



DENNIS

The adversity I have faced has shaped the man I am today and the things that matter most to me. I was abandoned by my father at birth, and have had little contact with my mother due to her battle with her own demons. I was fifteen years old when my grandmother, who raised me, became too ill to continue as my guardian. I was moved into group homes, run by Family and Children's Association (FCA), and lived in these homes for five years as I transitioned into adulthood. During this period, I began my career at Citigroup, and enrolled in college. I look back at this period as laying the groundwork for my future success.

I've been deeply impacted by the kindness of strangers. I wake up feeling as if I have a debt to pay to the selfless staff and the donors of FCA. I'm afraid to think of what my life would be like today if I had not been the beneficiary of their help and compassion. When I entered FCA, I had no direction and no plan of how to find one. It was in these group homes that I learnt to set goals, and the agency's unwavering belief in me helped me gain the self-confidence needed to achieve these goals. I live to prove their faith in me was well placed.

Gift my talents to society, and helping to create a more equitable environment for those in need is what matters most to me. I remember feeling as if everyone knew that I lived in a group home, and the accompanying feeling of insecurity. I often visit the homes I once lived in to speak with the residents, and I take great pride in setting an example. I find these interactions incredibly enriching. In my talks with the residents, I share my experiences, and let them know that success is possible. I encourage them to take their future into their own hands, and to take ownership of their decisions. It is these conversations that keep me grounded, and remind me of why I work so hard. There is a wall of fame at FCA rewarding those who save the most money while in the program. My name is at the top of the list, and one resident told me that his goal was to one day be more successful than me. Inspiring his success inspires me.

Thank you to everyone who helped me by donating to Family & Children's Association.



ARAKEL

I am twenty-three years old and originally from Bagdad. I had a wonderful childhood. My father was a mechanic, had his own shop, and was very successful. My mother was the manager for the national ladies volleyball team, which won the Iraqi championship in 2007. Life was good. I had no concerns or problems. In 2008, life started going downhill in Iraq. Bombs were being found on every corner. Kidnapping had rarely occurred in Iraq, but now we started to hear that people were being kidnapped on a daily basis. At first, wealthy people were the target. Millionaires and famous business people were being picked up from their houses and work places. Then high profile athletes became targets. The taekwondo national team was kidnapped on the highway on their way to the Asian championship games in Iran. National soccer players were being killed for no apparent reason. Churches in Iraq were being bombed on Sundays during masses. Christians were officially announced as sinners and killing them was fair in the Muslim extremists' standards in Iraq.

In less than a year, the danger escalated dramatically. I never thought that any member of my family would be threatened or targeted. Unfortunately, I was wrong. My brother and I played for Iraq's national basketball team for ages eighteen and under which made me a target. I realized that different cars were frequently following my brother and me. My mother received a phone call saying that we were not only sinners because we were Christians, but we were in extreme danger because of our involvement in sports. At first, we did not believe and thought it was a joke. Then my basketball coach was kidnapped and killed. My closest friends were being kidnapped and killed for no reason. Phone calls to my mother's cell phone became very aggressive. We lived in extreme fear. My father could not go to his shop and we could not go to school or practice. We kept hoping the situation would improve, but things only became worse.

(To be continued.)

GET THE FULL STORY ONLINE AT www.familyandchildrens.org/stories



family matters

Our Fourth Child

Recently, two of our clients brought us exciting news: Dennis, a former resident in our program for homeless youth will be attending Stanford University's Graduate School of Business this fall where he'll be pursuing an MBA. And, Arakel, a student in our Vocational Education program for adults needing a high school equivalency diploma, was accepted into the School of General Studies at Columbia University in New York. Acceptance into these prestigious universities would be a feather in any student's cap, but for these young men who've faced homelessness and had to rebuild their lives inch by inch, it's absolutely amazing. (You can read their stories on page 4 and online at www.familyandchildrens.org/stories) The support that we've been able to offer them will pay dividends for these young men and the greater Long Island community as they study hard and become self-supporting adults. We look forward to the time when they will be able to give back to help others who may follow in their footsteps at one of the many programs offered at Family & Children's.

The programs and support that Dennis and Arakel received were made possible by the staff, donors and volunteers who help make Family & Children's Association the community of caring that it is. One of those very special volunteers and donors is Dick Grafer, a tutor at our Vocational Education program, a member of our Board of Trustees and a member of our "Families Forever" planned giving program. The planned giving program offers those who believe in making investments in the futures of young people in need an opportunity to support the efforts of students like Dennis and Arakel through their estate planning.

