

85 Stories
for
85 Years!



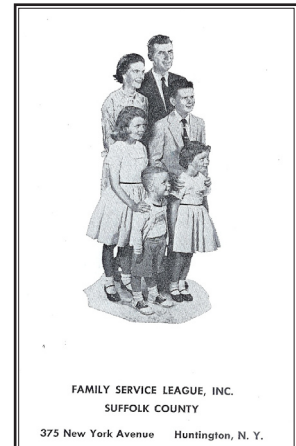
Story #1

A Look Back — March 1961 Huntington Families Need Homemaker Services

This could be anyone's crisis . . . *Mr. Perry called Family Service League desperately seeking the name of a reliable woman to care for his three children. His wife had undergone spinal surgery and would require several weeks in the hospital and recuperative bed rest at home for several more weeks. The children were naturally upset — four year old Bonnie, seven year old Charles and David, 14 months old. There were no relatives or other resources available to Mr. Perry. The cost of a commercial agency was prohibitive. The family had to turn to foster home care for the children.*

In as much as Family Service League was dedicated to keeping families intact, and Homemaker Services did not exist locally, staff and volunteers at the agency proposed that such services be started.

Mrs. Kenneth Lent, Chairman of the Homemaker Service Committee, reports progress is being made toward the establishment of such a service. The Women's Club of Huntington has established a trust fund for this purpose; the TB and Public Health Association of Suffolk County has pledged to add to the Homemaker Service fund.



Members of the Committee working to establish Homemaker Service as a pilot project in Huntington Township include The Women's Club of Huntington, the Junior Welfare League of Huntington, the North Shore Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Visiting Nurse Association of Huntington Township, Soroptimist Club of Huntington and Women's Auxilliary of Huntington Hospital. Watch for future developments.

Story #2

A Look Back, March 1963 — Senior Citizens in Need of Support

The following case history is becoming more and more prevalent these days. We wish we could do more to help.

A "For Sale" sign was up on a 40-year old home on a pleasant street. Inside were Mr. and Mrs. H., 75 and 69. Mr. H., crippled by a hip injury, was confined to a wheelchair. Mrs. H. had recently been hospitalized for one month. They were giving up their home because even the daily tasks of cleaning, shopping, cooking and washing had become too arduous. His pension and social security did not leave enough for household help.

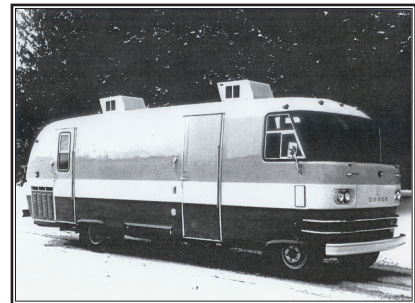
Family Service League, having heard about the couple from their clergyman, worked with them. Ideally, it would be best to have a homemaker service come in three times a week to keep the household going. *But no such service was available in this community in 1963.*

Therefore, they made the painful decision to sell the house and retire to a rest home with the proceeds from the sale. The heartbreak that followed took its toll. Mr. H. died four months after the move. Mrs. H. lives on in loneliness. One can only speculate how long their lives together could have been prolonged in their own home had Homemaker Service for the Aged been available. Today, Family Service League provides these important services to keep families together in their homes.

Story #3

A Look Back, February 1968 — Mobile Unit Expected March 1ST

Family Service League has taken a big step toward solving one of its most pressing problems: how to serve the families in the different sections of the county that cannot be reached from the Huntington and Smithtown offices. A mobile social service vehicle is scheduled to bring counseling service to areas of Babylon, Islip, Brookhaven and the North and South Forks and will begin in early spring.



Last year, FSL helped more than 1,000 families from its two offices, but indications are that at least 5,000 additional families scattered throughout the county need help. Mobile unit counseling is the first step toward offering this help. The unit is a self-propelled office on wheels, with a comfortable reception room and a private counseling office. It will be located in different sections of the county each week, staffed by a skilled caseworker.

*Story #4**A Look Back —November 1969
Family Service League 'STEPS UP' For New Program*

“Stepping Stones” is a social organization of former hospitalized psychiatric patients in the Huntington-Smithtown area. It was formed by the National Council of Jewish Women and funded by the Suffolk County Board of Mental Health in response to the results of a recent study indicating that psychiatric patients who become involved in a social program after leaving the hospital have a lower proportion of return than those who are left on their own.

To further this purpose, both groups have asked FSL to implement the program. Patients are referred by the Social Service Departments of Central Islip, Pilgrim State, Kings Park, and Northport V.A. Hospitals. The programs are directed by trained social group workers and are non-sectarian, inter-racial and self-governing. Its goal is to help develop social skills and widen the community contacts of its members. In addition, FSL will offer individual professional counseling. Stepping Stones has proven to be one of the more successful programs in helping ex-patients stay out of the hospital.



This year, Family Service League is serving 120 individuals in our Stepping Stones program, where they are taught skills to insure their independence.

Story #5

From Tragedy to Hope

A nightmare — an accurate description of Robert, Kevin and Tia's early childhood.

Living with drug addicted parents in a filthy house, the children often had no food. When Kevin was three, he was stabbed in the face by his mother who was trying to stab her boyfriend. Four year old Robert witnessed this horrific violence. At times, the mother was jailed for drug offenses. The children were in and out of foster care. Finally, they were permanently removed and made available for adoption.

The children's lives were changed forever when they were adopted by two women, Kathy and Ann, who had been foster parents to six children. During the adoption process, a sister, Sophia, was born; the two women included the infant in their new family.

When they were brought to Family Service League, Kevin and Robert were frightened, traumatized little boys who experienced night terrors, severe anxiety and emotional meltdowns. They were unable to interact with children their age.



Through years of hard work, the family has made great progress. Robert says Family Service League has helped him “get over bad things and forget my bad beginning.” Kevin says, “You helped me learn to control my rages.” Now, the children's school work is satisfactory; they are able to take family vacations and enjoy community activities. The children have dreams for their future; their moms look forward to their becoming contributing members of society.

Story Sponsored by New York Community Bank Foundation

Story #6
“I Have my Life Back ~ A Client’s Story”

John suffered from a recurrent Major Depressive Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and Alcoholism. Recognizing the seriousness of his symptoms, he voluntarily entered a psychiatric hospital where he remained for four months.

Previous to his illness, John was a teacher, holding both a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Master’s in Special Education. He is divorced and has a daughter in her twenties.

Following his release from the hospital, John attended a continuing treatment program daily and lived in a community residence. In 2005, as his condition improved, he was referred to one of Family Service League’s licensed mental health clinics for ongoing treatment. With the help of Family Service League’s Family Recovery Center, he overcame his alcoholism. He also attended Family Service League’s Journey House two to three days a week where he tutored other recovering Journey House members.

Now, John has moved from dependence to independence. He lives in his own apartment, owns a car and substitute teaches four days a week. He continues to be seen at our mental health clinic for medication and counseling.

Story #7
Formerly Troubled Youth Wins College Scholarship

James was a troubled 11 year old when he entered FSL’s Recess Program. Diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder with aggressive tendencies, he was violent in school and his grades were poor. His mother, a single parent, felt helpless to control him.

Recess is a program for children with psychiatric problems. The goal is to enhance the children’s social skills with peers, parents and other adults. Recess teaches problem-solving and decision-making skills, increased tolerance for frustration, and interactive skills.

Initially, James was uncooperative, refusing to participate in group activities. With the support of staff, he began to join in. After two years, he looked forward to coming to Recess. He had become a leader, helping other participants. His school grades improved. During this time, his mother attended FSL parenting and anger management workshops.

In high school, James joined the football team where he excelled. For the first time, he took two Honors Courses. He also volunteered at Recess. James won a full football scholarship to Alfred College. He will graduate next year with a degree in accounting.

*Story #8**Hope After Abandonment
County Wide Counseling (CWC),
The Diane Goldberg Center for Behavioral Health*

Divorced after 15 years of marriage, Mrs. T. was struggling to support and raise two young children. The children, ashamed that their father had abandoned them and by other changes in their lives, isolated themselves from their friends and withdrew from their afterschool activities. Confused and anxious, Mrs. T. turned to Family Service League for help.



Mrs. T. was referred to the Countywide Counseling Program. A variety of therapies were used to help the T's: individual and family counseling, stress management, and play therapy. In addition, Mrs. T. joined a separation and divorce group where she connected with men and women coping with similar issues; the children joined "Banana Splits," a support group for children of divorce.

By the conclusion of treatment, Mrs. T. had learned strategies and techniques for dealing with the challenging issues that she and her children face. She felt stronger, able to control her fears and anxiety, and manage a full time job as well as her family responsibilities. The children had resumed their friendships and afterschool activities including Family Service League's Operation Success, a homework help program.

This story sponsored by the Paris and Erickson Families

Story #9

From Client to Employee ~ Flexible Employment Program, Center for Job Development and Technology



Maria is a 45 year old woman who enrolled in the Flexible Employment Program in April 2010. Raised by an alcoholic mother, Maria has a history of substance abuse and most her young life was a victim of physical, sexual, and verbal abuse. At the age of 16 she dropped out of high school after becoming pregnant as a result of rape.

At one point in her life she was homeless and accessed The Linkage Center Homeless program at Family Service League. After years of attending Narcotics Anonymous, counseling, and surrounding herself with positive influences, Maria began rebuilding her life. She obtained her high school diploma and started to explore vocational training programs. Maria was referred to Family Service League's Journey House Flexible Employment Computer Training Program.

Maria was a tentative student when arriving at the program and didn't interact much. However, as time passed, she developed more confidence and did well on all her training and tests. She became proficient in Microsoft Word 2007 and passed all the required tests for Excel, PowerPoint, QuickBooks, and Internet Studies. She started to get more comfortable speaking in class and even presenting in class, as public speaking is a required component of the program. She eventually moved into the Job Search and Job Placement Services Division of the program. She created a cover letter and resume, and practiced interviewing skills.

During her job search phase she inquired about a position within Family Service League's Healthy Families program. In October of 2010 she was offered a position as a Family Support Worker. The Healthy Families staff were impressed with her skills and believed her life experiences would be ideal for this type of position. Ironically, this program brings home-based services to expectant and new parents to ensure child safety and positive parent-child interaction — exactly the kind of program Maria needed as a young woman.

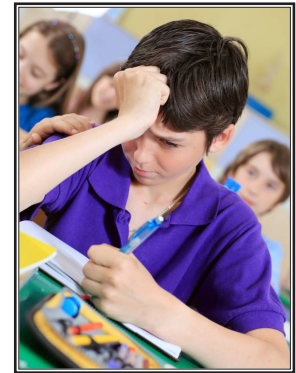
Maria is a strong, talented, and employed woman who is now a member of the Family Service League team. She looks forward to developing her social work skills and carving a career for herself in this field. Her journey has been remarkable and she is an inspiration to us all, particularly to anyone trying to turn their life around.

Story Sponsored by Barbara Page

Story #10
Overcoming Teenage Bullying
Advocacy, Youth Services and Family Support,
Center for Children and Youth

Andrew, 15 years old, was headed for major trouble. He was staying out late at night, drinking, using drugs and constantly fighting with his brothers and sisters. He was also failing several classes in school, jeopardizing both graduation and college.

Andrew met with a Family Service League youth counselor and confided that he was being severely bullied at school. He was socially isolated, afraid and angry. With the support of his counselor, he told his parents, who now understood the reason for his behavior. Together, they sought the help of school officials who intervened to stop the bullying and connect Andrew with new friends and activities. Andrew is now doing well in school, no longer drinking and drugging, and getting along with his family. He is looking forward to college and his future.



Story #11
The Linkage Center (TLC) – Housing and Homeless Intervention

Jeff has been homeless for more than 25 years. In his early twenties, he suffered his first psychotic break and was hospitalized at Pilgrim State Psychiatric Hospital. The diagnosis: schizophrenia. Since his discharge from Pilgrim in the 1980s, he has slept in his car, in the woods, at friends' houses or in emergency shelters. Despite periodic hospitalizations, he repeatedly "fell through the cracks" until he came to The Linkage Center at Family Service League, an overnight emergency shelter.

At The Linkage Center, Family Service League staff reached out to Jeff and gained his trust. Jeff confided his dream for the future: a home and a job in a helping capacity.

So far, we have been able to help Jeff fulfill half of his dream: a permanent home. We helped him find and set up an apartment and connect him to local service agencies which provide him with the ongoing support he needs to maintain his health as well as his housing. As his condition improves, we hope to help him fulfill the second part of his dream: to work as a health aide.

Story #12

A Mother and Daughter Success Story

Mrs. M and her daughter spoke little English: Spanish was the language of her home and neighborhood. Seeking to improve her English as well as her daughter's, Ms. M enrolled in FSL's Project BEE, a program for Spanish-speaking parents and their children, 18 to 36 months.

Project BEE helps toddlers to learn English through activities so they are prepared to enter English speaking schools. Parents improve their English language skills through group instruction in speaking, reading, writing, and parent-child collaborative activities.

Mrs. M was able to complete her GED (high school equivalency diploma). After volunteering at Project BEE for a year, she realized she needed more skills to get a good job and successfully completed administrative courses at Suffolk Community College. When a full time clerical position became available at FSL, our staff encouraged her to apply. She got the job and is now in her fourth year of employment at FSL.



Story #13

CAIR Center ~ The Gateway to Services



Alicia, a single mother of three young children, lost her job of seven years, leaving her without health insurance. She sought help at FSL's CAIR Center. She was referred to an onsite representative of Family Health Plus, a public insurance program, and was promptly enrolled.

