

## ...from Michael's Pen

Dear Friends,

In this edition we return to the subject of child care, which I believe is a critical issue if we are to make real the promise of opportunity in this country. The current financial environment requires that in both single-parent and two-parent households all adults must work to make ends meet. It is unrealistic to assume that the income earned by most of the working class is sufficient to sustain a household and provide for quality child care, much less support a college education and retirement. We must either make a commitment to all of our children and prepare them to meet the needs of our collective future or else recognize that we will be subsidizing the survival needs of a growing portion of the population for many years to come.

This edition also describes an amazing success that our adolescent services programming has achieved. The One80 program targets youth who have committed a crime, and utilizes community resources not only to make amends to those who have been offended, but also to bring the youth back into the community. The program's success is terrific. It demonstrates that youth who are given attention and support can become valued community members instead of making repeated poor choices and becoming young criminals. Unfortunately, the funding from the state that created the program ends in December. It's hard to contemplate closing a service that is really working, and we will be approaching the county and private donors to save this critical program.

The work that Family does is truly a community-wide effort. Over the years, many people have stepped up to offer help by sponsoring events and sharing the proceeds to help us continue our work. The list grows every year. Family is truly the product of a committed and caring community. To all those who have helped keep Family alive and active, we say a heartfelt "Thank You."

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Family, we hope you get to enjoy the beautiful weather of summer and we hope we will see you at our end of season concert at HITS or at one of the many fundraisers held for our benefit in the coming months.

Best regards,



Michael Berg

## Child Care Connections

People often ask why FAMILY is involved with child care. Since the organization's earliest days, FAMILY has either provided day care directly or supported others who do. Seedling, FAMILY'S day care center (now closed) opened in 1974 to serve the children of our staff. Issues around quality care in early childhood have always been core concerns in the agency. "One of the greatest stresses for working parents has always been who will care for their children," observes Michael Berg. "And as we learn more about brain development, our concern is validated. The years from zero to three are critical to success in school and social adjustment." He continues, "Our social policies in the United States are based on old family models. Why is it that society becomes responsible to educate a child beginning only at age five or six? Society is working under a dangerous assumption that there is a mom at home until then."



This analysis is finding some traction, and some states are slowly expanding public pre-Kindergarten programs and pre-schools like Head Start. The US still lags behind peer countries, most of which support programs for infants and toddlers, whereas we struggle to lower the age for even public pre-school to four. The implications for the economy, labor force, family stress, and later public expenditures (including intervention services and criminal justice programs) are huge.

FAMILY'S Child Care Resource and Referral Program, which serves Ulster, Columbia and Greene counties, is re-branding itself. "We are now Child Care Connections," says Program Director Kerry Wolfeil. "What we do is link parents, providers, and other family-centered organizations in our communities." Child Care Connections helps parents find quality care for their young children, which was scarce thirty years ago. In the decades since it began, the number of child care "slots" available in the three counties has ballooned to more than 6,000! The number includes both larger Day Care Centers with classrooms for different ages; Group Family Day Care (up to sixteen children); Family Day Care (up to eight children); and approximately three hundred "Legally Exempt" providers who care for no more than two children not their own and are not required to register to provide care. An increasing number do register, and they receive support, training, equipment and supervision as a result. Whenever a complaint is lodged at any of the providers, staff from Child Care Connections investigates and helps them accomplish improvements and safety upgrades.

**Why is it that society becomes responsible to educate a child beginning only at age five or six? Society is working under a dangerous assumption that there is a mom at home until then."**

Quality of care is a tremendous issue. Numerous longitudinal studies show that children enrolled in high-quality early education programs do better in school, are more likely to attend college, are more likely to earn higher wages, and are less likely to be involved in the criminal justice system. Michael Berg is passionate on this subject. "We want high quality care no matter which care children are in. Society is demanding more skills of first graders. Many children are 'flunking' first grade because they have not had stimulating early language and social environments. Quality child care can prevent these failures. Economic necessity requires parents to go to work, but there is no safe, educationally and socially rich environment for their children."

no safe, educationally and socially rich environment for their children."

continued on page 2 "Child Care..."

