

Children's Services Update

Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor • John B. Mattingly, Commissioner

WHAT'S INSIDE

Commissioner's Message

Recognition for Child Protection Staff

Investigative Consultants On the Case

New Appointments at ACS

A Voice for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in Foster Care

Inaugural Class in Leadership Academy

Winners Chosen in Slogan Contest

Classy Cubicles

Employee Recognition Day at ACS

ACS Staff Open Their Hearts and Their Homes



Left to right: ACS employee Patricia Goodson with daughters Sophie and Tara.



Madge Allen (left), who trained foster parents and Diane Denis, who works in Head Start, celebrate 40 years of service at Children's Services. For a list of other honorees and an additional photo, see page 8.



Investigative Consultants Frank Pascarelli and Donna Malkentzos join Child Protection Specialist Quiana Davis during their training course at the James Satterwhite Academy. For more on the work of the Investigative Consultants, see page 3.

It was one of life's great ironies. **Antoinette Nelson**, who spent 11 years unable to conceive a child, was working in Adoption Services at ACS. Surrounded by children in need, inspired by the families who opened up their homes to them, Nelson came to feel that adoption was the path that she was meant to take.

So, in 1990, Nelson became a foster parent to Christopher. "I just thought I had something to offer a child," Nelson said. Exactly one year after bringing Christopher into her life, Nelson gave birth to a little boy named Adrian. When Christopher's adoption came through, he was seven years old; Adrian was right there at his side, and so excited by the prospect of adoption that he wanted to be included, too. So, the Family Court judge improvised a written document for Adrian, and Nelson "adopted" him as well.

The ACS Update this issue is profiling Nelson and several other Children's Services employees who are foster and adoptive parents as a tribute to all these staffers who have opened their hearts and homes to children through fostering and adopting – and as an inspiration to the rest

of us. For more information about becoming a foster parent, please go to the Web site, www.nyc.gov/acs or call 212-676-WISH.

Now Director of Adoption Services, Nelson's two sons are ages 16 and 17.

"I just kept thinking, 'who will be able to help them if I don't?,' says Deans.

"They are both young men of God, who have stayed involved in their community," she said. In his college application essay, Christopher

wrote about his childhood, telling about how he "persevered, in spite of all the 'drama,'" and bringing his proud mother close to tears. In April, Christopher was honored by the National Council of Negro Women for Outstanding Achievement in community service. Adrian is a member of Gospel for Teens as well as an accomplished dancer. Though Adrian will miss his big brother when he heads off to Morehouse College in Atlanta this fall, he "can't wait to get Christopher's room."

Patricia Goodson has been with ACS for 18 years, first as a protective diagnostic caseworker in the Bronx, and now as a supervisor (Sup I) in Child Care who responds to high priority complaints.

(continued on page 6)

COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE



What makes the difference between a merely good child welfare system – one that provides children and families with just the basics – and a child welfare system that is wholeheartedly committed to helping each child and family?

The difference is in the people, the child welfare professionals who treat every child, parent, caregiver and provider with respect and empathy. I am prouder

than I can say that Children's Services is the second type of system because so many of you give above and beyond what is asked of you every day, despite the extra work, and in the face of all the changes underway.

Rarely a week goes by that I don't hear from someone telling me how grateful they are for the attention they received from an ACS employee. Here are a few examples:

"I wrote you a few weeks ago about the negative problems that I have had dealing with the foster care system in New York," said Helen, a Bronx grandmother, in a hand-written note. "But I now need to let you know that one person at ACS has been very dedicated in helping me. Ms. Lisa Jones has really bent over backwards in helping me in every way she could... I know my grandchildren were not her only case, but she made me feel that they were!"

Jones, a Child Protective Specialist Supervisor and mother of two who has worked at ACS for 10 years, says she remembers crying during her first removal. "After a while, I realized that somebody has to do this job because there are a lot of kids who are treated poorly. You've got to be strong about it because kids depend on you. I try to build trust."

"...if I can help you, I will do what I have to do."

