

Vision:

In the eyes of the community, Families First will be synonymous with integrity, exemplary service, and a compassionate approach.

In the eyes of families, Families First will be a trusted partner offering hope and bolstering stamina on parents' journeys toward improved emotional/behavioral health for their children.



*Families First in Essex County, Inc.
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Families First in Essex County, Inc.

2011 Annual Report



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Elizabethtown

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Mission:

*In the hopes and dreams of parents we
find our work - offering a hand in
partnership to families who have
children with emotional or
behavioral challenges -*

*That self-doubt give way to uncovered
strengths, despair be replaced
with hope, and the once-diminishing
dreams for their children's
success will blossom anew.*



Summer Camp at SouthWoods:

For nine years, Families First has been hosting a self-run summer camp at Twin Valleys in Lewis. It was always a huge success. Kids had fun, made friends and created memories. Parents and caregivers were either given a few hours of respite each day for the week, or they participated in camp. Staff members always left feeling successful and exhausted. For our tenth year, JoAnne Caswell, our Executive Director, had a thought - why are we running this camp on our own when there are so many existing summer camps in the Adirondacks? So she began to make phone calls - that's how it all started. When she announced to staff the possibility of taking our kids and families to a "real" summer camp, we have to admit that we were skeptical. We could hardly imagine not having to design and run camp ourselves. Then we were invited to visit the facility - Southwoods Camp in Paradox, NY. We met Scott Ralls, the owner/operator of the camp, who took us on a tour of the facility, and our imaginations went wild! He told us all the things they do there - he said he could provide staff that would run the entire camp - all we would have to do is support our kids and families... Then came the financial crises - one after another, not only in NYS but in our entire country. We wondered if we would suffer from budget cuts, we feared that not only would we have to give up on Southwoods, but on camp entirely! Amazingly, we were spared in most of the budget cuts. We did experience some cuts, but we survived. Additionally, our Board members, who are always concerned about the families we serve as well as our staff, proclaimed that they would do whatever it took to make camp at Southwoods happen. "Write the check!" they told JoAnne - so she did.

We started arriving at Southwoods at 10 am on Monday, August 22. We were certain everyone was nervous (and excited) for the new experience. The biggest difference at this point was not having to shop for and deliver truckloads of supplies to camp. The next biggest difference was not having to lug hundreds of pounds of bedding for night camp - Southwoods provided sheets, blankets and pillows for us! When we arrived at camp, we were greeted by several Southwoods staff members who said, "Welcome! May we help you with your bags?" Then they carried our luggage up to our cabin and delivered bedding to us! We couldn't believe it! We also couldn't believe that we were already out of breath just walking up to our cabin at the top of a hill! (Southwoods is *very* hilly - some would even say *mountainous*!)

We would like to describe every moment of every day at camp, but that would just take too long, so, here is what we are going to say: The staff members at Southwoods were spectacular, tremendous, brilliant, magnificent, wonderful, great, WOW!! The kids loved them, the parents/caregivers loved them - WE LOVED THEM!! Every day we received three gourmet quality meals and two snacks. The dining hall and staff was so accommodating and kind. We all wanted to take the head chef home with us so she could cook for us all year long! The activities instructors were kind, patient and encouraging. No child (or adult) was left behind. The amount of self esteem developed by our kids and their parents during one week of camp was absolutely amazing.

The Activities at Camp included: Gaga, Capture the Flag, arts & crafts, hockey, Rainbow Warriors, archery, soccer, volleyball, kickball, climbing wall, hoops, Frisbee golf, campfire, gymnastics, lacrosse and the giant swing - team mates pull the person up on a rope attached to cables attached to a participant in a harness. When the participant reaches the desired height, he or she lets go of a strap and swings down. The "swing" is suspended between two giant poles. The Waterfront activities included: waterskiing, knee-boarding, tubing,

wakeboarding, kayaking, canoeing, sailing, water trampoline, big slide, dock slide, laps swimming, deep end, shallow end, basketball hoops. No one wanted to leave when Friday rolled around!

The rest of what we have to say, we will say with pictures. We wish we could show them all to you, but these are a few of the best ones...

We can't wait to go back again next year!!
Thank you Southwoods!

Robin Nelson & Jennifer Allen



My dear friends of Families First,

This is my last letter as sole Board Chairman, but I intend to stay on as Co-Chair with Richard Kelly who has graciously agreed to help me with these duties in 2012. We both feel it is vital work. I must say I'm proud to be part of a Board that has always, seemingly no matter the individuals on it, been genuinely dedicated to our mission. I am well aware that this isn't always the case on Boards and we are fortunate to have an Executive Director who is discriminating in adding recommendations for new Board members for our Governance Committee to consider and pursue. Coalescing around a central ideal is key to effectively leading a culture that is customer-focused, caring and results oriented. I'm sure I speak for the entire Board when I say the highlight of many meetings is the "mission moment" where we listen to stories of lives changed by the work of our excellent staff. This has underlined for all of us the crucial nature of these interventions in improving the lives of children with mental health challenges (and their families) that otherwise can't financially avail themselves of this type of help. We at Families First do this work in Essex County supported by federal and state funding and some much appreciated personal gifts. But in these times of government cutbacks our work, and this vital community help, is threatened. Seeing the societal returns on these government expenditures in terms of lives changed and future difficulties avoided it is evident to all of us on the Families First Board that we as a society must find a way to continue these services.

In my opinion, society in the last few decades, in our headlong individualistic pursuits, has drawn inward and hardened toward the most needy among us, making possible an attitude where cuts in these high societal return services is somehow deemed acceptable. I find this deplorable. Our priorities are all askew. Surely we can do with less corporate welfare, world policing, waste in the physical healthcare system and even less of our cherished old age safety nets in order to provide for early in life corrective mental health support for the poor.

In tough economic times we should be more compassionate, not less, for it is among the least fortunate that the strain and hardship is the greatest. In these tasks we find the meeting of high need, high impact, and great lasting good. It is a rare combination that deserves our enduring support.

So particularly in 2012, please be passionate and outspoken for children's mental health, lest we see it diminish to insignificance. Now is the time to be heard.

Kip Thompson
Board Chair



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Westport

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Port Henry

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Lake Placid

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Elizabethtown

Bill Stowe
Lake Placid

Libby Treadwell
California

Monique Weston
Keene



Families First Staff:

JoAnne Caswell
Executive Director

Tracey Serlock
Director of Family Services

Anne Griffin
Development Director

Andrea Kuhn
Financial Manager

Jennifer Allen
Manager of Youth Services

Robin Nelson
Manager of Family
Support Services

Lorraine Turgeon
Manager of Admin. Services

Wendy Sargent
Individualized Care Coord.

Deb Mitchell
Individualized Care Coord.

