

*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.*

*2014  
Annual Report*

*Families First in Essex County, Inc.  
PO Box 565, 196 Water St., Elizabethtown, NY 12932  
\* 518-873-9544 \* [www.familiesfirstessex.org](http://www.familiesfirstessex.org) \**





## *A Word from the Board:*

A key question the Board regularly reminds itself to ask is: what are we trying to do? The answer is to best serve the many families of Essex County who ask for and can benefit from our help. The Board never forgets that we do not actually go out and do that, but rely upon a committed staff and management; our job is to support them as best we can, cooperating with a great many other community entities to make it all possible.

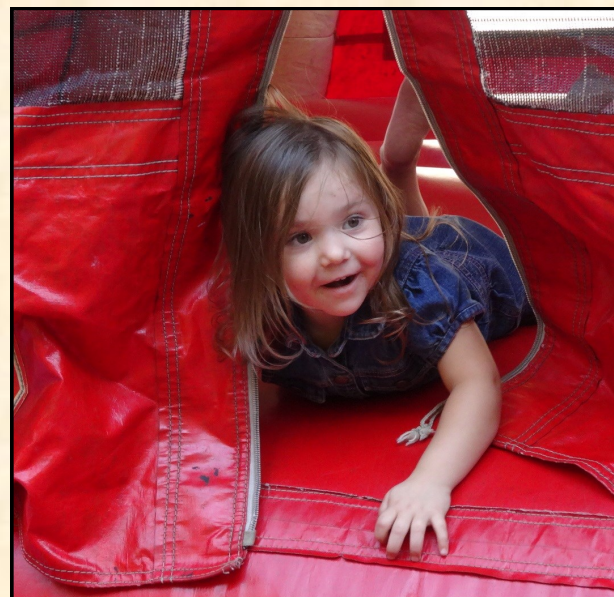
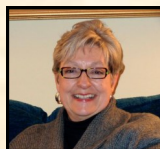
In last year's Board Report we noted that we have entered into very challenging times as the United States and New York State Governments redesign the entire health care system and the payment for such services. Terms like "Health Homes", "Medicaid Managed Care" and "measured outcomes" have required Families First to get ahead of the curve in re-organizing and changing the tasks of staff to become as flexible as possible. Everyone responded and we are now well positioned for the many changes still to come. As a result Families First is now in a position to provide wage and benefit increases to personnel, as well as an across the Board three percent cost of living adjustment. We acknowledge, with thanks, that it was long in coming, and well deserved.

Strong assistance from the entire community remains an important part of the mix. At our Annual Meeting in April of 2015, we are fortunate to be able to honor one of our most significant long term contributors, The Jacob Reiss Foundation and Paul and Bob Reiss. A decade ago they helped us retire the mortgage on our building and begin our Development program, and have been continual strong supporters since. Government payments do not cover all of the "wrap-around" services that Families First provides and solicitation efforts and the annual raffle have been a bedrock part of our efforts from the beginning. Once again, the Adirondack Foundation (formerly ACT) has aided Families First, this year supporting our summer camp program with their new online "Adirondack Gives" campaign.

In April 2015, Richard Kelly relinquishes his Co-Chair as Winky Thomas becomes Co-Chair of the Board of Directors with Margie Shaw. Winky has been closely associated with Families First since it began over twenty years ago. In 2014, long term Board member Joe Bogardus completed seven years of service on the Board and stepped down, he will be greatly missed. We were extremely fortunate to have Teresa Sayward, the former Assemblywoman from our District, join the Board. In 2015, we will have four new talented Board members join the ranks, Max Riley, Carolyn Sicher, John Sawyers, and Cynthia Ayers.

Through the still very hazy clouds of change to the behavioral health care system we think we see a brighter future. We invite you to join us in making it so.

**Co-Chairs: Richard Kelly and Margie Shaw**





# Summer Camp at Southwoods - August 2014

Families First had yet another great week at Southwoods Children's Camp in Paradox, NY. During the last week in August, 69 kids and 28 adults (our largest group ever) took part in all the traditional summer camp activities and had a blast. New friends were made, self esteem soared, parents and kids gained new skills, lots of great meals were devoured, memories were created and all were happy and exhausted by the end of the week. We would like to thank the staff at Southwoods for making us feel so welcome and for making our kids feel so special!