Barbara DeMayo, Coordinator of Special Projects for New York City Family Court, wrote Assistant Commissioner **Dodd Terry** to compliment the work of **Ronni Fuchs**, of the Office of Youth Development, for enthusiastically going borough to borough showing a PBS video on aging out to court personnel and social workers all around the city. DeMayo also singled out Fuchs's OYD co-workers, **Ronnell Walker-Jackson** and **Kim Dennis**, for their hard work during Teen Day events in Queens. Walker-Jackson, a 15-year ACS veteran, believes, "I can really make a difference in trying to get youth and families together. People are out there, isolated, feeling lost, and if I can help you, I will do what I have to do." Says Dennis: "Adolescents are genuine, and they're able to share what it is that they need. They are our future and it's important to help them."

"Please be assured that I do not do this often," wrote Sister Paulette Pollina, Principal of St. Therese of Lisieux School in Brooklyn, in a letter praising Child Protective Specialist **Vincent Tillett**. "Unfortunately, there have been many times that our school has had to report an instant of abuse, but once that is done, we, the school, hear little or nothing from the child's worker. Not so with Mr. Tillett." Asked why he took the time to make weekly follow-up calls to the school, Tillett, an 8-year ACS veteran, whose wife recently gave birth to their third child, says, "That's just what I do."

When what you "just do" is the very best you know how – whether it's keeping in touch with a concerned principal or a worried grandmother, or making sure teens are getting the best possible help – that's what creates a child welfare system of excellence. When I hear these stories – and these are just a few of them – I know without a doubt that we are headed in the right direction.

I thank you all. You make me very proud.

Sincerely,
John B. Mattingly
Commissioner

HONORING THE FRONTLINE

More than 70 child protection specialists and supervisors have received the Commissioner's Child Advocacy Award over the past year at the weekly Childstat sessions. All honorees were selected by their supervisors for their dedication and commitment in their work on the front lines to keep the city's children safe.

In the last Update, we listed the first 17 winners through Oct. 31, 2007. Here is a list of CPS staff honored through May 31, 2007:

Lutonja Aiken	Michael Dunbar	Felicia Miller	Charles Rios, Jr.	Tanzania Stone
Gail Steward Banton	Michelle Feurtada-Laing	Tracey Mitchell	Paula Romero	Kim Sykes
Patricia Barnwell	Racquel Fraser-Martinez	Laura Murillo	David Roper	Toni Taylor
Suzanne Bellocchio	Pamella Floy	Yejide Ojo	Quiana Ross	Vincent Tillett
Marie Branch	Vanessa Harris	Gloria Parris	Debbie Samuel	Tiffany Turnbull
Marcus Bryant	Ikim Green	Ronald Phillip	Guerline Sainte	Tracy Wellman
Alecia Boucher	Janice Hogg	Contessa Pou	Jazmin Salmeron-Trani	Vanessa Williams
Ronnesia Campbell	Bernadette Jean-Louis	Shiliza Ramdyal	Claritza Santos	Chamell Wilson
Alison Chauvet	Magdalena Leszko	Rolando Ramirez	Natasha Simon	
Marcus Conyers	Tanya Jones	Bibi Ramkishun	Taurishia Simmons	
Barbara Daniely	Keisha Kirby	Priscilla Ray	Ravindra Singh	
Tammy Dumay	Joan Lyn	Carmen Reyes	Carmen Smith	



(Left to Right): Child Protection Manager **Camelia Pierre** with honoree **Racquel Fraser-Martinez**, both from the Bronx, with Commissioner **Mattingly**.

Investigative Consultants Working Hand-in-Hand with CPS Staff

As a 20-year detective in the NYPD with several years in the Special Victims Unit, Donna Wright has “seen everything, investigated everything.” In her former life, however, she was “usually too late,” Wright says. “When cases came to me, the homicides, some of them concerning children, had already been committed.” Now, as one of 20 Investigative Consultants who have been on the job at ACS since February, Wright, who works out of a Brooklyn field office, is helping to prevent those tragedies before they occur.

The Investigative Consultant program (IC), created as one of the many changes following the death of Nixmary Brown in January, 2006, has brought experienced law enforcement investigators into Children’s Services field offices to help advise child protective specialists (CPS) on their cases. The ICs started just like any other CPS professional, training side by side with new CPS workers at the James Satterwhite Training Academy, taking classes and studying for tests.

“The learning, on both sides, began right there,” says Sue Morley, Senior Advisor for Investigations and herself a 20-year veteran of the NYPD and former Deputy Inspector/ Commanding Officer of the Special Victims Division. “When the ICs were participating in the role plays of how to interview people or what you might face when you actually go out to a location, the CPS staff started immediately learning from them.”

