

Imagine...



Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers, Inc.
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO

AGENCY AT A GLANCE

Conducts more than 60,000 visits annually.

Staff consists of more than 100 highly credentialed, culturally and ethnically diverse professionals.

Serves a diverse population—48% African-American or Caribbean; 40% Latino; 10% Caucasian.

Public funding/government contracts comprise 90 percent of annual income. The remainder must be raised from the community.

84 cents of every dollar used to support programs.

Save the Date

Please join us for music, dancing, and a buffet dinner at the

Speakeasy Casino

Friday, October 25, 2002
 New York Marriott, Brooklyn

For reservations contact:
 Empire Events Group
 212-625-1025

For details, see us online at www.bpcinc.org/events

Dear Friends and Supporters:

We are in the midst of recovering from a tumultuous year. We have experienced the tragedy of September 11, the struggles resulting from the City's fiscal crisis, and the uncertainty of a volatile stock market.

Yet, in our country and city's darkest hours, we at Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers have maintained our unwavering commitment to our mission to provide quality mental health services to those in need in our communities.

MasterCard runs an effective advertising campaign that points out that many things in life are, in fact, "priceless." That's the word that comes to mind when I think of the lives touched by our programs and the hope given to our families.

How can one put a price tag on what it means when an eight-year-old child, who has never spoken at school or even outside of her home, begins speaking after receiving treatment...or when a six-year-old boy who was depressed and suicidal begins to express his feelings and experience happiness after participating in group and individual therapy sessions...or when a nine-year-old immigrant girl who was volatile, needy, provocative, and sad after leaving her beloved father and country behind becomes calmer and excels academically with the help of our therapists... or when our programs give hope and

success to young people at one of the high schools we serve where only 30 percent of the students graduate in four years.

I'm also reminded of the middle-aged woman with a long psychiatric history and frequent hospitalizations who began treatment three years ago and hasn't been hospitalized in two years. Another client, who left an abusive relationship, returned to college, and expanded her career, often says, "I can't believe I used to be that person with so many problems."

The list of our successes is a lengthy one. When we are tempted to get discouraged, these victories get us through the dark times and are indeed priceless.

But for those who wish to put a price tag on success, I contend that our programs—community-based treatment centers, school-based programs, drug and alcohol abuse programs, and others—save the government and taxpayers money.

We save money by offering programs that keep individuals out of prisons and hospitals, preserve families, where appropriate keep children out of special education programs, and enable people to work and care for themselves and their families.

Compare the average cost of \$6,000 per person, per year for our services to the cost of other options:

- One year of special education services costs \$34,272 per year, per child versus general education of \$7,683 per year, per child.
- One year of incarceration costs \$39,600 nationally per year, per person and costs even more in New York City and State.
- Foster boarding homes cost more than \$7,000 per year, per child, and residential treatment centers average \$50,000 per year, per child.
- And, in-patient psychiatric hospitalization costs the government as much as \$140,000 per year, per patient.

Society has a responsibility to take care of people who cannot survive without our assistance. The vulnerable don't disappear during difficult times, but need our help more than ever. Additionally, mental health services help not only the individual in treatment, but the family members and all the people who come in contact with this person.

The bottom line is that society benefits from quality mental health services. After all, consider the alternatives.

Pamela D. Straker, PhD
 Executive Director/CEO



AGENCY HONORS CHARLES F. KOEHLER



Left to right: Dr. Pamela Straker, executive director and CEO of Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, with a citation recognizing Mr. Koehler, and Charles F. Koehler, president and CEO of Community Capital Bank. Photo by Greg Mango.

Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers honored Charles F. Koehler, president and CEO of Community Capital Bank, with its *Imagine* Award at its annual "Friendraiser" on Wednesday, June 5 at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

"Community Capital Bank and Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers share the same goal—to improve the quality of life for all residents in our communities," said Dr. Pamela Straker, executive director and CEO of Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers. "Mr. Koehler's leadership at Community Capital Bank and his commitment to providing loans and financial services to businesses that create jobs in low- and moderate-income communities make him a perfect candidate for our *Imagine* award."

Mr. Koehler said, "I am proud to accept the *Imagine* award from Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers. For more than 95 years the agency has served those who are in need of quality mental health services, which is critical particularly this year in the wake of the tragedies of September 11. I share with the agency the goal of rebuilding New York's communities so that all of our residents have the opportunity to function as productive students, entrepreneurs, parents, and family members."

Community Capital Bank, New York's first community development bank, has supported the growth of neighborhoods by pro-

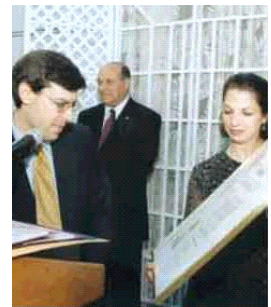
viding banking services to individuals, nonprofit organizations, small businesses, developers of affordable housing, real estate entrepreneurs, and construction firms in all five boroughs of New York City. A New York State-chartered, FDIC insured commercial bank headquartered in Brooklyn, Community Capital Bank is the only Brooklyn-based Small Business Administration (SBA) preferred lender and received the SBA's Bronze Award in recognition of its success.

