

KEEPING THE

# P R O M I S E

**THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY**

2011 | ANNUAL REPORT





## KEEPING THE PROMISE

No child should be born into poverty, but as we know all too well, millions are. In New York City, nearly one out of every three children is poor. It is our city's highest rate of child poverty in three decades.

Poverty is more complex than the lack of financial resources—our most vulnerable children often lack access to adequate food, shelter, family stability, quality education and healthcare.

We owe these children more. They deserve a fair opportunity to take part in the American dream—the idea that where you end up in life should not be determined by where you started. At The Children's Aid Society, that's our promise to New York City's children.



# THE CHILDREN'S AID COMMITMENT

The Children's Aid Society has been in the business of helping America keep its promise to New York City's neediest children for more than 150 years. To keep that promise, we know that our commitment must start early in a child's life, be long-term and comprehensive and provide fundamental support for families to succeed.

To make good on that pledge, we envelop children with a carefully designed series of supports to foster their holistic development—health, learning, recreation, creativity and beyond—in our city's least-advantaged neighborhoods. And we help prepare them for what we believe is the ultimate goal: a college education.

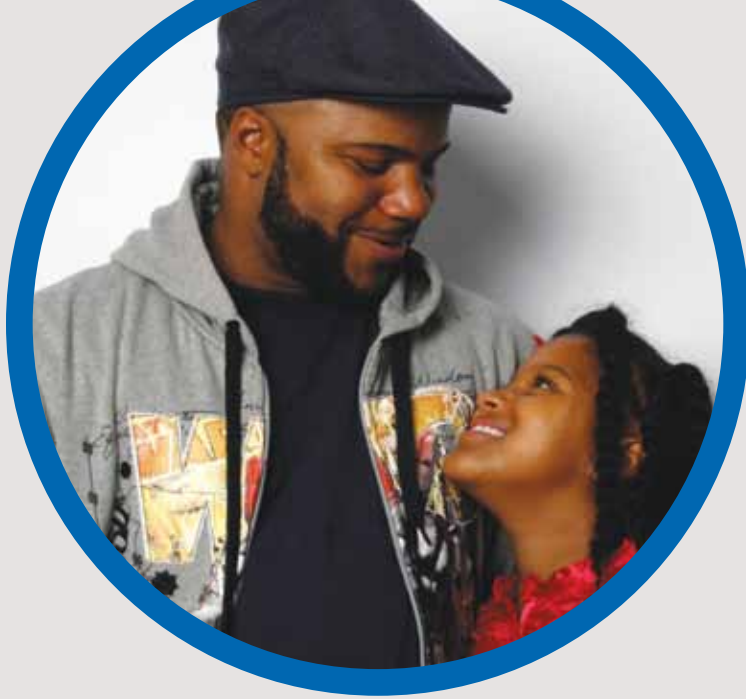
In our country, a person's lifelong income is directly correlated to his or her level of education. Graduating from college is the best guarantee of a permanent escape from poverty in addition to a longer and healthier life. Through education, young people acquire skills, confidence and character; a college education equips them with the tools to launch careers, head families, practice good citizenship and imagine the best for themselves, their own children and society.

It starts by eliminating poverty of spirit and opportunity. And it succeeds through the hard work, dedication, volunteerism and generosity of the thousands of people who support Children's Aid.

Every year, Children's Aid provides a comprehensive range of services to more than 70,000 children living in poverty, including youth in foster care and the juvenile justice system. They are often the most vulnerable young people among us, demonstrating a wide variety of unmet needs: a safe and nurturing home, quality health and medical services, enriching learning opportunities and alternatives to self-destructive behaviors.

Our commitment to children begins before birth and carries on through early childhood, adolescence and young adulthood.





*Rakim and daughter, Dymond, 9,  
Dunlevy Milbank Center, Harlem*

***“She needs to envision the very best for herself.  
And that's what Children's Aid nurtures.”***

One of the highest honors we receive each day is when parents place their children in our care. Rakim Smith has entrusted Children's Aid with his daughter for more than four years. Nine-year-old Dymond is an enthusiastic “regular” at our Dunlevy Milbank Center in Harlem, where she has blossomed into a bright and caring young person ready to seize the next stage of her development.

