

SPECIAL REQUEST—
"HELP US GET TO KNOW YOU"
Complete the Survey (Inside This Issue
or at www.hourchildren.org)



**36-11A 12th Street
Long Island City, NY 11106**

Meet our Board Members

Upcoming Event:

Christmas Party—December 22, 2007
Will be held at new location
—look for our mailing.

Fall 2007 -

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Friends and Supporters:

My involvement with Hour Children began the day I visited My Mother's House, Hour Children's first residence. I had been considering volunteering for the organization but I was not sure I had the time – I work full-time at a demanding job. Why would I volunteer? Little did I know that the answer was just inside My Mother's House. When I walked through the door, I was greeted by happy toddlers, mothers cooking in the large communal kitchen, sisters playing with babies on their laps, and older children doing their homework assisted by one of the sisters. I had been invited to dinner and was stunned by the organized chaos that I found. I knew at that moment I wanted to be part of this very happy environment. Not that life for these families is easy – in fact it is not – but knowing that support is there for them as they struggle to overcome the devastating experience of incarceration, is the reason for the many success stories. And HC boasts a 98% success rate. What do we mean by success? It means that women are drug free, moving to independent living, obtaining jobs and raising healthy families. Since its opening in 1986, My Mother's House has been a port in a storm for over 700 families who have moved on to independent living after a mother's incarceration. As President of the Board of Directors at HC, I find the work extremely challenging on every level – from fundraising, to working in the office or food pantry, to playing with the children in the daycare center, many areas that call out to me. However, right now I am calling out to our donors, not for a contribution (although contributions are always welcome) but for **assistance with editing and refining our data base.**

Because we are concerned with the accuracy of our data base and because of our need to know our donors (who we consider part of "Hour Family"), we are asking your help in completing all (or any part) of the enclosed **questionnaire**. This information will help us in planning for the future and we promise that we will not pass this information on to any other organization – it is truly only for Hour Children's benefit and our need to know who supports us. I thank you in advance for your assistance in helping us accomplish this goal.

I also want to take this moment to personally thank you for your past support. It truly makes the difference in the lives of our families – we could not do our work without you and appreciate your continued support.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine Gunn".

Elaine Gunn, President

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Elaine Gunn, President

Elaine has been on the board since 2003 and President since June 2005. She is employed as Director of Ambulatory Health Services Network at Maimonides Medical Center. Her special interest is Program Development and Financial Development but she can often be seen working in the office. Although she is also President of the Alumni Association Kings County Hospital Center School of Nursing....she still has time for Hour Children. Her hobbies are watching movies and traveling.

Executive Committee continued ...



Jeanne Martowski, Vice President

Jeanne, a founding member, was the first President of the board. Through her work as an advocate at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility Children's Center, Jeanne developed an interest in the future of women after release. Jeanne joined Sr. Tesa and others to help provide a place to live and programs that would assure a woman's successful re-entry and reunification. Her special interest at Hour Children is Development and she tutors one day a week in Hour After School "Club." Her hobbies are gardening, reading and traveling. Jeanne also finds the time to serve as Board Treasurer for Landmark West, a preservation group on the upper Westside of NYC.



Patricia Gallagher, Treasurer

Patricia has been on the board since 2003 and had been Vice President from 2005 to 2007 when she became Treasurer. She is employed by John Hancock Financial Services and is a Trustee of Good Shepherd Parish. Her special interests at Hour Children are Finance, Development and the thrift shops. Her hobbies are watching movies, traveling and playing with her grandchildren.



Sister Katherine Hanrahan CSJ, Secretary

Sr. Kitty, who lives at My Mother's House, is currently principal at Our Lady of Sorrows elementary school. She has been on the board since 2001 and has served on the Executive Committee as Treasurer and Secretary since 2003. The life and growth of Hour Children are her major interests. She brings experience from other Boards such as the Brooklyn Ecumenical Cooperative where she worked on Housing issues and the Academy of St. Joseph Executive Board which dealt with fiscal matters. S. Kitty, a Sister of St. Joseph since 1963, has ministered as principal of three Catholic elementary schools for more than 30 years.

THE DIRECTORS

Stephen Cavallo has been on the board for three years. He is President of Mirror Fair, manufacturer of reproduction mirror frames in NYC. He is also majority owner and board member of Froots Franchising, a smoothie health food chain. A great supporter of Sr. Tesa and Hour Children, Steve's special interest at Hour Children is Finance.

Sister Kathy Costello, CSJ, a founding member is employed as a supervisor at St. Francis de Sales School for the Deaf in Brooklyn, NY where she has worked for 40 years. After school, she can be found playing with the children at My Mother's House where she lives "a wonderful life" with the many mothers and children who are part of Hour Children. Sister Kathy's special interest at Hour Children is Board Development and works on the Nominating Committee.

Tom Cunneen is our newest board member. As Vice President for the Business Concierge Group for North Fork Bank, we expect that his special interest will be in the area of Finance.