Alicia also expressed concern about finding a new job. CAIR staff linked her to FSL's *WorkPlus* where she took computer classes. Since Alicia's primary language was not English, we also referred her to ESL classes and enrolled her and her children in FSL's Project BEE which teaches English to Latino parents and their toddlers.

Ultimately, *WorkPlus* helped Alicia to qualify for and find a job as a certified nursing assistant. This has enabled her to support herself and her children. She continues to attend ESL classes and hopes to pursue higher education in the future.

This story sponsored by Posillico

Story #14

Follow Up Services Insure Family Stability



Mrs. P and her two children were abandoned by her husband. Although relieved to be out of a physically abusive relationship, she was very worried about her financial situation since Mr. P refused to provide any support to the family. She was in danger of becoming homeless, fell into a deep depression and, in addition, was diagnosed with fibromyalgia. Unable to work, FSL's CAIR staff helped her apply for and receive disability benefits.

To regain her health and emotional stability, Mrs. P needed many other services which FSL either provided directly or referred her to. These included mental health treatment, counseling for victims of domestic violence, job counseling and job coaching. Eventually, Mrs. P was well enough to return to work as a Licensed Practical Nurse.

CAIR staff continued to provide support to Mrs. P and her children. We secured pro bono legal services so that she could obtain a divorce; we helped her eldest son apply to college, find part-time work and purchase a car. In time, Mrs. P found a higher-paying job and is now able to support herself and her children without any outside assistance.

*Story #15**Nursing Home Leadership Council ~
Advocating for Our Peers*

Despite her relatively young age (late forties), Joan has lived in a nursing home for 10 years. For 30 years, she has suffered from multiple sclerosis and is now confined to a wheelchair.

Before becoming disabled, Joan raised her son, now an adult serving in the Marines. It has been very difficult for Joan to transition from caregiver to care receiver.



Through The Nursing Home Leadership Council, FSL's Ombuds service program has enabled Joan to gain more control over her life and improve the lives of other nursing home residents. The Nursing Home Leadership Council is the brainchild of Ruth Berger, former director of the Ombuds service, who observed that many young and mentally vigorous residents had no opportunity to put their knowledge and talents to use. Advocacy for services that improve the quality of life of nursing home residents, educating residents about their rights, and socialization are the purposes of the Leadership Council which meets monthly.

Joan was a founding member of the Leadership Council. On several occasions, she has testified before the Suffolk County Legislature on transportation and other issues. The Council has truly empowered Joan, enabling her to gain more control over her life, use her skills, and help others.

This Story Sponsored by Jackson Lewis, LLP

Story #16

Student Testimonial

Hello, my name is Jim. On July 4th, 2004, after reading a book and going to sleep, I woke up and found myself turned to wood by a stroke, unable to move, even to call 911. Before that moment, I had been a professor of Theater Arts at such schools as the Yale Graduate School of Music, Wesleyan University, the Connecticut Commission of the Arts, and for 30 years the University of Connecticut and for 25 years a master-teacher at the Gene Frankel Theatre in New York City. I had also been a flutist with Carnegie and Avery Fischer Hall, an actor, a published poet, a sculptor and a print-maker. Now I was wood.

During the long trudge through the valley of the shadow, I met Mike Earley, who, among many kindnesses, and seeing he worked at Senior Net, found me a used computer, set it up and patiently taught me the rudiments of PC. I had previously pooh-pooed computers, as my teaching style was very hands-on and one-on-one. I had also discovered that writing out everything long-hand sent material up the arm and into the brain much more effectively than typing.

Post-stroke, using the computer was the first and strongest, excepting physical therapy, indicator that I could be an active, curious and productive participant in this new, strange and disheartening physical context I found myself in. By great luck, my cognitive and verbal skills were still pretty much intact. Mike recommended me to Otto Niebler's brand new pilot project, supported by Senior Net: Remote Home Learning Computer Skills Series I.

Despite one-fingered, one-hand, hunt-and-peck limitations, I have happily graduated from Series I to Series III. The technology is fantastic. Along with an accompanying manual, in eight three-hour sessions, Otto talks you through, while demonstrating through remote take-over of your screen, a short section of material. Then he goes through it a second time. Then he turns you over to an extremely patient and knowledgeable coach, returns control of the screen to you and you then duplicate what Otto showed you. Then on to the next section of material. The pace is moderate, the amount of material is quite doable. There is clear emphasis on what is primary and what is secondary, plus tricks and shortcuts.

Homework is assigned but not "checked" and "graded," which removes the oppressive burden of a "quizzes, mid-terms and finals" mentality. Most wise.

The deal is, you get out what you put in, leaving leeway for those more or less able to commit to the task. It is obvious to Otto and the coaches whether or not you have done or can do the work, and they typically offer help. The pilot program is nicely conceived and delivered. I very much hope it gets supported and funded to go state-wide and then nation-wide. What a relief and a blessing it is to those of us treading the thin ice of disability and aging — a real window opened to a breath of fresh air.



This Story Sponsored by SeniorNet

Story #17

Meet Board Member Mrs. Miner D. Crary, Jr. — March 1961

Mrs. Miner D. Crary, Jr., a community leader, is a very active member of FSL. She moved to Huntington twelve years ago with her husband and five children. Despite her family responsibilities, Mrs. Crary has found time to make major contributions to FSL, particularly as a member of the Board of Directors, Case Committee and Additional Funds Committee.

As a member of the Board, Mrs. Crary has helped to guide the agency to meet the needs of Huntington residents and ensure its financial stability. The Case Committee reviews the situations of needy families who have appealed to FSL for help. As a result of her participation on this Committee, the welfare of many Huntington families has been improved. As a member of the Additional Funds Committee, Mrs. Crary has raised needed financial support from businesses and individuals in the Town of Huntington.

As a result of her work, Mrs. Crary has been chosen to lead FSL as President of the Board of Directors in the coming year.

Story #18

FSL Launches First Community School in Suffolk County

In September 2010, FSL launched the first Community School in Suffolk County. "School buildings are owned by the community and should not be dormant at the end of the school day" says Larry Weiss, FSL's Vice President for Programs. "They should be used to continue the educational process in both tradition and non-traditional ways." With the support of the J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation, the Community School is being developed in collaboration with the Brentwood School District.

The Community School is located in the Brentwood Freshman Center. It is an extended day program, open both afternoons and evenings. The School offers a broad range of educational, health, social and recreational programs. The School involves not just children but also parents through parent/child interactive programs and events that address the special interests and needs of Brentwood parents. Through its extensive and varied programming, the Community School is designed to become a center for neighborhood family life.

This Story Sponsored by Hatzel & Buebler, Inc.

Story #19

Rick Van Dyke ~ An Advocate and Visionary

“What words are befitting to describe a leader who has been a social engineer, an architect of social service programs, a visionary, a community organizer, an administrator, a mentor, and a consummate advocate for the most vulnerable in our communities? The words are simply Rick Van Dyke.”

-Karen Boorshstein, President & CEO, Family Service League.



Rick Van Dyke served as the CEO of Family Service League for 23 years. During this time, he grew the organization from one with a budget of \$1 million to one with a budget of nearly \$23 million. Rick was instrumental in building bridges between programs where none previously existed, creatively developing new programs when needs became apparent and helping to conceive of one of FSL's hallmarks: our Regional Family Centers.

Family Service League would not be the organization it is today were it not for Rick's tireless commitment and advocacy throughout his tenure. His legacy is felt every day in the Family Centers he helped to develop and in the culture of respect and kindness he nurtured throughout the organization.

Family Service League is one of Suffolk County's largest and most respected human service organizations. Organizations change along with the times, but upon his retirement in 2009, Rick left us with a strong foundation to build upon.

This Story Sponsored by Karen Boorshstein

Story #20

Pre-School Education ~ The Key to Success

Maria Theresa came into the Manor Field Family Center with two small children, one in a stroller and one holding on tightly to her mother's leg. Maria told the community advocate that her husband works as a seasonal landscaper and she stays at home to raise the children. Maria expressed her desire for her three year old to learn more than she had learned, since Maria only finished the fifth grade in her country. She said that her daughter Emily is very shy around other children and does not want to play with them.



It was suggested that she enroll her daughter in the Lockwood Pre-School Program in Huntington where she will not only learn her ABC's but will also engage with other children her age. Mom thought that was a great idea and filled out the paperwork. Her daughter was not happy the first few days of school, hanging onto mom's legs and crying while mom left the building. In a matter of days though, little Emily started to warm up to the teacher and her new friends. By week three, Emily was participating in circle time and was bringing home "projects" to mom that she completed in school. Mom reports that Emily is much more outgoing now and even cries when she DOESN'T have school!

Sponsored by Susan and Christopher Lockwood

Story #21

Diagnosing Problems Early Leads to Educational Success



Jonathan and Santa Marina had heard from their neighbor that Family Service League was running a pre-school in Bay Shore. They inquired, filled out the paperwork and their son, Joshua was enrolled. Joshua was so excited to ride the bus and go to school. Joshua, however, had a hard time following the teacher's directions and was not speaking very clearly.

After some adjustments in the classroom coupled with some parent/teacher conferences, Jonathan and Santa Marina agreed with the Pre School Director that Joshua should be tested for a possible disability. The staff helped them to complete the paperwork necessary and he was soon tested. Subsequently, Joshua now receives speech therapy during his Pre-School time. His teacher has reported that Joshua no longer presents any behavior problems in the class and that he is speaking much better than before. Joshua is really enjoying his time in Joseph D. Posillico, Jr. Pre-School Learning Center and mom and dad are so relieved that he is receiving the services he needs.

Story Sponsored by Whitney Posillico

*Story #22**Jesse Nemptzow To Retire After 15 Years At Helm —
Fall 1985*

When Jesse Nemptzow was appointed Executive Director of Family Service League in 1971, there were only 13 people on staff and the budget was 1/10 of its present size. When he retires early next year, he will have overseen an expansion from three offices to nine in Suffolk County; a staff of 76; and an annual budget that exceeds \$1,600,000.

“I sought high level professional skills on staff while presenting services in a way that enables people to overcome their anxieties about coming for assistance,” said the Executive Director. “We call our patients ‘clients,’ our treatment ‘counseling,’ our clinical work ‘social work.’”

Jesse Nemptzow grew up in the depression years in a family concerned with social values and the wellbeing of others. He graduated from City College of New York, and after serving in the U.S. Army, earned a Master’s Degree from the Columbia School of Social Work. Before coming to Family Service League he served as chief psychiatric social worker at the renowned Madeleine Borg Child Guidance Institute in New York City.

As Carole Klee, Family Service League Staff Camp Coordinator, explained, “I think Jesse will be as successful in his retirement as he has been here. He’s a mover; he makes things happen. I see him being very productive in retirement.”



Story #23
From Homelessness To Happiness

Family Service League entered Alice's life when she was, perhaps, at her lowest point. She was living in a shelter with her three children after escaping an abusive relationship. The first work FSL provided was to initiate housing relocation assistance for her and enable Alice to participate in FSL's rental subsidy program for 16 months.

With FSL's guidance, Alice completed training for medical billing while also attending counseling to address domestic violence issues. She worked with her Program Home case manager to meet both the concrete and emotional needs of her family.

During this time, the family received additional assistance from FSL in the form of camp scholarships for her children, financial assistance with utilities, as well as for other needs, including car repairs and resumé and job search assistance.

Today Alice works in a hospital, earning almost \$40,000 annually. Her oldest son is currently attending college in Indiana on a full academic and athletic scholarship. She and her family no longer receive any form of public assistance and the household is completely self-sufficient and free of domestic violence.

This Story Sponsored by Chernoff Diamond

Story #24
HomeShare Shapes Lives

Guillermo, a 23 year old college student, lived with his mother, who was diagnosed with a bipolar disorder and who was actively using recreational drugs. After being physically assaulted by his mom and tossed out in the middle of the night, Guillermo became homeless.

He was receiving counseling and some assistance with housing when Family Service League introduced him to Yvonne, a community member who lives close to his college. Yvonne, a 55 year old woman, was having difficulty paying her mortgage after a difficult divorce. She was pleased to welcome this polite young man in to her home. Since he could not afford the \$600 rent Yvonne had wanted, Guillermo was able to negotiate a lower rent in lieu of chores that he would do each month to assist Yvonne. With a stable home, both their lives are now on track towards building a better future.

Story #25

HomeShare Shapes Lives

John is an elderly man who suffered a mild stroke leaving him unable to care for himself at home. As a result, his sons hired a live-in home health aide to care for him, but found that the cost was rapidly depleting his savings. Rather than have a live-in aide to take care of John, the family decided to look for a home-seeker to move in and share the home, thus off-setting the cost of a home health aide.

Through Family Service League's HomeShare program, the family found Barbara, a 50 year old woman, who was receiving disability income due to a chronic health condition. She had a dog, to which she was fiercely attached. When the owner of the home in which she was renting an apartment sold the home, she stayed with a friend and was forced to leave her dog with another friend while she looked for new housing. The stress of being separated from her dog for several months was taking a heavy toll on her.



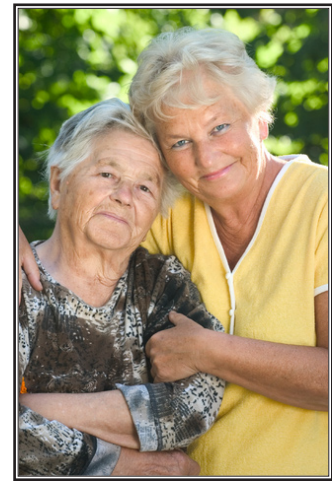
When Barbara met John and a HomeShare match was established, he asked her to bring her dog. As soon as she came into the home, her dog walked over to John in his wheelchair and stretched out at his feet! Needless to say, both Barbara and John are happy with their new roommates!