Currently, almost every field office has at least one IC, and their roles are multi-faceted. “The IC can be a bridge to the law enforcement community when the CPS is having difficulty obtaining information from detectives, DAs, or Corrections,” Morley says. “Ideally, we want the IC available to

as many different workers as possible, as a resource for whatever their investigative need may be. Let’s say a CPS needs to find someone who’s in jail. She goes to her IC, who says, ‘I’ll show you the Web site and how you do this, and next time you’ll know how to check this for yourself,’” says Morley.

ICs can go out with CPS workers on difficult cases and consult with them on what to do when they hit a roadblock. “I go out with a CPS or assist on an interview in the office about once a week,” says Matt Fraher, an IC in northern Queens. “I was trained by the NYPD and the State Police in their child abuse and sex crimes seminars, where I learned specific interview



Children’s Services Investigative Consultants and staff:

Back row, left-right: Daniel Toohey, Frank Pascarelli, Matthew Fraher, Felix Vigo, Richard Van Houten, Steven Dorn (dark glasses), Marcella Makebish (partially hidden), Donna Wright and Claude Kellman

Middle row, standing left-right: Edward Gavin, Donna Malkentzos, Susan Fox, Special Advisor Susan Morley, Lisa McClean, Basil Nonis, Vito Oliva, Kathryn Roda, Christopher Potenza and Alfred Murphy

Kneeling, front row, left-right: Administrative Assistant Pearlina Holdip, George Flores and Francisco Acevedo

and interrogation techniques. With that training, and 20 years on the streets, I know what to look for in body language, how to tell when a person’s lying, or if they’re hiding something. I see my role here as a teacher. I’m trying to communicate and share the information and experience it took me 20 years to build.”

Gerald Spence, a CPS worker and the Instant Response Team Coordinator for Queens, works closely with Matt Fraher. “He just dashed out on one of our cases a minute ago,” Spence said. “His experience as a detective has been a big, big plus. Working with clients, he’ll give us little insights here or there that we normally

wouldn’t even look into. And that’s not to mention the connections he has with the various precincts, which, along with his ability to do criminal background checks, gets us whatever information we might need to move our cases forward.”

In one case, a worker had gone out looking for a mother several times without finding her. Lisa McClean, the IC at the Union Hall field office in Queens, who has 20 years experience investigating child abuse, sex abuse, and domestic violence, went out to the apartment and rang several different doorbells to gain access to the building. Then she listened at the door. She rang the phone, and still no reply. Her gut instinct told her that someone was home but trying to avoid ACS, so she persistently knocked on the door until she got a man to open up. Inside, there was no mom to be found, but McClean spotted an interior door and found the mother hiding there, and was able to convince her to cooperate.

The ICs are bringing to the field a combination of pragmatic experience in accessing databases and helping to conduct interviews, as well as longstanding contacts in law enforcement. But they also bring something less tangible – street-smarts. “My experience as a former hostage negotiator has been invaluable to me as an IC,” says Wright, “When a father has a threatening demeanor and is

expressing anger, I can draw on what I’ve done before and keep the peace. I can talk him down because I’ve done that kind of thing before.”

Last week, right after receiving her business cards, Wright walked through the office handing them out and making friends. “I said, ‘I’m Donna, remember me, I’m here to help.’”

“Recently, I had a chitchat with the Commissioner and the ICs, all twenty of them,” Morley says. “All of them are enthused. They were retired and came back to a job where they’re finding they can really be of help. You can see it in their faces; they have a new lease on life.”

APPOINTMENT BULLETIN

Commissioner Mattingly and Executive Deputy Commissioner Zeinab Chahine have made a number of high-level appointments this past year. Please welcome them to our ACS family.



Leslie Abbey joins Children's Services as Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice Initiative, designed to provide intensive family-based services for youth involved in the juvenile justice

system either in lieu of placement or as the provision of after-care for youth returning early from private placement in the custody of OCFS. Abbey comes to ACS from the Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Rights Division, where she has worked as a staff law guardian and as a staff attorney in the bureau's Special Litigation and Law Reform Unit.

Elizabeth Leatherman is the Assistant Commissioner of Placement and Pre-Placement in the Division of Child Protection. Leatherman manages day-to-day operations at the Office of Placement



and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, where she was responsible for providing technical assistance to Public Child Welfare Agencies.