(Background picture is an Arial view of Southwoods Summer Camp)



## Board of Directors:

### Officers:

**Richard Kelly:**  
Co-Chair  
Lake Placid

**Margie Shaw:**  
Co-Chair  
Essex

**Nicky Bryant:**  
Treasurer  
Moriah

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Elizabethtown

**Daphne Hallowell**  
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**Allison Kohler**  
Westport

**Mary Rhoades**  
Texas

**Teresa Sayward**  
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**Winky Thomas**  
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**Ken White**  
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South Carolina

**Janet Cross**  
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**Bill James**  
Willsboro

**Debbie Lynch**  
Westport

**Bruce & Annette**  
Mitchell  
Keene

**Carol Prevost**  
Lake Placid

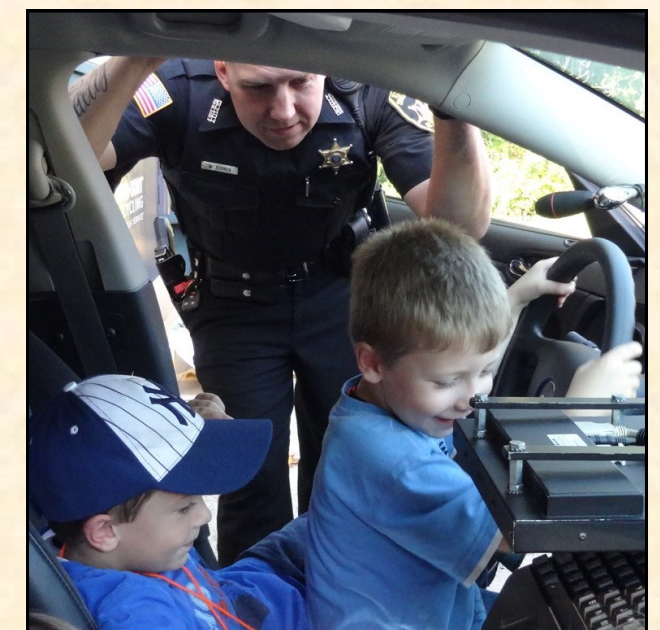
**Paul Reiss**  
Lake Placid

**Fred Shaw**  
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  
Director of Finance

Robin Nelson  
Manager of Administrative  
Services

Deb Mitchell  
Individualized Care Coord.

Mackenzie LaHue  
Individualized Care Coord.

Kayleigh Wojewodzie  
Individualized Care Coord.

Stacey Vaughn  
Intensive Case Manager

Paul Pulsifer  
Intensive Case Manager

Christina Mitchell  
Family Support Specialist

Buffy Marcil  
Family Support Specialist

Linda Snow-Perry  
Family Support Specialist

Tara Stockwell  
Family Support Specialist

Peter Casanova  
Resource Coordinator

Donna Farrell  
Receptionist

## **Our 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.*



On the other hand, the integration of physical and behavioral health brings opportunities to serve the whole child in a way that can only enhance the services we have provided in the past. Families First has always viewed a child and family across all life domains - the integration of physical and behavioral health will allow us to address the needs of that child and family in a more complete and holistic way. This also presents a shift for the entire field - new territory that may bring improvements in the lives of families.

In addition, the unbundling of the HCBS waiver program provides us the opportunity to bill for additional services. In order to provide the services that Health Homes will seek, we will need to hire many additional sub-contractors to provide respite, skill building, transportation, family support, and intensive in-home. This is advantageous in several ways - we will be able to provide services to our families for which we currently lack the resources, and we have the opportunity to make money providing these services, thus potentially allowing us to continue to provide some of the services that Families First has been committed to and that may not be directly funded.

We should all be clear regarding both the dangers and opportunities. If we simply try to react to all the external changes without charting our own course, we will be constantly buffeted by the winds of change. What is it that we want? What do we see as our vision? Do we want to be a strong, vitalized “Families First” or could we end up being, by default “Watered Down Families First?” It will take vigilance on our part to remain committed to our values and to providing the family driven services that are a part of our history even as we navigate the coming changes in a climate that is foreign to the way we have done business for the last twenty two years. We will face unknown pressures as we increase case loads and limit the depth of service that any one staff person can provide to any one parent or child. There will be new regulations, processes, and systems that we will have to learn and incorporate. On the other hand, if we are prepared and navigate carefully, we may bring increased opportunity to Families First, and to the families we serve. We propose the following vision statement as an acknowledgement of both the danger and opportunity and as a guide for our actions in the next years.

## **Vision Statement**

Families First will remain steadfast in our commitment to our founding values of being family friendly, strengths based, and individualized, during and after the implementation of changes brought about in response to the Affordable Care Act, as we actively seek opportunities for growth