Story Sponsored by Newsday

Story #26

HomeShare Solves Two Problems

Monica is a 84 year old widow who lives in Stony Brook. She has been fearful of living alone since her husband died and she suffered a heart attack which required her to hire a live-in aide during her recuperation. Because of her fear of living by herself, she continued to allow the aide to live with her even when her need for home health care had ended. Her daughter became concerned when she realized that Monica had spent most of her savings on her live-in help.



Marie is a 50 year old divorced woman who lives in Deer Park. She has raised four children, and has assisted raising her three grandchildren. Marie had received housing assistance through Section 8, but had lost her subsidy because two of her adult children who resided with her were noncompliant with the requirements of Section 8. As a result, Marie was facing eviction within a one month period. Marie has worked previously as a home health aide, but an injury to her back prevents her from working as an aide presently.

Several meetings were conducted between Marie and Monica's daughter, Laurie, and both of them felt confident that Marie would be a wonderful solution to Monica's problem. Monica and Marie met and they both felt comfortable with each other. Monica now has peace of mind knowing that she is not alone, and has assistance with household chores she has needed and Marie has a lovely place to live, at no cost to her.

This Story Sponsored by the North Shore-LIJ Health System

Story #27

Charting A New Life Course



When Ken first came to The Linkage Center (TLC) in November of 2005, he was homeless, very ill and could hardly communicate. He told us he suffered from bipolar disorder and had been without his medications for several weeks. With the help of Family Service League staff, Ken was admitted to Brookhaven Hospital's ACCESS center to stabilize his medications. During the three weeks that Ken was hospitalized, TLC staff was able to work with the hospital to open his public assistance and Medicaid cases and ease his access to ongoing treatment.

We learned, however, that Ken had been homeless multiple times and had an extensive history of struggling to manage his mental health issues. Family Service League began to chart a new course for Ken. We accessed a variety of resources for him and completed applications for the appropriate support and housing services.

As a result, Ken was accepted into a Suffolk County supported program for chronically homeless individuals and moved into his own one-bedroom apartment in July 2006. Since then, Ken has taken more responsibility for his future. He is managing his treatment services for himself and is looking forward to the day he will be back working again.

Story Sponsored by Fran and Brian Whitehead

*Story #28**How Do I Keep (from freezing) Warm This Winter?**(E-Mail Received by Family Service League)*

With so many people out of work and in need, I feel uncomfortable having to reach out to anyone for any assistance, but I have no choice. I don't know what else to do.

I'm a single working Mom and likely to slip through the cracks as far as getting some needed help, but I'm . . . well . . . slipping fast and wanted to know if there was some local group that you could direct me to.

I have one son currently in college and I'm no longer receiving child support since last year. I am trying hard to hold onto my home with this reduced income (my mortgage payments are falling behind), but I now have an imminent expense that I cannot afford. My very old furnace finally broke down this past spring, flooding the basement, and it needs to be replaced this fall season or I will have no heat. Since I have gas service for cooking and water, I thought it best to convert to an energy efficient burner.

National Grid usually runs incentives on the units, but I haven't any money for a unit or to hire a plumber to install it or even to get an estimate of what's needed. Please advise if there is group that provides help for people in similar situations . . . perhaps a used burner or a plumber certified in gas that would be willing to install for a reduced fee. (August 2010)



Story #29

How Do I Get Back From the Edge?

(E-Mail received by Family Service League)

I am a 40 year old male and was just released from a week's stay at South Oaks Hospital where I was treated for depression and drug addiction. I have lost my job, my family, my house, insurance, everything. After I was released from the hospital, my Dad's family agreed to let me stay at their house for a place to sleep.

They cannot afford to support me, just give me a place to stay. I need help in getting social service assistance and Medicaid and in finding programs that can help me, as well as transportation to the programs . . . and in finding a job if possible. My situation is *critical*. I will be in violation of probation and won't be able to pay for medication or programs if I can't figure something out. Please help. E-mail address is my step mom and phone is their house phone. You can reach me through these contacts. Can you please help me? Thank you. (Oct 2010).



Story #30

Desperate Appeals for Help Received through FSL's Website

FSL's website has become an important channel for troubled — often desperate — families seeking help. The website provides detailed descriptions, in Spanish as well as English, of all our programs, locations, telephone numbers and a user-friendly “Contact Us.” The site is monitored by staff members to insure that help is provided promptly . . .

Mrs. R contacted us through our website. Her husband had lost his job and was unable to find a new one. The family's only income was Mrs. R's small salary. The Rs were behind on their mortgage and in jeopardy of losing their home. They also were behind on their payments for their car which they needed to get to and from work and struggling to pay for other essentials such as electricity, water and oil.



Our Debt Counselor immediately called Mrs. R to arrange an appointment to review the family's financial situation, explore the possibility of refinancing their mortgage, and help deal with creditors. The Debt Counselor also referred her to two FSL's programs: Emergency Food and Shelter and Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing for assistance with mortgage and utilities payments. Mrs. R was also informed about the availability of emergency food, if needed, and how to apply for Food Stamps.

This Story Sponsored by Rosamond Dean

*Story #31**Another Urgent Appeal to the FSL website*

Mrs. L, a homeless mother of two young children, contacted us through our website. She was living in one room in a motel with only a tiny refrigerator and a microwave oven. She needed food, clothing for the children, and permanent housing. She shared that she was depressed and, as a result, became an alcoholic. She wrote, however, that she is not currently drinking and wanted to find a parenting class.

A Case Manager from FSL's Program Home immediately called Mrs. L offering help to find and relocate her family to permanent housing. Our Case Manager also provided food and took the children to FSL's Community Thrift Shop to obtain needed clothing. The Case Manager helped Mrs. L to negotiate with her new landlord, fill out complex Department of Social Service paperwork, and obtain furniture and other household items. After the family moved, our Case Manager continued to visit them, providing "aftercare" to stabilize the family and insure retention of their permanent housing. To address her depression and support her efforts to remain alcohol free, Mrs. L was referred to FSL's Family Recovery Center. She also was referred to a parenting class.

*Story #32**Homeless and Confused: A Call for Help to our Website*

Homeless and living in a shelter for close to a year, Mrs. N finally found and rented a room for her and her daughters from a woman whom she thought had her "well-being at heart." Now, the landlady has decided to close the house and evict all the tenants. As Mrs. N wrote us in her email, "now I have to start all over again and I barely got on my feet as it is." Her weariness and despair were evident in her message. She is worried about herself and her daughters and wants to "talk with someone about her housing situation and other things."

An FSL Counselor immediately called Mrs. N and arranged for an appointment. The counselor listened as Mrs. N described her imminent homelessness and other concerns. First, the Counselor linked Mrs. N to FSL's Program Home where a Case Manager helped her to find new housing and provided "aftercare," regular home visits to link Mrs. N to community resources and address problems that might threaten her housing. The Counselor continued to see Mrs. N, helping her to sort through her problems, take actions to alleviate them, and provide emotional support.

*Story #33**Did you know that . . .*

Mental illness is the leading cause of disability in the United States among people ages 15 to 44. One third of adults receiving disability payments (ages 18 to 55) report having a mental disorder contributing to their disability.

These sobering statistics lead to one in every four adults suffering from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year, and one in every 17 adults lives with a serious mental illness, such as bipolar disorder.

What about children? According to recent statistics, at least one in ten children has a serious mental or emotional disorder.

Sadly, suicide is the 11th leading adult cause of death in the United States and of those who die from suicide, more than 90 percent have a diagnosable mental disorder.

What can we do? FSL offers 15 different programs to deal with mental health issues for individuals or family, for child or adult, for whenever it is needed. These essential programs help individuals to have better, healthier lives and our communities benefit as well.

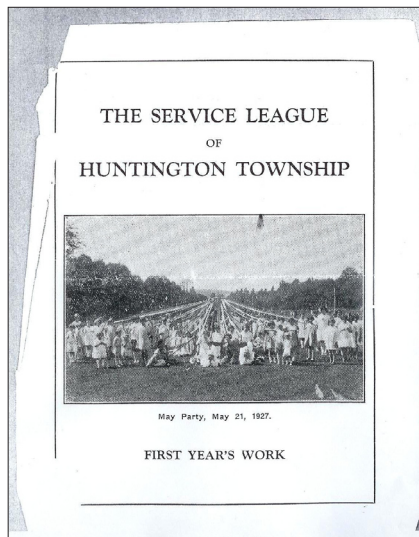


Story #34

1920's — An Idea is Born

One summer afternoon in 1925, two women friends interested in social welfare were discussing the need for such work in their home town of Huntington. Mrs. John F. Ranken and Mrs. Geoffrey Bare resolved to do something and called together a small group of ladies for the first meeting of the "Service Committee."

They consulted the State Charities Aid Association for advice and methods used elsewhere. They then addressed members of the community at a meeting of the Women's League of St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church on November 23, 1925.



An editorial appeared in *The Long Islander* on November 27, 1925 discussing this meeting and stressing the need for a trained social worker. Two local women stepped up with the funds for a social worker for the first six months of 1926. Further fundraising allowed the Committee to rent a room over the First National Bank as its headquarters. In April of 1926, a constitution was drawn up and the committee took on the name of the **Service League of Huntington Township**. The agency had been born!

During the 1920's the League ran the "Community Room" which provided recreational programming. Some of the programs, many of which benefited children, were dancing lessons and dances which were held every fourth Friday of the month. A party was held in May 1926 for 300 children. A party for boys of high school age resulted in the organization of a Boy's Club. Swimming lessons were given to children. A picnic was held for Huntington laundry employees. Sewing classes, a handicraft club, and a woodcraft club were organized. A Men's Night of chess, pool, and refreshments was held once a week.

The "Community Room" provided countless hours for those who needed a place to learn, socialize and feel a part of the community.

Story #35

1930's — Service League Rises to the Needs of the Community

The 1930's and the Depression years brought significant change to the League. Programs shifted from community recreation to the basic needs and sustenance of the community. The major problems of the day were listed as illness, alcoholism, non-support, immorality, desertion, feeble-mindedness. In 1931 the League formed the Huntington Unemployment Relief Association and the Emergency Work Bureau to deal with the needs of the unemployed. Since staff had been reduced, the League depended on volunteers for much of their work.

In 1933 and 1934, the League worked in cooperation with the Town of Huntington to provide employment for many men in Huntington at the site of the Village Green Park which was being built with Town funds. The Village Green Park stands today at the corners of Park Avenue and Main Street as a testament to the hard labor of those families struggling to survive during this terrible economic time.

Story #36

1940's — The Service League During the War

During the war years, the League concentrated on helping the less fortunate and most vulnerable members of the community.

League volunteers transported the infirm to clinics and medical appointment. They arranged recreational outings to the beach for underprivileged children. They collected clothing and household furnishings to distribute to families in need. Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets were distributed annually to struggling families. A special milk fund supplemented the diets of marginal-income families. The Emergency Relief Fund loaned money to cover utility bills, a medical bill, or other unexpected expenses.

*Story #37**1950's -1960's — The Expansion of the Service League*

Human service agencies became increasingly aware that it is not enough to treat the ills of society by assuaging their physical manifestations. It was always right to provide an alcoholic's family with clothing and food but it is better to rehabilitate the alcoholic so that he can take care of his family. Psychiatrists and psychologists discovered that 85% of teenage delinquency is due to an inadequate and unhappy family life. So instead of just providing a place for recreation for teenagers, case workers would help them with their relationships within the family.

Just when the post-war boom brought burgeoning problems to Huntington, fate brought some extraordinary women to the League's Board. Jane Nichols, the daughter of J.P.Morgan, became interested in social work after her husband's death in 1950, and attended the New York School of Social Work. She joined forces with Mrs. Virginia Spontowiz to change the League into a truly professional organization. They hired the first accredited social worker at the League and the professional staff continued to grow throughout the 1950's. As the League's mission expanded, the name was changed to reflect their broader services. It was now known as Family Service League of Suffolk County.



FSL volunteers organized the first Tour of Houses as a successful fundraiser, which remains today as an integral part of annual fundraising.

The League's services now focus more on prevention of the breakdown of the family and marital discord, delinquency, alcoholism, and desertion.

*Story #38**1970's – A Look Back*

The decade is marked by increasing attention to mental health issues and the needs of senior citizens.

Family Service League launches **Stepping Stones**, the first continuing day treatment program in Suffolk County for pre- and post-hospitalized psychiatric patients. Highly creative in approach, activities include group meetings, trips, parties, dinners, arts and crafts, food preparation, dancing and play production. Staffed by mental health professionals, Stepping Stones' goals are to improve socialization skills, find new, personal interests for clients and help them to deal more effectively with everyday life at home, with friends and on the job.

In an effort to extend money management and financial counseling services to seniors, Family Service League's Debt Counseling program staff designs a program to train volunteers to specifically serve older persons. The program assists those in existing Senior Citizen groups and centers, or those who may be isolated and confined to their homes. FSL is in the forefront of identifying the unmet needs of this population . . . and takes the initiative to help the elderly to utilize financial, community and personal resources as effectively as possible in order to remain as independent as possible.