Stacey Vaughn
Intensive Case Manager

Mackenzie LaHue
Intensive Case Manager

Brenda Sherman
Family Support Specialist

Christina Mitchell
Family Support Specialist

Buffy Marcil
Family Support Specialist

Linda Snow-Perry
Family Support Specialist

Peter Casanova
Resource Coordinator

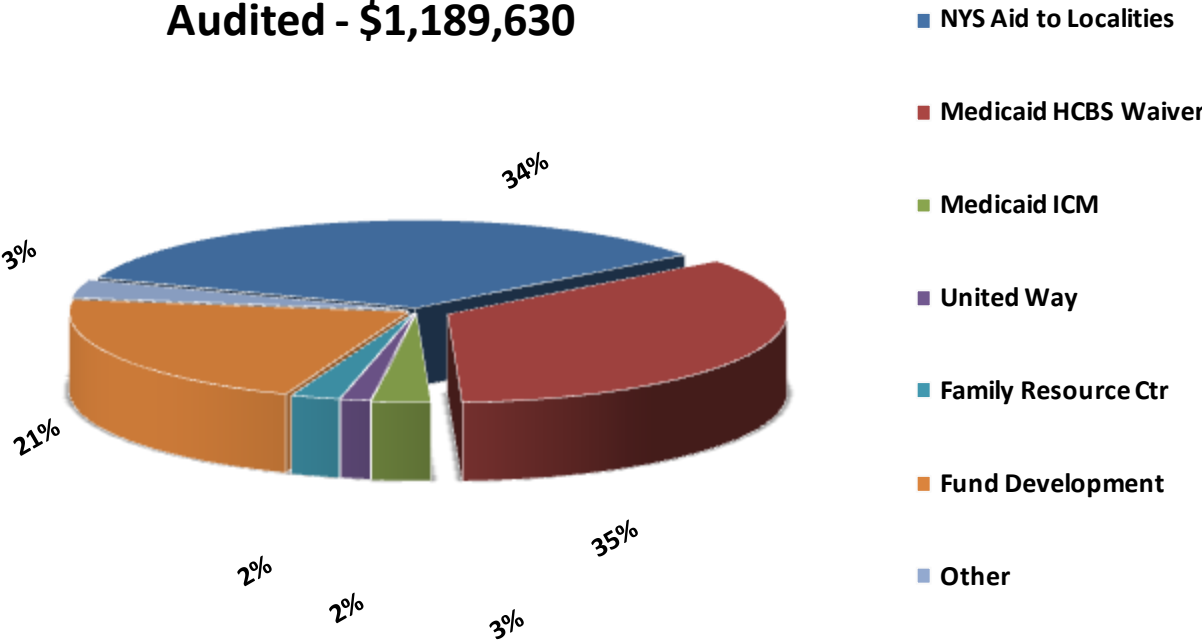
Donna Farrell
Receptionist



Staff Team Building Retreat

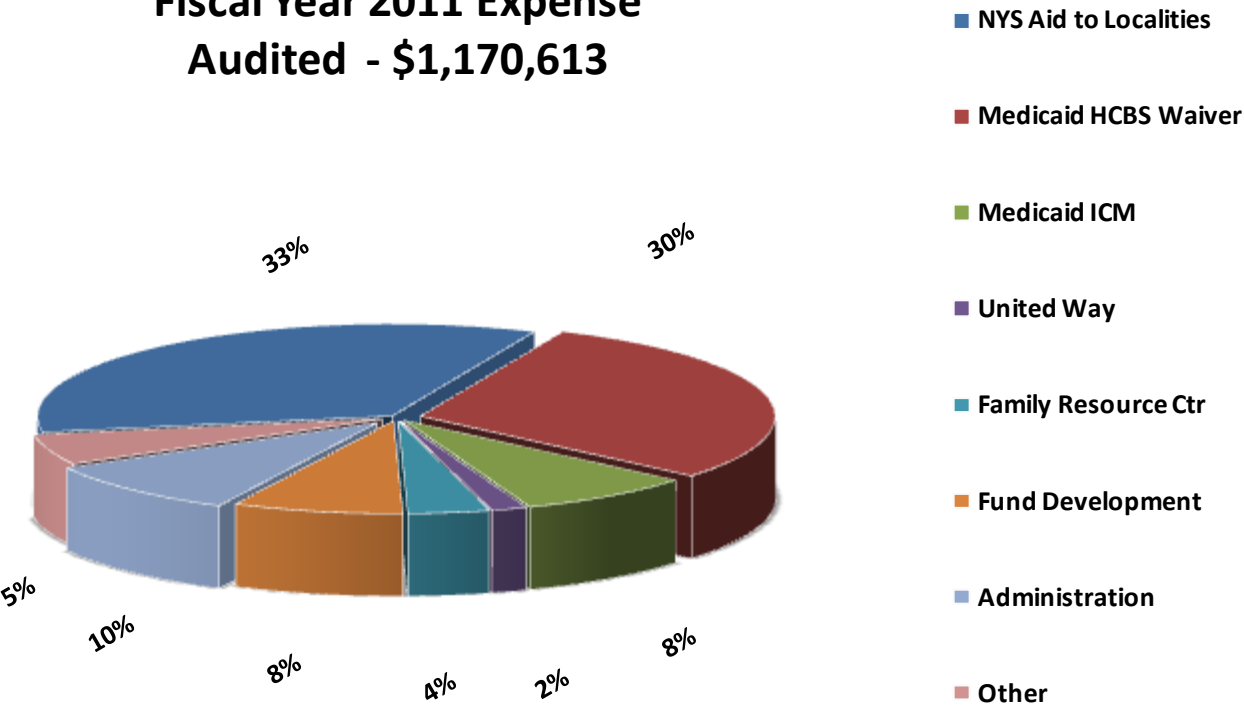


**Fiscal Year 2011 Income
Audited - \$1,189,630**



The pie charts presented identify both income and expense sources and the percentages of the overall amounts associated with each program offered by Families First.