“Dymond is more confident and she interacts with other children much better,” says Rakim. “She was shy before, but now she's learned new skills. She's better at communicating, she's learned to swim and her overall growth is just great.”

For a devoted single father like Rakim, Milbank is the first choice for an after-school destination for his daughter because of its staff. He believes it's

their commitment that makes the difference between Children's Aid programs and other options.

“It's very much the people. We get to know them. They have character and the initiative to improve things in our neighborhood for Dymond and other kids. It shows in everything they do. And to a concerned city parent like me, that's a huge help.”

Rakim hopes his daughter will become an entrepreneur, but Dymond is already expressing interest in becoming a veterinarian or even a doctor. Whatever her destiny, Rakim believes that the strong character she's developing at Children's Aid will be the key to her success.

“She needs to envision the very best for herself. And that's what Children's Aid nurtures.”

## EARLY ACHIEVERS

The challenge for many working families is finding safe, nurturing and affordable child care during the work day. With Children's Aid early childhood programs, parents can have peace of mind that their children are in good hands while they are working, looking for work or pursuing their education.

Yet these programs do much more than provide a safe space. Every enrolled child benefits from dynamic programs that promote their social, physical, intellectual, creative and emotional development. Staffed by a community of caring and dedicated professionals, our programs enhance cognitive and reasoning ability, foster literacy skills, build self-esteem and facilitate healthy social maturation—the tools that children need to be prepared for and successful in school and for the rest of their lives.



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**Children's Aid's early childhood care, after-school programs and summer camps served more than 11,000 young children in 2011.**

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**100% of children enrolled in our Early Head Start, Head Start and early childhood programs received health and dental exams.**

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**A rigorous evaluation of our *Go!Books* curriculum confirmed that participants in our early childhood program demonstrated better preparedness for kindergarten and performed at or above national averages for literacy ability, alphabet knowledge and executive functioning.**

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**The Raising a Reader book lending program is helping more than 60 children in our Early Head Start program improve their reading skills.**

## *"Children's Aid gave me a head start growing up, and now they're doing the same for my son."*

For five-year-old Joseph Concha, the Children's Aid Head Start program has been a springboard for future success. As he prepared to enter kindergarten last September, Joseph had a strong baseline of successful learning and a ready ability to make new friends. His mother, Julianne Mojica, knows first-hand the importance of both because she gained the same benefits during her own years attending Children's Aid programs during junior high school.

"Those programs gave me a gateway," Julianne says today. "They enabled me to get to know my teachers better, find help with homework, and gain the confidence to look for additional resources outside of school. Children's Aid gave me a head start growing up, and now they're doing the same thing for my son."

Like other children, Joseph is inquisitive and fun loving. He imagines being a firefighter when he grows up, and although he has a long road ahead of him, both he and his mother know they can count on the support and enrichment of Children's Aid programs as Joseph moves through each stage of his development.

"As a working parent, I have to depend on teachers to show Joseph what I cannot while I'm at work," says Julianne. "I know that Joseph loves all three of his teachers, because when he's not constantly comparing things he's done in class to what we do at home, he's talking about them with a big smile on his face!"

For parents like Julianne and children like Joseph, Children's Aid is keeping its promise, helping both to succeed and thrive in a big and challenging city.

*Joseph, 5, and his mother Julianne, PS 5 Head Start Program, Mirabal Sisters Campus, Washington Heights*



## YOUNG SCHOLARS

For young children growing up in under-resourced neighborhoods, access to expanded learning opportunities outside of the regular school day can make the difference between dropping out and graduating with honors.

When children in poverty enter elementary and middle school, they are often at a significant disadvantage from their more affluent peers. They can face multiple barriers to learning, including hunger, unsafe neighborhoods and underperforming schools. Many never have the opportunity to participate in summer programs or enriching experiences outside of school that can reinforce academic development. Even worse, housing instability, chronic health problems and other challenges can cause some children to miss so many days of school that it becomes impossible to catch up.

Children's Aid works to ensure that these children get the support they need. Our community centers and schools, health clinics and summer camps provide children with academic enrichment, character development, technology, arts, sports, recreation and health services that encourage them to value themselves and the learning opportunities they need to break free of poverty.