*Story #39**1980'S — A Look Back*

The '80's are a time of transition for the American family. There is a decline of the role of the traditional working father and dependent wife and children, and the growth of single parent, remarried families and other family constellations. New challenges and growing concerns affect children, adolescents, adults and the elderly.

Family Service League's Project FACILE (Family Advocacy, Crisis Intervention and Life Education) expands its services of educational workshops and support groups aimed at deterring the development of serious problems for all family members.

Several new initiatives have their beginnings, including **CAPT** — early intervention for high-risk children of parents with emotional problems; **Ombudservice Program** — advocates for nursing home residents; **Convenor** — advocacy and coordination of services for sexually abused children and their families; **Project Self-Sufficiency** — assists single-parents in transition to economic and social independence; and **Parents Helpline** — a child abuse and neglect prevention program to provide immediate action to parents under stress.

Fund-raising takes on greater importance and Great Chefs of Long Island, a most successful fund-raising event for Family Service League, becomes the first food and wine-tasting event on Long Island.



Story #40

1990's – A Look Back

Faced with a recession, cutbacks in funding, and growing demand for services, Family Service League expands its fund-raising efforts and gains increasing support from individuals, corporations, foundations and government leaders who recognize the value of our work.

FSL develops the *Family Advocacy Committee* whose purpose is to educate the public and elected officials about the needs of families. The Committee advocates for basic societal changes to improve conditions that dramatically impact family life.

Program HOME is initiated to help homeless parents and children get food and clothing and relocate to permanent housing. *Home Base*, to prevent out-of-home residential placement of troubled children, is successfully launched. FSL moves into new Administrative and Program Headquarters at the Olsten Family Center on Park Avenue in Huntington, giving the agency its first permanent home.



*Story #41**2000-2010 – A Look Back*

Family Service League celebrates at its 75th **Anniversary Gala** with high spirits and a huge fund-raiser. Over the decade it continues to spread its wings to encompass new and important programs and services:

FSL acquires the **North Fork Early Learning Center**, a licensed early childhood education and child care program for children from 18 months to five years old.

C-CAT, Community Crisis Action Team, was formed as a result of the unprecedented demand to work with 9/11 victims and their families. The new **Iovino South Shore Family Center**, one of Long Island's largest and most modern social service facilities, opens in Bay Shore. It houses the **Diane Goldberg Community Center** and the **Joseph D. Posillico Jr. Pre-School and Youth Activities**.

FSL begins hosting support groups in Riverhead and Bay Shore for family and friends of Americans in Iraq, addressing the concerns and challenges faced by family and friends left behind.

The Linkage Center provides safety and nutrition to homeless individuals, links people with vital services and helps them move toward self-sufficiency. The first **Residential Group Home** for once chronically homeless men opens its doors. **HomeShare** Long Island gets underway to match elderly homeowners with younger home seekers to provide mutual support.

FSL expands pre-school services with the opening of the **Kornreich Early Learning Center** in Mineola, the agency's first pre-school program in Nassau County, along with literacy and computer classes to Spanish-speaking adults in Mineola.

Family Service League reaps honors and awards:

- Long Island Association (LIA) names FSL as "Most Valuable Player" in the Not-for-Profit Category.
- The National Association of Social Workers names FSL "Outstanding Agency of the Year."
- Don Weidman SeniorNet Computer Learning Center wins the national Chairman's Award as the #1 SeniorNet in the world.

*Story #42**Suffolk Transportation Service ~ A Vendor with a Heart*

Suffolk Transportation Service is a family-owned business that includes both school bus and transit services. “My grandfathers, John Corrado and Joe Tino, were immigrants who came to this country and earned a living driving transit buses in New York City,” reports today’s company owner, John Corrado. “They taught us to be involved in our community and help whenever you can.” Today Mr. Corrado provides bus service for the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program at the Iovino South Shore Family Center and is a generous donor to Family Service League.

John Corrado is a member of the Board of United Way of Long Island and began a UWLI annual campaign with his employees several years ago. Today, most of his employees contribute \$1 a week which the company matches. Together they raise about \$100,000 a year. In 2010, they used this money to purchase Smart Boards for the classrooms at the Universal Pre-K Program in Bay Shore. Thank you, John and your very special employees.



*Story #43**Adult Home Advocate ~ Helping Himself and Others*

Dick Hill has been a participant in Family Service League activities for over two years now. He is currently a board member of the Adult Home Leadership Council — a fifteen member group comprised of adult home residents, many of whom are presidents of their resident councils. Dick is the leader of the resident council at the Bayview Adult Home located in Babylon, NY.

Dick is retired from a twenty-five year career in data processing where he was a Computer Support Manager. He is a serious amateur photographer and is an active contributor to the Adult Home Leadership Newsletter.

Family Service League has been integral to Dick's role in resident advocacy. There was no resident council at Bayview before an FSL team provided support and guidance in organizing one. The Suffolk County Ombudsman Program of Family Service League has continually helped resolve problems within the home, many times with Dick at the helm. They are always on call for assistance and the Ombudsperson is a regular welcome visitor. Outside the home, Dick has actively supported improving current regulations, joining with local and state Adult Home Leaders to lobby the legislature in Albany.



Dick continues to be dedicated to his role in resident advocacy, and maintains his commitment to working with the Ombudsman program and Family Service League. He is happy to be part of all the great work that is being done for the residents in the adult homes and of course, his own home.

*Story #44**Lisa Jamison ~ An Inspiration to Others*

The phone rings and it's Lisa Jamison. If you take the call, your life is about to change. These calls are not to say hello, not to talk about the weather, not to set up lunch. Lisa's calls are always to ask for help for someone in the community. This help will require time, energy, and sometimes funds. But Lisa never asks anything of others that she is not prepared to do herself. We take the call.



We have known Lisa for years and her dedication to those who need a hand is inspiring. There are so many “Lisa” stories we could tell but one specifically comes to mind. One of the young people we worked with graduated law school and invited us to the ceremony. The graduation took place on a Saturday morning at Lincoln Center in Manhattan. Being in Manhattan that weekend, the two of us made sure to attend. Of course, when we arrived at Lincoln Center, there was Lisa. Not just Lisa, but Lisa and the entire family of the graduate whom Lisa made sure to bring to the city. It was a Saturday morning. Lisa had already worked a full week. You don't get paid for bringing a family to a graduation on the weekend but there was Lisa making sure that a family had a very special day.

The Lisa Jamisons of the world are our heroes. What they do isn't flashy. What they do may not be noticed. But what they do is kind, and good, and it makes the world a better place. Thank you, Lisa, for teaching us and inspiring us. Your actions and the example that you set give us something to aspire to. We are better people for working with you and proud to call you our friend.

This Story Sponsored by Lynn and Jonah Kaufman

*Story #45**From Nursing Home to Independent Living
Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Program*

William never thought he would leave the nursing home and never thought he would walk again. After a double amputation it appeared he would live in a nursing home for the rest of his life. In 2009 his fate changed when the Nursing Home Transition program relocated him to his own apartment. William and his Service Coordinator, Rosemary Scheiber, shopped online together for his new furnishings and household items. He hadn't cooked in five years and couldn't believe he was buying his own pots and pans.

William has flourished since his discharge. His Independent Living Skills Trainer, Diana Hawk, has helped him re-learn financial and household management skills. To everyone's surprise, William learned that he'd been accepted for a prosthetic leg, a dream he had given up years ago. He has begun the fitting process and anticipates to be walking by year's end! Here again, his independent living skills trainer can help him adjust to walking in the community. Recently, as William was in his kitchen making himself a cup of coffee, he was asked about his life now in his own apartment. Taking a deep breath he said . . . "Oh, I LOVE IT!"



William showing off his brand new apartment

*Story #46**Seniors and Volunteers:
A Success Story from the Senior Support Services Program*

Shirley had just moved into a two bedroom subsidized apartment from her home of 25 years. Her furniture and collectibles took up so much space that she had boxes everywhere and no place to sit down. The couch was on its side in front of the living room window and there were kitchen boxes blocking the cabinets and counters. Shirley has multiple sclerosis and depends on her wheelchair and walker.

The housing inspector told her the apartment was not being maintained up to code and was unsafe. Through the Senior Support Services Program, Family Service League introduced Shirley to and matched her with a volunteer, Jasmine. Jasmine and Shirley's caseworker met in her kitchen to create a schedule. It was agreed upon that Jasmine would come Saturdays and Tuesday nights to help Shirley unpack and get rid of any unneeded or unwanted items. They came across old magazines, dusty flower arrangements, broken appliances, and stained and ripped clothing. Every Tuesday night their goal was to pack up at least four large boxes for the dumpster.

Shirley has passed her re-inspection and continues to sift through her belongings. Jasmine is helping her get a computer hooked up so that she can stay in touch with her family. Jasmine will teach her how to shop from the supermarket online, set up a Facebook page, and "surf" the net. Shirley is regaining structure in her life in large part thanks to a dedicated volunteer.



*Story #47**A Grandmother's Story: Kincare*

I am a 56-year old African-American grandmother of three boys who are 3, 7, and 17. I've had custody of them for ten years. The initial agreement was for me to take the boys for "a few months." The children's mother, my daughter, is a cocaine addict who rarely visits. The children were not bonding with me and showed resentment. I have diabetes, high blood pressure, and a history of breast cancer.

I first came to Family Service League through the Kincare program in July, 2007. I was suffering from major depression and severe anxiety. I was terrified that I would not have enough money to continue supporting the boys. My physical and emotional pain was "getting the best of me." Since that time, my counselor has pointed out my strengths, has commended me on how well I have coped under such difficult circumstances, and has helped me see myself as a survivor. My case manager assessed my income and expenses and found that I was eligible for food stamps, food having been my greatest expense.

I now feel tremendous relief. The counselor and case manager helped enroll my youngest grandson in the "Just Kids" program. Although my 7- and 17-year old declined counseling, they were encouraged to call should they need help. With counseling and added financial assistance I am less anxious and more confident. In counseling I have learned techniques to ward off anxiety attacks. I have come a long way and look forward to a secure future for myself and my three grandsons.



*Story #48**Ombudsman Advocates for Resident in Nursing Home
The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program*

Complaints come to the Ombudsman Program in several ways: residents can speak directly to the Ombudsman volunteer while they are visiting at their home, family members can speak to them during a visit with a resident or residents, or friends and family members can call the Ombudsman Program office/hotline.

One such reported complaint was on behalf of a resident who was a quadriplegic and was confined to her bed, losing weight due to miscommunication between the “kitchen” and the dietician. The resident’s Ombudsman advocated on her behalf for quite some time until the matter was resolved. This lengthy process included speaking to her dietician and social worker where a treatment plan was developed to address the issue and to ensure the resident’s rights.

After a period of a month, the Ombudsman asked the resident about her progress and she told them that she regained several pounds and was getting the proper meals she ordered. The Ombudsman encouraged the resident to speak with her social worker if she was experiencing further problems with the menus and food requests. In this case, as well as in so many others, it is due to the diligence and advocacy of a dedicated Ombudsman which makes a positive difference in someone’s life.

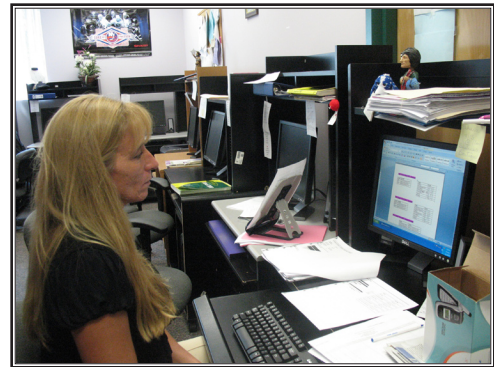


Story #49

From Substance Abuse to Full Employment

Alice came to the Flexible Employment Program in 2009. Prior to her enrollment, she had a history of substance abuse. As a middle-aged woman and mother of two, her life became unmanageable. She found it hard to cope and used drugs to escape many of her uncomfortable emotions and responsibilities. Alice enrolled in a treatment center and received therapy and support. She eventually came to terms with her addictions and soon began the slow process of rebuilding her relationships and her life. She explored issues that helped her better understand her drug use and worked on her self-esteem.

After living in a treatment center for women and improving her emotional health, she began to think about work. As work became a priority, Alice was offered an opportunity to enroll in the Journey House Flexible Employment Computer Training Program. While there she learned Microsoft 2007, Excel, PowerPoint, and Internet skills, developed a resumé, cover letter, and learned interviewing skills. She was provided switchboard training and became an excellent public speaker. During her job-search skills training she learned the many ways a computer could be utilized as a resource for finding a job. However, upon graduation she wouldn't have access to a computer other than at a public library.



In June, 2009 Comp4Kids offered Family Service League 16 donated laptops for their graduating students. Alice was one whose life literally changed with her FEP training and this gift. She now had the ability to use a laptop at home to communicate with potential employers, to socially network, and e-mail resumes and cover letters. After responding to an Internet "help wanted" ad, Alice secured an interview and was hired as a F/T Receptionist at a Pediatric Care office in November, 2009.

Alice continues to be happily employed and has since received a raise. She is a confident employee with great skills. Between her training and the availability of technology, Alice has changed her life. Collaborations such as the one between Family Service League and Comp4Kids are an essential part of the success of human service agencies in our community.

Story Sponsored by J. Petrocelli Contracting, Inc.