We asked Dick how he got involved in our planned giving program. He said that he and Peter Bogan (who is also a member of our Board of Trustees) had extensive discussions about their current efforts on behalf of FCA and how they wanted those efforts to continue beyond their lifetimes. They discussed estate planning several years ago and as a result of those discussions, they (and their wives) decided to follow the same approach, i.e. to carve up their estates into equal shares for their three children and charity ("our fourth child").

We are very concerned about the growing inequality in wealth, particularly here on LI, and about those victimized or left behind by this inequality through no fault of their own.



Dick Grafer tutoring Voc Ed student Nancy Gousse.

According to Dick, "We have always believed that sharing with the less fortunate is not just a good thing but an important part of our faith. The question was how best to do it. Like most other families, we knew we needed a certain amount to live on after our retirement, so there was a limit on what we could give away during our lifetime. However, the only limit after our lifetime is what we think our children need. For us, that was not so difficult to determine because our children are not disadvantaged in any way and support what we believe in.

(continued on page 2.)



Welcome by Philip M. Mickulas
President/CEO

I'd like to begin the New Year by thanking you for your generous support in response to our year-end appeal. In writing thank you letters to so many of you, I was reminded of the Donor Bill of Rights which includes tenets that guide our stewardship of your financial gifts. We make every effort to live by these ideals to make our organization the fine "community of caring" that it is. Accordingly, we believe our donors have the following rights:

1. To be informed of our mission, of the way we use donated resources, and our capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purpose. We hope this newsletter as well as our electronic edition provides information on our programs and services and their benefit to those we serve.
2. To be informed of those serving on our governing board and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities. This newsletter as well as our website www.familyandchildrens.org carries an up-to-date listing of trustees whose sound judgment has proven invaluable in navigating the uncertain financial climate of the last few years.
3. To have access to our most recent financial statement. Our financial statements are available on our website at <http://www.familyandchildrens.org/Annual-Reports> or if you'd prefer a hard copy, please email us at news@familyandchildrens.org
4. To be assured your gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given. We strictly adhere to gift designations as noted by our donors.
5. To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition. I acknowledge each gift with a letter of gratitude and we recognize donors in our annual Stewardship Report.

(continued on page 2.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

www.familyandchildrens.org

SAVE THE DATE

5/24
Golf and Tennis Tournament
at the Creek Club

6/19
Scholarship Reception at Jericho Terrace

10/20
Bar-B-Que & Chili Festival

11/15
Holiday Ball
at the Garden City Hotel



Honorees Rosanne Scordio and Rich Covallaro Build Momentum for Thanksgiving Ball, raising over \$225,000!

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #55
Mineola, NY

Inside:
Donor Bill of Rights



www.familyandchildrens.org

Hero of the Month



FORCHELLI, CURTO, DEEGAN, SCHWARTZ,
MINEO, COHN © TERRANA, LLP



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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William Siegel
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* DECEASED

The mission of Family & Children's is to protect and strengthen Long Island's most vulnerable children, seniors, families, and communities. We offer assistance to those who are experiencing social, emotional, and economic challenges.

Thank You Patricia Pryor-Bonica: Board Chair – 2009 – 2011

Patricia Pryor-Bonica, chairperson of our Board of Trustees from 2009 to 2011, led the agency through two of the most difficult years in its history with grace and compassion. Patricia encouraged staff and clients to be the best they could be and participated in all of the agency's events and fund raising programs. She will resume her role as a trustee and continue to advocate for Long Island's neediest children and families.

Welcome Drew Crowley: Board Chair – 2012 – 2014

FCA welcomes Drew Crowley, Senior Vice President Capital One Bank to the position of Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. Drew has been a supporter of FCA since 1994 and has donated time and resources to help the agency fulfill its mission and care for its clients. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees since 1996 and has participated in many committees, events and initiatives to further the agency's vision of helping the most vulnerable among us.



Welcome by Philip M. Mickulas *(continued from page 1.)*

- To be assured that information about your donations are handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law. Your information is kept confidential and is never shared with any other organization.
- To expect that all relationships with individuals representing FCA will be professional in nature. Our staff of trained educators, social workers and counselors strives to provide ethical and effective service to those we serve.
- To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of FCA or hired solicitors. We do not hire solicitors for raising funds. Only staff and volunteers are engaged in this effort.

- To have the opportunity for your names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share. We do not share our donor list.
- To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers. As always, you can email us at news@familyandchildrens.org or call 516-746-0350 x335.

Please accept our sincere gratitude for your gifts of time and/or treasure. And, if our appeal got waylaid in the holiday gift wrap, have no fear; we will gratefully accept your support of our mission at anytime throughout the year.