*The Board and Staff of Families First*





## The Need for a Guiding Vision Statement

As we have grappled with the impending changes to the National Healthcare system (including both primary and behavioral health) brought by the Affordable Care Act, which include Medicaid Managed Care, the new concept of Health Homes, and the goal of accomplishing the Triple Aim (reducing the cost of healthcare, increasing quality and efficiency, and improving individual health outcomes for New Yorkers), we have had to ask ourselves what this will mean for Families First as we know it and as it was intended to be. From the days of its inception, Families First has been deeply committed to providing the spectrum of services that were so lacking in the mental health system of care and that families of children with mental health issues said that they needed. These services included skill building, social and recreational activities for youth and families, support groups, respite, information and referral, and flexible funds. In the early 1990's when Families First was born, there was still a strong commitment to sending monies saved from hospital bed closures out into the communities to provide supportive services like support groups, social and recreational activities and other non clinical services, which have been referred to by OMH as 1915i services. There was a systemic belief in the importance of these services, even though it is difficult to assess and prove their efficacy. Many of these services have been funded by the Office of Mental Health; however, funds for these services have been slowly drying up for years. The prevailing climate has been shifting toward a system of care that is outcome driven and evidence based, and most recently to one of cost cutting. Services like support groups and social and recreational activities for families have been harder to make a case for, in terms of concrete outcomes. Yet these are the services that families said made a difference in their lives as they traveled the long and challenging road of finding help for their child and family.

There is a saying that every crisis brings both danger and opportunity. The implementation of the Affordable Health Care Act is a bellwether shift for Families First. We have had to ask ourselves such questions as "What will happen to Families First as we know it, if we do not choose to become a "downstream provider" for a Health Home? Will there still be funds from the Office of Mental Health to continue to provide the 1915i services that we have for the last two decades?" If we do become a "downstream provider", will we provide services to families outside of Essex County? Will we provide services to adults as well as children? Will we provide care management services for people's medical as well as behavioral healthcare needs? etc., etc. etc. For many of these questions the answers are still unclear. These are the questions that we are faced with and the reason we are updating our Strategic Plan and have created a temporary new vision statement.

Regarding whether funding will continue for 1915i services, the answer is still unclear. Although some of the services may be paid for by Medicaid through Health Homes, it is currently unknown whether or not there will be funds from OMH or any other entity to provide these services for families not part of Health Homes. In addition, we do know that children previously served by the Intensive Case Management and Home and Community Based Waiver Programs as we know them under the Office of Mental Health will receive care coordination under the Health Home model which will be implemented in a different fashion by downstream providers. In the considered opinion of the Executive Director, if we do not change with the times we will most likely not survive for more than a handful of years, simply because we will have no way of obtaining ongoing and reliable funding to run our programs and pay salaries.

On the other hand, what will happen to Families First if we choose to become a downstream provider for a Health Home and provide care coordination? Will the prevailing model of cost cutting and increased caseloads chip away at our family based values and services until we become something not at all recognizable as Families First? These are the dangers, as we see them.

## A Word from the Executive Director:



2014 was a year to plan and re-organize for the upcoming switch to the redesigned Behavioral Healthcare System. This required a great deal of discussion and planning with staff to try to figure out how services would be delivered with the onset of Health Homes and Medicaid Managed Care. Staff positions and responsibilities were altered to meet the requirements as we see them coming down the pike. This was a very challenging time for some and I want to thank the entire staff for their patience, feedback and willingness to meet this challenge head on!

During this past year Senior staff spent many, many hours participating in the DSRIP (Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment) Projects that are meant to promote community-level collaboration and focus on system reform, specifically to achieve a 25 percent reduction in avoidable hospital use over five years. This system is also supposed to transform us from a fee for service payment system to a value based payment system at the end of that five year plan. Staff and Board members also spent time working on changes brought about by the Non Profit Revitalization Act.

In 2014, we said goodbye to staff member Shannon Trombley and welcome to Paul Pulsifer as the new Intensive Case Manager for the southern region. In July we added six new HCBS Waiver slots with an added revenue of \$208,614 and an additional new Care Manager, Kayleigh Wojewodzic (see a more detailed description in the Program report later in this publication).

Our youth Empowerment Group participated in two Community Services days with the youth from Southwoods summer camp. As the two groups had never met each other, they first worked on some team building activities and then spent one day cleaning up the ADK History Museum and the School in E-town, and a second day on a trail clean up project with CATS.

In July, Families First (through membership in the Essex County Suicide Prevention Coalition) participated in the showing of two screenings of the movie "Here One Day" by local Producer/Director Kathy Leichter, in which she tells the story of her mother's suicide. A very powerful story about a problem that is very concerning here in Essex County!

As we move into 2015 we will be guided by our new temporary Vision Statement (see statement later in this publication). We hope you will join us as we move down this new path to hopefully improved services for the families we serve!