Story #50

A Life Falling Back into Place: Flexible Employment Program

Anthony Jones*, diagnosed with bipolar disorder at age 12, was referred to Journey House by Transitional Services. Growing up he had many behavioral issues in school and at home. After increasing symptoms and several short hospitalizations, Anthony made several suicide attempts that ultimately led to his admission to Pilgrim Psychiatric Center. He was eventually placed in a community residence for individuals with mental illness. Anthony attended vocational classes and showed interest in computers and in getting a job. He was referred by his VESID counselor for Work Adjustment Training (WAT) on March, 2007 and was accepted into FSL's Journey Houses' Flexible Employment Program (FEP). Although a little skeptical about how well he was going to do in the program, Anthony was eager to learn, especially computer skills. He wanted a job, to get his driver's license, go back to school part-time and get his GED, and to move in to his own home or back with his family.

Staff worked with Anthony on one goal at a time. At first easily discouraged, he gained more confidence and started doing extremely well. He drafted a resumé and was taught job search and interviewing skills. He loved animals and wanted to get a job that would earn him a career as a veterinarian or animal technician. Anthony began looking for work with the support of the FEP program. In August, 2007 he was offered a job as a vet's assistant where his main job duties were transporting animals, completing intake documentation, and cleaning and caring for the animals. He used his clerical training from the FEP program and learned new skills. Anthony also took driving lessons from Vesid and passed his road test. He was so excited because "his life was really starting to fall into place." After witnessing how hard he'd been working, Anthony's family asked him to move back home so he could save money to buy a car. Anthony received many promotions during the next year and was even given keys to both of the Animal Hospital locations. He also decided to go back to school on his own part time so he could work towards getting a vet license.

Anthony once stated that, "If two years ago you told me I would have a job I love, a car, be living at home again and in school, I would have never believed you." While working at the Animal Hospital, Anthony continues to go to school working toward his degree. He said that sometimes he felt like things were never going to work out but by not giving up, working hard, and using supports available to him he has achieved almost all of his dreams. Anthony returned to our Annual FEP Graduation to share his success and inspire other students.



Story #51

David's Story: Finding Myself and My Family — A Collaboration

I am a young man who is also part of the Shelter Rock Program. I am tall and very quiet and soft spoken. I was not like the tough substance-abusing crowd that filled the Linkage cots each evening. I only had one request: to return to Barbados. It took a long time to gain enough trust but I eventually agreed to try out the Stepping Stones Program. I started taking medication and my caseworker began an intense search to find out who I really was, whether or not I was a citizen, and where my family might be. I responded well to the medication and my personality soon emerged. I no longer obsessed about going back to Barbados.

The staff working with me found that I had attended high school in Suffolk County and accessed my records, which showed that I had grown up on Long Island and was a naturalized citizen. With counseling, I worked on developing coping skills and was soon placed in a community residence with treatment support. A few months later, I requested a change in services — I wanted to work on getting a job.

One day my mother and sister showed up at the program unexpectedly. She had been looking for me ever since I walked away from them when I was 18. Her friend spotted me in the back of the building and came by to investigate. I was stunned to be reunited with my family and there was not a dry eye in the program. I was invited to my sister's wedding — yes, in Barbados! I went on to get a job at McDonald's and work 24 hours per week and I still continue to attend Stepping Stones. My employer is so impressed with my work that he has asked me to work full time. But I have chosen to take it slowly and the 20+ hours a week is enough for me now. I am very grateful for getting my life back.

Story #52

A Christmas Gift of Hope: The Shelter Rock Initiative

Synthia came to the Stepping Stones PROS program through Family Service League's Shelter Rock Initiative. Adults who are homeless and suffer from mental illness are able to access mental health, substance abuse and trauma services in this unique program. The Universalist Unitarian Shelter Rock Congregation chose FSL to implement this program because of the strength of the services offered, the experience they had in working with serious challenges and the strong linkages they have with other services such as hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and partial hospitals.

When Synthia came to us she was very distant, at times very angry, depressed and possibly hallucinatory. She was HIV positive, born to a crack-addicted mother who had sold her sexually from the age of four to support her own addiction. She was addicted to crack and was not taking any medications. She knew that she didn't want to continue a lifestyle of prostituting herself to support her drug habit. She wanted out but did not know how. Staff at Family Service League developed a relationship with her and helped her manage her medications. Soon she began to feel good for the first time in her life. She was taught how to pour her medications and attended rehab for a few weeks to help her stop her crack use. Synthia eventually rented a room in Wyandanch where she began to feel hope that she could reinvent who she was and she looked forward to reaching certain goals. Although she had no money for furniture or decorations, she felt that having a room was better than being homeless.

At Stepping Stones she had an entire community for support but still kept to herself and went home to an empty room alone. At Christmastime, one program member is elected to dress up as Santa and helps the staff hand out gift-wrapped presents individually selected for each client. While most clients immediately tear open their present due to excitement and surprise, Synthia took her gift and hid it. Her caseworker followed her and asked her why she didn't join everyone and open her present. Synthia replied that growing up she had never celebrated Christmas. She was determined to save her gift until Christmas morning and then open it.

Story #53

Senior Support When It's Needed Most

The Steins, an elderly couple from Smithtown, called Family Service League for services. Mr. Stein had always taken care of the house and yard, but due to failing health he was no longer able to do so. It was April and the Steins were embarrassed by their overgrown lawn. They had no one in their lives who could come and help and couldn't afford to hire someone.

They called Family Service League and were matched with a volunteer, David, a 19-year old dental student who was able to give his time on the weekends. He went to the Steins on a Sunday and brought their yard back to shape. After many hours of yard work, David was invited inside the house where to his surprise the Steins had a full lunch spread out for him. David was really touched and spent the next two hours getting to know them. During their conversation they learned that he was a Stony Brook dental student and agreed that he would be the perfect son-in-law in anyone's family.

David has since been back twice. The Steins will call him if they need any snow removal during the winter and certainly when it is time for spring cleanup.

Story #54

Magnet for Children: North Fork Early Learning Center

For many years, the North Fork Early Learning Center, a licensed early childhood education and child care program, has been an outstanding asset for the North Fork community. Founded in 1981, it came under the Family Service League umbrella in 2005.

The Center was then moved to the Laurel School building where its programs have grown and flourished. Today it serve more than 90 children, ages 18 months to 5 years, with year-round full and half day sessions, including the operation of the Mattituck-Cutchogue UFSD Universal Pre-K program. In addition, the Center offers two summer camp programs, one for children ages 18 months to 5 years, and one for children ages 6 through 12.

The Center's approach is to create a school environment that is supportive of each child's individual needs. Its goal is to strengthen the development of self-confidence, cooperation, self-esteem and a love of learning.



*Story #55**Community Health Care Collaborative (CHCC)*

The Community Health Care Collaborative (CHCC) is a pilot project, the first of its kind in Suffolk County, and is a partnership between Southside Hospital and Family Service League. This project integrates Behavioral Healthcare with Primary Healthcare for 200 individuals with severe and chronic mental health conditions and follows the Health Home model, a strategy for measurably improving health outcomes for chronically ill populations that has been implemented in communities across the country.

The Health Home model, while not a residential program, represents a **strategy** for helping individuals with chronic conditions to manage them better. Central to this strategy is close contact with a clinician for continuing care and who coordinates the complex care needs of a chronically ill individual. The Health Home model uses a team approach to providing care, with the Care Coordinator as the central figure. This person facilitates partnerships among the patient, his or her personal primary care clinician, and the patient's family, when appropriate. This strategy seeks to improve patients' health outcomes as well as reduce medical costs through the reduction of emergency room visits and unnecessary and duplicative testing and procedures.

The goal of CHCC is threefold: to improve both physical and behavioral health outcomes among participants; to reduce the usage of hospital emergency rooms as a primary healthcare intervention; and to improve linkages with community primary care physicians. The program is on site at FSL's Iovino South Shore Family Center in Bay Shore.

This Story Sponsored by Jill and Stuart Tane

*Story #56**Bernice Selig, 2011 Recipient of LIBN CFO Award*

When Bernice Selig began her career at Family Service League 27 years ago in 1984, the organization was a small ‘mom and pop shop’ with a budget of \$1 million that operated a handful of human service programs. Now FSL is a \$24 million organization with offices throughout Long Island. Bernice has been a crucial partner of FSL’s Governing Board, executive team and program staff in order to insure that the agency uses the funds it receives from government, corporate and philanthropic sources appropriately and effectively.

Early in her tenure, Bernice acknowledged and embraced the need for the agency to grow both in services and programs while effectively managing FSL’s operating budget. Frequently small not-for-profits live “hand to mouth” as a result of unreliable cash flow. To ensure FSL’s fiscal strength, Bernice worked with the board and executive staff to develop more effective strategies for revenue utilization and create more stability in FSL’s cash flow. In addition, she structured the financing to enable FSL to purchase 790 Park Avenue in Huntington that houses our headquarters and administrative offices. Bernice was a key leader in FSL’s decision to take out a bond for properties that FSL owns, which lowered our operating expenses by 33%, thus allowing more money for the operation of our programs.

FSL is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA), a national standard-setting organization. Bernice made enormous contributions to this process and FSL has been cited by COA since 2001 for meeting the highest standards for services, administration and financial management. In August, 2011, Bernice Selig was the recipient of the prestigious CFO award by Long Island Business News. It is because of her diligence, attentiveness, fiscal prudence, and creative leadership that FSL continues to be a successful organization in spite of these tough economic times.

This Story Sponsored by Nawrocki Smith, LLP

*Story #57**Karen Boorshtein, President and CEO*

Karen assumed the reins of FSL in 2009 and has led the agency with steadiness and foresight during these economically troubled times.

A NYS Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Karen joined FSL in 1993 as Director of the Countywide Counseling Program. Her talents were soon apparent and her responsibilities extended to a broad range of additional programs. A series of promotions led to her current position as FSL's President and Chief Executive Officer.

Karen combines strong organizational and leadership skills with a keen sense of community needs and a clear vision for the future. She saw the need for comprehensive services to help needy and troubled residents of Suffolk's South Shore and became the prime mover in the development of FSL's multi-million dollar Iovino South Shore Family Center, a 44,000 sq. ft. service facility that houses 20 programs and a staff of more than 175. Each week, the Center helps approximately 1200 Suffolk individuals and families through a multiplicity of services.

Karen works tirelessly to assure the financial stability of the agency, meeting with public officials and prospective supporters to secure federal, state and county grants and private donations. She has worked to strengthen FSL staff through management trainings and actions that reward staff achievements and boost staff morale. She ably represents FSL as a board member of a variety of key organizations

We are, indeed, fortunate and proud to have Karen Boorshtein as our leader.

*This Story Sponsored by the FSL Executive Team
Peggy Boyd, Susan Edwards Buonasera, Larry Daniels,
Phyllis Haber, Madeline Kane, Bernice Selig and Larry Weiss*

*Story #58**Vaughan Spilbury: Volunteer Exemplar*

“Vaughan Spilbury is an outstanding example of a community trustee, someone who lives her life in order to make the world a better place for future generations.” These were the words spoken as Vaughn was presented with a prestigious award by the Huntington Chamber of Commerce.



Family Service League has been the beneficiary of Vaughn’s extraordinary efforts and dedication. Since 1966 — 45 years ago — Vaughn has served as an active member of FSL’s Board of Directors. During this time, she served as President, Vice-President, and Secretary of the Board and on numerous committees, most particularly the Program, Nominating and Advocacy Committees. And during these years, Vaughn served on all fundraising committees including FSL’s House Tour, Golf Classic and Great Chefs of Long Island.

Vaughn is a probing questioner, defining the core of troublesome issues, making productive recommendations, and supporting program initiatives that address the unmet needs of Suffolk residents. Vaughn is also a constant advocate for the agency. She has been an important voice at meetings with public officials and public hearings and brought numerous new Board members and donors to FSL. In addition to her commitment to FSL, Vaughn has served as President of the Townwide Fund of Huntington, a Trustee and then Mayor of the Village of Huntington Bay, Board Member and President of the Huntington Chorale Society, President of various PTAs, on the Health Panel of the United Way, and an active volunteer at her church.

Vaughn Spilbury — a true servant of her community.

This Story Sponsored by Astrid and Roberto Perez

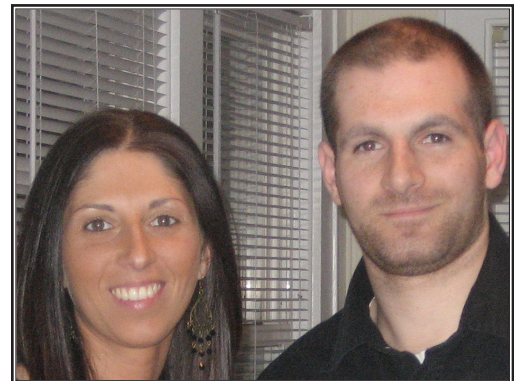
Story #59

Surviving Mental Illness & Suicide – A Sister’s Story

By Lauren Panobianco, MSW

It was a Monday afternoon, while at work when I got the call that would change my life forever. I was in the middle of answering a question asked by my assistant Carrie when my cell phone rang. It was my mom, whom I had not spoken to in a week or two. I answered the phone and immediately asked her to hold on so I could finish answering Carrie’s question. As I pulled the phone away from my ear I could hear her screaming, “Lauren, it’s an emergency, it’s Frank, he did it again, he did it again! He hung himself! He is dead!” My body immediately started to tingle and I lost my breath. I could not believe the words on the other end of the phone. How could this have happened? I thought he was doing better?

On that July 13th afternoon in 2009 I lost my younger brother and best friend. He was only 24 years old. Ten years before he was diagnosed with clinical depression. As a little boy and right up until he was a young man he fought his illness every day of his life. Frank was always actively seeking treatment to help improve his condition. He did this by utilizing services provided by various programs, therapists, psychiatrists and when needed, inpatient hospitalizations. He tirelessly researched new treatment options and medications, educating himself and his family about his illness.