**Written By**  
Susan Goldman

**Graphic Design & Printing**  
James B. Childs  
JARA PUBLISHING

**Additional Photos by**  
Carolyn Altomari

*Call us  
anytime*

(845) 338-2370

(845) 647-2443

(845) 255-8801

(845) 679-2485

[www.familyofwoodstockinc.org](http://www.familyofwoodstockinc.org)





To continually improve the quality of care available for all children, Child Care Connections offers trainings in safety issues, communication, nutrition, and age appropriate activities. Still, parents face hard choices when selecting a care setting. According to Kerry Wolfe it is often a question of quality care vs. cheaper "illegal" care. "We are trying to bring more of those neighbor or grandparent care providers into supervision. We have almost three hundred of these caregivers in our network now. Sometimes cost drives families to individual caregivers. But something we see increasingly is the problem of evening or variable shift work. Day Care providers typically do not stay open late or provide dinner. Parents working off-hour shifts are often forced to settle for care by a family member or neighbor, which may be loving but may not be as safe or stimulating."

Child Care Connections has just been recognized by Child Care Aware of America, a national quality assurance organization. As a result of the five year certification process, the program changed its name, has a new website (and mobile link!) and is focusing even more energy on training. Wolfe is enthusiastic. "We have more to offer parents now. For example, we are certified to present The Nurturing Parenting Program, a trauma-informed initiative. In the long term, by teaching positive parenting behaviors we hope to help keep families out of the social services network, lower the rate of teenage pregnancies, reduce juvenile delinquency and alcohol abuse, and stop the cycle of child abuse."

#### THE BENEFITS:

The benefits of child care can be measured in a number of ways and, according to policy professionals at Cornell University, should be high among the sectors considered in economic planning. As noted in a recent publication, "compared to other economic sectors, child care purchases more...locally, and expenditures on child care circulate longer in the state economy." Further, they determined that "in states with policies that promote quality child care...quality is associated with higher levels of regional spending by child care providers and workers." Child Care Connections supervises and distributes federal funds that help child care providers offer healthy meals for children in their care. Last year, through those expenditures alone, more than \$400,000 went into the economy of the three counties the program serves. Child care, according the authors of the Cornell report, has more than one positive economic impact. In addition to its "multiplier" effect in the regional economy, it is a key component of the infrastructure supporting workers and their employers and an essential investment in a productive future workforce.

Policy in the US is far behind our European peers. They see it as part of their national interest to support families as they transition to parenthood, providing generous paid leave for each parent and paying for and providing child care for very young children. Lotte Bailyn, of MIT's Sloan School of Management, writes "Child care is viewed as the general responsibility of the country. Here, child care is seen as an individual responsibility. It is an issue that is deeply woven into the way we tax, the way we approach business, the way we use community resources and the kind of safety net that we provide."

## Child Care Dollar\$ and \$en\$e ~ POLICY MATTERS

#### THE COSTS:

According to a study released last year by Child Care Aware America, the annual cost of day care for an infant exceeds the average cost of in-state tuition and fees at public colleges in 31 states, including New York. The average cost of weekly care for an infant in our area is about \$200. Subsidies can only be used for a parent working at least seventeen hours a week and not for time the parent spends in school. Not only does the high cost of child care in the US hit the bottom line of individual families, it also has repercussions for the economy as a whole. Employee absenteeism as the result of child care breakdowns costs US businesses \$3 billion a year! Child care expenses strain household budgets, which cuts consumption (slowing growth).

Low-income families spend a much larger portion of income on child care than do higher earners. That's because child care providers typically charge the same amount for all children. For a family earning \$20,000 a year with a young child, it can mean spending more than half of their monthly income on child care. A large percentage of low income families do not receive subsidies for those expenses.