JoAnne M. Caswell



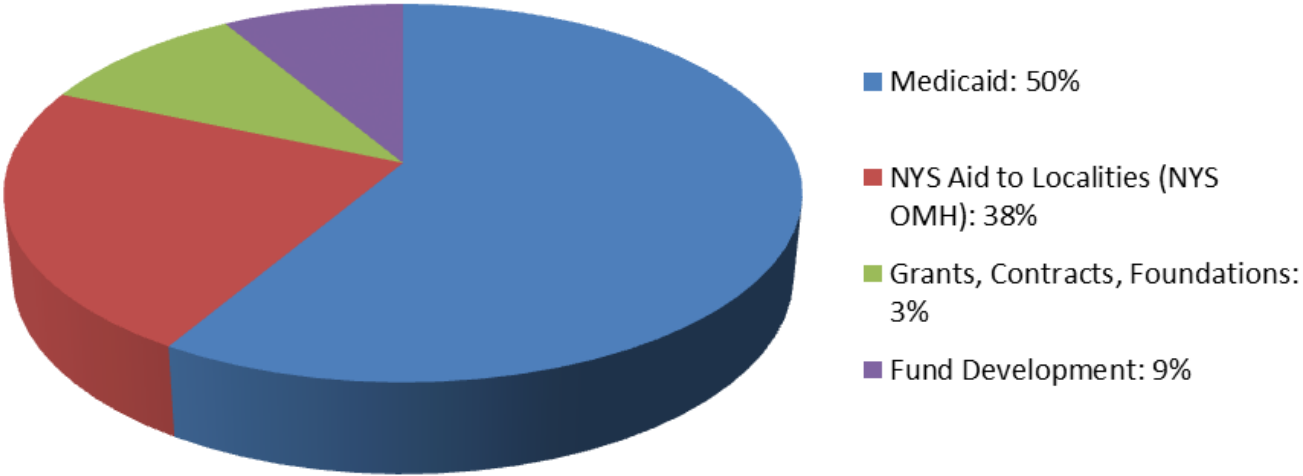




Number of Families Served  
in 2014 - 217

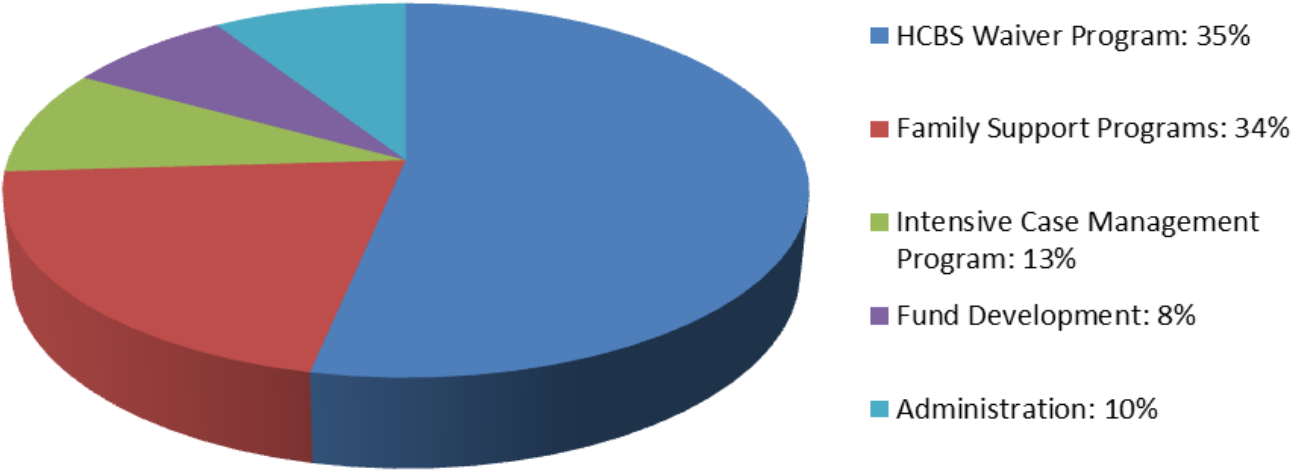
	Family Resource Center & Family Support Services	HCBS Waiver Program	Intensive Case Management Program	Total: ▼
Town	-	-	-	-
Chesterfield, Keeseville, AuSable	14	5	4	23
Crown Point	4	1	2	7
Elizabethtown, New Russia	19	1	4	24
Essex	2	2	3	7
Jay	3	1	1	5
Keene, Keene Valley	1	0	0	1
Lewis	9	1	1	11
Minerva	2	0	0	2
Moriah, Moriah Ctr., Mineville, Witherbee, Port Henry	32	5	10	47
Newcomb	1	0	1	2
Lake Placid, North Elba	9	2	5	16
North Hudson	0	0	0	0
Schroon	4	0	3	7
St. Armand, Bloomingdale	0	0	0	0
Ticonderoga	23	7	9	39
Westport	9	0	3	12
Willsboro	9	1	2	12
Wilmington	1	0	0	1
Saranac Lake	1	0	0	1
Total: ►	143	26	48	217

Fiscal Year 2014 Income; Unaudited -  
\$1,060,401



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 2014 Expenses; Unaudited -  
\$1,078,471





Fiscal Report:

Last year Families First began to implement the transition plan for Medicaid Managed Care that will change the face of our agency beginning in 2015. The areas most affected in this early stage were staffing and workload assignments. New case managers/care managers joined us to help with additional HCBS Waiver slots, awarded to Families First mid-year, and existing positions were redistributed or redefined to create a comprehensive system of care. Due to the innovations that began in late 2014, including training and gradual participant admissions, income lagged behind spending.

