



The Coalition of Fathers and Families NY, Inc.  
an affiliate of the American Coalition of Fathers and Children

*“Working to Keep Fathers and Families Together”*

## **Presidents Annual Report 2002 State of the Coalition of Fathers and Families NY, Inc.**

The board of Directors for FaFNY set an ambitious agenda for 2002. I am proud to announce that our 2002 goals have been met. We have strengthened our organizational structure which supports our objective of providing services to fathers and families in need. We have continued our research into family social issues which supports our objective of providing unbiased educational information to the public and policy makers. We have continued our meetings with policy makers which supports our objective of advocacy for families. We have coordinated all of the aforementioned activities to support our objective of fostering social and political change for the benefit of families and our communities. Above all we have provided aid and assistance to families in need through community service.

FaFNY was formed in 2002 by Mr. James Hays, Mr. Randall Dickinson, Mr. David Mysliwec, Mr. Stephen Campbell, Mr. Jeffrey Baseel, Mr. James Nalven and Mr. Curtis Apple. The aforementioned individuals, with a combined 50 years plus of father and family advocacy, recognized that existing fathers “rights” organizations were wither politically radical, provided no public service or didn’t meet current legal requirements to effect change or all of the above. FaFNY is incorporated in New York State, has registered with the NYS Attorney Generals Charities Registration Bureau and is filed and recognized with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non profit corporation with an “h” designation which allows limited lobbying on the part of the Association. FaFNY has also secured non profit bulk mailing permits and NYS sales tax exempt status for the Association. FaFNY expects to register with the NYS Temporary Commission on Lobbying in early 2003, well before meeting the financial threshold requiring the filing. All governmental legal filing requirements have been met, and exceeded, at both the State and National level. We have also affiliated nationally with the American Coalition of Fathers and Children, a leader in the father and family policy arena, to better provide service to the community.

FaFNY is providing services to the community at no charge through distribution of accurate, unbiased, well researched materials and information. Persons in need of assistance are triaged upon contacting the Association, assisted or triaged to the appropriate service provider in their community. Services are further provided at the monthly presentations and meetings which are free and open to the public. The President of the Association attends each meeting to aid and assist as needed. Contact with the public is maintained by promoting the monthly meetings and advertising our contact information. We maintain a local contact phone number (518-383-8202), mailing address (PO Box 782 Clifton Park, NY 12065), e-mail address (DadLobby@localnet.com), in addition to contact through our national affiliate, ACFC, at their 800 number (1-800-978-Dads) or web site (ACFC.org). FaFNY has secured space for a web site (FaFNY.org) which is currently under development with a scheduled completion in 2003.



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FaFNY has laid the groundwork for opening and operating a Fatherhood Institute in the Capital District. We have secured an oral commitment for space at Hudson Valley Community College and have applied for public funding through member item funds with NYS Senator Joseph Bruno's office through the Office of Children and Family Services. We are pursuing additional funding through other sources including discussion with the NYS Governors Office on Fatherhood Counts money from the federal government. We hope, and expect, to have the Fatherhood Institute open in 2003.

FaFNY continues its research into family issues and the impact on society. FaFNY reviews information from many policy areas such as law, politics, psychology and sociology. This unbiased, non sectarian, non denominational research is used to produce information which is distributed to enhance families, our communities and society. Mr. Hays, FaF President is currently pursuing his Baccalaureate Degree in Father and Family Studies through the NYS SUNY system with a completion date of 2003. These targeted studies should assist the Association greatly in its endeavors.

Member services in the Association have been streamlined. Membership through May 2003, free of charge, has been extended to 1500 individuals who have shown an interest in helping families in the past. From this we seek a core group of between 100 to 200 individuals who will maintain their memberships over time and serve as a foundation for both financial support and as a pool of volunteers to continue providing services to the community. Members of FaFNY are also highly encouraged to also maintain their membership in ACFC to maintain both State and National representation. The practice of providing "intake counseling" with a paid contractor has been stopped due to negative benefits related to cost. Upon opening of the Fatherhood Institute it is hoped that we can develop a program for those in need free of charge on a weekly basis to replace the "intake" session. New members of FaFNY are also signed up for membership in ACFC. They receive both the FaFNY intake packet (140 pages of NY related information) and the ACFC Shared Parenting Manual. Members also receive mailings of the "Capital News", the newsletter of FaFNY, and access to reference listings. Membership in ACFC also affords members access to the "members only" section of the ACFC web site which contains studies and reports relative to families. Members are highly encouraged to maintain their membership beyond their initial "self help" phase to aid in providing services to others in need.

FaFNY continues to advocate for social and political change for the benefit of families and community, through lobbying activities at all levels and branches of State Government. Meetings continue with the Governors Office, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (Child Support), NYS Legislators in the Senate and Assembly and Administrative Judges in the Unified Court System. Lobbying activities are designed and conducted to lessen the burdens of government in supporting healthy families in NY by maintaining healthy families that need no support.

In looking towards 2003, the Association has the following goals; to maintain current levels of service to the community; to *expand* our levels of service to the



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community; to continue our research into developing healthy families; to strengthen and expand the membership of the Association so as to maintain a core group of people supportive of the Association both financially and through active participation; and last but not least, to find and secure funding sources so that community services and programs can be provided to the public without charge to those in need.

To this end, FaFNY offers membership to all who would join us to help families in need, with no discrimination on membership, and we pledge to help those families in need, at little or no charge, to the best of our abilities.

/s/ Mr. James Hays, FaF President  
January 31, 2003.