**Fiscal Year 2011 Expense
Audited - \$1,170,613**



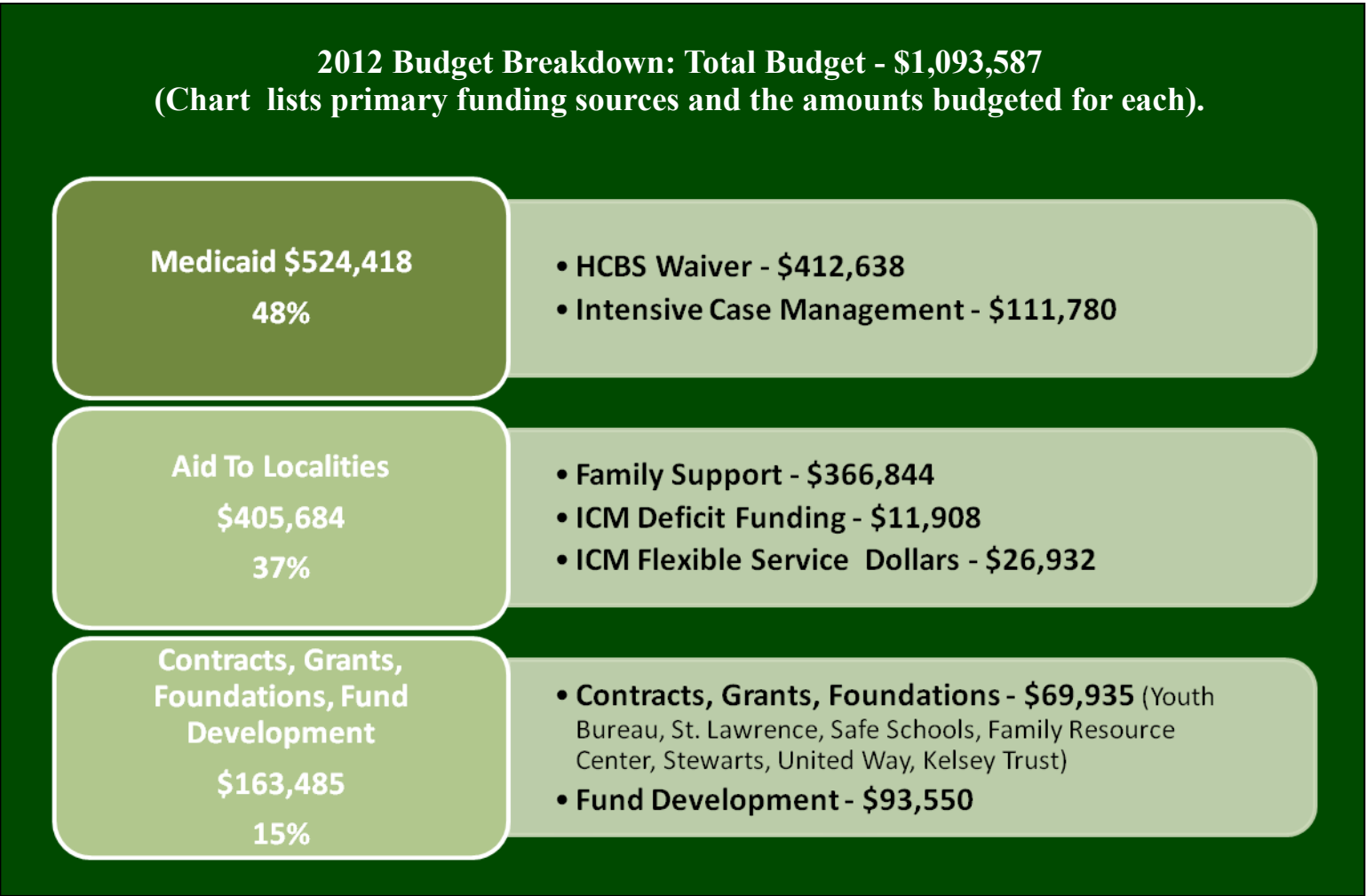
Fiscal Report:

Families First financial statements reflect the prevailing economic climate in 2011. While we had a record fundraising year, largely through bequests and a summer camp endowment campaign, we also fell short in Medicaid claims from our *Intensive Case Management* program. For the first time since the program began, the majority of our ICM participants were not insured by Medicaid. Deficit funding received from Essex County (to cover youth who were uninsured or insured by private carriers) and thus offset the expense, fell far short, resulting in the program operating in the red for 2011. Steps were taken in the latter part of the year to ensure a more even acceptance of Medicaid and uninsured/private insured children to the ICM program whenever possible. We are looking forward to better financial outcomes for 2012.

The Families First *Finance and Audit Committee* was busy this past year. They continued to examine our liquid unrestricted and restricted assets and made recommendations for contributions to our endowments held by Adirondack Community Trust. The group also created a *Medicaid Corporate Compliance* program that outlines the process the agency will use to assure it is compliant with all the laws and regulations established by both the Federal government and the State of New York. **Committee members are: Joseph Bogardus, (Committee Chair and Board Treasurer), Kip Thompson, Mary Liz Alexander, Richard Kelly, JoAnne Caswell and Andrea Kuhn.**

Our operating budget for 2011 was \$1,136,571. The 2012 budget is estimated at \$1,093,587 or 3.78% lower than last year. This reduction is result of the New York State 1.1% across-the-board cut of several human services programs (and others) as part of the FMAP (*Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentages*) Contingency Plan as well as other state mandated reductions. The cut in Medicaid funding of about 3.1% is scheduled to last until mid-year 2012.

Andrea M. Kuhn - Financial Manager



“More than 15 million children in America have a psychiatric disorder, and at least half of them will never receive help”

So why aren’t more kids getting the services they need? There’s a bit of a societal invisibility, until somebody does something horrific that grabs the headlines, we don’t pay much attention to it.

The Child Mind Institute, a nonprofit devoted to children’s mental-health care, may have some answers. The findings in its 2011 National Children’s Mental Health Report Card confirm what many of us have long known: that psychiatric and mood disorders in children are extremely common, and the kids and adolescents who suffer from them are nearly twice as likely to abuse drugs and alcohol, struggle academically, and inflict self-injury than the general population. What’s more, there’s a startling lack of mental-health awareness among parents, educators, and pediatricians. “Unless we make behavioral development a part of education, a lot of times parents will be in the dark,” said Harold S. Koplewicz, president of the Child Mind Institute and a leading child and adolescent psychiatrist. “The big message here is that it’s [psychiatric and mood disorders] very common and it’s very real, and it affects the child’s ability to be successful. This is a national problem, and something that we should monitor on a regular basis. This report card is barely passing.” Though mood and behavioral disorders are common, most are also very treatable, suggests Koplewicz. Successful treatment usually involves a combination of medication and psychotherapy, along with community based services. At Families First we believe that when Family Support and Respite services are added to therapy, medication and Community Based Case Management services, it provides a much more holistic approach which is often very helpful in leading children and families toward successful outcomes. We continue to work with our community partners and parents to increase awareness of the need for early treatment of children's behavioral health issues.

There were many challenges during 2011 for the families, staff members and Board of Directors of Families First. Many of the families we serve are struggling with barely meeting their basic needs due to the continuing economic crisis, not to mention that we are seeing young children with ever more challenging mental health diagnoses, affecting their abilities to be successful in the community. As an agency, we are doing our best to keep up with these ever increasing needs despite the continuing budget cuts and lack of specialized services in Essex County.

On August 28, we were unfortunately visited by IRENE! The basement of our building, which houses a playroom, two offices, our food shelf, parent space and archives, was flooded with about six inches of water. After removing the water and all of the damaged items we began the long process of clean up. We had to replace all of the sheet rock half way up the walls. We lost some computers, bookshelves and other items, but fortunately we had flood insurance, which covered most of the losses and the repairs. The loss of space and the adventure of the clean up, to say the least, was a trying time for all! Looking back, in the grand scope of things, we did not experience many of the hardships that our neighbors did and by mid October, we were back to normal.

As we look forward we will be charged with facing a new challenge brought about by changes being made to how behavioral health services are delivered in NY State, as a result of the Federal Health Care Reform Act. Most significantly impacted will be a major shift to our Intensive Case Management Program. Stay tuned as we figure out the details.