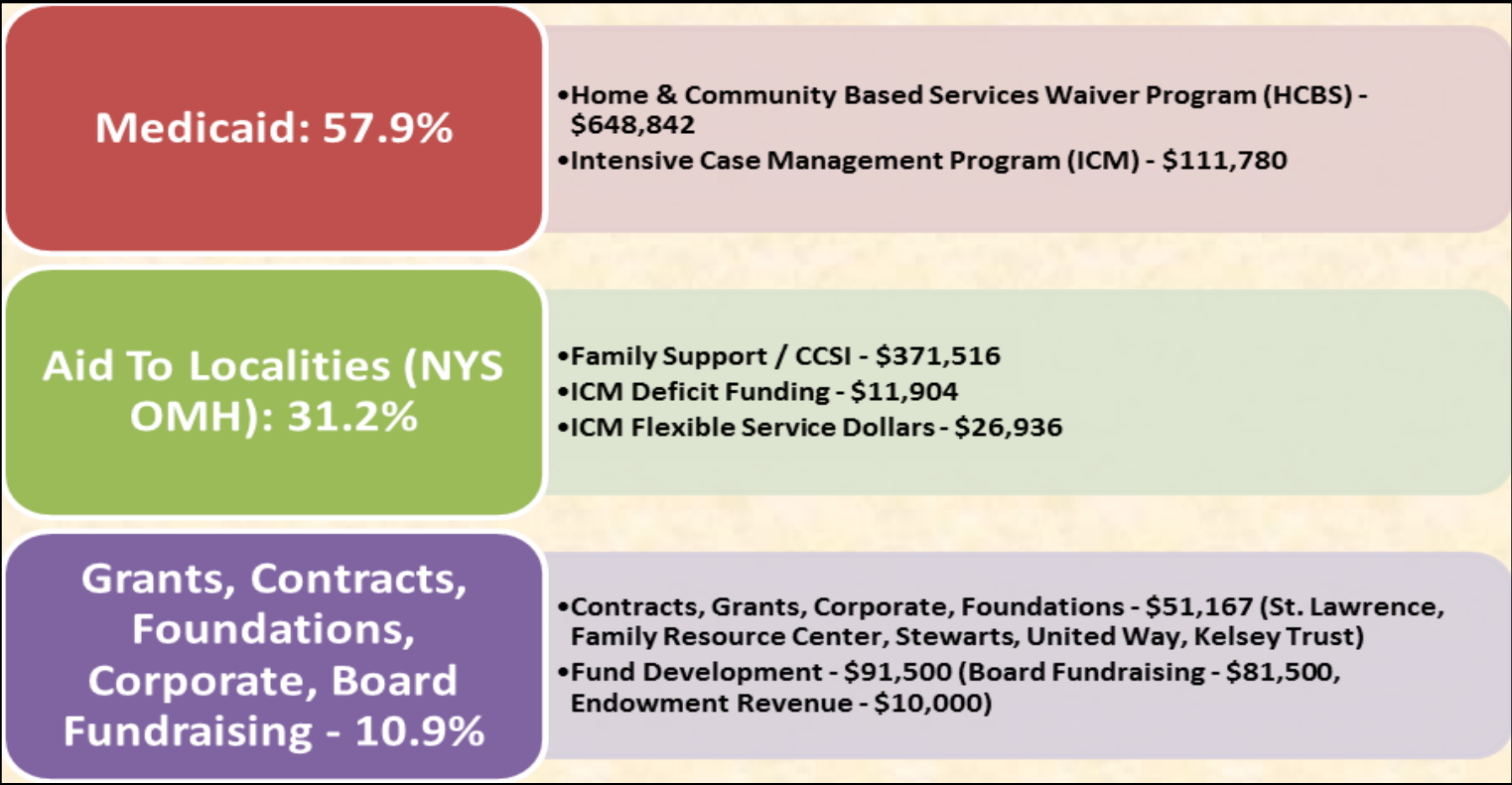
In early October, Nicky Bryant, our Finance Committee Chair, and I attended *Camp Finance*, a financial conference offered by New York Council of Nonprofits, Inc. (NYCON), geared toward nonprofits and their directors, fiscal staff and board members. The trainings focus on nonprofit accounting, financial reporting, federal and state financial regulation updates and policy trends, ethics and financial decision-making, as well as state and federal grants management. This year’s conference also has a track titled *“Turning the Corner: Meeting the Challenges Ahead.”* The conference paid special attention to covering important points in the “Nonprofit Revitalization Act”, effective July 1st and the NYS Grants Gateway Prequalification System for those nonprofits who contract with NYS, and must upload corporate documents to the central database. In addition to the vital information on the Act, representatives of the NYS Governor’s Office discussed some common issues contractors encounter and the future of the Gateway. The Affordable Care Act and the launch of the Health Insurance Exchanges were also examined.

