will continue its collaborative work with partners Read Boston, Crittenton, Early Intervention, Head Start and others, to provide Nurturing Programs, parent/child literacy promotion playgroups, trainings, and Welcome Baby home visits to families with children birth through five years of age. FNC's work in Roslindale and Allston-Brighton is strongly rooted in the commitment of neighborhood families, organizational partners, and long time funders.

We look ahead to a new decade with enthusiasm and hope and are confident that Matt LiPuma, FNC's new leader, will build upon the last decade of success and help FNC reach even greater heights! We look forward to the continued expansion of Nurturing Circles and Programs in schools, neighborhoods, hospitals, DSS offices, and other places children and families gather.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Nurturing Parenting Programs	2-3
Neighborhood Circles of Caring	4-8
Policy Updates	8
Training Calendar	9-11

Personal Power Comes in Many Colors

Families of the eighth annual Roslindale Family Nurturing Program looked forward with great anticipation to session five of the fifteen week program when they knew that they could be creative with demonstrating their use of Personal Power. Personal Power is just one of many exciting topics of the fifteen week Family Nurturing Program curriculum that helps families make the right choices by using positive Personal Power instead of negative Personal Power. Children and adults learn about choices and consequences and just how easy and valuable it can be to choose positive power over negative power.

This year's nurturing team is full of veteran Roslindale nurturers and a couple of new nurturers. We are grateful to long time veteran nurturer and FNC Board member Keith Williams who has been tremendously successful in keeping the teenagers actively engaged in the program. We also extend our thanks to new nurturers Beth Rhodes and Derrice Cooper-Martin who have truly begun to show their nurturing spirit as they work tirelessly to support the families and young children each week. And another round of thanks goes to the Hyde Park/Roslindale/West Roxbury

The "Aha" Moment

What do you get when you put twelve men in a room together and start pushing their buttons? If the men are participants in the 4th Annual Nurturing Fathers' Program at the Hyde Park Area Department of Social Services Office, you get healing and support. There is an "aha" moment in all Nurturing Programs when everything starts to click. It usually happens somewhere in the middle weeks, but occasionally closer to the end sessions. This season's fathers' program clicked loudly during week nine.

Over the weeks, one of the fathers repeatedly expressed to the facilitators that he wasn't getting anything out of the program. Yet, he kept returning every week. On week nine we decided to challenge him when he said, "I don't feel anything," about a fam-

Another Look at Co-Parenting and Co-Nurturing

This spring, FNC offers another opportunity for co-parents to learn more about the valuable roles and influences they have as they work together to raise children. With support from the state's Department of Revenue Child Support Enforcement Division, FNC will deliver a Co-Parenting Nurturing Program, a modified version of the Marriage and Parenting Curriculum written by Mark Perlman, author of the Nurturing Father's Program. One of the program's goals is to help parents who are at odds with each other's parenting styles overcome some of their conflict. Both parents of a child must attend and one of them will be either non-custodial or at-risk of becoming non-custodial. For more information, contact Haji Shearer at (617) 474-1143 x 251 or hshearer@familynurturing.org. Haji and his wife, Jasmin, a long-time Nurturing Program facilitator, will co-facilitate this program.



Nurturing Program participants proudly show off their Personal Power banner.

Community Partnerships Cluster for their contribution to this year's program.

Congratulations Roslindale Nurturers...all the positive power to you! You are a strong and encouraging force in the High Point and Roslindale communities!

ily situation he experienced that had a high likelihood of invoking strong emotions. Turns out he did have a fair amount of rage underneath his numbness. Between the facilitators staying late and several check-ins throughout the week, he was able to handle this incredible release of energy and set up a plan for dealing with his feelings on an on-going basis.

And when he returned to the group the following week, several people commented that they had never seen him smile that much before. He literally looked like a load was off his shoulders. FNC will let more feeling and healing begin when we start up this year's Nurturing Father's Program at the Park Street Area Department of Social Services Office. Please refer to the enclosed Nurturing Program and Training Calendar for more details.

The Culture of Nurturing

A Nurturing Program has returned to Allston-Brighton after such a successful run last spring! With a great team of facilitators from Franciscan Children's Hospital and Crittenton, the Nurturing Program has been up and running since early November. With 12 families, including 22 children, our Wednesday nights have been filled with music, games, lively discussions, good food, and humor.

The families involved in this year's program are reflective of the cultural diversity of Allston-Brighton and represent more than 10 different countries. We are learning songs from Jamaica and how to dance the Merengue (taught by a family from the Dominican Republic).

(continued on page 3)



A Season of Receiving

As always, when we emerge from the holiday season, we are amazed at the generosity of folks around us! We would like to acknowledge the many people and organizations this past fall and winter that made financial contributions to FNC and gave gifts of toys and baby items for the children and families we serve. We would also like to thank the many individual volunteers and the volunteer groups that gave of their valuable time and energy this past season.