Lisa O'Connor is the Assistant Commissioner for Program Analysis and Development within the Division of Policy and Planning's Office of Policy Development and Program Planning. O'Connor will oversee the Program Development, Contract Management and Program Analysis and Reporting units. She will be responsible for strategic planning and the interrelated work of these three units to support, plan and advance the analysis and development of Children's Services programs in the foster care and preventive services systems. O'Connor comes to Children's Services from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University where she



(OPA), which is responsible for the placement of approximately 7,000 children into the foster care system annually. Leatherman comes to Children's Services from

was a Research Associate.



Angeles Silver Pai joins Children's Services as Chief of Staff to the Commissioner, after holding the same position at the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) since 2001. Pai previously worked at ACS as Special Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner of Policy and Planning.

Susan Sampogna is the Director of the Office of Safety First, created by ACS for mandated reporters such as employees of City agencies, nonprofit providers, etc., to address ongoing safety concerns related to open child protective investigations. As Director of the Office of Safety First, Sampogna reports to Executive Deputy Commissioner **Zeinab Chahine**. Sampogna joins ACS from Catholic Guardian Society, where she oversaw the social service functions of the congregate care programs. The Office has received an average of more than 300 calls each month from mandated reporters.



PHOTO CREDIT: SPENCER TUCKER

As Children's Services honored its most recent class of Child Protection Specialists from the James Satterwhite Academy this year, Mayor Michael Bloomberg joined in celebrating the 250 graduates on February 27, 2007. Pictured with the Mayor are the borough directors, now newly appointed Assistant Commissioners. They are (left-right) Assistant Commissioner Bertina Capuano of the Bronx, Associate Commissioner Gilbert Taylor, Deputy Commissioner Jan Flory, Assistant Commissioner Marie Philippeaux of Brooklyn, Mayor Bloomberg, Assistant Commissioner Rafael Ortiz, Jr. of Manhattan, Assistant Commissioner Lori Levine of Queens, Assistant Commissioner Jacqueline McKnight of the Office of Special Investigation and Acting Borough Director Bonnie Lowell of Staten Island. Missing from this photo is Assistant Commissioner Joycelyn Jean-Philippe of Emergency Children's Services.

Rudy Estrada: A Voice for LGBTQ Youth

In his prior job as an advocate and attorney, Rudy Estrada had a mission: to make LGBTQ youth (young people who identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning) a priority for state and local child welfare agencies across the country. As the newest member of Children's Services Office of Youth Development (OYD), and the first ever LGBT Coordinator for ACS, Estrada will have the opportunity to make that happen from the ground up in New York City. "A disproportionate number of young people in the system identify as LGBTQ, and most of them experience bias, hostility, and worse, because of their sexual identities," Estrada says.

In fact, 33% of gay youth and 34% of lesbians report suffering physical violence from family members as a result of their sexual orientation. "Because homophobia and hostility are pervasive and accepted, the system has a unique charge," Estrada says. "Our job is to protect and support young people who have been rejected by their families and then rejected by their caretakers, children who have never received the kind of support they desperately need. They aren't safe at home, in foster care, in group care, at school, or in their communities, and they are at increased risk for dropping out of school, getting pregnant, or working in the sex industry, as well as for drug addiction and imprisonment."

Estrada's goal is not to insist that caseworkers single these young people out. "A caseworker shouldn't feel as if she's failed if a struggling youth does not 'come out' to her," he says. "That's not the point." Rather, Estrada wants to enhance and expand the programs that train and educate everyone who comes in contact with these young people, whose average age is just 13. That includes not only doing trainings for



LGBT Coordinator Rudy Estrada strategizes with a community leader.

new caseworkers and in-service workshops for those who are more experienced, but also reaching out to birth parents, foster families, and adoptive families. Last month, Estrada did a training at a family court in Brooklyn as part of his effort to "address all court personnel – judges, lawyers, social workers, everyone who works in that system with our kids." He's battling the notion that group homes are the best and only haven for these young people, and that these children are hard to place. And, he's

making sure that the excellent non-discrimination policies already on the books are strictly enforced, while working to expand them as needed.

