



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”*

## **Program and Service Activities 2004 Coalition of Fathers and Families NY, Inc.**

The Coalition of Fathers and Families NY, Inc. (FaFNY), a not-for-profit NY corporation, is committed to providing information and counseling in on obtaining services for health of individuals (as related to families), delivery of legal services, and protection of families in need with the objective to lessen the burdens of government to the communities to foster healthy families and work to keep fathers and families together. We are a member supported Association which uses no paid staff or fund raisers and we uses all volunteers to provide services to families in need. FaFNY has provided the following services to the community for 12 months in 2004 with service contacts spread generally evenly in each month.

FaFNY extended membership to the public and has memberships across New York State and other states such as Ohio, Texas and Missouri (with child in NY). 2004 memberships were consistent with 2003 numbers with no net loss of memberships. Membership by county from highest to lowest with number of paid members: Albany 7, Saratoga 6, Schenectady 5, Manhattan 3, Nassau 2, and each with one; Washington, Warren, Queens, Dutchess, Bronx, Broome, Essex, Suffolk, Madison, Rensselaer, Onondaga, Westchester, Erie and Delaware. Membership levels by county from highest to lowest are: Platinum (\$1000 and above) Saratoga; Gold (\$500) Albany, Erie, Saratoga (Saratoga through United Way payroll deduction); Silver (\$250) Suffolk, Saratoga; Bronze (\$125) Albany, Delaware, Schenectady (2), Nassau, Manhattan and with the rest of the counties memberships at the Premier level (\$65). All members of FaFNY are members of ACFC and receive benefits through that organization also.

FaFNY Provides peer support and counseling through its membership, the Board of Directors and Officers and also through County Coordinators (who may be a member of another local organization and do not have to a member of FaFNY). FaFNY has county coordinators in Albany, Bronx, Brooklyn, Broome, Chenango, Erie, Manhattan, Nassau, Queens, Rensselaer, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Westchester, Herkimer, Dutchess and Delaware Counties. Additionally many coordinators cover adjoining counties as electronic means of communication have made obtaining information from a distance easy. Phone, e-mail, list serve or mail contacts are referred to the County Coordinator for the area of the request and may additionally be served by the Association President, Vice President or Secretary who respond to requests for information. County Coordinators held monthly meetings in Albany (120 individuals served in 2004) and Saratoga County (72 individuals served in 2004). Meetings were limited due to the inability of the Association to pay for insurance coverage which would facilitate meetings in other locations. Schenectady County maintains and uses the list serve to reach out to subjects and does follow up through individual direct communication as do other coordinators. All county coordinators are reachable through the web page by e-mail or

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through referral from the main FaFNY phone number. Over 1000 individuals were served in NY through e-mail correspondence and 200 individuals were served through phone contact. 20 individuals were referred to other organizations which provide direct services in a particular area such as domestic violence.

FaFNY maintains contact with the public and the community primarily through its web page, [www.FaFNY.org](http://www.FaFNY.org) which receives numerous hits and downloads on a weekly basis (average of 125 individual hits a week with 700 individual web pages of information viewed; through a local phone/fax number (518)-383-8202, electronic mailing address [DadLobby@localnet.com](mailto:DadLobby@localnet.com) and a physical mailing address PO Box 782, Clifton Park, NY 12065. Contact is also maintained and NY referrals received through our national affiliate, the American Coalition of Fathers and Children on their web site ([www.ACFC.org](http://www.ACFC.org)) or by phone (1-800-978-Dads). FaFNY participates in public list serves such as <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/newyorkcivilrightscouncil/> (run by the Schenectady Coordinator) or [www.silentmajority.info](http://www.silentmajority.info) and responds to requests for information. FaFNY also provides information to individuals in need through direct e-mail routed through various web pages, list serves and message boards and through direct referrals from individuals and other organizations. Requests for information, whether electronic, by phone or mail, are handled by volunteers who direct or provide individuals to educational materials as needed for their case.

FaFNY develops and delivers public policy statements on various topics related to fathers and families. Presentations were delivered in January, March, May, June September and October of 2004 to various groups. FaFNY presented testimony on the value of both parents to children to the NYS Matrimonial Commission in New York City, Westchester, Albany and Buffalo with several coordinators and officers testifying.

FaFNY does not have paid staff or case managers. We do receive requests for assistance from other non profit agencies that have clients in need of family education materials and we respond to their needs with information as requested. We are developing a referral network of program service providers and persons who initiate contact with FaFNY who are in need of other program services are triaged to the appropriate agency for assistance. Examples of organizations are the Children's rights Council (CRC) and CRC New York City, Equal Parents for Children (Rochester area), Family Law Reform Now (Manhattan) and Stop the Violence Inc. (statewide domestic violence service provider) and Stop Abuse for Everyone (National Domestic Violence organization).

FaFNY has devoted 200 man hours on the development of informational packets and flyers on various topics related to fathers and families. The organizational flyer is complete and in production and distribution. Specific topic flyers have been produced and distributed on topics such as the importance of parents to children and Domestic violence.

The cornerstone of meeting our objectives is providing unbiased education to the general public. FaFNY has devoted over 500 volunteer man hours into social research on policies, programs and societal perceptions and misconceptions that have an impact on families in New York. Research areas included, but were not limited to domestic violence, child poverty, child abuse and neglect, legal barriers to healthy families, marriage benefits to children and families and the value of healthy families to society at large.

FaFNY has devoted over 100 man hours on the development and distribution of articles and opinion pieces on the societal value of families to communities. This included the development of public relations contacts in the popular media and the distribution of materials to these outlets. Additionally we responded to media inquiries for information on various topics related to families.

FaFNY produced and distributed 16 local cable television shows “The Family Forum”, on various topics, and additionally distributes “Families In Transition” to cable outlets. Appearances on various radio/TV programs were conducted such as the Laurie Riley Show on WGY Radio 810 and Justice Now on cable access. All tolled about 150 hours of volunteer time was spent on these endeavors.

FaFNY provided educational and research information and support to all three branches of government providing materials upon request. Contact areas included the Chief Administrative Judge for matrimonial matters with the NY Unified Court System; family policy staff members with Governor Pataki’s Office; legislative staff and legislator meetings with both the Senate and Assembly majority and minority leaders; Commissioners Staff with the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance; and contact with numerous others within government. The aforementioned was conducted to aid and assist government in their functions and to lessen the burdens of government in relation to building healthy families.

FaFNY conducted background work towards the opening of a Fatherhood Institute to provide a physical location for providing services and public outreach to the community. It is hoped that proper funding can be obtained to open a fatherhood center with discussions centering on locations in Troy, NY with the local Mayor and with requests for funding through the NYS Senate..

FaFNY continues research into the needs of families and communities, government and the private sector in New York State and continues to strive to develop information and programs to meet those needs.