Since joining Community Capital Bank in March 1998, Mr. Koehler has worked to increase profits while expanding the bank's markets and technological capabilities. Mr. Koehler has more than 25 years of experience in all areas of bank management, commercial real estate lending, operations, controller's function, and business and personnel development. Before joining Community Capital Bank, Mr. Koehler served as an executive vice president, chief lending officer, and chief operating officer with community banks in Washington, D.C., and New York City. He also has taught at the City University of New York and American Institute of Banking for over 20 years.

In 2000, Mr. Koehler was named Entrepreneur of the Year by *Crain's New York Business* magazine, and the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) also selected him as Entrepreneur of the Year

at its annual awards ceremony. In 2001, he was honored by New York City Technical College, which recognized his outstanding service as an instructor and supporter for the New York Banking Training Partnership. He also accepted the Distinguished Community Banking Award from the New York Housing Conference and National Housing Conference last December.

Mr. Koehler serves on the board of directors of Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) and is a member of the Brooklyn Public Library's Business Library Success Council. He is a graduate of the Stonier Graduate School of Banking, Rutgers University, attended Empire State College, and studied for a master's of business administration at American University.



Councilman David Yassky presents a proclamation recognizing Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers to Joan Bartolomeo, board president of Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers. Photo by Greg Mango.

"For more than 95-years the agency has served those who are in need of quality mental health services, which is critical particularly this year in the wake of the tragedies of September 11."

CHILDREN VISIT LIBERTY SCIENCE CENTER



Children enjoy their day at Liberty Science Center.

More than 200 children, parents, and staff from Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers' programs spent a day in March at Liberty Science Center, thanks to the generosity of Kodak .

Kodak participated in Liberty Science Center's program to reach out to inner city communities and offered free admission to the agency's children and their parents.

STAR PROGRAM NAMED FOR ROSE GELORMINO

Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers renamed its STAR (Support Team for Awareness and Responsibility) Program the "Rose Gelormino STAR Program" at a dedication ceremony May 8 honoring the late Mrs. Gelormino.

The STAR Program, a division of Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers, is an on-site licensed mental health program located in various schools throughout District 15 in Brooklyn. The STAR program provides counseling services to school children experiencing emotional difficulties that are affecting their learning abilities and/or behavior, while maintaining the children in regular educational classes. Counsel-

ing consists of individual, family, or group treatment.

"Mrs. Gelormino is being recognized because the faith, love, care, and support she exhibited during her lifetime are qualities that enable us to "Imagine" a better world," said Dr. Pamela Straker, executive director and CEO of Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers. "We are honored that the Gelormino family would lend the name of their beloved mother to this vital program."

Mary Gelormino, Rose Gelormino's daughter, a vice president at Fleet Bank, was honored by Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers with the agency's *Imagine* Award at its Friendraiser in

April 2001. Mary Gelormino and her four brothers, Generoso, Anthony, Louis, and James, unveiled the plaque and cut the ribbon for the program named after their mother at the ceremony held at Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers' downtown headquarters.

"May the spirit of the Rose Gelormino STAR Program provide the hope, inspiration, and imagination to all people this program will serve so that they will never give up hope," Mary Gelormino said. "And regardless of the challenges they face, may they step beyond and reach their unreachable star."



Left to right: Dr. Pam Straker, executive director and CEO of Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers, Mary Gelormino, vice president of Fleet Bank, and City Councilman Martin J. Golden display the Rose Gelormino STAR Program plaque. Photo by Greg Mango.

PEER COUNSELORS REACH OUT TO TEENS

They're young, energetic, and outspoken--they're the new Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers Peer Counselor Team at Erasmus Hall High School: Brannon Woodfin, Fabiola Desmont, and Kepriec Lindsay. All graduates of Erasmus, Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers brought them back to lead HIV prevention workshops and student support groups entitled "Sister Circle" and "Brotherhood."

"When we were awarded the two grants--one from the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies and the other federal--I wanted to try something completely new," said program administrator Sean Grover. "I thought hiring former students would open up new possibilities in reaching at-risk youth at Erasmus. So I contacted Barbara Silverman, the director of a successful group therapy program at the school entitled, "Let's Talk About It." She loved the idea and

began calling alumni from her groups. That's how we got this amazing team."

"When I was a student at Erasmus, having someone to talk to made all the difference in my life," notes Brannon. "I went through a lot, I survived a lot of difficulties. Unfortunately so many of the kids I grew up with are dead or in jail. Now I have this opportunity to come back here and be the kind of person that inspired me when I was their age. Help them the way I was helped."