The cost and complications of child care are also crucial factors in many women's decisions to drop out of the labor market entirely and, increasingly, to forgo having children at all. Simple demographics tells us that families needing child care are also in the early part of their careers, earning less. If women drop out, their potential for future earnings is hurt.

CHILD CARE  
\$200  
PER WEEK

## The Many Benefits of



Marathon and organized two golf tournaments as a way to promote support for the project. The results of all of these efforts will be celebrated in an Open House on Sunday, September 13 at FAMILY of New Paltz.

FAMILY is very fortunate to have dedicated supporters in all of our communities. It is especially inspiring to our staff when people create events to bring awareness to the work we do (and raise lots of money too). These individuals have their own reasons for choosing FAMILY for their benefits—usually related to an issue they care about. That support is a deep acknowledgment of work we often feel is invisible as people go about their daily lives. That feeling of acknowledgment is compounded when musicians and other artists generously offer their time and talents, when restaurants donate delicious food, and when you all purchase tickets to these events.

Domestic Violence is an issue that draws many to FAMILY. For the third time, *The Woodstock Comedy Festival* (September 18-20) will share a percentage of its proceeds with our domestic violence programs. On July 2, an event presented by Women Empowering Women, *Calling All Angels: An Evening of Duets* will also make a donation to Family's domestic violence programs. On September 12th, the Woodstock Chimes' fourth biennial *Drum Boogie* at Andy Lee Field will bring domestic violence into focus with a day of music. The event features world-renowned drummer Jack DeJohnette, joined by amazing percussion-centered groups ranging from rock to reggae, taiko to classical. It is a terrific family outing!

Garry Kvistad, owner of Woodstock Chimes, has partnered with FAMILY since he arrived in the Hudson Valley in 1979. "We discovered what FAMILY was up to and wanted to be a part of it. My wife, Diane, has been on the Board of Directors for many years. The concept for Drum Boogie came out of conversations with Assemblyman Kevin Cahill about bringing people together," recalls Kvistad. "Music is a universal language. It helps erase lines of hatred and bigotry through the exchange of diverse cultures. As a percussionist, I know that rhythm is an essential part of that exchange and so Drum Boogie was born. This year we wanted to bring awareness to family violence. That is something that tears families and communities apart and it is often hidden. FAMILY does such important work to prevent violence."



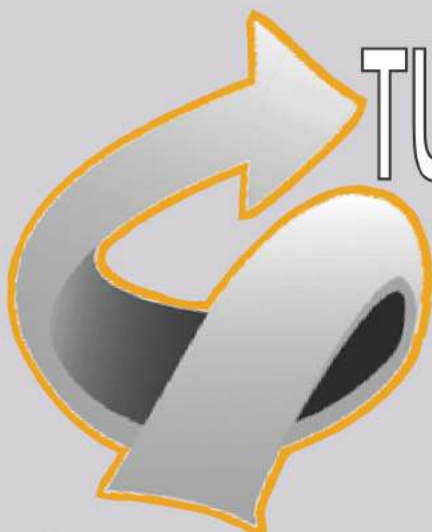
Jack DeJohnette & Garry Kvistad  
Drum Boogie



Bob Dylan Birthday Celebration

FAMILY's Walk In/Hotline Centers have their supporters as well. Family of Woodstock on Rock City Road has benefitted from a number of events dedicating proceeds to support its crisis services. Since many of the events involve music, it is most fitting that a portion of the funds raised goes to the John Herald Fund for local musicians. The community of musicians in the Hudson Valley is incredibly generous, and FAMILY is pleased to be able to provide funds when musicians find themselves in need. The now annual *Bob Dylan Birthday Celebration* (in May) is always a hit, and last year's *Ladies of the Valley* (watch for it this Fall, date TBA) was a tremendous success and highlighted well known and up and coming women singer/songwriters. It was a treasure trove of discoveries for many in the audience! At the end of October, the annual *Woodstock Invitational Luthiers' Showcase* once again will focus attention of the John Herald Fund. Featuring beautiful instruments and talented players, this event is unique and will make a music lover out of anyone!