We would like to recognize in particular all of those organizations that helped us again to play Santa to many children in our programs: Bill Brown and the Park Street Area DSS Office, Toys for Tots, Globe Santa, Cradles to Crayons, and the Winn Companies (their employees bring wrapped gifts for FNC families to their company Holiday Party each year). You put smiles on many faces this December!

Other special "thank you's" go to:

- Fran Johnnene and the City's Retired Senior Volunteer Program for the generous monthly donation of sewn or crocheted blankets, booties, hats, and sweaters for Welcome Baby recipients.
- Nancy Wheeler of Sudbury, MA and her family who recently brought us a baby "garden" and toys for parents and babies to explore during the play group!!
- Pastor Karen Fritz and the Brighton Congregational Church for their continued generosity and support of parents with young children.
- Linda Rohr and her amazing high school blanket sewers from Pembroke High School.
- The staff of the Brighton branch of the Boston Public Library for hosting our holiday celebration for moms, dads, and little babies.
- Bank of America Brighton and Cleveland Circle Branches for generously collecting gifts from their patrons and employees and passing them along to Allston-Brighton Family Network families.

The Culture of Nurturing (continued from page 3)

The language of nurturing transcends cultures. A mom from a Caribbean island and a dad from India share many common experiences as parents of young children, and have much to learn from each other. Parents are learning new nurturing parenting skills. At the end of each program, children love to show their parents what they learned (and the beautiful artwork they made) in their groups. A little more than half-way into our program, the families have connected with each other and have developed supportive relationships that will stay with them beyond our graduation in March. The many cultures of Allston-Brighton now have another culture to add to the mix: the culture of NURTURING.

Parent Leadership Takes a New Form

Family Nurturing Center welcomes Sarah Cain as a Parent Mentor for the Birth & Foster Family Nurturing Program coordinated by the FNC in partnership with the Dimock Street Area DSS Office. As a Parent Mentor, Sarah's role is to reach out to and support parents during the Nurturing Program sessions and in between each session as the need arises. Last year Sarah participated in the Birth and Foster Family Nurturing Program with her foster daughters. Sarah has been a foster parent with the Department of Social Services for the past 18 years and brings a wealth of experience, compassion, and knowledge to

With Heartfelt Thanks

AB WIC	Grove Hall Mother's Club	Office
ABC Quilts	Rita Hagen	Christina Parker
Teri Adams	David & Susan Hahn	Robert & Laura Peabody
Anonymous	Harbor School	Pembroke High School
Jeannette Atkinson	Happy Hands Group	Stephen Perkins & Phyllis
Marc & Elayne Baskin	Janet Hawkins	Groskin
Bellingham Brownie Troop #763	Mark Hegedus & Christopher Wilson	Kitty Petty
Big Sisters of Boston	Jacqueline Hickey	Professional Women's Club of Boston
Marguerite Bluthardt	High Point Village	Joan Rachlin
Bill Brown	Honan Fellows, West End	Rising Star Quilters
Jay Cantor & Melinda Marble	Boys & Girls Club	Marjorie Rogers
DCD IXIS	Hooks & Needles Group	Linda Rohr
City Mission - First Baptist Church Framingham	Jan Hurwitz	Rosindale Congregational Church
Karen Clay & Mary Heney	JCC Macabee Athletes	Louise Ross
June Cooper	Jewish Family & Children's Services	Jean Rowan
Cradles to Crayons	Roberta Johnnene	RSVP
Mary Crawford	Fran Johnnene	Donna Russo
Monica & Michael DeWinter	Jonathan & Andrea Kamens	Rust Family
Elise DeWinter Eckelkamp	Leola Kennedy	Brianna Sanseverino
Discovery Shop	Lisa Kerr	Anne Schofield
Toby Dondes	Amy Kershaw	Ellen Shapiro Brown
Andrea Dubay	Beth Kurtz	Terry Sirignano
Mollie Feeney	Penny Lane	Staples-Moore Family
Laura Feldman	Lynne Lederman	Deborah Stein
First Baptist Church of Framingham	Martha Lee	Suffolk Law School - Phi Delta Phi
First Realty Management	Lois Lee	Toys for Tots
David Flanagan	Irene Legeros	Jennifer Travis
Aimee Floyd	Eliza Lewis	Newton Girl Scouts
Kate Fraser	Marguerite Loflin	Upham's Corner Health Center WIC
Heddy Freedman	Shannon McCarthy	Village Baby
Debbie Fromm	Makeeba McCreary	Jane Weiss
Gann Academy	Debbie Medeiros	William Carter Company
Emma Galante	Phyllis Menken	Winn Companies
Mary Gray	Alicia Oathout	Matthew Yarmolinsky
Anita Green	Diana Olson	Tobias Yarmolinsky
	Debbie Paquette	
	Park Street Area DSS	

our nurturing team. We are excited to be working with Sarah and are pleased with this evolving model for Nurturing Program parent leadership development.