Families First continues to be blessed with a very dedicated and wonderful group of people who serve as our staff. We have a group of volunteers that serve as our Board members who are deeply concerned with making sure that we can provide the highest quality services possible to the families of Essex County, and we have a very committed donor base that provides generously to assist us in our work. We could not survive without any of them! Thank you all!

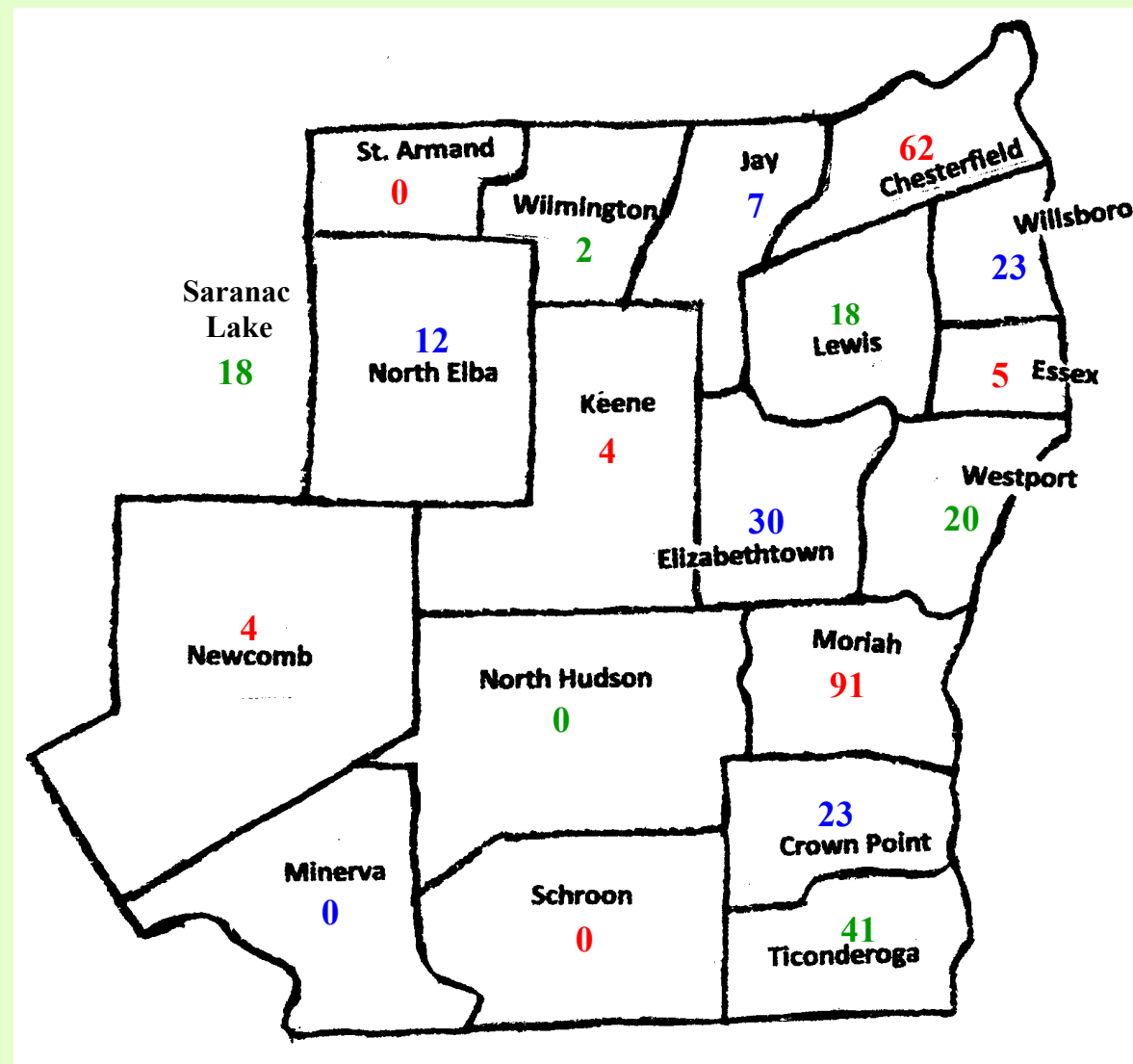
In October of 2012, Families First will be celebrating our 20th year of providing strengths based services to families in Essex County that have children with emotional/behavioral challenges. We hope you will join us in celebrating this significant milestone!

JoAnne M. Caswell - Executive Director



\$10,000 raffle winner Steve Koop-Angelicola

Number of Families Served as Determined by Town of Residence in 2012: 360



Because he cared about the community.....

Jamie Paul Clark, a dedicated supporter and donor of Families First, passed away unexpectedly in January 2011. Through the terms of his will, Families First has received a generous bequest. We chose to put this bequest into our endowment and will use the 5% payout each year to help Families First offer a local summer camp experience for children with special needs for many years into the future.

We will all miss the close relationships that we had formed with Jamie. However, his friendship, sense of humor, and the wonderful memories that we have of him will remain with us! Jamie was very active in the community in support of many charitable and civic organizations whose mission was to help the needy or disadvantaged. Jamie developed close ties with the leadership at Families First and gave tirelessly of his time and resources in support of the organization's efforts.

In the summer of 1954, Jamie attended Brantwood Camp in NH. The experience changed his life and he had a special place in his heart for the wonderful life experiences that he gained there. He felt that all children should be able to experience the treasures of summer camp.

We thank Jamie for his foresight in leaving a bequest to Families First and for his strong belief in the future of Families First. His gift, and his presence here, will benefit the youth of Essex County for many years to come.



Family Support Program and Family Resource Center Program Highlights: (continued)

- As per our Strategic Plan, we continued to help families build “roots” in their communities and continued to build awareness of Families First services. Collaboration with other agencies is a large part of this work. Some of the partnerships and activities from 2011 included:

* E-town Day (ACAP & Champlain National Bank), Playgroups (ACAP Early Headstart & Safe Schools/Healthy Students), Toy Drive (Cashin's Cobble Hill & Denton's Publications), Maple Sugaring Family Fun Day (Papa Claude's Sugar House), Children's Mental Health Awareness Walk (DSS, ECMH, County Sheriff, State Police, Families Together), Cider Press (Field Forest and Stream Event), FTAdk Annual Conference (Glens Falls Hospital & Family Support Services), HCBS Waiver/Family Support Study (Columbia University), Joint Staff Meeting (ECMHA & FF), Family Activity Day (Essex County Fair), NYS System of Care Collaborative Project (DSS, Probation, ECMH), Legislative Luncheon (Little & Sayward), bringing the AmeriCorps Program back to the North Country (United Way & Workforce Investment Board), Summer Camp (Southwoods), Getting Youth & Families outdoors (CATS).