Our proposed 2015 Budget is \$ 1,313,645, a greater than 21% increase from 2014. Families First Finance and Audit Committee members, Nicky Bryant (Committee Chair and Board Treasurer), Kip Thompson, Richard Kelly, JoAnne Caswell and Andrea Kuhn continue to monitor agency regulatory compliance, revenues and spending, and make recommendations to strengthen our fiscal position.



Andrea M. Kuhn, Director of Finance

2015 Budget - \$1,313,645



A Parent Testimonial:

When I first came into Families First, I was angry, depressed and I felt hopeless. My son, Daniel, was out of control, and the worst part was I couldn’t figure out why. He was already working with the YAP program and Preventative services and Daniel still wasn’t doing well. A meeting was held and we were referred to Families First so that we could get more support to help. I was introduced to Mackenzie Lahue and Christina Mitchell. Mackenzie is Daniel’s, ICC and Christina is my Family Support Person. I was so nervous and scared that they were going to try to take Daniel away from me. Mackenzie was clear that her job was to try to help prevent removal from the home and the team and the family would work together to help us grow. Both Mackenzie and Christina listened to my concerns without judging me and my son. We created a safety plan, Mackenzie scheduled monthly team meetings so that every month, everyone gets to talk about progress or problems and most of all they always ask how I am doing and if I feel like I am making progress. Both Mackenzie and Christina hold us to the service and safety plans in positive ways, they help me to be responsible for mine and Daniel’s appointments, communication within the family, roles and responsibilities within the team. Mackenzie also helps me to be responsible for any conflicts within the team and reminds me to be a good role model for Daniel. Mackenzie is very honest with me even when the message is hard to hear and that has helped me to trust her and Christina. Christina is great about taking the ideas and suggestions and making them work for my family, like: making charts to help us remember the rules and chores of the house. She helps me work out the hard things in life. She has also helped my daughter to locate resources for her school projects. My son Daniel feels that he has a really good relationship with Mackenzie. He says she is nice and she works with him to get his anger out by talking to him and helping him figure out better ways to deal with it. He says that she is very nice and patient with him but she doesn’t EVER allow him to be mean to her NEVER. Daniel also works with a skill builder; Tara Stockwell. He says that she is helpful because he can tell her anything and she helps him workout stuff. He says that he likes that she takes him in the community and sometimes out to eat while talking too. Daniel says that since he has started working with the people from Families First he hasn’t started anymore fires, which is a good thing. He also says that he hasn’t been in the hospital and he is trying very hard to talk about his feelings and he is less aggressive. I too have made progress since working with Families First. I have learned to trust my team of people; they have helped me to see my anger for what it is and consider the consequences for my actions. I feel like a weight has been lifted off of me. I can listen better to my kids and their needs. I can take recommendations better without feeling judged or like I’m doing everything all wrong. I have come a long way, I still mess up at times (I’m human), but now I own that I messed up or as Mackenzie says it “hit a road bump”, but I keep working on doing things better for both me and my kids without getting too upset or feeling like a failure. I feel that Families First has helped me be a better mom and has helped Daniel to see that people care about him and that he isn’t a terrible kid. I feel that everyone on the team really wants to see Daniel do well and because of that my son is in less danger of being removed from my home. Thank you Families First for being there for me and my family, without you guys, I don’t know where we would be!

Ann Marie Gurley

No Family Should Have To Struggle Alone



Development Report:

As you look through our list of donors in 2014, you may notice that there are considerably fewer new donors than in previous years. We trimmed our mailing list this year, in an effort to reduce expenses and increase the return on investment. We have a very loyal pool of around 250 donors, but as with every other fundraising department, our goal is to continually attract new donors to our cause as well as retain current donors. We have worked with our Board this year to review and cull our mailing list, hoping to create a good balance between “casting a wide net” to bring in new donors, while keeping costs reasonable.



We were fortunate this year to have Jessica Roemischer provide a piano concert as a fundraiser for us. Jessica is an accomplished pianist and former local resident, who returned to our area to provide a small, but well attended benefit concert at the Hand House. It had been years since we had hosted an event of this kind, and we were delighted and honored that Jessica chose to share her talent on our behalf.