**At the Children's Aid Wagon Road Camp in Chappaqua, more than 400 campers took part in activities designed to build self-esteem and hone social, literacy and learning skills in ways that are fun, safe and engaging.**

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**After a three-year evaluation of six community schools, Children's Aid learned that participating students demonstrated positive outcomes in academic performance, school attendance and social and emotional development.**

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**With recent statistics showing that fewer than 30% of black males graduate high school on time, Children's Aid proudly reports that 100% of the children enrolled in our African American Male Initiative in 2011 excelled in school.**

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**Our intensive fitness program to combat childhood obesity reached more than 500 children last year.**





***"I love to volunteer, help out in the neighborhood and involve myself in economics."***

At PS/IS 171 in East Harlem, 12-year-old Gianni Augusto Diaz's favorite subject is math. Unsure of which high school he'll attend in a few years, this straight-A student is looking further ahead—aiming to earn a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Gianni has found refuge from peer pressure by immersing himself in community service at our East Harlem Center. For Gianni and his peers, after-school, Saturday and summer programs at East Harlem provide a safe haven and an escape from the unforgiving streets that label them "at-risk."

Among the programs Gianni likes best is Torch Club, designed to develop social skills and help kids resist the lure of drugs, gangs, petty crime and other threats. Surrounded by a caring family and positive role models, Gianni has developed a deep sense of community which is evidenced by his volunteer work and positive outlook on life.



*Gianni, 12, East Harlem Center*

Gianni also participates in recreational activities that have helped him build self-confidence and healthy physical habits. He aspires to join the Keystone Club, a youth group that builds leadership skills through community service projects.

"I love to volunteer, help out in the neighborhood and involve myself in economics," says this bright young boy. "I like things like passing out food to homeless people, helping out the staff and tutoring younger kids."

With the right support, Gianni is well on his way to achieving all his goals. With his growing commitment to service, academics and higher education, he's rising above "at-risk" to become "at-promise" instead.

## ADOLESCENTS AT PROMISE

Adolescence is arguably the most critical time in a young person's life. During these years, life is full of promise as teens prepare for college, develop and apply their special talents and build the character and habits that will define them as adults. At this pivotal stage, teens need guidance, encouragement and support in their lives to avoid the pitfalls that can derail a bright future.

Children's Aid offers comprehensive programs that stimulate teens and engage them in activities that nurture maturity, promote academic achievement and provide access to the world beyond their New York City neighborhood. Programs like Carrera Pregnancy Prevention, EXCEL college prep and Lasting Investments in Neighborhood Connections (LINC) provide these emerging adults with the individualized support necessary to reach college and successfully earn their degree.

Children's Aid Adolescent programs empower teens to take control of their future while taking responsibility for themselves.



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**As of July 2011, The Children's Aid Society Carrera Pregnancy Prevention Program helped 3,000 teens improve school performance and avoid pregnancy. Citywide, the program reduced teen births by 50% in a randomized control trial.**

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**81% of youth in the LINC Program avoided re-entry into the juvenile justice system, considerably higher than the state average.**

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**More than 80% of young people in the Bronx Dropout Prevention Program have achieved their school attendance targets.**

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**Middle-schoolers at our Harlem sites are increasing their basic academic skills through an intensive partnership with Kumon Learning Centers.**

*"With growth, I develop new dreams.  
With determination, I can soar!"*

Danielle has faced obstacles ever since she was a child. Her mother, who suffers from depression, rarely showed her love or support. Growing up in a tough Harlem neighborhood, she watched friends and family members alike turn to gang violence and drugs. Despite her tumultuous home life, Danielle escaped those traps by immersing herself in school, continually remembering what one of her teachers told her: "Education is the gateway to your dreams."

"To me, the biggest obstacle of completing high school was facing the ups and downs of life without my mother's help," Danielle said. "But my goal of being the first person in my family to go to college has kept me motivated."

By age 11, Danielle's challenges to realizing her dream became even more formidable when her mother gave birth to a baby girl, Terry. "I could see that my sister was being neglected the same way I was. It broke my heart to see her ignored and I vowed to be everything to her that my mother wasn't to me. Basically, I had to figure out how to raise a daughter."

