



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

“Working to Keep Fathers and Families Together”

Presidents Annual Report 2003 State of the Coalition of Fathers and Families NY, Inc.

The Board of Directors for FaFNY, Mr. James Hays, Mr. Randall Dickinson, Mr. David Mysliwiec, Mr. Stephen Campbell, Mr. Jeffrey Baseel, Mr. James Nalven and Mr. Curtis Apple continued work on the ambitious agenda started in 2002 and continued for 2003. I am proud to announce that our 2003 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.

In 2003 we strengthened our affiliation with ACFC, the American Coalition of Fathers and Children, a leader in the father and family policy arena, to better provide service to the community. Our membership includes membership in ACFC thus ensuring member representation at both the State and National levels.

FaFNY is providing services to the community at no charge through distribution of accurate, unbiased, well researched materials and information. The Family Help Packet was fully developed and is maintained on a monthly basis for timely information. It was also developed in electronic format in Adobe Acrobat on CD for ease of distribution to the public. FaFNY provided 200 phone contact requests for information, 300 e-mail contact requests for information, and distributed about 250 packets on paper, CD or through e-mail attachments. Contact with the public is maintained by 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 was under development and was completed in December of 2003.

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. Funding for this project was delayed due to budget difficulties in New York but we have been assured that application for funding is to continue this year. 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 2004 which is the same objective we have had for 2002 and 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 September of 2004. These targeted men's/fathers studies will assist the Association greatly in its endeavors especially in research and policy.

Member services in the Association have been streamlined. Renewal notices were sent to 1500 individuals who have shown an interest in helping families in the past. From this 35 paid memberships were received. Memberships continue to come in at about two per month. 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.

As an educational and advocacy organization our focus is representation of disenfranchised parents and separated families as a class and not on an individual basis. The practice of providing individual case management and "intake counseling" has been stopped due to negative benefits related to cost. Most help requests are in the form of requests for legal advice or free legal assistance. Many are desperate cries for help from fathers who had no idea of the biases in the system and are so appalled that they want assistance to "fix" their personal case. We do not now have the resources to assist with individual cases and maximize our limited resources by working for a fair and equitable system for all family members.

Upon opening of the Fatherhood Institute it is hoped that we can develop a program for those in need free of charge to provide individual case assistance.

Members in FaFNY-ACFC receive 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.

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 2004, the Association has the following goals; to maintain current levels of service to the community; to *expand* our levels of service to the 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.