The Family Resource Center (FRC) Program is open to all families in Essex County. Services are provided in collaboration with community members and are based on the needs of the families. FRC programs emphasize building strengths and abilities in order to maximize the capacity of families to raise healthy children and contribute to their communities. Families First provides a wide array of services through its FRC Program including but not limited to the following:

- Educational Workshops
- Structured Playgroups
- Strengths and Needs Assessments
- Assistance with Basic Needs
- Family Social Programs
- Support Groups
- Information and Referral
- Resource Library

Family Resource Centers benefit families in that:

- Parents and caregivers become more aware of child development and their skills are enhanced.
- Parents interact and communicate positively with their children.
- Families are connected with other families and are involved in their communities.



A Mom and her two children making cookies to swap at our Annual Craft Extravaganza Event



Papa Claude (Claude Turner) taps the maple trees behind Families First and holds an educational event each year showing families how maple syrup is made. They then enjoy a pancake breakfast!

Program Report - Continued

The Family Support Program provides services and activities that are designed to enhance the abilities of children to function as part of family units and to increase the families’ abilities to care for the children in their homes and in community-based settings. Family Support Services target parents/ caregivers and their needs. These activities include, but are not limited to:

- **Advocacy** - which may include opportunities to attend various trainings and/or conferences that support parent/caregiver participation and allow families to become part of a “larger voice” for children’s mental health awareness.
- **Family/Peer Support** - Information/referral and support
- **Skill Building/Educational Opportunities** - Training and educational workshops for parents/caregivers and professionals
- **1:1 Support** - individualized family planning for dealing with specific home or school related challenges, basic needs, building natural supports, transportation issues, child care issues, life skills, respite needs, information and/or referral and advocacy



Parents speaking at the FTAdk Annual Conference



Staff from DSS carrying a banner during our annual walk to increase awareness of Children’s Mental Health issues

Family Support Program and Family Resource Center Program Highlights:

- *266 families received services: (305 adults, 266 children), of these 145 families were new registrations.*
 - * *The services they received included - family support, advocacy, response to basic needs, access to a food shelf, family social activities, information and referral, a weekly support group, parenting education.*
- *One of this year’s highlights continues to be the streamlining of our intake process. Families are coming into our Agency with a thorough understanding of our services and with tone being set from the beginning that has the entire team starting out on the same page.*
- *Our Youth Empowerment Group continues successfully and we began a Social Skills Group which targeted younger children.*

A Parent Testimonial

I am a single mother raising two children. My son Kevin has had a number of emotional and behavioral problems since he was around 7 years old. Around this time, Kevin would get angry over little things and lash out at me. His tantrums would involve him throwing things at people or physically going after them. His outbursts would occur frequently, almost every day. I found it difficult to set limits with Kevin and tell him “no,” knowing that it would lead to yet another tantrum. I tended to give in simply to avoid any physical or emotional outbursts from Kevin. I would stay up at night worrying about what Kevin might do. As time went on, Kevin learned that if he wanted something, he could get angry and intimidate me in order to get what he wanted. I began to feel overwhelmed, powerless, and scared for my safety as well as Kevin’s. I sought help through Families First. Initially we received Intensive Case Management services and then because his behaviors continued to escalate, we were enrolled in the Home & Community Based Waiver Program.

The focus of his service plan goals were on re-establishing our family functioning. Kevin and I worked at identifying areas in our relationship that needed support, such as my ability to stand up for myself and instill my parental values to Kevin. This was a difficult journey as it was sometimes hard to follow through with my desires, knowing that Kevin would act out. Kevin tended to run away when things didn’t go his way. He would yell at me, and intimidate me physically. I would often need to call the police to help me find my son. Support through the Waiver program helped me develop my skills as a parent and shift the control in the home from Kevin to me. Debbie (Individualized Care Coordinator) delivered Intensive-In- Home services around my role as a parent and through books and a DVD entitled Surviving Your Adolescent. I learned that I was not alone as a parent dealing with a child like Kevin, that I could find ways to stabilize my home, and that I could be empowered to stand up for myself. It’s as if I learned I am the parent where I used to feel that I didn’t have the ability to be in control. We developed a behavioral chart for Kevin in the home. Each day he needed to come home by 7 PM, take out the trash, take his medication, shower, and be in bed by 9 PM. He also earned extra points for showing respect toward me, not calling me names, and going to therapy. He was rewarded weekly for his behaviors and Kevin really bought into the positive aspects of his chart. He did well for a while and then regressed, leading to an arrest which then led to a weekend in jail and 3 years probation. It was difficult for me as Kevin’s mother to have him arrested for his violent behavior but I did it because I felt Kevin needed to realize that life isn’t about doing what you want, and regardless, I was the parent and in control, and I was not a parent that would allow my son to continue to treat me and others with violence. Kevin learned a lot from this experience, as did I. I had support from staff at Families First through this difficult journey and never felt alone in this process.

I also met with Buffy (Family Support Specialist) each week and had someone to listen to me, support me and help me follow through on the decisions I needed to make as Kevin’s mother. I never had anybody who took the time to help me and ask me how I felt about things. I never had anybody who cared about how I felt. Once I did, I was able to face more of life’s challenges and work through my emotions, my anxiety, and my fears. With this help, my self-esteem and self-worth have grown tremendously. Kevin’s skill builder Linda was Kevin’s buddy. She worked with Kevin to help him make sound decisions about his socialization. Kevin tends to be a follower and make poor choices, just trying to be liked by others. Linda helped him to problem solve situations and think them through, skills that Kevin didn’t have prior to the Waiver Program. Kevin participated weekly in Youth Empowerment, a group that helped him navigate social situations and develop friendships.

Kevin has grown and he realizes sometimes in life, things won’t go the way he wants but he accepts things better now. He realizes if I say no, there is a good reason behind it and he accepts it. Kevin has matured a lot and is able to talk things through and respect people’s feelings. Another area of growth for Kevin is that he is able to state his opinion in a non-violent way, a major improvement from where he was two years ago. His future goals are to be able to get a job and live on his own. I feel the Waiver program helped to prepare Kevin for the next phase in his life. What I enjoy most about Kevin now is that he loves me and I know it. He follows rules, is much more respectful toward me and displays affection - a huge change from the aggressive son I used to deal with every day. Kevin talks to me more and opens up about things that are bothering him. He respects my opinion and asks for my input before he just goes off and does what he wants. I’ve changed by not being afraid to stand up for myself. I am a stronger person overall and have been able to use my newly learned skills to stand up to other people who may take advantage of me or criticize me. I’m no longer afraid to say no, and I realize that it’s not a good idea to let him do some of the things he wants. I’m a stronger person and so is Kevin. I’m not afraid to be Kevin’s mother now, I’m proud to be his mother! - Robin Rock

No Family Should Have To Struggle Alone

Development Report:

Although the economy continued to struggle in 2011, Families First’ relationship building and development efforts provided our largest fundraising total in one year to date. This was primarily a result of our close relationship with Jamie Paul Clark, one of our major supporters. We were saddened by Jamie’s passing in late January of 2011. Jamie was one of our strongest supporters and had become a good friend to those of us who worked most closely with him. We were honored to receive a \$50,000 bequest from Jamie, which we put in our endowment. Because we had matching endowment funds waiting to be utilized, the impact of Jamie’s bequest doubled, bringing our endowment total to more than \$200,000.