Seeking a clear college-bound path, Danielle immersed herself in programs at The Children's Aid Society Hope Leadership Academy. Taking advantage of Hope's EXCEL, Corporate Workplace, Summer Institute and Keystone programs, Danielle received the support and developed the skills and confidence to pursue higher education.

Last summer, Children's Aid awarded Danielle a Wick-Stern Scholarship. And today, she's in her freshman year at Sage College in Albany. She still takes care of Terry—they do their homework together on the living room table and Danielle helps with her math. "In spite of all the temptations around me, I stay focused on my education and instill the same value in my little sister," she says. "With growth, I develop new dreams. With determination, I'm confident I can soar!"

*Danielle, 18, Hope Leadership Academy, Harlem*



## Dear Friends,

Thank you all for your tremendous support of The Children's Aid Society. With the generosity and support of our Board, partners, funders and volunteers, Children's Aid continues to make great strides toward preparing children in poverty for better and brighter futures.

At Children's Aid, we envision a New York City where children can develop into healthy, well-educated and productive adults, regardless of their socio-economic starting point. We know that the best approach to realizing this vision is to surround young people with the critical health, education and family support structures that facilitate the pursuit of higher education and healthy life choices. We know that these supports must be comprehensive and long term—spanning all stages in a child's life—to be truly effective.

In this climate of increasing deprivation and economic uncertainty, we also know that under-resourced families face the most crippling hardships—lack of food, shelter, healthcare and quality education. In New York, one in three children lives in poverty. And, with looming cuts to “safety net” programs, children born into poverty are more likely to remain in poverty as adults and raise children who grow up poor as well—a prospect that we believe is truly un-American.



At Children's Aid, our mission is to uphold the American promise of equal opportunity regardless of race, class, creed or color.

Ultimately, we want to be able to say with certainty that children who enter Children's Aid programs will grow into adults with the skills and education necessary to escape the poverty into which they were born.

In keeping our promise, we recognize that change cannot happen overnight, and it will not happen unless we all work together. Therefore, I invite you to continue to stand with us as we fight childhood poverty in New York City, and I thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude,

Richard R. Buery, Jr.  
President & CEO

## Dear Friends,

As I enter my second year as chair of The Children's Aid Society's Board of Trustees, I would first like to thank you all for your steadfast support. This year, Children's Aid was able to provide family stability, educational support, foster care, adoption services, legal advocacy as well as mental health, dental and medical resources to more than 70,000 children. To support this outstanding work, the board took great measures to ensure good governance, achieve new fundraising goals and support our organizational change initiative, *Keeping the Promise*.

I am pleased with the steps we have taken to ensure good governance this year. We have reformed our bylaws, refined our committees and recommitted ourselves to supporting the work of this organization. In addition, we recruited six new board members representing a diverse set of professional backgrounds and expertise.

We also raised the bar in terms of fundraising, hosting our inaugural Gala that succeeded in raising \$1.2 million to aid New York City's most vulnerable children. We also established the President's Innovation Fund to finance new initiatives in program development, performance management and information technology. I would also like to make note of our outstanding level of efficiency and effectiveness in our noble work, earning 11 consecutive four-star ratings from Charity Navigator—a first. Our good work sets the stage for

*Keeping the Promise*, our blueprint for the future of The Children's Aid Society.

*Keeping the Promise* is our roadmap for achieving greater levels of excellence in working with New York City's neediest children. We know that higher education creates pathways out of poverty, and therefore, to ensure that children in poverty succeed and thrive, we believe that college graduation must become a measure of our success. For many New York City children, Children's Aid provides the single best opportunity to receive the vital services and resources necessary to excel. We promise to make the most of this opportunity.

Of course, these accomplishments would be impossible without the selfless contributions from our donors, volunteers and dedicated professionals who work on the front lines every day. As we begin this new year of service, I thank you for keeping your promise to the children who need us most.