However, he was reluctant to fully discuss his strife with anyone. He felt he was different because of his illness, and believed that if anyone knew, they would view him differently too.

Meeting Frank you would never know he was sick. He was a very handsome, well groomed, articulate, smart and funny guy. He was kind and generous to anyone who crossed his path. Anyone who knew my brother loved him. But Frank’s disorder hindered him socially and academically. He often secluded himself by avoiding family, friends, playing sports and other activities he once enjoyed. He had a difficult time in college and managing a job. He was unable to concentrate and often felt paranoid when in public or with large groups of people. Frank was unable to accomplish his goals as his illness consumed his life. He never felt like he fit in society because he was unable to establish a career and a self-sufficient lifestyle. Frank once told me, “I am just not good at life.” I told him this could not be further from the truth but he didn’t believe me. His mind would not allow him to believe otherwise.

After the loss of our brother, my sister, brother-in-law and I decided to continue Frank's fight against mental illness. We decided we were going to host an annual benefit to promote awareness of mental illness and suicide prevention. On June 12th 2010 the **1st Annual Frank S. Panobianco Benefit to Raise Awareness of Mental Illness and Suicide Prevention** was held and was a huge success! The committee raised over \$10,000 for Family Service League's Joe's Project. The funds were applied to the cost of educating students and school faculty about mental illness and provide counseling services to affected students and their families. Over 150 friends, family members and Family Service League employees attended the event. Frank would have been touched by all the people who honored his struggle by supporting a cause that impacted his life and continues to affect so many people today.

Frank's story inspired so many to become part of our cause. Whether it was a donation of an exciting raffle prize, a food donation, cash donation or attending the benefit, they were excited to be part of such a meaningful cause. So many wanted to support our cause because they themselves had been effected by mental illness or suicide. While reaching out for support we heard many personal stories from our donors. We heard stories of struggle with their own mental health issues. Others shared that their children, siblings or parents struggled with depression. Others disclosed stories of family members or friend who also lost their battle with mental illness.

Openly sharing Frank's story made it easier for people to share theirs. They seemed to find comfort and gratitude in knowing that awareness was being raised to an illness which most often remains in the dark. Our hope is to bring mental illness out into the open so those who suffer from this disease or know someone who does, will feel comfortable talking about it and will know how to get connected to services. Mental illness is a debilitating disease that can lead to the loss of our loved ones. Frank's story must be shared, so that others affected by mental illness know they are not alone and that help is out there. If you or someone you know are in need of services, please go to www.fsl-li.org to learn about Family Service League's programs.

This Story Sponsored by Winston Dookram

An expanded version of my story can be found in Hidden Thoughts Press soon to be released

"Mental Wellness, Real Stories of Survivors Collection."

Please visit our website for further details: <http://hiddenthoughtspress.lefora.com>

*Story #60**Peggy Boyd, CSW: Innovator and Advocate*

Peggy Boyd works tirelessly to improve the lives of Suffolk's residents through advocacy and the development of needed services that address critical life issues. As FSL's Vice President of Community Services and Advocacy, her responsibilities include identifying gaps in services throughout Suffolk County, creating programs to respond to these unmet needs, and advocating in response to issues affecting children and their families.

Joining FSL staff in 1993, Peggy's work initially focused on the needs of Huntington Station's low income minority communities. She staffed FSL's first community based family center located in a public housing project in the Station. She oversaw the development of the multi-service Manor Field Family Center which helps thousands of low income, largely Hispanic and African-American, individuals and families, each year.

Energetic and courageous, Peggy took on the difficult problem of homeless men and women by developing the TLC (The Linkage Center) and organizing HIHI (Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative). The TLC offers temporary overnight shelter, crisis intervention and referral services to men and women who are homeless. Cots, clean linens, bathrooms, showers, and light meals are provided.

HIHI (Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative) was initiated after Peggy discovered a community of homeless men, ineligible for county shelters, living deep in a wooded area of Huntington Station. More than 35 Huntington congregations were organized to provide overnight accommodations, clothing, a hot dinner, breakfast and a bag lunch during the coldest months of the year.

Peggy ably represents FSL on numerous town and county committees/task forces and has been honored by various organizations for her innovative work.

This Story Sponsored by Andrea B. and Peter D. Klein

*Story #61**Board Welcomes**Lorraine Aycock, Community Relations Manager of Bank of America*

In her role as Community Relations Manager at Bank of America, Lorraine's responsibilities enable her to support the Bank's efforts to align and deliver marketing and charitable resources to meet constituent and community needs across Long Island. While working closely with the Long Island President, she leads the planning and execution of sponsorship, philanthropic, community and business development initiatives locally.



Prior to joining the Bank in 2000, Lorraine worked at Hofstra University in the School of Education and Allied Human Services where she supported the School's efforts to achieve national and state accreditations; provided certification recommendations for educational personnel in New York City, New York State and other states; developed and presented informational seminars and co-authored an advisement manual, which received national award recognition.

In addition to supporting volunteer efforts of local organizations, Lorraine serves on the boards of the Early Years Institute, March of Dimes, and Project GRAD Long Island. She also sits on the Molloy College Business Council, President's Advisory Council at Adelphi University and Suffolk County Small Business Advisory Council. Lorraine joined Family Service League's Board this past June and was named by LIBN as one of 2011's "Top 50 Most Influential Women." We at FSL are proud to have her as part of our team.

*Story #62**Meet Katharine Posillico McGowan*

Family Service League Board member Katharine Posillico McGowan has had a long record of volunteerism before coming to Family Service League where she has made her mark in so many ways. She has worked with City Harvest Bid Against Hunger, the Race for the Cure and the Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf. She has focused her passion for helping others, though, here at Family Service League where her commitment continues to grow.

Katharine has been a member of the FSL Great Chefs Committee for four years and co-chair for three of those, as well as playing a vital role on the FSL Development Committee. As a Board member she says, “I hope to continue my fundraising efforts for FSL to keep our events fresh and exciting and encourage the under 50’s participants to get involved with the agency.”

Professionally, Katharine is the owner of Katharine Jessica Interior Design, LLC and has received many honors including Notable Designer Award 2008 – *Distinction Magazine* and “10 New Designers Under 40 to Watch” from *New York Spaces Magazine*. She brings her keen eye, vigor and enthusiastic support to her role as a member of FSL’s Board of Directors and looks forward “to helping FSL maintain and strengthen its important role in our community.”

*Story #63**Richard J. Scholem, A Long Island Trend Setter*

During Richard Jay Scholem's thirty-five years on FSL's Board, he accomplished two major goals. As President of the Board from 1991-94, he determined to move FSL from its old and cramped headquarters at 642 New York Avenue to a modern building large enough for the agency's current and future needs. Dick negotiated the purchase and signed the contract for FSL's present headquarters: the Olsten Family Center at 790 Park Avenue, Huntington.

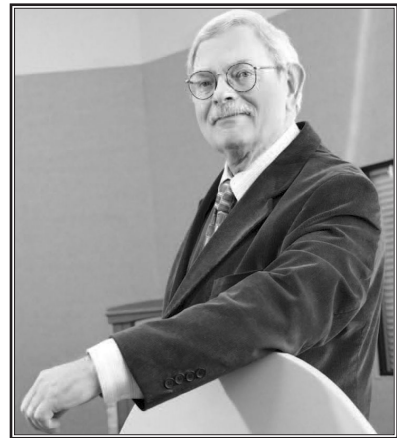
During his tenure as President, Dick, then a New York Times restaurant reviewer, created FSL's annual fund raising event, Great Chefs of Long Island. Each year he recruits 40 or more of the Island's top restaurants, wineries and bakeries to donate, cook and serve tastings of their specialties to more than 700 guests at a gala food festival. The event has become FSL's most successful fund raiser, raising more than two million dollars over the years. Other agencies have replicated this event but it has NEVER been duplicated! In addition to these activities, Dick has served as FSL's Treasurer and the Vice Chairman of Development.



Presently Dick is a restaurant reviewer for Long Island Pulse Magazine and City Guide Magazine in Manhattan and runs a restaurant consultancy business. Dick was recently honored by the Long Island Dining Alliance with its life time achievement award for his contributions to the Long Island restaurant industry. Dick also has contributed his talents to other organizations serving on the Boards of Long Island Cares, Suffolk Literacy and the American Civil Liberties Union.

*Story #64**Larry P. Weiss, DSW, LCSW-P
FSL's Clark Kent*

We wish to recognize Larry Weiss for his accomplishments as the *Senior Vice President for Programs* with oversight of all program staff in FSL's five divisions, and for his care of 45,000 + Long Island residents this year. Every day, he assumes this responsibility which requires great leadership, planning and collaborative action. Nancy and I selected Larry to be recognized on this special occasion because of his steadfast commitment to those under his supervision and care. Larry is an accomplished, extremely capable, responsible and innovative leader who joined FSL's staff in 1983.



Larry grew up on Long Island — Mineola to be exact. Always bright academically, he excelled in baseball and later went on to play semi-professional ball. After graduation from Hofstra, he was drafted into the US Army, developed an interest in social work and received important training during our military engagement in Vietnam. These transforming experiences led Larry to continue his education — first for his 2-year Master of Social Work Degree, and later for his Doctorate in Social Welfare. Academically, Larry focused on clinical, technology and research — a bold combination of pursuits. He is a NY State Licensed Clinical Social Work, a NY State Certified Social Worker, and a Diplomate in Clinical Social Work.

Larry worked his way up through the ranks. Early on, he worked at the Northport Veterans' Hospital and served as a Youth Consultant for BOCES III, developing a peer leadership initiative and child study program. At East Meadow Community Counseling Center, he served as Assistant Director where he learned management, addiction intervention and designed program evaluation methods. At the Port Jefferson Nursing Home, he was Director of Social Work where he learned about elder-care, nursing home regulation, and Utilization Review. In 1983, Larry joined Family Service League as the Program Director of Project FACILE, an innovative youth-serving program where Larry fine-tuned his management skills including

community relations, proposal preparation, budgeting and program evaluation; his staff called themselves, “Larry’s Angels.” Throughout his career, Larry always has been the teacher — as supervisor for field placement students and staff, and as professor at NYU Dental School, Suffolk Community College, Adelphi University School of Social Work, and at SUNY Stony Brook.

Over the years, Larry’s academic pursuits and practical application of knowledge and skills prepared him well for his leadership at Family Service League. It is in the realm of “best practices” that Larry has excelled and has contributed enormously to the fabric of the organization. Larry believes that “best practice” organizational and staff support make the difference between “good” and “great” service delivery.

During his 28 years with Family Service League, Larry Weiss has initiated many ideas and woven them into the fabric which makes FSL what it is today. He was always a part of the decision-making team and brought critical-thinking skills into that framework. He tilled the soil on the East End as FSL’s first administrative presence, establishing the Riverhead regional headquarters; and, later, establishing a regional presence in Brookhaven Town. We salute him most for his vision and for his assertive leadership on several Family Service League infrastructure initiatives: securing an integrated technology and computerization system; creating a comprehensive client database; developing a paradigm for comprehensive service delivery; creating the crisis management and critical-incident stress debriefing program; organizing the evidence-based service system; framing the behavioral health division’s programs; and defining and leading the agency in “best practices” to national accreditation.

This is why Larry Weiss is Family Service League’s Clark Kent. He has contributed much — always driven by mission and service — and accomplished it in an unassuming way. He has done his work without fanfare, and his sincere professional manner has drawn others not only to work with him but to pick up and complement the work which he has initiated. We should be grateful for Larry’s talent, vision and leadership.

This Story Sponsored by Rick e³ Nancy Van Dyke

*Story #65**Council on Accreditation (COA):
FSL's "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval"*

The Council on Accreditation (COA) partners with human service organizations worldwide to improve service delivery outcomes by developing, applying, and promoting accreditation standards. In 2000, Family Service League staff and board members prepared for the first accreditation by COA under then Executive Director, Rick Van Dyke.

COA is an international, independent, not-for-profit accrediting organization for community providers of services for children and families worldwide. FSL is accredited in over 45 different service areas including substance abuse treatment, adult day care, behavioral healthcare, services for persons who are homeless, foster care prevention, among others. Every four years FSL is evaluated against over 1,000 "best-practice" standards in human services.

Accreditation is designed to be a framework within which an organization can measure its achievements. A key component to accreditation is striving toward Performance Quality Improvement or PQI (aka Continuous Quality Improvement or CQI). Family Service League VP for Operations, Larry Daniels, best sums up PQI as being "data driven," and he differentiates between "outputs" (such as the number of people served), versus the quest for "outcomes" (such as measuring the extents to which people are being helped), and then striving to improve upon both the metrics and the results achieved.

After FSL's first accreditation in 2001, Larry Daniels said, "Looking forward, the accreditation of our organization and our programs represents an achievement and an award, recognizing that we, the board, the staff, and volunteers, are at the leading edge of best organizational practices, best management practices and, most importantly, best service practices for those individuals served by FSL." FSL's fourth accreditation comes up in 2013.



*Story #66**Cactus Salons “Make-Over” Night A Boost For FSL Clients*

For the 40 to 50 women who are newly venturing into the workforce, continuing their education or simply in need of a lift in self-confidence and self-esteem, the annual free evening of pampering at the Dix Hills Cactus Salon has become a great event.