South Boston Goes for #2

South Boston FANS and the DSS Park Street Area Office are doing it again. They are in the midst of their second Nurturing Program and are going strong. They have a great team of new and returning facilitators who represent a broad collaboration of service providers in the community. And this year they are joined by three parents who graduated from last year's program who want to "give back" the support and ideas they received last year to other families in the community. Look for great things from this committed team and keep watching to see how they top last year's beautiful Celebration Quilt!



Families and neighbors of all ages enjoy nurturing time together.

High Point/Roslindale CARES

A Beautiful Space Puts a Smile on the Face

What began as a half a desk operation, is now strongly rooted as part of the beautiful High Point Village Community Center. Early conversations about parenting, gardening, ensuring safe neighborhoods, and choosing schools led to more comprehensive programs for families with children from birth through adolescence. Now, families may receive Welcome Baby visits, participate in infant massage classes and parent/child playgroups, enroll in Family Nurturing Programs, take part in community building activities, join after school programs and much more.

Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts is proud of the successful partnership with High Point Village and First Realty Management and applauds the real estate management company for its innovative design of supporting families in the community. The work began on the side of a desk in the management office in 1994 and then moved to a vacant studio apartment/Family Center created by residents. In 1998, the High Point Village Community Center opened, and the community has never been the same. Today, the Center is alive with activity. Everyone from seniors to new-

borns fills the space to learn about computers, job training skills, parenting strategies, sewing blankets for Welcome Baby, nutrition, and much more.

Special thanks to Domenica Cusina, High Point Village Property Manager; Eugene Austin, Resident Activities Director; Rebekah Ebling, Assistant Activities Director; and a super maintenance staff. Together they keep the community center "clean, spiffy, active, and safe." FNC thanks HPV/FRM and all the community families for its continued support and commitment to neighborhood children.



Welcome Baby Knows No Boundaries

A physician's baby and a professor's baby are two of the newborns recently welcomed by Dianna Wayne, FNC's High Point CARES Program Assistant and Welcome Baby Visitor. Families from different cultures, educational backgrounds, and economic situations are delighted by the beautiful basket of goodies and the wealth of resource information that are part of Welcome Baby visits.

literacy for their newborns and any other children in the home. Data also suggests that when parents welcome a new baby into their home, it is an opportune time for them to assess their own skills and educational goals. In addition to helping parents learn skills for promoting their child's interest in books and reading, Welcome Baby visitors also provide families with information on choosing child care, accessing health care, and navigating employment and educational resources.

Did you know that newborns love to hear you sing and read stories to them? Did you know that literacy development starts in the earlier weeks and months of life, and some even say before a baby is born? One of the primary goals of the Welcome Baby project is to help families learn how to promote early

If you know someone who has recently had a baby and lives in Allston-Brighton, Roslindale or Dorchester, please call (617) 474-1143 x 224 to make a referral for a Welcome Baby visit.

Solidarity Brings New Hope

A committed group of dedicated neighborhood parent's have made Nurturing Circles the "happening place" to be on Thursday nights. In its sixth year and staffed by Family Nurturing Center in collaboration with Parent Helping Parents, Nurturing Circles continues to bring hope, inspiration, and comfort to families as they share stories, and support each other with humor, experience, and harmony. This winter we welcome our newest little member to Nurturing Circles, baby Selena, who was born to a 4 year veteran of Nurturing Circles.

All About "Us" for the New Year

Adult Learners becoming Leaders (ALL), will convene a second round of training this spring. The ALL training course presents the opportunity for adult learners to empower themselves, focus on their strengths, and to develop personal goals and leadership skills. Based on the recommendation of our pilot group of students, the ALL course will be extended and students will be able to choose from a wider range of internships. An initiative of FNC, ALL has been supported by a dedicated group of organizational partners including Southside ABCD, Casserly House, High Point Village, and Boston Housing Authority. Together, we will make ALL work!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED: seeking enthusiastic, fun minded individuals or groups to share their time, talents and/or treasures in a variety of ways that promote healthy children, families and neighborhoods. Day and evening opportunities available throughout the year. FNC will train and support as needed. Please contact Valerie Bean at (617) 474-1143 x 224 or vbean@familynurturing.org for more information.