How do students respond to the team? "When we walk into a class to do an HIV prevention workshop, the students are surprised. We look just like them," Brannon commented.

"They open up very quickly. We're from the same neighborhoods, we've been through the same situations that they find themselves in now," added

Fabiola. "Seeing students grow and make better choices is so rewarding."

"That's my favorite part. Seeing students start to take pride in themselves and make better decisions," added Brannon. "I understand the difficult circumstances they are going through. I tell them, 'Everyday you're alive is another day you can do better with your life. As long as you are breathing you can grow.'"

"Our Peer Counselor Team represents the best of a new generation of social workers," Mr. Grover said. "They have the capacity to reach and inspire at-risk students that would otherwise never engage in mental health services. As former Erasmus students, they know better than anyone that within every struggling youth lies a vast reserve of untapped potential waiting to be developed."

"Everyday you're alive is another day you can do better with your life. As long as you are breathing you can grow."



Peer counselors: Brannon Woodfin in back, left to right in front, Kepriec Lindsay and Fabiola Desmont.



NEW HEALTH COMMISSIONER VISITS

Phone: 718-875-5625
Fax: 718-875-5672
Web site: www.bpcinc.org
E-mail: info@bpcinc.org

Program Locations

Bushwick Mental Health Center
1420 Bushwick Avenue

Canarsie Mental Health Clinic
1310 Rockaway Parkway

*Central Brooklyn Initiative Program, The
Children's Assertive Community Treatment
Team (ACT)*
2150 Beverley Road

Clearway
44 Court Street

Flatbush-Sheepshead Mental Health Clinic
3043 Avenue W

*Louis E. Reinhold Downtown Mental Health
Center, STAR School Program, ACCESS-AOT*
189 Montague Street, Suite 436

*Michael Spiegelman V.I.P. - C.S.S. Day Pro-
gram, V.I.P. Mobile Geriatric Treatment
Team*
1310 Rockaway Parkway

*Williamsburg-Greenpoint Mental Health
Clinic, WIN School Program*
819 Grand Street

Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH, the newly appointed Commissioner of the New York City Department of Public Health met with clients of Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers during a visit to the organization's downtown offices on February 6.

After he was sworn in as commissioner on January 29, Dr. Frieden began touring health and mental health programs in all five boroughs and selected the agency as one of his first stops.

Serving the clients "that's the most important thing," Dr. Frieden said, explaining why he was visiting health facilities throughout the city so soon after assuming his new position. "The services are here for the people who use them, and mental health issues are particularly critical after September 11."

Dr. Frieden had separate meetings with groups of clients from Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers' clinics in Williamsburg and Bushwick, youth from the agency's Children's Assertive Community Treatment Team and Central Brooklyn Initiative Program at Erasmus High School, a group from the Clearway Program, and the agency's Consumer Advisory Committee. During the meetings Dr. Frieden took notes and spoke

fluent Spanish to the agency's Spanish-speaking clients.

"He was extremely sensitive and engaging," said Dr. Pamela D. Straker, executive director and CEO of Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers. "He's willing to listen and interested in learning. It was so important for him to have the opportunity to speak to the people who actually use the services. We look forward to working with the Commissioner."



Dr. Thomas Frieden, center, meets with clients and Myron Greenberg, administrator Williamsburg-Greenpoint Mental Health Clinic.

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MÉNDEZ-SANTIAGO TOURS SENIOR PROGRAM

As part of an ongoing effort to familiarize himself with all programs serving the elderly in New York City, Edwin Méndez-Santiago, Commissioner of the Department of Aging, toured Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers' Michael Spiegelman V.I.P./C.S.S. Day Program for Seniors in Canarsie May 21.

"We want to serve as an advocate for all older people, regardless of the funding stream," Commissioner Méndez-Santiago said of his interest in the Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers' program. "We want to be an advocate for all seniors."

Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers' Day Program for Seniors, which is

funded by the Department of Mental Health, serves 45 seniors 58 years and older from all over Brooklyn who have a mental health diagnosis such as depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, or obsessive compulsive disorder.

As Commissioner Méndez-Santiago walked through the center, which was adorned with signs welcoming him, he visited with the program's seniors and invited them to participate in the activities sponsored by the Department of Aging.

"We appreciate the warmth and concern that Commissioner Méndez-Santiago expressed for the seniors in our program," said Dr.

Pamela Straker, executive director and CEO of Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers. "We hope to participate in his agency's activities in the future."

The Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers' Day Program for Seniors at 1310 Rockaway Parkway is open Monday through Friday and offers participants socialization activities and therapy to help them overcome their conditions. Transportation is provided and the program includes culinary arts; music therapy; physical therapy; occupational therapy; individual, group, and family therapy; art classes, and lunch.



Left to right: Merry Nachemin, program administrator for the Day Program for Seniors; Edwin Méndez-Santiago; Dr. Pamela Straker, executive director and CEO, and Marie Kelleher, director of clinical operations and COO.