We had also developed relationships with some of Jamie’s oldest friends from his Brantwood Camp days. We partnered with two of those friends, George Topka and John Marshall, to establish a camp scholarship fund in Jamie’s name—the Jamie Paul Clark Brantwood Camp Scholarship Fund. Many of Jamie’s friends and family contributed to this memorial fund, bringing the 2011 fund’s total to \$36,685. Our goal for this fund is \$50,000, so we will continue to work to raise the remaining \$14,000. This endowment will enable four Essex County youth to attend Brantwood Camp in New Hampshire each summer, creating a permanent link between Families First and Brantwood Camp, two organizations that Jamie held dear.

The Development Department also focused on bringing in new donors and supporters. For the first time we held a Friendraiser in Ticonderoga, hosted by Board member Malinda Chapman. We also tripled the number of appeal letters that went out, concentrating on the Ticonderoga area. We have served hundreds of families there over the years, but had not appealed to many of its residents. We were thrilled to get a positive response from Ticonderoga residents, bringing in many new donors. The number of new donors continues to grow each year, as well as our total number of donors.

We also completely revamped our website and developed a basic social media strategy. Families First is now on facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn! If you haven’t already checked out our website or liked us on facebook, please visit us at www.familiesfirstessex.org . Keeping our friends and supporters updated is much easier with our new site, and gives us the chance to easily share photos from many of our events and activities.



We were thrilled in late November to receive a phone call from People’s United Bank in Vermont, informing us that an anonymous donor was interested in giving us \$15,000, but wanted us to find matching funds. Most of our donors had given by that point in the year, but we were able to secure commitments for \$16,000 in 2012. The donor was pleased and chose to give us \$17,000! In accordance with the donor’s request, we will utilize those funds to help pay for summer camp in 2012.

As always, thank you for your support and loyalty. Your help allows us to strengthen our presence and provide ongoing support to families who have children with emotional/behavioral challenges. Thank you!

Anne Griffin
Development Director

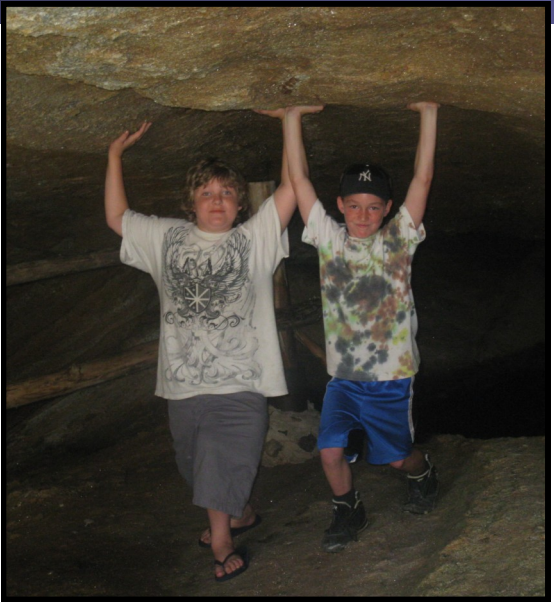
Intensive Case Management Program Highlights:

- *A participating Mom said “Having the ICM Program in place has been a success, as has having the extra help and people my daughter can confide in other than family. It has allowed her to open up in a safe and trusting environment. The changes in my daughter have been for the better, she does not keep everything bottled up as much as she used to, she’s easier to talk to, and she’s been able to have positive relationships with peers and adults.”*
- *A young boy commented that having the ICM Program in his life has led to exponential communication growth within his family and between Families First, the school and the Essex County Mental Health Clinic.*
- *61 nights of Respite provided*
- *251 hours of Family Support Services provided*
- *245 hours of Skill Building Services provided*

The Intensive Case Management (ICM) Program provides services to families that have children with mental health diagnoses who are at potential risk of residential placement. Case Management services help avoid unnecessary institutionalization and hospitalization. The ICM program is currently available to 24 families in Essex County. Youth on the ICM waiting list are offered services through the Family Support and Family Resource Center programs to help them bridge the gap while they are waiting for ICM services.

Services include:

- Intake and screening
- Case coordination
- Limited respite
- Family support
- Youth groups
- Assessment
- Monitoring and follow up
- Crisis response
- Transportation



Two young men exploring a cave and developing a friendship in the process



A young man learning a new skill set and becoming comfortable with trying new things

Program Report:

The Home & Community Based Waiver Services (HCBS) Program provides services to children with complex mental health needs in their homes and communities, decreases the need for placements, promotes better outcomes and delivers cost effective services. The HCBS Waiver Program is currently available to twelve families in Essex County with children between the ages of 5 –17, who have mental health diagnoses and are at risk of out-of–home placement. There is currently a waiting list for services in this program. Youth on the waiting list for the HCBS Waiver Program may receive interim services through the ICM, Family Support and Family Resource Center Programs.

Intensive wraparound supports may include:

- Family support
- Crisis response
- Skill building
- Intensive-In-Home Services
- Respite
- Youth Groups
- Coordination of all service providers
- Creative planning to meet family’s needs



A young man with his Mom speaking at a Children’s Mental Health Awareness Ceremony about the challenges he has faced and the tremendous progress that he has made



A young man trying a new skill and building self-esteem

HCBS Waiver Program Highlights:

- One Mom said, “I used to be afraid to be my son’s mother but thanks to the new skills we learned and the tremendous support we received from the staff of the Waiver Program, I can now say that I am proud to be his mother”.
- Numerous successful transitions/graduations between the Waiver and ICM Programs, keeping the waiting lists at a minimum.
- 260 nights of Respite provided
- 657 hours of Intensive-In-Home Services provided
- 485 hours of Family Support Services provided
- 529 hours of Skill Building Services provided

Annual Giving Report:

Our Annual Giving Program runs from January 1 through December 31 each year. We recognize gifts made to the Annual or Endowment Funds and those gifts that were commemorative. A separate list recognizes donors, groups and businesses that supported our Holiday Drives.

We regret that space does not allow us to list all those who supported our special event fundraisers. If you bought raffle tickets, or attended a fundraising event we appreciate your support and want you to know that each of these gifts has made a difference to Families First.

Our apologies if your name has been inadvertently misspelled, omitted or incorrectly listed. Please call the Development Director for corrections.