Before joining ACS earlier this year, Estrada was a staff attorney for three years at the New York headquarters of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the largest and oldest national legal organization committed to achieving civil rights for LGBTQs and those with HIV and AIDS. He has spoken and published nationwide, and instituted a groundbreaking series of "listening forums," where he traveled the country meeting with caregivers and young people to talk about the issues they were facing. Estrada also has worked in Chicago and Milwaukee as a court-appointed attorney for youth who have suffered from abuse. A native of Wisconsin, Estrada has a bachelor's and a law degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and is in love with his new city, and his new job.

"What I want people to know is that I'm the ultimate resource," he says. "They can contact me by phone, though I have a BlackBerry so I'm always available by e-mail. People are already doing this, with questions that have run the gamut from, 'How can I find a peer support group?' to 'Where are there good placements for girls who are lesbian?' Questions can be very specific or more general, but they are all welcome."

You can reach Rudy Estrada at: restrada@dfa.state.ny.us or at: 212- 361-1198.

Inaugural Class in Leadership Academy

The first class of the ACS Leadership Academy for Child Safety is currently underway. The Leadership Academy is a new professional development opportunity designed specifically for key managers and leaders in Children's Services field offices. The Academy will provide managers with the tools, knowledge, skills, and opportunities to continue their development as leaders at ACS. It will also offer opportunities for managers to reflect on the challenges everyone faces at Children's Services and to discuss with leaders throughout ACS how to strengthen the work of the agency. The initial class of 30 was open to child protection managers and deputy directors from the Division of Child Protection. In July 2007, there will be a call for applications for the next session.



CPM's in the first class of the Leadership Academy: (left-right) Marjorie Kirkpatrick, Mary Richardson, Elizabeth Lamadiu (partially hidden) and Nana Darkwa.

ACS Staff Hear the Call and Open Their Homes

(continued from front page)

"Having removed a good number of children from their homes, I always questioned why I wasn't bringing any into my own home, although I have two children of my own," she says. Last year, with her youngest child, Tara, away at college, Goodson said, "Why not?" On January 21, 2004, she became a first time foster mother to Sophie, a 17-year-old, and it's been a perfect match. "Sophie told me once that she thinks I lost her in the hospital when she was born," Goodson chuckles. "Maybe I did, because she is definitely my child."

Now a 20-year-old student at SUNY Albany, Sophie is about to be officially adopted into the Goodson family. But she's already been a family member for a long, long time. When Goodson told her son, Ryan, 25, about the adoption plans, he said, "I thought we already did that."

Phyllis Evans

Having reared three grown children who now have children of their own, **Phyllis Evans**, Office Manager with Family Support Services, thought her days of daily cooking had ended. But that was before January 2007, when she welcomed 14-year-old Jermaine and 11-year-old Ashley into her Harlem home. "I live for children, and I just sensed a need," said Evans, who's been at ACS for 15 years. She relished being able to give Jermaine and Ashley their own bedrooms for the first time in their lives. Ashley painted her room lavender and pink, while Jermaine's is awash in blue, the walls covered with posters of his sports heroes. The spacious apartment, now alive with the soundtrack from "Dreamgirls" every night, is close to the children's Harlem school (previously, they'd been commuting from another foster home in Brooklyn), and they've both joined youth ministries at St. Luke's Baptist Church. "My children and grandchildren are just as excited as I am to have Ashley and Jermaine as part of our family," says Evans.

Sharon Bellinger

"In my house, I just needed children. They keep you young and make you feel better," says **Sharon Bellinger**, a clerk in the Queens



Left to right: Clifford Bellinger Sr., ACS employee Sharon Bellinger, Paris (18), Christopher (16), Clifford Jr. (13), Joshua (14) and in front, Precious (9).



Children's Services employee and foster mom Sybil Deans with "Jo-Jo."

office of Family Court Legal Services (FCLS). Bellinger and her husband are adoptive parents to 18-year-old Paris, who's hoping to go to Princeton; 16-year-old Cory, whose given name is Clifford Jr.; 14-year-old Joshua, an eighth-grader on the National Honor Roll; and 9-year-old Precious, born a 1 lb., 14 oz. premie, who now weighs 63 pounds.

"My love of kids was instilled in me by my grandmother, who always watched the children in my neighborhood while their mothers worked," says Bellinger, who says she may still take in one or two more children who need a place they can call home.