Sincerely,



Mark M. Edmiston  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

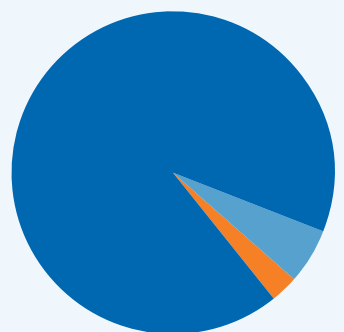


# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Statement of Activities

for the year ending June 30—dollars in thousands

Operating Expenses	2011	2010
	Audited	Audited
Adoption and Foster Care	\$30,888	\$25,985
Children's Centers	26,944	26,559
Counseling and Home-Based Services	9,585	17,504
Health Services	14,043	13,348
Camps	1,674	1,789
Community Schools	10,173	11,194
Carrera Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program	8,303	7,833
Management and General Administration	6,546	6,341
Development / Fundraising	2,834	2,920
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$110,990</b>	<b>\$113,473</b>



**Program** \$101,610,000  
**Administrative** \$6,546,000  
**Fund** \$2,834,000

Revenue and Support	Audited	Audited
Contributions, bequests and estates	\$20,733	\$16,470
Government support	63,997	66,829
Program service fees and dues	10,547	10,418
Rental income	638	342
Investment income	40,059	22,852
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$135,974</b>	<b>\$116,911</b>

Change in Net Assets before pension related changes	24,984	3,438
Pension related changes	7,870	(4,998)
<b>Change in total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$32,854</b>	<b>(\$1,560)</b>
Net Assets, beginning of the year	217,538	219,098
<b>Net Assets, end of the year</b>	<b>\$250,392</b>	<b>\$217,538</b>

# Trustees, Committees and Executive Staff

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Stern National Adolescent  
Sexuality Training Center*

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*General Counsel*

Anthony Ramos  
*Director of Marketing  
and Communications*



## Where We Work

### ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE

#### Bronx

Bronx Annex  
1338 Southern Blvd  
Bronx, NY 10460  
718.991.1555

Bronx Family Center  
1515 Southern Boulevard  
Bronx, NY 10460  
718.589.3400

Early Childhood Center  
718.620.1200

Family and Youth Intervention (FYI) Program†  
General Preventive Program  
Intensive Preventive & Aftercare Program  
369 East 148th Street, 2nd Floor  
Bronx, NY 10455  
718.716.7531

#### Manhattan

Family and Youth Intervention (FYI) Program†  
60 Lafayette Street, 3C25  
New York, NY 10013  
212.619.0383

General Preventive Program  
69 West 118th, Suite 2E  
New York, NY 10026  
212.987.4873

#### Staten Island

Family and Youth Intervention (FYI) Program†  
Intensive Preventive & Aftercare Program  
304 Prospect Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10301  
347.291.8707

General Preventive Program  
Staten Island Family Services Center  
465 Villa Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10302  
718.273.5305

#### Brooklyn

Family and Youth Intervention (FYI) Program†  
175 Remsen Street, 7th Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
718.625.8300

### COUNSELING & HOME-BASED SERVICES

#### Bronx

Next Generation Center  
LINC @ Next Generation Center (Lasting Investments in Neighborhood Connections)  
1522 Southern Boulevard  
Bronx, NY 10460  
718.589.4441

#### Brooklyn

LINC (Lasting Investments in Neighborhood Connections)  
1195 St. Marks Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11213  
718.774.7080

#### Manhattan

LINC (Lasting Investments in Neighborhood Connections)  
Dunlevy Milbank Center  
14-32 West 118th Street  
New York, NY 10026  
212.996.1716

Lord Memorial Building  
150 East 45th Street  
New York, NY 10017  
212.949.4800

Pelham Fritz Transitional Apartments  
17-21 West 118th Street  
New York, NY 10026  
212.348.5356  
Day Care Center  
212.427.8851

### COMMUNITY CENTERS

#### Bronx

Hope Leadership Academy II  
Banana Kelly/Holcolmb Rucker HighSchool  
965 Longwood Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10159

#### Manhattan

Carmel Hill Project  
69 West 118th Street, Suite 1W  
New York, NY 10026  
212.423.5806

Drew Hamilton Learning Center  
2672 Frederick Douglass Blvd. at 142nd Street  
New York, NY 10030  
212.281.9555