Martin Dunn is President of Dunn Development Corporation. Martin builds low income housing in the boroughs of New York City. On the Hour Children Board since 2003, Martin provides invaluable advice in the area of permanent housing.

Maureen Hanvey has been on the board since 2003 and has served as Treasurer on the Executive Committee. She is employed as an accountant at Project Hospitality. Her special interest at Hour Children is Finance.

Linda Lamel has been on the board since May 2007. Linda is in private practice specializing in regulatory matters and arbitration and is an Adjunct Associate Professor at Brooklyn Law School. Linda is also a member of the Board of the Greater New York Councils of Boy Scouts, Brooklyn Law School Alumni Association. She chose to become a member because "it is an outstanding grassroots organization helping an often unseen and ignored population—incarcerated women and their children."

Juliana Herald-Robinson has been affiliated with Hour Children for the past 10 years and has been on the board for 3 years. Juliana has been instrumental in assisting women obtain permanent employment. She is employed as Customer Service Manager at Select Express & Logistics. She holds a BA in Psychology and is completing her MBA.

Gladys and Robert White have been on the board for three years. Their special interest at Hour Children is Finance. Both “Gigi” and Bob own their own businesses.

We thank the Board for so generously giving their time and talent !

Where do you live, Sister? What do you do?

by S. Katherine Hanrahan, Secretary

These are questions that I frequently answer when I’m with family, friends and acquaintances I haven’t seen in a while or new people I meet through my “job”, as school principal. The answer to these questions is simple. I am a Catholic school principal. I have been for over 30 years in three very different schools. I love my ministry. I live in My Mother’s House, part of the Hour Children network, and I love living here as well.

I have been part of the Hour Children resident staff since 1999 when I joined two other Sisters of St. Joseph in our home in Richmond Hill. In 2003, I moved to My Mother’s House, in the convent building in St. Rita’s Parish, Long Island City. Since 2003, My Mother’s House is where we first welcome a woman and her baby born in prison. Since My Mother’s House was founded in 1985, hundreds of children have passed through its doors. Founded to provide a loving, nurturing home for the children of incarcerated women, the House has also been “home” to Sisters of St. Joseph. To me, *that* is the basic ingredient. I am at home and so are Sr. Kathy and Sr. Carole, the other sisters in this local community. We live our lives and welcome into it families—women and their children, who are making a new beginning after the trauma of incarceration and other problems along the way.

The supportive programs provided are essential to give each mother the professional help she may need. Our noisy suppers, quiet kitchen conversations, song fests of “Old MacDonald” or “The Itsy Bitsy Spider” and 24 hours, 7 days a week of living together is a special component in the journey to a new life. It is also a special blessing to me. My family is extended and my prayer much deeper as I share life and growth with these special moms and their children.



Hour After School “Club” was extended into the summer months, when our teacher, Emily Gohn, focused on ecosystems and their components. The children explored the different ecosystems in the East River watershed and how they affect each other. Using a large net, they caught many kinds of different small fish and different varieties of seaweed. The children also went beach-combing along the East River and learned about the history of New York from the things that they found, such as, a brick from the turn of the century with a date imprinted, slag - a material that was produced in the manufacturing of cannons, etc. All of their “primary research” and exploration led to discoveries and further research at the library to identify dates of manufacture, why and where these materials were used. (Seen here are the children evaluating their “catch”..)

NEW PROGRAM AT HOUR CHILDREN



Hour Working Women Program (HWWP) - Lynn Anne Verbeck-Terrier has been hired as our Job Trainer/Job Developer to implement this comprehensive program. All of our clients are excited to have the opportunity to work and receive on-the-job training as well as seminars regarding professional behavior, computer literacy, peer interaction and workshops that will focus on the job search. Lynn Anne will also reach out to employers who are reluctant to hire an ex-offender. **If you can provide a job for any of our candidates, you would be an Hour Children Star.** We promise that we will only recommend qualified, hardworking, women who are willing to start at the bottom – so long as there is opportunity for growth and promotion. Call Lynn Anne at 718-433-4724, Ext. 13 with your requirements.....and when they “graduate,” we will contact you.

A Promotion for Jeanna Graves – Congratulations Jeanna!

Jeanna began as a volunteer. We then hired her as an Office Assistant, but it was not very long before we promoted her to train with our CPA. Jeanna is currently enrolled in college.



Our own Tina Allen was part of an Hour Children story featured on the Channel 4 News, on the Perry Peltz segment, about mother/child bonding at Taconic Correctional Facility Nursery.

(Aired July 30, 2007)

Hour Kids

Thank you to: Leonore Blitz who celebrated her birthday by inviting her friends to donate to Hour Children.

Also Thank You to:

The Tucciarone children who honored their parents' 57th wedding anniversary by contributing to Hour Children's Tribute Fund.

Board Member, Jean Martowski and
Micah White at the Annual Pool Party.



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