Benefactors: (\$10,000 & up)

Jamie Clark *
Winky King Thomas *
People's United Bank - Anonymous

Patrons: (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

The Reiss Foundation

Champions: (\$1,000 to \$4,999)
Adirondack Community Trust (ACT) - Evergreen Fund*
Mary Elizabeth Alexander
Joseph and Linda Bogardus *
Robert Jr. and Monica Bradbury *
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation
The Dusky Foundation *
Mary and Christopher Rodgers Foundation
The Clements Foundation *
Daphne Hallowell *
Melissa Murphy
Dr. Robert O. Preyer
Stewarts Holiday Match
Charles and Delia Thompson *
Alfred and Elaine Walden

Sponsors: (\$500 to \$999)

Adirondack Community Trust (ACT) - Rocky Bog fund
Peter Buchanan
Rogers-Carroll Family Foundation *
Champlain National Bank
Lorraine Duvall and Bruce Berra
Dick and Susan Gaffney *
Francisca Irwin
Sally P. Johnson
Keene Valley Congregational Church
Anitra Pell *
Arthur and Harriet Savage *
Katherine Sharp
Ellen and Jim Simmons

Supporters: (\$100 to \$499)

Anonymous (2)

Supporters: (\$100 to \$499) - Continued

Carl and Inge Aiken
Russell Ames
Russell Banks
Timothy L and Claire Barnett
John and Joanne Bartlett
Drs. Herbert and Laurie Bergamini
Biesemeyer ADK Building Inc.
Chip and Sandy Bissell
Ann Cammack
Margaret Cammack
Dr. Glen and Malinda Chapman
Mr. and Mrs. Allan Clark *
Dick and Tilly Close
Louis P. Spurgeon and Jani L. Spurgeon
Millipore Corporation
Bobbi Degnan and Marc Atz
Therese Denton *
Bernice and Edwin Douglas *
Jean Audouin Duval and Linda Mastercola Duval
Betty Eldridge
Janet Findlay *
Len and JoAnn Folin *
Henry and Michele Gasiorowski *
Carl and Lynne Goepper
Janice Kyle and Hans Himelein *
Ed Hopple *
Brian and Katherine Houseal
Nathaniel A. Jackson *
Robert T. Janowski
Gregory and Carol Johnson
Wayne and Cathy Johnston
Elizabeth Jones *
Keene Central School Student Activities Account
Kirk and Megan Kellogg Foundation
Steven and Helen Kellogg
Richard and Joan Kelly *
Alan Kennedy and Joan Simon
Ben Kernan
Allen and Cathy King
Miles and Joan Kulukundis *
John and Mickey Lansing

Supporters: (\$100 to \$499) - Continued

Elizabeth Lawrence
Bernard and Henderika Leerkes
Serge and Caroline Lussi
John R. Jr. and Patricia O. Marshall *
Mineville Oil Corp. *
Judith Miskell
Annette and Bruce Mitchell *
Dr. Charles Moisan, Jr.
Michael and Carol Morris
Terri and Jim Morse
Mary Kay Glazer and Mark Moss
Mount Moriah Presbyterian Church
Stephen Saxl and Alice Naude *
Patty and Peter Paine *
Nell Painter and Glen Schafer *
Snug Harbor Marina--Ticonderoga
Katharine Preston and John Bingham *
Meredith Prime *
Rosemary and Paul Reiss *
Reverend Peter Riani
James Rosenberg
Rev. Fred Shaw *
Terry and Margie Shaw
Andrea and Bob Sorey
Douglas and Maria Stitt
St. John's Church
William A. Stowe
Daniel and Ellen Strickler
Pete Suttmeier and Carol Rupprecht *
John and Sandra Taylor *
George L. Topka *
Libby and Sandy Treadwell *
Steve and June Vannort
Honorable and Mrs. Dominick J. Viscardi
Present and Past Masters and Wardens Association
Horst and Edith Weber
David and Mary Welch
Mrs. Donald K. White, Sr.
Whiteface United Methodist Women *
Wade and Tracey Whitney *
Shelley Winters

Annual Giving Report - (continued)

Friends: (\$1 to \$99)

Anonymous
David and Pat Anderson *
Kathleen M. Bergamini
Ethel Bernard
Judy Bertsche
John and Elaine Bottirolì *
John and Betty Brelia
Nicky and Bill Bryant *
Michael and Phyllis Buchanan
Merwin and Carolyn Buckland
Mary and Tim Burke *
Jane Burleigh
Dean and Claudia Caveny
Charles and Julie Chamulak
Tom and Adele Connors
Barbara and Douglas Cossey
Galen Crane and Cali Brooks
Jack and Dona Croto
Michael and Julie Cruickshank
Ann and Paul DeBarbieri *
Stephanie Pell-Dechame
Stan and Barb Dickinson
Ms. Mary Lou Doulin
Bernard and Linda Duso
Maureen Ecclesine
Dominic and Melissa Eisinger
Nathan Farb
Drs. Jay and Dorothy Federman *
Linda M. Flihan
Nina and Esty Foster
Wayne and Bette Fox
Jeris French
Howard and Karen Glass
Carol Glogovosky
James and Maryanne Goff
Goodsearch
Gordon Pratt Agency
Louise Gregg
Mary Lou and Paul Grinwis *
James and Sharon Hall
Walter and Madeline Huchro
Charles R. Hughes *
Reverend Robert and Susan Johnson
Danielle Johnson
William and Lynne Johnson *
Bill and Meredith Johnston *
Margaret Karkoski
Gerald and Mary Katz
Kathy Kelley

Names in **Bold** = new donors
Names with an * = donors who have given to FF for 5 or more consecutive years

Friends: (\$1 to \$99) - Continued

Pat Kelly and Chuck Stewart *
Bill and Hanna Kissam
Kim Koch-Wright and Wayne Wright *
Ernie and Alta LaPine
William and Melissa Larrow
Shirley Lavigne
Frank and Lethe Lescinsky
Marjorie Lopez
Naomi Tannen and Joe Mahay
Shami and Daniel McCormick
Beverley McIntyre
Dr. Richard and Carol McKeever
Dennis McNeill
Robert and Joanne McShane
Bernice Mennis *
John and Yvonne Minard
Glenda and Thomas Mitchell
Ben and Joanne Morris
William Morse
Michael and Pamela Moser
Nick and Carol Muller
C. Twiggs Myers *
Carol and Robert Palandrani
Peria Photography
Carolyn Phillips
Eliza Pillard *
Alan Hipps and Jane Preston
Joseph Provoncha
Harry and Margaret Provost
James and Emily Pugsley *
Don and Anne Marie Pulsifer
Brian and Paige Raville
Nancy Reale
Peter and Lynne Reale
Alvin and Vivian Reiner
Shirley Blum and Carl Resek
Joyce and Gary Rockwell *
Paul and Fabienne Rossi
Mr. and Mrs. Matt Roy
Walter and Dot Rushby
Craig and Sue Russell *
Cynthia Schira *
Ernst and Betty Schoen-Rene *
Bev and Don Sears *
Nelson and Dianne Shapiro
Elliot and Peg Shaw
Baxter Simmons
Donald and Ellen Stiles *
Jerry and Judy Strack
Bill Sullivan