Allston-Brighton Family Network

Parents and Babies Unite

This past fall, parents and babies came together in two groups on Thursday mornings to discuss sleeping and feeding issues, play with toys, sing, and grow together. In December, each of the two groups planned and held a holiday season party. The "younger" babies and parents group brought moms, dads, and babies together at the Brighton Branch of the Boston Public Library! The "older", now crawling and walking babies and their parents held a tasty international pot luck holiday lunch hosted by Pastor Karen Fritz and the Brighton Congregational Church. Tracy and Delia brought hula hoops and hand held musical instruments with which everyone played after a delicious luncheon with napkins and a real tablecloth - a special occasion for any busy parent and their baby! Parents have enjoyed each other and each others' babies, have met on their own to continue conversations and walks, and have come together to celebrate other special occasions, including babies' one year old birthdays. Congratulations to ABFN one year olds and their parents who "graduated" from the baby group in December, 2004. Now it's on to Tuesday playgroups with Elayne Baskin, Playgroup Coordinator. Enjoy!!



Parents and toddlers enjoy a new Allston-Brighton Family Network playgroup space at the Baldwin Early Learning Center.

Playgroups Spread with Great Enthusiasm

Allston-Brighton Family Network playgroups now have two popular locations: one in Allston at the Commonwealth Tenant's Council Community Room, where families with children from one to two years old come to meet, play and discover along with their children; and one now in Brighton at the Baldwin Early Learning Center. The BELC generously offered ABFN a classroom to use for the 2004-2005 school year, allowing us to set up the classroom with all the equipment remaining there. Families have flocked with their children 2 - 5 years old to participate in the rich and varied program that we can now offer in such a glorious space! Having our own room this year has allowed us to design a safe space for siblings and has enabled us to move some of our family resource center materials to the classroom where the families meet. Parents are delighted to have community, school, and parenting resources right at their fingertips, and the information gleaned makes for

lively discussion around the snack table! Thank you to all of our Allston-Brighton Family Network partners who are working together to make Allston-Brighton a great place to raise young children!



A Nurturing Father's Program graduate and daughter enjoy a tender moment.



Welcoming Allston-Brighton Babies

The Allston-Brighton Welcome Baby program is welcoming babies from all over the world. Thanks to a special partnership with Massachusetts Alliance for Portuguese Speakers (MAPS), Welcome Baby is regularly making visits to Portuguese families with newborns. It's been a wonderful opportunity for people from different cultures to share their traditions surrounding the birth of a baby. Home visitors are learning new ways of celebrating births and are reinforcing that all newborns love to hear their parents talk, sing, and read to them - in whatever language they know!

As the Allston-Brighton "Circle of Caring" rotates, newborns receive Welcome Baby visits, then attend Parent/Baby Groups, graduate to the Play and Literacy Promotion Activity Groups, and then eventually find their way to participating in neighborhood Nurturing Programs. What a wonderful system of support, learning, and caring exists in the neighborhood.

Do you live in Allston-Brighton and have a child birth - 4 years old? Are you interested in learning more about the Allston-Brighton Family Network?

Please call Randi at (617) 474-1143 x 228 or email us at info@familynurturing.org to learn more and to sign up to receive the monthly calendar of events.

Roxbury and Jamaica Plain

Neighborhood Circles of Caring

For the past decade, FNC has been working with community parents and partners to develop neighborhood based "Circles of Caring" in several of Boston's neighborhoods. These "Circles" are based upon the unique interests, resources, and needs of neighborhood families and are defined with input from parents and neighborhood organizations. Some of these programs include Nurturing Programs, Welcome Baby visits, Infant Massage Instruction, Fathers' Groups, Parent/Child Playgroups, Literacy Promotion Activity Groups, Parent Support Groups, Advocacy Resources, Leadership Development Trainings, and Community Building Programs.

FNC staff are currently working with families and organizational partners in the Roslindale, Dorchester, and Allston-Brighton neighborhoods to spread "Circles of Caring" programs, and we are now excited about the opportunity to spread some of these programs to Boston's Roxbury and Jamaica Plain neighborhoods.



Boston Learns II

Congratulations to FNC and many other Boston organizations that are working together as part of the *Boston Learns II* collaborative to support families with children birth to five years old.

This fall, the City of Boston collaborative called *Boston Learns II* received a \$1 million grant to provide a variety of specialized programs to enhance early family literacy, foster social and emotional development of young children, and provide professional development opportunities for child care providers and supporters. This federal Early Learning Opportunities Act grant is coordinated by Read Boston and brings together community service agencies for a second round of funding

and programming, this time with a focus on Roxbury and nearby Jamaica Plain neighborhoods.

As part of this collaborative effort, the Family Nurturing Center is coordinating the following "Circles of Caring" programs this spring:

- Nurturing Fathers' Program at the Parker Hill/Fenway ABCD Head Start Program, done in collaboration with the Roxbury/Jamaica Plain Community Partnerships Cluster
- Teen Parent Nurturing Program at Madison Park Vocational Technical

High School in collaboration with student support services, Crittenton, and the Catholic Charities Healthy Families Program

- "Movimiento, Musica y Mas", a playgroup series focused on reading, music, movement, and art activities for Spanish speaking children ages two and three years old and their parents or grandparents and
- Welcome Baby Literacy Promotion Home Visits for families with newborns.