As always, we are honored to receive support from community members, businesses, churches, foundations, former and current Board members, agencies, workplace giving programs, and even children. A few examples from 2014 are the children of the after school program at Keene Central, who hosted a food drive for us, the many churches, businesses and organizations that help support our Holiday Drives, including our first Holiday Toy Drive Buffet at The Old Mine, hosted by Norm and Molly Westover, staff at the GAP store in Lake Placid, who sent three GAP Foundation grant awards our way, Jeremiah Brinkman of Adirondack Outreach, who hosted a food and funds drive for us for Thanksgiving, and of course, all others whose names are listed here in this report. Your support helps to strengthen our presence and provide services that are not funded through program monies, but that help increase the depth and breadth of service that we provide to Essex County families who have children with mental health issues.

Many thanks!  
  
Anne Griffin  
Development Director

**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

“Families First  
works to  
strengthen  
the mosaic  
that every  
family is”

**The Intensive Case Management (ICM) Program**

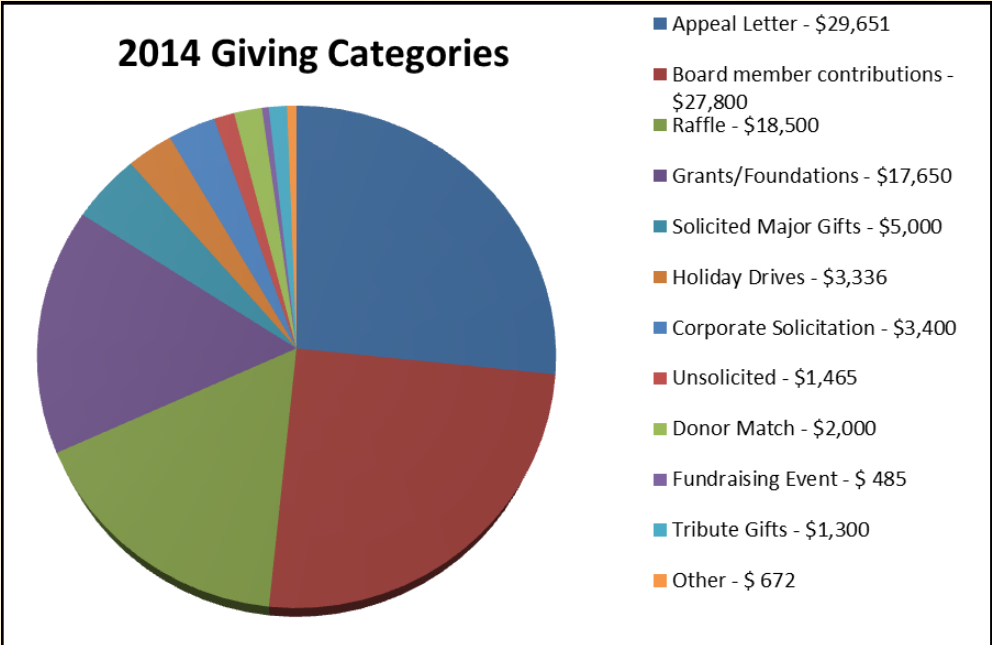
provides services to families that have children with mental health diagnoses who are at potential risk of residential placement. Case Management services help avoid unnecessary institutionalization and hospitalization. The ICM program is currently available to 24 families in Essex County. Youth on the 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

Total Funds  
Raised for 2014:  
\$111,259

Restricted:  
\$36,176

Unrestricted:  
\$75,083



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

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.



Program Report:

The Home & Community Based Services Waiver (HCBS) Program

provides services to children who have 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 eighteen 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



Tracey Serlock  
Director of Family Services

The Expansion of the HCBS Waiver Program

Families First received our initial six Waiver slots in 2002. In 2006 The Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver program had proven effective in enabling children at risk for institutional placement to remain at home and in school while receiving needed services. As a result the Executive Budget recommended funding 300 new HCBS slots along with the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) providing for 150 additional slots. This additional capacity increased the Waiver program by almost 50 percent. During this expansion Families First requested and received six additional slots funded in part by the Local Department of Social Services.

The 2014-2015 State Budget made historic investments into services designed to enhance community-based care across all regions of New York, that will reduce the need for and length of stay in State inpatient settings. An expansion of the HCBS Waiver was a critical component of this investment. Families First, as a provider of HCB Services is expected to contribute to the reduction in the need for and length of stay in children's inpatient settings. This necessitates that Families First works collaboratively and efficiently with the Local Governmental Unit (LGU), the Single Point of Access (SPOA), and inpatient providers. Additionally, Families First must work with Office of Mental Health (OMH) to develop an Individualized Action Plan to implement the goals of the expanded HCBS Waiver Program. As a result of this investment, Families First received another six waiver slots, bringing our total to eighteen.