Started in 2007 as a partnership between Family Service League and Cactus Salons, it has grown larger each year, now featuring approximately 80 Cactus volunteers including Stylists, Assistants, Make-up Artists, Nail Technicians, and Receptionists, as well as FSL volunteers. Cactus Salons Make-Over Night is a full-service occasion. Women are offered hair consultations, haircuts, color services, make-up applications, manicures, pedicures, waxing and complimentary gift bags. Most of these women have never before experienced just one of these services.

Cactus Salons has been extraordinary in its efforts to help our clients. According to one Cactus Salon manager, “This event has been a huge success and everyone who has volunteered has been grateful they did. We touch so many lives in such an amazing way. We always say we are in a ‘feel good’ business. This event gives new meaning to that saying.”



*Story #67**Starting School With the Right Stuff!*

With the economy still suffering, Family Service League saw more than a 9% increase in the number of families seeking help this year to secure school supplies. Now in its 13th year, more than 1,900 backpacks, completely filled with new supplies specific to their grade and local school, were distributed in Family Centers located in Huntington, Bay Shore, East Yaphank, and Riverhead this past August to over 800 families. “These children, most often from low-income homes, deserve to begin the school year with the same materials and supplies that their peers have,” reported Karen Boorshtein, President and CEO of Family Service League. “This year we saw many middle income families who have lost jobs or had their hours cut back. The money is not in the family budget for school supplies which are important to a child’s self-esteem and potential to learn.”

The major funder of this important project has been Bethpage Federal Credit Union, with New York Community Bank also providing significant support. Other funders included Capital One Bank and National Grid. Companies, including the Cactus Salons and Nixon Peabody, along with numerous individuals, have collected new supplies for Long Island students. Many of these corporate employees and individuals also volunteered their time putting the backpacks together. Nothing is more gratifying than seeing a child’s face light up upon receiving a new backpack filled with supplies!



Story #68

We Are 2010 Health Care Heroes

Family Service League was chosen as a winner of the 5th Annual Health Care Heroes Award by the Long Island Business News. The award is in the category of Community Outreach Hero. FSL was recognized as a Community Outreach Hero for its compassionate and unique program, Joe's Project, the only certified suicide *postvention* project in Suffolk County.

First responders to the scene of a suicide — such as EMTs and the police — are issued laminated cards with Joe's Project contact information to offer loved ones “after the event” assistance. Previously, there was little that first responders could do other than offer their sympathy. Now, they can make known the availability of specially trained and certified professional counselors to assist the bereaved. The Project Joe hotline is open 24/7; the program's counselors, organized in teams, are also available around the clock.

2010 Health Care HEROES NOVEMBER 2010

Business NEWS
COMMUNITY OUTREACH Winner



Larry Weiss: Helping families through the worst times.

2010 HCH Winner
FAMILY SERVICE LEAGUE

By CLAUDE SOLNIK

When the subtle signs of a mental break at the Family Service League community reached five years ago, the father found himself faced with the most difficult of life.

In soon found many groups working hard to prevent suicide, but few specializing in helping people after someone they loved had taken it. The Huntington-based non-profit has since launched "Joe's Project" to help family, friends, co-workers and others following a suicide.

"It's hard prevention programs," said Larry Weiss, a senior vice president at FSL, noting that someone contemplating suicide won't go begging if they look for help. But very few organizations, Weiss added, are equipped to work with individuals or families in the aftermath of suicide by someone close to them.

The extent of the outreach is illustrated by the fact that first responders to suicide in Long Island these days are armed not just with oxyacetylene, but with laminated cards, putting people in touch with the program. "After FSL is contacted through an around-the-clock hotline, it calls and meets counselors, sometimes in the scene of the suicide."

Suicide can't be oversteered, Weiss said. The majority of people who take their own lives are not young people but average in age from 25 to 45. And economic factors don't play a significant part in leading people to the final act, Weiss said, but include some from all walks of life and all income levels.

But FSL is not just about getting comfort and aid to people through Joe's Project. It's an essential organization on Long Island helping its neighbors face a wide range of crises.

Founded in 1925, FSL has grown into one of the island's largest non-profits with a \$21 million budget, 230 employees and 1,000 volunteers. FSL operates 47 programs at 25 locations, serving nearly 50,000 people annually struggling with depression, drug use, homelessness and other troubles.

FSL operates on the highest professional level. An example is the new Joe's Project was launched. FSL created teams of counselors certified in recognizing other suicides, including peers whose loved ones or close friends took their own life. The program is run as part of FSL's "Crisis/Community Care Action Team," an umbrella for the group's trauma response programs.

"We help do whatever the family needs to get re-established," Weiss said. "It's typically professional counseling services."

The suicide "postvention" — intervention after a suicide — program responded to nearly 50 in 2009 and is on track for roughly the same number this year.

"The intent is to deal with it as a traumatic situation and help alleviate the possibility that one's loved one post-traumatic stress disorder," and being "a horrible," he added, speaking of the loss people feel. "It's not giving this a situation where somebody has taken their life and it's simply not very bright."

Through the program, FSL also works with suicide survivor families or family members contact states, as well as being suicide prevention practitioners.

"We've been called in when people attempt suicide," Weiss said.

Although the program is funded by Suffolk County, FSL has great support, further added. "We've gone into the city and Nassau," he said. "We've had to turn people down when they call."

Weiss said it's difficult for many people to discuss suicide, but that conversations and counseling are conversations of prevention.

"When people discuss it, they bring it out," he said of feelings that can lead to suicide. "It's more likely to become less toxic."

Coming to terms with the suicide of a loved one is a very challenging emotional journey. Through Joe's Project, survivors of a suicide are offered a place to turn in their confusion and grief. Congratulations to Dr. Larry Weiss, Robyn Berger-Gaston and Donna Altonji for their leadership of this important program.

Style #69

Community Spirit of the Sammis Family

The community service and spirit of the Sammis family has a long history. In 1699, John Sammis served as a Trustee of the Town of Huntington. Since that time, the Sammis family name has been synonymous with community service.

Family Service League, established in 1926, has been fortunate to be the recipient of the Sammis family's work, wisdom, and service almost from the beginning. In 1928, Mr. Russell Sammis served on FSL's Board of Directors. Mrs. Russell Sammis, Mrs. Arnold Sammis, and Mrs. Hewitt Sammis served on the FSL Board throughout most of the 1930s. The Sammis family has consistently been part of FSL from 1928 to the present time.

Both Marge and her late husband, Quentin, who passed away in 2007, supported FSL for more than two decades. Today, Marge continues the Sammis tradition of civic responsibility. Her commitment to Family Service League has included serving as a Vice President of Fundraising, chairing FSL's Monte Carlo Nights and chairing FSL's House Tour event, which this past May honored the late Dorothy Oehlmer, past board president and friend to FSL.

In 2002, 2006 and again in 2011, Marge and Quentin Sammis made a significant financial commitment to Family Service League's House Tour which will be known as Annual Sammis Family House Tour through 2012. Because of the continued support of families like the Sammis', the needs of children and families are being met.



Story #70

Target: Homelessness

Family Service League has again responded to an important need in our community by opening its first supported housing program for formerly homeless adults. Our “home in the community” currently serves six formerly homeless men. Permanent supportive housing has proven to be the most effective long-term solution for addressing the needs of homeless people. Despite this fact, some populations of homeless people are left behind. Specifically, the chronically homeless (individuals that have experienced prolonged bouts of homelessness and also suffer from any type of disability) are frequently ineligible for the limited housing programs now available in Suffolk County. For these reasons, federal and state funding sources have made housing to meet the needs of chronically homeless individuals a funding priority.

By taking advantage of the financial and technical support of OTDA’s Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP), as well as the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Family Service League was able to acquire and rehabilitate local housing for these clients. This supportive housing is a first step in FSL’s goal of helping to reduce chronic homelessness throughout our community.

This Story Sponsored by Susan and Bob Eisner

Story #71

Long Term Care Ombudsman Program: Protecting the Elderly and Disabled

FSL’s Long Term Care Ombudservice works to protect the rights and improve the quality of life of residents of long term care facilities which include licensed nursing, assisted living, adult, and family type homes in Suffolk County. Approximately 100 trained and New York State certified volunteers visit residents in these homes weekly and work with residents, families and facility staff to resolve problems and insure proper care.

For example, on an extremely hot and humid summer Sunday, residents of an adult home were sweltering, some in medical danger, as a result of the lack of air conditioning. Regulations of NYS’s Health Department require at least one air conditioner in a large space in all such homes. Despite repeated requests from residents, family members and FSL’s Ombudsperson, there was still no air conditioner. One of the residents called the Ombudservice.

The Director of Ombudservice immediately went to the home where she encountered the facility’s owner. Meeting with resistance, she called the Department of Health, which sent an inspector to the home. When the owner continued to resist, our resolute Director announced she would not leave until an air conditioner was installed. Confronted by such determination, the owner went to the store, bought and then installed an air conditioner in the facility’s Community Room — that day.

This Story Sponsored by Judlau Contracting

Story #72

9/11 Sparks Call to Action

In September 2001, Family Service League was called on for the unprecedented task of working with 9/11 victims and family members. “It was a humbling experience for our agency, explained Dr. Larry Weiss, FSL Vice President for Programs and a C-CAT (Community Crisis Action Team) co-coordinator. Our trained mental health staff worked with co-workers, spouses, children and survivors of the September 11th attacks. Skills for treating acute stress disorder and grief counseling were in high demand.”

Following the first surge of interventions, Family Service League began planning the creation of C-CAT, a team trained and certified by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, to provide crisis specific services. C-CAT members also respond to school and family crises. Unlike traditional counseling, the purpose of these interventions is to prevent the development of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

To date, C-CAT has responded to schools following student suicides; bank employees following robberies; family members following car and motorcycle accidents; children after serious playground accidents; military personnel returning home and crime victims. C-CAT services are free and generally run for two sessions. Referrals can be made to the 24-hour, toll-free number: 1-888-FSL-CCAT (1-888-375-2228). More information is available by calling 369-0104.

*This Story Sponsored by Southside Hospital,
a member of North Shore - LIJ Health System*

*Story #73**Rita Post, CSW, Retires After 35 Years of Helping Families*

Rita Post, CSW, saw many changes during her 35 years of employment as a Counselor with FSL's Counseling Program. FSL's oldest and longest employed staff member, Rita retired in 2010 at age 85.



Rita came to FSL as a social work intern. Her talents were quickly apparent and upon graduation from the Adelphi School of Social Work in 1975, she was hired. During her career at FSL, Rita helped more than 1,000 troubled individuals and families work through a broad range of problems. She also mentored innumerable young FSL clinicians and was a role model for many.

Rita participated in the growth of a small Huntington agency to today's multi-service, county-wide organization. She worked in Huntington, opened our first South Shore office in West Islip, and provided services in two different locations in Bay Shore. Over the years, she has observed differences in our clients and their problems. For example, in the 70s, few men would come in for counseling; now numerous clients are men, coming alone or with a partner. Family life has become more complex and difficult when both parents are working. Often, there is conflict over household responsibilities and little time for parents to enjoy each other as a couple.

One stop shopping — multiple services located in our Family Centers — is viewed by Rita as a great asset for clients as well as a help to counselors who can refer clients to needed services within the same building. Rita is gratified by her work at FSL and commented “staff has always been of the highest quality and a pleasure to work with.”

Today, the “Rita Post Internship in Counseling” is presented to a quality intern in our Mental Health Program.

*Story #74**Community Thrift Shop ~ A Treasure for Families*

The Community Thrift Shop has operated in Huntington Village for over 45 years and has been the 'go to' place to donate gently used clothing and household items, as well as an inexpensive place to shop for those who are struggling financially. Whether it is a mom looking for a winter coat, a child needing snow boots, a newly employed woman looking for business attire, or a grandmother looking for a toaster oven; they can find what they need at the Community Thrift Shop at a minimum cost. As the economy continues to decline, the number of people trying to stretch their budget has increased as they forgo Macy's or Target and come looking at the Thrift Shop for a bargain.

Family Service League, as one of the current six agencies running the Thrift Shop, receives a portion of the profits each quarter which helps fund programs and services. FSL receives an average of more than \$20,000 a year from the Community Thrift Shop.

Of course, the Thrift Shop could not exist without the many dozens of volunteers who do everything from accepting, sorting, tagging, and stocking donations to helping customers, ringing up sales, and promoting the Thrift Shop within the community. Thank you to all who make the Community Thrift Shop possible.



Story #75

Project T.O.Y. (Treasure Our Youth)

Project T.O.Y. began over 15 years ago as a joint community effort between Family Service League and Tri-CYA when the agencies realized that many children were going without presents during the holidays. Originally called the Holiday Gift Boutique, and renamed Project T.O.Y. in 2010, it enables struggling families the opportunity to “shop” (at no cost) for holiday gifts at one of FSL’s Family Centers and have the pleasure of presenting these gifts to their children on their special holiday. Project T.O.Y. collects new, unwrapped toys and gift cards from partnering businesses and uses the funds raised through FSL’s Star Program in local banks (Capital One Bank, Suffolk County National Bank) to purchase additional age-appropriate holiday gifts.

Generous donations have been made by Bethpage Federal Credit Union, Bank of America, Lynn and Jonah Kaufman (Huntington), LIPA, National Grid, and many individuals, school children, and corporations. Donations can be dropped off at the Olsten Family Center in Huntington, the Iovino South Shore Family Center in Bay Shore, the Brookhaven Family Center in East Yaphank, and the Riverhead Family Center in Riverhead.