Phil

Our Fourth Child *(continued from page 1.)*

So, around the time of my retirement, we basically carved-up our estate between what we thought our three children would need and the rest, which we designated for charity, or "our fourth child". FCA is one of several charities designated in our estate planning although it has the largest share. All of the charities designated are ones we've been actively involved with and whose cause we strongly support. We are very concerned about the growing inequality in wealth, particularly here on LI, and about those victimized or left behind by this inequality through no fault of their own. That's why my wife Gloria and I devote most of our available time to organizations like FCA which specifically focus on these "neighbors".

We asked Dick if there was any financial benefit to his estate from his involvement in our planned giving program. He said, "It's difficult to determine how a planned giving program will benefit our estate financially because of the ever-changing estate tax laws. However, since saving taxes is not the primary reason for our planned giving program, whatever financial benefit is achieved is irrelevant except in terms of more being left over for the designated charities. Of course, there is a significant non-financial benefit—the sense of satisfaction we get from doing what is right and setting a good example for our children. In fact, this is such a compelling benefit that we might even accelerate our after-life giving into our lifetime if circumstances permit."

More information on our Planned Giving program is available on our website at www.familyandchildrens.org/plannedgiving or you can request a copy by mail through news@familyandchildrens.org

PLEASE HELP TRANSFORM A LIFE AND DONATE TODAY.

4 Easy Ways to Help

- We're looking for a sponsor for our upcoming Barbeque & Chili Fest.** Please ask your employer or favorite food merchant if they'd like to donate \$2000 to become our sponsor.
- Friend us on Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/familyandchildrens>
Follow us on Twitter: @Care4LI
- Can you teach young adults about managing their personal finances?** The clients in our residence for homeless youth are in need of financial planning and debt management info.
- We're looking for a celebrity chef for an upcoming event.** If you or someone you know is famous for their culinary skills, please let us know.

EMAIL US AT NEWS@FAMILYANDCHILDRENS.ORG
TO GET INVOLVED IN OUR COMMUNITY OF CARING.

A Helping Hand: Our community of caring in action

Thank you to all the members of our community of caring who generously gave their time or treasure by Adopting-A-Family, running a drive or making dinners for our neediest clients, especially:



IN CIRCLE – ABOVE, LEFT: **Glen Boehmer and Sentinel** for running a Fuzzy Drive at their holiday party to collect hats, gloves and blankets for those in need, and donated \$10 for each party attendee to Family & Children's.

IN CIRCLE – ABOVE, RIGHT: Interior Decorator **Lorraine Waitz Gropper of RoomliftsbyLorraine.com** and her painter **Greg Panullo of All American Painting** for donating their time and talent to redecorate two bedrooms at our shelter for runaway teens.

- The folks at **Henry Schein, Inc.** for hosting a holiday party and giving presents to families in our *Family Ties* program.
- The **Waldorf School students** who generously filled 75 tote bags with personal care items.



IN BOX – RIGHT: **Stephanie Cullum and the realtors at Coach Realtors in Garden City** ran a toy drive and collected 100 toys to help our youngest clients enjoy the season.

- The employees of **MSC Industrial Direct** who ran a "Silver & Gold Valentine's" drive to collect personal care items for seniors in our *Ombudservice* program.
- Oceanside Lutheran Church** who made a large toy donation plus sponsored *Senior and Family Support* clients.
- Meltzer Lippe Goldstein & Breitstone, LLP** for their very generous support of a *Family Ties* client.
- Students at Hicksville High School** for donating a large supply of new coats, clothing, hats, gloves and blankets.
- The children in **Ms. Sanders second grade class at Trinity Lutheran School** in Hicksville who donated over 40 pairs of beautifully wrapped children's pajamas and the proceeds from their bake sale.
- Members of the Lamplighters group at National Grid** who donated items and stuffed over 180 bags for homebound seniors. And, painted the living room at our residence for homeless veterans.



IN CIRCLE: **Tom LoFaso and his wife, children and brother Phil** who cooked holiday meals for ten families in our care. They also collected toys and gifts to help these families enjoy a beautiful holiday.

IN BOX – LEFT: **Juli Gaudette, Carrie Lones, Christian Fuscarino and Bradley Jones** from Professor Ashish Kumar's class at Hofstra University created four public service announcements to be aired on radio and TV plus a video about our agency for Youtube. You can view all of these on our Youtube page: www.youtube.com/familyandchildrens



VISIT WWW.FAMILYANDCHILDRENS.COM/DONATE