Data has shown that children with a serious emotional disturbance are more apt to attain optimal development when supported in their home and community environment. OMH recognizes that these children and adolescents are at unique risk of missing the opportunities necessary to meet the developmental imperatives of their age. The HCBS Waiver ensures that New York’s children and families have access to services that are culturally relevant and that lead to improved resiliency, the achievement of age specific developmental imperatives and a supportive home environment.

The HCBS Waiver utilizes a strength-based, individualized care model to promote wellness, leading to success for the child and family. It ensures effective interventions by implementing a collaborative partnership with the family, treatment providers, core waiver services and other natural supports.

The goals of the HCBS Waiver are:

- to serve children with complex and significant mental health needs in their homes and communities, to decrease the need for placements in psychiatric inpatient levels of care, including Residential Treatment Facilities,

The target population for the HCBS Waiver is children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbance,

- between the ages of 5 and 17 years (prior to 18th birthday),
- who demonstrate complex health and mental health needs,
- who are at imminent risk of admission to a psychiatric institutional level of care or have a need for continued psychiatric hospitalization,
- whose service and support needs cannot be met by just one agency/system, who are capable of being cared for in the home and/or community if services are 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)

Winifred Thomas \*\*  
The Reiss Foundation

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

Adirondack Foundation \*\*  
(formerly ACT)  
Charles R. Wood Foundation

Champions: (\$1,000 to 4,999)

Mary Elizabeth Alexander \*  
Anonymous  
Babette and Marc Atz  
Joseph and Linda Bogardus \*\*  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation \*  
Monique Weston Clague \*\*  
Therese Denton  
The Dusky Foundation \*  
The Clements Foundation \*\*  
Scottie Ginn  
Daphne Hallowell \*\*  
Melissa Murphy \*  
Anitra Pell \*\*  
Stewart's Foundation \*  
Charles and Delia Thompson \*\*  
Kathryn Conway Preyer Charitable  
Lead Unitrust

Sponsors: (\$500 to \$999)

Russell Banks  
Rogers-Carroll Family  
Foundation \*\*  
Gap Foundation  
Janice Kyle and Hans Himelein \*\*  
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In Memory of : **Natalie Clark**  
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- Sherie and Andrew Ramsgard  
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- Donald and Beverly Sears  
- Charles and Delia Thompson  
  
In Memory of : **John Marshall**  
- Pat Marshall  
  
In Memory of : **Sandy Murphy**  
- Melissa Murphy  
  
In Honor of:- **Margie Shaw**  
- Carl and Lynn Goepper



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. 100% of these contributions of food and gifts are distributed directly to families.

<u>Thanksgiving:</u> Mary Liz Alexander Anonymous (3) Cindy Ayers Boquet Liquor Store ** - Terry McDougal Judy Cross Denton Publications, Inc. <b>Margaret Ditch</b> Bernard Duso Essex Farm	Donna Farrell Fashion Corner - Allan & Natalie Clark * Sam Fisk and Linda Coe Daphne Hallowell John Haverlick and Deb Whitson Keene Central After School Program Richard and Joan Kelly <b>George and Theresa Lavin</b>	Malcom and Judy Martin Dennis McNeill Hildegard Moore * Adirondack Outreach David Scaglione and Diane Bouchard Maria Stitt Jane Terlouw Brigitte Wagner Ken And Barbara White
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<u>Christmas:</u> Adirondack Bank - Staff and Customers Mary Liz Alexander Judy Bertsche Nicky and Bill Bryant Peter Casanova JoAnne and Jim Caswell Chazy Westport Communications Staff Allan Clark * Donna Farrell * Tony Fernandez Sam Fisk and Linda Coe Fitness Revolution Staff & Patrons	GAP Staff Anne Griffin Daphne Hallowell Tracie Hennessey Hans Himelein and Janice Kyle Keene Fitness Staff and Patrons Richard and Joan Kelly Andie Kuhn Molly and Shawn LaFountain Malcolm and Judy Martin Mary and Bill Michelfelder * Chris Miller Mineville Oil Co., Inc Annette and Bruce Mitchell Mountain Lakes Staff Northwoods School Staff and Pupils	<b>The Old Mine Toy Drive - Norm &amp; Molly Westover</b> <b>Sarah Pastore</b> Maria Stitt St. Elizabeth’s Church Congregation St. Phillip Neri’s Church Congregation Present & Past Masters and Wardens Association * Mary Van Guilder Stacey Vaughn Westport Federated Church Congregation Willsboro/Reber Methodist Church Kayleigh Wojewodziec Chet and Sandy Woods
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Christmas Thank You’s:  
  
We would like to thank you very much for what Families First does for the Families and Community during the Holiday Season & throughout the year.  
  
Ruth Putnam & Christina Evens  
  
Thank you for helping make this one of the best Christmas’s ever for my children.  
Very much appreciated! Thank you! Merry Christmas!