Nurturing Donor Spotlight



Each year, we are fortunate to find new donors who give of their time, talents, and treasures to support us, but there are some who have been with us for years, quietly and regularly giving. In this issue, we'd like to spotlight one such donor, Jane Weiss.

Jane first learned about Welcome Baby when her husband spotted a Welcome Baby information table while walking through the Boston Common about six years ago. One of Jane's many interests is knitting, and her husband thought this might be a good volunteer match for her (she also volunteers with other organizations!). Since then, almost every month, we have received a unique, handmade blanket – different in color

and pattern from the previous month – in a Priority Mail box. We so look forward to this delivery, and to responding with a unique, handmade thank you card.

It's been a very special relationship that has been nurtured on both sides. Jane told us that she loves knitting because she finds it to be a relaxing and productive activity she can do while watching sports (which she loves), listening to music, or riding in the car. She enjoys the whole process of choosing colors and patterns for each blanket and then knowing that someone on the other end will enjoy it for years to come. What a thrill it must be for families of newborns to receive one of Jane's lovingly made blankets.

Thank you, Jane, for all that you've given and continue to give!



In honor of FNC's 10th year of nurturing families, please consider making a gift to FNC.

Donate On-Line at

www.familynurturing.org

Please visit us on-line to:

- ◆ Find out more about Nurturing Programs
- ◆ Learn about getting involved with FNC and
- ◆ Make a financial contribution.



FNC Celebrates 10 Years of Nurturing!

Can you believe that the Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts is 10 years old? In July, we will be celebrating this exciting milestone. Plans are in the making. We are collecting stories to add to our memory book. If you have a story that you would like to share, please contact Alice Gomes at the Family Nurturing Center by calling her at (617) 474-1143 x 238 or e-mail her at agomes@familynurturing.org. Stay tuned for more information.

FNC Welcomes New Interns

Each semester, the Family Nurturing Center looks forward to working with new interns. It's an opportunity to "pass on" our commitment and experience in family support and nurturing, as well as to share the new energy and ideas that interns bring.

In the fall we welcomed Marsha Donovan, an Adoption Case Manager for the Department of Social Services in the Dimock Street Area Office, as part of her MSW program at Simmons College. Marsha brings years of DSS experience to her internship and is also an experienced Nurturing Program for Birth and Foster Families facilitator. She is helping to coordinate the program this year and will spend this semester conducting follow-up interviews with program graduates and then researching outcomes for all of the participants in the DSS Nurturing Programs.



Children from the Allston-Brighton Family Nurturing Program proudly model their Personal Power vests.

We also welcomed Alicia Oathout, MSW intern from Boston University School of Social Work, last fall. Alicia brings great enthusiasm and program development experience to our team. She is getting first-hand experience coordinating a Family Nurturing Program for families in Allston-Brighton and has joined the Welcome Baby team to strategize and implement some new outcome measurement tools.

This semester, we welcome Hadley Ledbetter, a senior Psychology major at Curry College, and Elizabeth Freedman, a Masters candidate at the Harvard School of Education. Hadley will complete her Bachelor's degree in May and Liz will complete her Master's in June. Both women are interested in working with families and young children and will be a part of FNC Nurturing Programs and parent/child playgroups.

Thank you to all of our current funders who help make the work we are doing possible:

- Anonymous
- Boston Public Schools/Community Partnerships
- Children's Hospital Community Fund
- Clarks Companies
- Clipper Ship Foundation
- Combined Jewish Philanthropies
- Communities For People
- Early Learnings Opportunity Act/Read Boston
- Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston
- First Books
- First Realty Management
- Henry and Joan T. Wheeler Charitable Fund
- Mabel Louise Riley Foundation
- MA Department of Education: Family Network
- MA Department of Education: Community Partnerships
- MA Department of Revenue
- MA Department of Social Services: Community Connections & Family Based Services
- Math Works
- New England Hi-Tech Charity Foundation
- Nixon Peabody LLP
- Perpetual Trust for Charitable Giving/Fleet
- RBC Dain Rauscher
- Roslindale Congregational Church
- Santa Claus Anonymous

Catalogue for Philanthropy



Congratulations FNC! FNC's hard work is being recognized across the state in the 2004 Massachusetts *CATALOGUE FOR PHILANTHROPY*. FNC is proud to be among this year's distinguished non-profits selected to appear in this incredible reference of innovative and successful organizations. Special thanks go to many new donors who learned about us from the *Catalogue* and have joined FNC's growing network of nurturers!