Diana Cortez

In 1998, **Diana Cortez**, who works at the Office of Case Management, took in the three children of a relative who was having difficulties. Recently divorced and living by herself, Cortez found herself suddenly a new mom of three, ages 12, 8, and 5. Though "they were family," Cortez says the event was "life changing. I was prepared for them physically to move in – I had the space – but emotionally, it was difficult at first." But things turned out just great. David, now 21, a sophomore at the College of Staten Island plans to be a writer; Edwin, 17, graduated from the Bronx High School of Law and Finance in June 2007; and 14-year-old Christina is a freshman at the High School of Performance and Stagecraft in the Bronx.

Meanwhile, Christina has been wanting a little sister and begging her mother to adopt again. When a co-worker mentioned he was having trouble placing two very young children who had already been in multiple foster homes, Cortez agreed to meet them. It was love at first sight for Shawn, 6, and Aaliyah, 5, whom Cortez brought into her home in August, 2005 and officially adopted in January, 2007. Is it a coincidence that they look exactly like the other members of Cortez's family, or was their adoption predestined? It certainly feels like this was meant to be.

Sybil Deans

After working at the Children's Center, **Sybil Deans**, a single mother of three older children, began thinking that she needed to be ready to help if a child from her neighborhood came into the Center needing a home. "I just kept thinking, 'who will be able to help them if I don't?'" says Deans. When six-week-old Joanna arrived at the Center, everyone agreed she looked like Deans, who immediately asked that the infant be placed with her. Life hasn't been the same since. "She's a happy baby. She smiles, she dances, she claps," says the joyous new foster mom. Her three daughters have embraced their new baby sister. They've nicknamed the baby "Jo-Jo" and are hoping to eventually adopt her.

Joan Siegel

When she was six, **Joan Siegel**, Director of Cross System Child Planning, had a friend who'd been adopted as an infant; Siegel made up her mind then and there to become an adoptive parent one day. As a single woman living in Manhattan and an 11-year-employee of ACS, it took until last year for Siegel to feel as if the time was right. "I felt financially secure and I felt that I was ready," Siegel says. "Every child should have a parent."

As a participant in a matching conference, lending her expertise to the question of why certain youth do not get placed quickly, Siegel learned of teenage Kathy, who was living in a residential treatment



Christopher Nelson (left) receives an Outstanding Achievement Award from the National Council of Negro Women, Brooklyn Section.

center. When they met, the two clicked instantly. "Something about her reminded me of myself at that same age," says Siegel. "She loves poetry, she's very creative, and she has a dry sense of humor." Kathy now makes weekend visits to Siegel's apartment, but the plan is for her to move in completely at the end of the school year. Though there are plans for independent living after she turns 18, Kathy knows that she is welcome to reside with Siegel for as long as she wants. The location of that home, however, may soon change. Siegel is now looking for a larger apartment with the goal of fostering another child, maybe more.

CLASSY CUBICLES



Cathy Anderson surrounded by colorful designs at work.

How can you not stop and gawk at Cathy Anderson's cubicle, located on the fourth floor at 150 William Street?

Anderson, a Principal Administrative Associate in the Division of Family Permanency Services, changes décor several times a year, and we checked out her space during Black History Month.

"I'm an artist and I work with fabric outside work," said the 20-year ACS veteran. "I like decorating and while I'm here, it makes me feel more like I'm at home."

Anderson says she buys new decorations and materials to completely change the décor and to highlight themes like Women's History month in March and Music Month in June.

Do you have an interesting workspace? Let us know via email to sheila.stainback@dfa.state.ny.us.

WINNERS CHOSEN IN SLOGAN CONTEST



Dining with the Commissioner, standing: Dean Chisholm and Gitanjali "Gita" Thadhani; sitting, left-right: Antwuan Walker, Commissioner Mattingly, Michele Weinstat and Alexandra Lowe.