Friends: (\$1 to \$99) - Continued

Bruce and Sarah Tamlyn
Wagon Wheel Restaurant--
Raymond and Robbin Thatcher
Sylvia Tompkins
Reber United Methodist Church *
Helene and Larry Vanderburgh
Dorothy Voorhis *
Donna L. Wadsworth
Linda A. Warner *
Ralph and Rita Warren
Ken and Barbara White
William Wirsch
Tom and Eleanor Woodman *
Rolland and Agnes Yaw

Bequest Society:

Anonymous
Monique Weston Clague
Trisha Forrest
Anne Griffin
Richard Kelly
Sandy Murphy & Winky Thomas
Helen Paul (realized)
Jamie Paul Clark (realized)

(continued)

Tribute Gifts:

The following people made gifts in memory of Jamie Paul Clark:

John and Elaine Bottirolì
John and Betty Brelia
Peter Buchanan
Margaret Cammack
Charles and Julie Chamulak
Cali Brooks and Galen Crane
Therese Denton
James and Maryanne Goff
Mary Lou and Paul Grinwis
Walter and Madeline Huchro
Margaret Karkoski
Bill and Hanna Kissam
Judith Miskell
Michael and Carol Morris
Carolyn Phillips
Brian and Paige Raville
Baxter Simmons
George L. Topka

In Memory of :
William & Barbara Wirsch:
William Wirsch

Holiday Drives: This includes businesses, individuals, groups or families who contributed to our Thanksgiving Food Drive, who “adopted” a child for Christmas giving, or made it possible for us to purchase gifts for teens. These contributions of food and gifts are distributed directly to families.

Thanksgiving:

Essex Abstract, Inc.
Dan & Gayle Alexander
Mary Liz Alexander
Jackie & Skip Andrade
Gene & Helen Baird
Baxter Mountain Tavern
Tina Bell
Boquet Liquor Store - Terry McDougal
Robert Jr. & Monica Bradbury
Rose Chancellor & Steve Feinbloom
Allan & Natalie Clark
Dr. & Mrs. Karin DeMuro
Scott & Lisa Decker
Denton’s Publication Staff
Bernard & Linda Duso
Ernie’s Market
Elizabethtown Grand Union
Donna Farrell
Fashion Corner Bridal (Port Henry)
Fidelis Care, New York
Nancy Guttenburg
Bonnie & Albert Haberle
Daphne Hallowell
John Haverlick & Deb Whitson
Susan Hughes
Fred & Sheila Kapper
Richard & Joan Kelly
Heather Lamb
Lake Placid Price Chopper
Elizabeth Lawrence
Mac’s Market - Port Henry
Dennis McNeill
Donna Farrell
Annette & Bruce Mitchell

Doug & Christina Mitchell
Gary & Rita Mitchell
Hildegard Moore
Hairs the Place
Clay & Sue Reaser
Rosemary & Paul Reiss
David Scaglione & Diane Bouchard
Andrea & Bob Sorey
Ticonderoga Walmart
Winky King Thomas
Charles & Delia Thompson
Valley Grocery
Vaughn’s Country Store
Alfred & Elaine Walden
Jill & Jim Walker
Chet & Sandy Woods

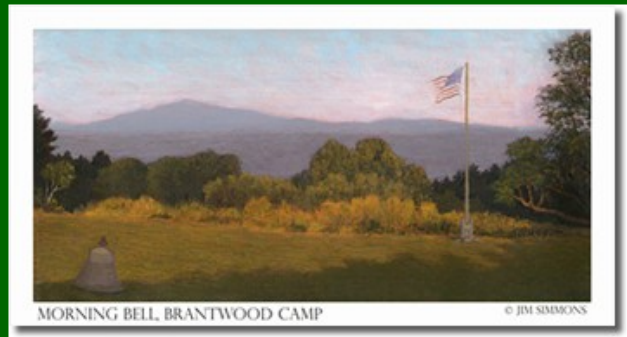
Christmas:

ADK Bank, Lake Placid, Staff & Customers
Mary Liz Alexander
Mary Jane Burnham
Peter Casanova
JoAnne & Jim Caswell
Chazy Westport Communications Staff
Natalie & Allan Clark
Monique Weston Clague
Cobble Hill Restaurant & Patrons
Ronnie Cunningham
Scott & Lisa Decker
Denton’s Publication & Staff
Lynn Donahue
Egglefield Ford
Donna Farrell
Fashion Corner Bridal (Port Henry)

Ticonderoga Federal Credit Union
Fitness Revolution Staff & Patrons
GAP Employees (Lake Placid)
Anne Griffin
Robin Gajewski
Bonnie & Albert Haberle
Daphne Hallowell
Amy Hayes
Hans Himelein & Janice Kyle
Donna Jerdo
Richard & Joan Kelly
Kinney Drugs (Elizabethtown)
Andie Kuhn
Molly & Shawn LaFountain
Malcolm & Judy Martin
Dennis McNeill
Mary & Bill Michelfelder
Mineville Oil Corporation
Christina & Doug Mitchell
Richard Morgan
Arlene Morrow
Mountain Lakes Staff
Northwoods School Faculty & Students
NSDAR—Champlain Chapter
Robin Pierce
St. Elizabeth’s Church Congregation
Bob & Andrea Sorey
Bill Tessler
Lorraine Turgeon
Alfred & Elaine Walden
Elena Borstein & Ian Whitecross
Willsboro Methodist Church
Congregation
Sue Wolson
Chet & Sandy Woods

Jamie Paul Clark / Brantwood Camp Memorial Scholarship Fund: \$36,685

As a final tribute to Jamie and his remarkable legacy, his Brantwood friends and Families First in Essex County, Inc. have joined together to create an annual scholarship in Jamie’s name to send four Essex County youth to Brantwood Camp. These funds will be endowed and will enable youth far into the future the opportunity to experience the wonders of summer camp, something that was near and dear to Jamie’s heart and something that he felt all children should be able to experience. The funds for this effort were raised by an appeal to Jamie’s family, local community and Brantwood friends:



Jack and Karyn Britt and Family, Arthur R. Carpenter, Louis and Wendy Clark, Robert Colgate, Peter J. DiMaggio, The Dusky Foundation, Wayne and Bette Fox, Mimi and Peter Freeman, Ann Glegg, William and Margaret Gurney, Brinley and Ann Hall, Jr., Daphne Hallowell, James Hamlen, Nathaniel A. Jackson, Governor Tom Kean, Sr. and Mrs. Kean, The LaFountain Family, Chris and Michelle Maron, John R. Jr. and Patricia O. Marshall, John Noel, Joanne M. Penick, Katharine Preston and John Bingham, James, Kari, and Kaleigh Ratliff, Mr. and Mrs. Dante A. Santora, Cynthia Schira, Ellen and Jim Simmons, Simone S. Stephens, Wesley L. Taylor, Winky King Thomas, George L. Topka, Sandy & Libby Treadwell, Anonymous, Barbara VanDuyne, Winifred Webster, Brendan and Alison Ryan, Kristin Topka.