Policy Updates: Supporting Families Statewide

Department of Social Services Releases New System of Care Request for Proposal

Important changes are coming for the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Massachusetts state agency charged with the responsibility of protecting children from abuse and neglect.

On February 8th, after two years of planning and seeking input from all of its stakeholders, DSS began the process of re-bidding nearly \$300,000,000 worth of service contracts. If things go as planned, the network of services available to the children and families it serves will soon look very different than it does today.

The new system that is being developed will establish a network of Regional and Area Based Lead Agencies and a comprehensive network of community based service providers and specialists to support children in their families, foster homes, and communities.

DSS expects that the new system design will result in the development and delivery of services that are more in line with the core DSS practice values, i.e., driven by the needs of the child, family centered, community-focused, strengths based, and committed to diversity, cultural competence, and continuous learning and innovation.

It is expected that one outcome of the new system will be a gradual reduction in more expensive residential treatment services and a

gradual increase in comprehensive community based services tailored to the needs of each child and provided in their local community.

A key component of the new procurement is a focus on “permanency” or a safe stable living environment in the community for every child in its care. DSS defines permanency broadly to include a return to a child’s family or kin, adoption, guardianship or a successful transition to adulthood.

This new undertaking is likely to be good news for children and families. Realigning community resources to be more flexible, family centered and strengths based should lead to more nurturing families and communities, which is at the heart of FNC’s mission.

For more information about these changes and to view the *Family Networks Area Lead Agencies and Regional Resource Centers* request for response, interested parties should refer to the Comm-PASS website: www.comm-pass.com and follow the links for: solicitations-open-by department-DSS. The DSS web site also has a link to Comm-Pass.

Changes Coming for Early Childhood Education

The evidence that links high quality child care and pre-school to improved school performance, higher graduation rates and lower overall societal costs related to special education, unemployment and other remedial supports is growing. Yet, in many Massachusetts communities early education and care for 3-5 year olds is not universally available to all who want it. Public school programs do not have enough seats, Head-start programs have strict eligibility requirements and private schools and day care programs are not affordable for everyone. Regulations have not gone far enough in defining “high quality” and what curriculum may exist is often not aligned with what is being taught in public schools.

For the past two years Strategies for Children, a Boston based coalition, has been campaigning to expand the availability of high quality early education and care in Massachusetts. The goal of the Early Education for All campaign is to have universal pre-school available for all children aged 3-5 years by 2014.

In July 2004, the state legislature passed and Governor Romney signed into law, An Act Establishing Early Education for All. This law created a new Board and Department of Early Education and Care, which will be responsible for implementing all aspects of the new early education and care system.

Some of the new Department’s responsibilities will include: setting standards for quality; assuring that components of the legislation are fully funded to assure universal access; assuring that funding is available for professional development and evaluation; and laying down the guidelines for setting up local councils and determining their role in planning for and delivering early childhood education.

The legislation provided for an 18 month phase-in of the new department which will allow for public comment regarding how best to implement the new system. A Board of 20 members is to be

appointed by the Governor by March 1st. This legislation had overwhelming support in the legislature and represented the work of many different constituencies who care about early childhood education. There should be many opportunities for parents, educators, providers and child advocates to help shape this new initiative.

Details of the legislation, the history and research supporting it, and regular updates can be found on line at the Strategies for Children website: www.strategiesforchildren.org.

FNC Mission Statement

To work with others to build nurturing communities where children are cherished, families are supported, and everyone works together to promote healthy human development.

Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts

200 Bowdoin Street, Dorchester, MA 02122

(617) 474-1143 Fax: (617) 474-1261

www.familynurturing.org

A variety of neighborhood based Nurturing Programs for Families are now available, each specially designed for the parents and children they serve. Programs range in length, are free, include a meal, and are offered at various times and locations. To learn more about referring families to a program or about joining a Nurturing Team of facilitators, please contact the person listed below. Unless otherwise indicated, programs are conducted in English. The following calendar is organized by curriculum. Please refer to page 11 for a calendar organized by neighborhood.

"Developing Nurturing Families and Communities: Nurturing Skills Training"

This fourteen hour training provides an opportunity to learn about the nurturing philosophy and experience elements of the Nurturing Parenting Program. Completion of this training is a pre-requisite for facilitating a community Nurturing Program. Please contact the appropriate person for more information or to enroll.