If the emails you now receive from staff throughout ACS contain a slogan or tagline promoting foster and adoptive parenting, many of your colleagues are to thank for this positive promotion on behalf of children in our care. Choosing from more than 250 creative and thoughtful entries, Commissioner Mattingly and a committee of adoptive/foster parents at Children's Services narrowed the field to three top tag lines designed to encourage people to become foster or adoptive parents. The winners joined the Commissioner for lunch, which took place April 11 at Les Halles Bistro. The three winning taglines are:

- **Give the Gift of Family. Become a Foster or Adoptive Parent.** Submitted by Michele Weinstat, Associate General Counsel
- **There's No Place Like Your Home. Call 311 to Become a Foster or Adoptive Parent.** Submitted independently by

both Gita Thadhani, Mental Health Policy Coordinator, Office of Clinical Policy, and Antwuan Walker, Employment Initiative Coordinator, Office of Youth Development

- **Be the Hero of a Child's Story. Become a Foster or Adoptive Parent.** Submitted by Dean Chisholm, Operations Manager, Office of the General Counsel

All four winners dined with the Commissioner and Alexandra Lowe, Special Advisor in Family Permanency Services, who spearheaded the contest. Twenty other Children's Services staffers submitted slogans which made it into the finalist category. They enjoyed a celebratory lunch in the Commissioner's conference room. The other finalists were:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Colleen Britton | Josh Maryles |
| Jim Cipollone | Jenny Nakas |
| Diane Coombs-Lee | Jorge Pastor |
| Donette Hendricks | Evelyn Rodriguez |
| Tamara Dreisinger | Hector Seda |
| Ekanem Ekpo | Joan Siegel |
| Tasha Ganthier | Robert Sisko |
| Lisa Goldman | Lenore Smith |
| Dorien Gottlieb | Natashae Stewart |
| Lisa Jones | |

Again, thanks to everyone who gave this slogan their thoughtful attention and to all of you who are out there spreading the word about our need for good, strong foster and adoptive families.

Call 212-676-WISH, if you're interested in becoming a foster/adoptive parent.

ACS Employees Honored for 25 Years of Service

Children's Services is fortunate to have many employees who have given a quarter-century of their lives or more in dedication to the agency. On May 11, 2007, ACS honored 84 employees for their longtime service to Children's Services, and its predecessor agencies. The following staff members of ACS's family received recognition:



Children's Services employees with 25 or more years employment at the agency gather on Employee Recognition Day.

25 Years

Diane Connolly
 Donna McClymont
 Edgar Vinces
 Odessa Collins
 Lamont Finley
 Deborah George
 Karen Green
 Angela Hugel
 Delone Lee
 Robert Rhodes, Jr.
 Patricia Rivers
 George Rose
 Joan Small
 Alan Stewart
 Lorna Torrence Phoenix
 Carmen Cruz
 Marie Fougere
 Nelida Jimenez

Olga Santos
 Monica Scott
 Daryle Brantley
 Clyde Roper
 Milagros Rosas-Marrero
 Arlene Fahie
 Melanie Levin
 Janice Haley
 Cheryl Howard
 Christina Peebles
 Judy Perry
 George Stewart
 Larry Thomas
 Jeffrey Wade
 Vernon Gibson
 Victoria Gibbons
 Janet Gottlieb
 Gary Krumm
 Daniel Friedman

Charlotte Bailey
 Everett Wattlely
 Kevin Dewitt

30 Years

Minnie Dixon
 Floria Jones
 Ethelyn McCalla
 Ruth Collins
 Carolyn Fields
 Roy King
 Samuel Kosofsky
 Mary Ogarro
 Arthur Goldman
 Herman Margulies

35 Years

Carolyn Brooks
 Norman Johnson

Earnestine Barnes
 Rose Green
 Carolyn Matthews
 Willa McKendrick
 Yolanda Rivera
 Mildred Denny
 Cynthia Grant
 Emma Scott
 Gregory Weir
 Tzvi Atik
 Ethel Brown
 Peter Harris
 Carrie Conyers-Marable
 John Evans
 Marvin German
 Valarie Gilbert
 Larry Johnson
 Josefina Torres
 Renee Dimolfetta

Anita Moore
 Maxine Tibbs
 Lynda Campbell
 Thomas Welsh

40 Years

David Roper
 Glen Shane
 Madge Allen
 Joyce Waldon
 Diane Davis
 Bernice Jarrett
 Hollace Stillman
 Iris Morales
 Joan Weiss



Children's Services Update

NYC Administration for Children's Services
 150 William Street, NY, NY 10038

Place
 stamp
 here

Children's Services Update is published by the ACS Office of Communications

Suggestions? Comments?
 Contact 212/341-0999, or
 visit our Web site: www.nyc.gov/acs