Dunlevy Milbank Center  
14-32 West 118th Street  
New York, NY 10026  
212.996.1716

Milbank/Mt. Sinai Medical Group  
212.369.8339

East Harlem Center  
130 East 101st Street  
New York, NY 10029  
212.348.2343

Frederick Douglass Center  
885 Columbus Avenue at 104th Street  
New York, NY 10025  
212.865.6337

The Hope Leadership Academy  
1732 Madison Avenue  
at 114th Street  
New York, NY 10029  
212.987.5648  
917.492.0586

Philip Coltoff Center at Greenwich Village  
219 Sullivan Street  
New York, NY 10012  
212.254.3074

Early Childhood Annex  
177 Sullivan Street  
New York, NY 10012  
212.505.6545

Rhineland Children's Center  
350 East 88th Street  
New York, NY 10128  
212.876.0500

Stern National Adolescent Sexuality Training Center  
350 East 88th Street  
New York, NY 10128  
212.876.9716

Taft Early Childhood Center  
1724-26 Madison Avenue at 114th Street  
New York, NY 10029  
212.831.0556

#### Staten Island

Goodhue Center  
William Osborn Day Camp  
304 Prospect Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10301  
718.447.2630

#### Westchester

Wagon Road Camp  
431 Quaker Road  
Chappaqua, NY 10514  
914.238.4761

\* Each campus houses 3 or more schools.

† Formerly PINS (Person In Need of Supervision) Program





Concept & Design: John Chaich | Principal photography: Conrad Ventur  
 Additional Photography: Lily Kesselman, Fred Cannizarro, Mike DiVito, Victor Fascio



## COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

### Bronx

C.S 61 Francisco Oller/  
 I.S. 190 The Environmental  
 Science, Mathematics and  
 Technology School  
 1550 Crotona Park East  
 Bronx, NY 10460  
 718.991.2719

Fannie Lou Hamer  
 Freedom High School  
 1021 Jennings Street  
 Bronx, NY 10460  
 718.861.7891

Fannie Lou Hamer Middle School  
 1001 Jennings Street  
 Bronx, NY 10460  
 718.861.7891

I.S. 98 Herman Ridder  
 1619 Boston Road, Rm 200  
 Bronx, NY 10460  
 718.842.2760

Roberto Clemente Campus\*  
 250 East 164th Street  
 Bronx, NY 10456  
 718.293.3144

Theater Arts Production Company  
 Middle and High School  
 2225 Webster Avenue  
 Bronx, NY 10457  
 718.584.0832

### Manhattan

High School for Excellence  
 and Innovation  
 650 Academy Street  
 New York, NY  
 212.928.1174

Manhattan Center for Science  
 and Mathematics  
 280 Pleasant Avenue  
 New York, NY 10029  
 212.423.9630

Mirabal Sisters Campus\*  
 21 Jumel Place at 168th Street  
 New York, NY 10032  
 646.867.6066

P.S. 5 Ellen Lurie  
 3703 Tenth Avenue  
 at Dyckman Street  
 New York, NY 10034  
 212.567.5787

P.S. 8 Luis Belliard  
 465 West 167th Street  
 New York, NY 10032  
 212.740.8655

P.S./I.S. 50 Vito Marcantonio  
 433 East 100th Street  
 New York, NY 10029  
 Phone 212.860.0299

P.S. 152 Dyckman Valley  
 93 Nagle Avenue  
 New York, NY 10040  
 212.544.0221

Salomé Ureña de Henríquez  
 Middle Academies Campus\*  
 4600 Broadway at 196th Street  
 New York, NY 10040  
 212.569.2880

National Center for  
 Community Schools  
 475 Riverside Drive  
 Suite 1220  
 New York, NY 10115  
 212.569.2866

### Staten Island

I.S. 61 William A. Morris  
 445 Castleton Avenue  
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 No person shall be excluded  
 from participation in, be  
 denied the benefits of, or be  
 subjected to discrimination  
 in any program or activity  
 available at The Children's Aid  
 Society on the basis of race,  
 sex, religion, creed, political  
 belief, age, national origin,  
 linguistic and language dif-  
 ferences, sexual orientation,  
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 familial status or disability.



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