Day/Time	Location	Community Partner	Contact Person for Training
Jan 6, 7, 8	South Boston	South Boston FANS	Sue Parker (617) 474-1143 x236
Feb 4 & 7	Dorchester Bay Cove Early Intervention 105 Victory Road	Dorchester CARES	Noemia Monteiro-DoCanto (617) 474-1256 x252
Feb 12 & 19 9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Jamaica Plain	Jamaica Plain Coalition Tree of Life/Arbol de Vida	Wanda Guzman (617) 838-0877
Mar 7 & 8 9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Dorchester Bay Cove Early Intervention 105 Victory Road	DSS Boston Area Offices	Sue Parker (617) 474-1143 x236

Boston Area Nurturing Program Calendar

Winter/Spring 2005

(arranged by program type)

CURRICULUM	PROGRAM TYPE	COMMUNITY PARTNER	DAY/TIME	OTHER INFO	CONTACT PERSON
Nurturing Program For Parents & Children	Cape Verdean Family Nurturing Program	DSS Park Street Area Office DORCHESTER	Wednesdays 6:00-8:30 pm Starts: 3/9	Referral: open Transportation: provided	Alice Gomes (617) 474-1143 x238
	Nurturing Co-Parenting Program	First Church of Roxbury	Thursdays 6:00-8:30 Starts: 5/5	Referral: open (call for details) Transportation: not provided	Haji Shearer (617) 474-1143 x251

Boston Area Nurturing Program Calendar Winter/Spring 2005

CURRICULUM	PROGRAM TYPE	COMMUNITY PARTNER	DAY/TIME	OTHER INFO	CONTACT PERSON
Nurturing Program For Parents & Children (cont.)	Nurturing Program for Parents and Children (SPANISH & ENGLISH)	Elizabeth Stone House ROXBURY	Thursdays 4:00-7:00 pm Started: December	Referral: closed to new referrals (Dec. program start) Transportation: not provided	Ida Allen (617) 427-9801 x409
	Nurturing Program for Parents and Children	South Boston FANS SOUTH BOSTON	Mondays 6:00-8:30 pm Starts: 2/14	Referral: open Transportation: provided (SB only)	Sue Parker (617) 474-1143 x236
	Nurturing Program for Parents and Children	Dorchester House Multi-Service Center DORCHESTER	Fridays 9:30 am-12:30 pm Starts: 3/4	Referral: open Transportation: provided	Joy Gonzalez (617) 288-3230 x2232
	Nurturing Program for Parents and Children (SPANISH)	Chelsea Community Connections Coalition CHELSEA	Sundays 2:30-5:30 pm Starts: 3/13	Referral: open Transportation: provided (local)	Sheila McMahon or Miguel Macias (617) 889-7100
	Nurturing Program for Parents and Children (SPANISH)	Jamaica Plain Tree of Life/Arbol de Vida JAMAICA PLAIN	Fridays 5:30-8:30 pm Starts: 3/11	Referral: open Transportation: provided	Wanda Guzman (617) 838-0877
	Nurturing Program for Parents and Children	Lynn Community Connections Coalition LYNN	Fridays 6:00-8:30 pm Starts: 3/25	Referral: open Transportation: provided	Pam Freeman (781) 477-2902
Nurturing Program for Teen Parents	Nurturing Program for Teen Parents	Madison Park High School ROXBURY	Wednesdays 11:00 am-1:00 pm Starts: 3/2	Referral: Madison HS only Transportation: not provided	Sandy Sachs (617) 474-1143 x227
	Nurturing Program for Teen Parents	Lynn Community Connections Coalition LYNN	Fridays 6:00-8:30 pm Starts: 3/25	Referral: open Transportation: provided	Pam Freeman (781) 477-2902
Nurturing Father's Programs	Nurturing Father's Program	DSS Park Street Area Office DORCHESTER	Tuesdays 6:00-8:30 pm Starts: 3/22	Referral: open Transportation: call for details	Haji Shearer (617) 474-1143 x251
	Nurturing Father's Program	Lynn Community Connections Coalition LYNN	Fridays 6:00-8:30 pm Starts: 3/25	Referral: open Transportation: provided	Pam Freeman (781) 477-2902
On-going Support Groups	Nurturing Circles: On-going Parents & Babies Support Group	Allston-Brighton Family Network ALLSTON-BRIGHTON	Thursdays 11:00 am-12:30 pm	Referral: open Transportation: not provided	Sandy Sachs (617) 474-1143 x227
	Nurturing Circles: On-going Parent Support Group	High Point CARES ROSLINDALE	Thursdays 6:00-7:30 pm	Referral: open Transportation: not provided	Maxine Hall (617) 325-6732

Boston Area Nurturing Program Calendar

Winter/Spring 2005

(arranged by neighborhood)