Last year over 10,800 toys were distributed with over 4,700 children and over 1,900 families being served. Each family may choose two gifts for each of their children with the assistance of our professional staff and volunteers. Donations and support of FSL’s Project T.O.Y. will be enjoyed by a child, but the happiness and pride of seeing a child’s face light up with surprise and joy is the priceless gift you have given to the entire family.



Story #76

Ramos Teen Center Dedicated September, 2009

The Ramos Teen Center unofficially opened in the summer of 2009 at the Iovino South Shore Family Center in Bay Shore as a program for middle school children as well as an “arts” program (sculpture and calligraphy). It officially opened its doors later September 17, with a dedication ceremony. NYS Assemblyman Philip Ramos provided the capital funding for construction of the room. Grants from the Junior League and Long Island Real Estate Group provided funding to outfit the room with computers, desks, TV, chairs, tables, and other necessities. The Ramos Teen Center is dedicated to providing a place for teens to go as an alternative to unsupervised, neighborhood activities.

Known as a teen center “drop-in lounge” for 13 to 16 year olds where teens came to play video games, use the computers, and talk to their peers, the Center organizes field trips, takes interactive video trips and provides counselors for teens. This past summer the Ramos Teen Center’s staff partnered with SNAP EOC and worked with TOP to teach the teens about pregnancy prevention and lessons were provided about community advocacy.

In the summer of 2011 the center provided a three-day a week program where teens were encouraged to create their own community projects. They tended to the community garden one day per week at Brentwood High School. “They then donated the produce to a local food pantry,” said Courtney Russo, FSL’s CAIR and Youth Services manager. The teens were also encouraged to raise funds for FSL’s Project T.O.Y. and did a “bake-off” to raise money for Back to School Backpack Drive.

Courtney remembers that one of the highlights of this past summer’s program was when the teens had a “great debate” about personal values after they had developed and taught a lesson on “Don’t be a follower, be a leader” based on today’s “famous” people who are continually reported on by the media. She says that the kids are excited to continue doing community projects during the school year.

Story Sponsored by East Islip Lumber

Story #77
A Penny For Your Thoughts

A Penny at Manor Field Family Center is a Penny earning the praise of the community. Penny Antonio, Program Director of the Manor Field Family Center, is a familiar face to hundreds of people in the community, a face they look forward to seeing because they know she will ensure they get the help they need, whatever it might be.



Penny earned her Masters Degree in 2004 at Stony Brook University, the first in her family to earn such a degree, Penny reports. She completed her internship at Family Service League's Family Recovery Program in Middle Island. She began her employment as Program Coordinator at Manor Field in 2006.

Staff and volunteers at the Manor Field Family Center never know what their day will bring. A family who lost everything in a fire, a child needing medical attention, a dad looking for employment, a family facing eviction, a teen in trouble needing advice, a single mom asking for food and clothing, new parents in need of a car set, a high chair, a crib. Penny seems to be everywhere at once, ensuring that everyone is getting the help they need.

Some people don't think a penny is worth much but we think our Penny is priceless.

Story Sponsored by Ellen Brafman

Story #78
A Family "Wrapped Around" with Services

Twenty-seven years old, a wife and mother of three, Mrs. M came to FSL to improve her English. She enrolled in ESL classes and her children joined FSL's Project BEE which helps toddlers and their parents learn English.

In time, all three children moved on to FSL's PreSchool Learning Center. When they entered kindergarten, Mrs. M asked if her children could attend FSL's Operation Success (homework help). At that time, eligibility for this program began at first grade. However, recognizing the importance of continuity of care, Operation Success lowered its eligibility to include kindergarteners and all three children participated in the program. The children and Mrs. S also attend many other FSL programs: Saturday family activities, arts and crafts, family movie nights and other events. As a result, Mrs. M and her children are flourishing.

Despite the family's hard work, they have experienced some hard times financially. Mrs. M had a painful dental problem and was referred by FSL's CAIR program to a volunteer dentist. The family was also referred to FSL's Back to School program (free school supplies) and to our Holiday Boutique where they selected free Christmas gifts for their children. On several occasions, Mrs. M has expressed her appreciation to FSL by beautifully written thank you notes in English.

Story sponsored by Bank of America

Story #79

Thomas Iovino ~ A Selfless Man

Thomas Iovino graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1973 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering, followed by a master's in Civil Engineering in 1974. After working for J.D. Posillico, Inc. and Nanco Construction, Tom started his own contracting company in 1983, known as Judlau Contracting, Inc. (named after his wife Judy and his daughter Lauren). Judlau has grown to a multi-million dollar company; which has given Tom the ability to do what truly inspires him — *giving*.



Giving back has always been a critical element in Tom's life. When FSL board member Vaughan Spilsbury, a member of his church, invited him to tour programs at Family Service League, Tom was deeply moved by what he saw and learned. He joined the Family Service League Board in 1993 and served as president in from 1998 to 2000. When FSL honored Tom at the 1998 FSL Golf Outing, he helped raise more than \$100,000. Since then, Tom has given generously, including an extraordinary gift to help purchase and renovate our Family Center in Bay Shore named in his honor — the Iovino South Shore Family Center.

Although Tom and his wife now live mainly in Manhattan, Tom continues to support Family Service League. Tom's foundation, the iF Foundation, started in 2002, continues Tom's philosophy of philanthropy. Father James E. Byrum, Managing Director of the iF Foundation, states, "Our philosophy is that we want to do development work rather than charity work." Tom knows that Family Service League works to empower individuals and strengthen families so that they can improve their lives and be productive members of society. This philosophy complements the mission of the iF Foundation which supports projects world-wide to develop jobs, empower people, and improve communities.

Long-time friend and fellow FSL board member, Rick Gavin of Grassi & Co., simply states, "Tom is the most selfless person I have ever met."

Story Sponsored by Katharine Posillico McGowan

*Story #80**A Tribute to Dorothy Oehmler: Board Member, Volunteer, Friend*

Dorothy Oehmler was the epitome of a community volunteer. Dottie served on FSL's Board of Directors for over 25 years where she worked with energy and dedication to improve the lives of those less fortunate. She worked tirelessly to help others in her community, and embraced life with love and warmth.

Dottie was a graduate of Radcliffe College and was past president of the Harvard Club of Long Island and served as co-chair of its Schools Committee. She was a past president of the Huntington High School PATS organization. She was actively involved in the Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative (HIHI), and served as a lector and Eucharistic Minister at St. Patrick's Church in Huntington. Her dedication to so many organizations did not impede her time spent with her family. Dottie was an avid sailor who enjoyed cruising with her husband Dick and her growing family.

Dorothy Oehmler can serve as a reminder to us all that giving of yourself is the best gift of all and comes back to you a thousand-fold. So many people knew Dottie as a warm, caring, generous, and strong individual with a love for life, family, and community. She is truly missed by all of us at Family Service League.



*Story #81**Carole Klee, Family Service League's First Volunteer Coordinator*

Carole Klee served as Family Service League's Camp Program Director from 1983 until 1986 when she assumed the position of Coordinator for Volunteer Services, where she worked up until the time of her death in 2008. Fondly remembered by Madeline Kane, Director of Human Resources, as being warm and a genuine friend to staff as well as volunteers, Carole interviewed and matched volunteers in programs such as Debt Counseling, CAIR, Camp, and Operation Success (aka Homework Help) and often did outreach for the agency at AARP, churches, and other organizations.

A former English teacher and former Assistant Coordinator for the Center of Volunteerism for Adelphi University, Carole created a Volunteer Services Manual for FSL as well as a more detailed manual for the Debt Counseling Program volunteers. Slava Vero, board member and current liaison to SeniorNet and former Debt Counselor, fondly remembers dinner meetings that Carole would set up for the Debt Counselors where they would hold a round-table discussion about those suffering from indebtedness. Carole took Slava "under her wing" and made sure that Slava became involved in volunteering for various FSL programs as well as attending community events and award ceremonies. Slava recalls that Carole was once a keynote speaker for one of SeniorNet's annual meetings and soon thereafter became the liaison between FSL and SeniorNet. "She kept SeniorNet prominent in FSL," Slava recalls.

We lost Carole after 24 years of dedicated service to Family Service League staff and volunteers. Fondly remembered, Carole will always be missed by Family Service League staff and volunteers.

*Story #82**Roxanna's Journey To A Better Future*

I have lived in the United States for about five years now, since I was 15. Originally from El Salvador, I was abandoned by my parents when I was very young and was raised by my grandparents. I loved my grandparents very much, but they could not fill the void of not having my parents around. I began to behave rebelliously. When I was 14, I met John and after a couple of months of being together, I felt that I could not live without him. We moved in together and two months later, I was pregnant.

El Salvador at that time was not a very safe place to live. There was a lot of gang activity and violence going on so we decided to move to the United States. We set out on our journey which turned out to be nothing like I expected. We traveled by land through various places. At one point I was separated from John because we were advised that the route was too difficult for me, since I was four months pregnant. We decided that I would take a "safer route." This, however, turned out to be worse. I kept getting caught by the police and sent back to Guatemala, at least six times, and so the trip took longer and longer. Finally, John came back for me and together we finally made it to the US . . . after a three-month journey.

While we have had assistance before, being able to come to Family Service League for support has been so much better. Today, John and I have two children, Stephany (4) and Moises (1). Family Services was able to get our daughter into pre-school for special education due to her inability to speak clearly. This not only helps my daughter, but has freed some time for me, so I can focus on learning more English and really trying to make something of myself for the future. I want to move forward with my life.



*Story #83**Jose Alvizures Went To Camp Last Summer*

“Going to the ECO Program at Peconic Dunes Camp was very special. I learned how to preserve Nature. Being out into the woods helped me to appreciate nature and understand how to preserve it. We experimented with many different species of plant life and animal life on Long Island. We even got to dissect a fish.

I really liked the old cabins and going to swim early morning each day. The opening campfire ceremony was awesome. We also learned how to play archery, which was the first time I had ever played before. My favorite sport there was kayaking both last year and this year. I had a great time during my week at the camp and can't wait to do everything again next year.”

Each summer, Family Service League helps hundreds of children and teens, like Jose, leave poor neighborhoods for one or two weeks and enjoy a day or sleep-away camp. Camps in the Tri-state area provide full or partial scholarships, foundations and friends make generous contributions to our annual Camp Appeal, and children enjoy swimming, fishing, hiking and leave the crime, drugs, and gangs behind.



Story Sponsored by Linda and John Bohlsen

*Story #84**Center for Family Support ~
A Dynamic Approach to Building Stronger Families*

While “family” remains the core of American society, the very concept of what constitutes a family has changed significantly. The increasing incidence of shared custody parenting, single-parent households, and families headed by a grandparent has become as common as the traditional family model. No family, however, is immune to stress or crisis, and Family Service League’s Center for Family Support offers a broad range of programs targeted at strengthening all families, regardless of structure or composition.

The challenges that face a family today may involve finances, legal problems, educational and healthcare issues or housing concerns . . . and they seldom occur alone. The Center for Family Support looks at all aspects of a client family, from internal relationships to external stressors, and seeks to assemble the spectrum of programs, services and resources necessary to strengthen the family unit and empower each member to succeed.



Programs include Debt Counseling, The Community Thrift Shop, Healthy Families NY, Community Advocacy, Information and Referral (CAIR) to name a few.

This Story Sponsored by Angelina and Manuel Martinez

*Story #85**Phyllis Haber —
FSL's "Gold Standard" in Program Development and Grants*

Phyllis Haber's career has spanned 31 years as an employee with Family Service League, but first she served on the Board from 1974 and in 1978 Phyllis was elected Board President. Phyllis also served as a volunteer in our Community Advocacy, Information and Referral (CAIR) program beginning in 1975. "Phyllis clearly has been a visionary and the consummate professional who saw with great clarity what services were needed and how they should be delivered" said Karen Boorshtein at Phyllis' retirement party this past July.

Phyllis' employment with FSL began as an Administrative Associate in 1980 where she supervised programs in the mental health field, and in 1984 became the Assistant Director, and oversaw east end clinic services. Shortly thereafter she was promoted to Associate Executive Director and then Vice President of Program Development and Grants where she worked tirelessly until her retirement in 2011.

Phyllis' long list of accomplishments includes helping to conceive and develop the Huntington Station Family Center at Lowndes Avenue in 1996 and Manor Field- One Stop Shopping Concept (both were in the heart of the community). She was the leading force in the expansion of the Preschool Learning Center in Huntington Station. Phyllis was also the originator of FSL's first program to help people who were homeless. Program Home began under her tutelage and started what has become such a critical division of service for Family Service League. From Program Home to services for seniors - ElderLink; to bringing Senior-Net to FSL, and to our early CAIR program; to *WorkPlus* and the CAPT program, "Program development became synonymous with Phyllis Haber." There isn't a program that hasn't been inspired by her in some way.

Over the years, Phyllis has served on various boards, committees, and task forces including Nassau-Suffolk Coalition for the Homeless, Townwide Fund of Huntington, and The Dolan Health Center. Qualities the Executive Team has ascribed to Phyllis are numerous: strategist, role model, advocate, a Pioneer in the Profession, clearly innovative, informed and knowledgeable, and imbued with impeccable judgment. She is truly "one of a kind" and through the years has tirelessly turned out the most comprehensive proposals while continually advancing Family Service League's mission. The focus of Phyllis' work has been the welfare of children and their parents, particularly those needing a "hand up."

Family Service League has been fortunate to have Phyllis Y. Haber as a volunteer, trustee, employee, friend, advocate, and supporter.

This Story Sponsored by Andrea B. and Peter D. Klein