LOCATION	PROGRAM TYPE	COMMUNITY PARTNER	DAY/TIME	OTHER INFO	CONTACT PERSON
Allston-Brighton	Nurturing Circles: On-going Parents & Babies Support Group	Allston-Brighton Family Network	Thursdays 11 am-12:30 pm Starts: 10/14	Referral: open Transportation: Not provided	Sandy Sachs (617) 474-1143 x227
Chelsea	Nurturing Program for Parents and Children	Chelsea Community Connections Coalition	Sundays 2:30-5:30 pm Starts: 3/13	Referral: open Transportation: provided (local)	Sheila McMahon or Miguel Macias (617) 889-7100
Dorchester	Nurturing Program for Parents and Children	Dorchester House Multi-Service Center	Fridays 9:30 am-12:30 pm Starts: 3/4	Referral: open Transportation: provided	Joy Gonzalez (617) 288-3230 x2232
Dorchester	Nurturing Father's Program	DSS Park Street Area Office	Tuesdays 6:00-8:30 pm Starts: 3/22	Referral: open Transportation: not provided	Haji Shearer (617) 474-1143 x251
Dorchester	Cape Verdean Family Nurturing Program (CAPE VERDEAN CREOLE)	DSS Park Street Area Office	Wednesdays 6:00-8:30 pm Starts: 3/9	Referral: open Transportation: provided	Alice Gomes (617)474-1143 x238
Jamaica Plain	Nurturing Program for Parents and Children (SPANISH)	Jamaica Plain Tree of Life/Arbol de Vida	Fridays 5:30-8:30 pm Starts: 3/11	Referral: open Transportation: provided	Wanda Guzman (617) 838-0877
Lynn	Nurturing Program for Parents and Children	Lynn Community Connections Coalition	Fridays 6:00-8:30 pm Starts: 3/25	Referral: open Transportation: provided	Pam Freeman (781) 477-2902
Lynn	Nurturing Program for Teen Parents	Lynn Community Connections Coalition	Fridays 6:00-8:30 pm Starts: 3/25	Referral: open Transportation: provided	Pam Freeman (781) 477-2902
Lynn	Nurturing Father's Program	Lynn Community Connections Coalition	Fridays 6:00-8:30 pm Starts: 3/25	Referral: open Transportation: provided	Pam Freeman (781) 477-2902
Roslindale	Nurturing Circles: On-going Parent Support Group	High Point CARES	Thursdays 6:00-7:30 pm	Referral: open Transportation: not provided	Maxine Hall (617) 325-6732
Roxbury	Nurturing Co-Parenting Program	First Church of Roxbury	Thursdays 6:00-8:30 pm Starts: 5/5	Referral: open (call for details) Transportation: call for details	Haji Shearer (617) 474-1143 x251
Roxbury	Nurturing Program for Teen Parents	Madison Park High School	Wednesdays 11:00 am-1:00 pm Starts: 3/2	Referral: open to Madison Park students Transportation: not provided	Sandy Sachs (617) 474-1143 x227
Roxbury	Nurturing Program for Parents and Children (SPANISH & ENGLISH)	Elizabeth Stone House	Thursdays 4:00-7:00 pm Started: December	Referral: closed to new referrals (Dec. program start) Transportation: not provided	Ida Allen (617) 427-9801 x409
South Boston	Nurturing Program for Parents and Children	South Boston FANS	Mondays 6:00-8:30 pm Starts: 2/14	Referral: open Transportation: provided	Sue Parker (617) 474-1143 x236

NURTURING NETWORK NEWS

Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts

200 Bowdoin Street
Dorchester, MA 02122

Phone: 617-474-1143

Fax: 617-474-1261

Email: info@familynurturing.org

www.familynurturing.org

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Boston, MA
Permit # 55780

Return Service Requested

Staff

Matthew LiPuma, Executive Director

Maxine Hall, Neighborhood Development Coordinator

Sandy Sachs, Child Development Specialist

Sue Parker, Program Manager

Alice Gomes, Family Development Specialist

Haji Shearer, Father's Program Director

Valerie May Bean, Business Manager

Dianna Wayne, High Point CARES Program Assistant

Randi Freundlich, Director of Community Programs

Board of Directors

Ken Willis
President

Phyllis Menken
Vice President

Anne Hyde
Treasurer

Sharon Shay Workman
Founder & President Emeritus

Irza A. Collinson
Aija Dennis

Christina Garcia
Penny Lane

Deirdre Pierce
Selena Rankin

Ellen Shapiro
Dina Siegal

Jamie Tresselt
Mark Smith
Keith Williams

Consulting Team

Ismail Abdurrashid
Father and Family Support

Mary Elaine Anderson
Training and Program Delivery

Elayne Baskin
Allston-Brighton Family Network

Elise DeWinter Eckelkamp
Organizational Development

Jill Nellis
Database Management and Publications

Sharon Shay Workman
Special Projects

Student Interns

Alicia Oathout, Boston University School of Social Work

Marsha Donovan, Simmons College

Hadley Ledbetter, Curry College

Elizabeth Freedman, Harvard Graduate School of Education