# TURN AROUND

**Jen:** My name is Jen. I am 14 years old, and I like reading, especially the Harry Potter series.

**FT:** What three words would you use to describe yourself?

**Jen:** Smart Energetic and Nerd. It used to bother me, to be called a Nerd, but now I'm fine with it. Because of this program, now I am feeling better about myself. I have more self confidence, I think harder about random stuff more.

**J**en is not her real name, but all of the rest is in her own words. Jen is a participant in **FAMILY's ONE80 Program**. **ONE80** is for young people who need to make a big change in their lives—a one hundred and eighty degree change. It serves children from ages seven to fifteen who are engaged in behavior that would, without this program, result in arrest or probation. Yes, that sweet fourteen year old assaulted someone or stole something. In the past, she would have been sent to a juvenile facility or been placed on probation after going to court. With this program, which is funded through the Department of Criminal Justice Services, Jen has the opportunity to turn her crime into a learning experience. She can repair the damage she has caused and become a part of the community in a positive way.

**A**ccording to Trish Cina, the Supervisor at UC Probation Department who oversees the program, "It is one of the most exciting developments in my career." She continues, "It is so satisfying to see real change in these kids. They come in shy and ashamed. They leave able to wipe the slate clean and hold their heads up."

In its first year and a half, the program has served seventy youth, mostly between the ages of twelve and fourteen. In that time, only three participants have re-offended. Why is this program so effective?

Trish Cina says that the difference between the traditional penal system and this approach is central to its success. "In the penal system, you, the offender, are Bad. We are Good and we punish you. Restorative Justice, on the other hand, says we are all members of a community and what we do affects each other. You can make things right and become a contributing member of the community. You will not be shunned."

Each young person who is referred to the program meets weekly with a case manager either in Kingston, New Paltz, or Ellenville. Assistant Program Director Dana Katz describes the interactions. "Our case managers work to get them past the idea of getting caught, and help them consider the impact their actions have on the entire community, including their family. We ask open-ended questions. Who was harmed by your actions? Who picked you up at the Police Station? How do you think they felt?" These conversations prepare the youth to appear before the

Juvenile Community Accountability Board-- adults in the community who hear the youth and help determine what actions they need to take to make amends. Board members receive training in restorative justice and motivational interviewing. Each youth in

the program meets with the Board early in the program and again at the end.

**"It is one of the most exciting developments in my career."**

**It is so satisfying to see real change in these kids. They come in shy & ashamed. They leave able to wipe the slate clean & hold their heads up."**

**- Trish Cina - Supervisor at UC Probation Department**

**In its first year and a half, the program has served seventy youth, mostly between the ages of twelve and fourteen. In that time, only three participants have re-offended.**

**K**athleen Gagnon started with the program as a volunteer on the Juvenile Community Accountability Board and is now a case manager with the program. "My undergraduate degree from SUNY is in criminology. My senior thesis was in Restorative Justice. Mass incarceration is a huge problem in this country and I believe its roots are in our society and how we view youth and crime." Gagnon has seen the program from the perspective of Board member and now case manager. "It is amazing to see the change in these kids in just two months. When they return to the Board their whole body language is different." From her unique perspective, Gagnon ticks off what she sees as the program's strengths: a clear focus; a service plan that reaches outside of FAMILY; and a scope that brings out who the youth is in the larger community.

Jose Santiago has been on the Board for two years. "I love every minute," he says. "I have been on the darker side and learned the hard way. On the Board I can say things about family ties and values. I speak to the youth and their parents at the same time. I see new respect for their parent after the process. Sometimes they cry in the meetings, but it really helps them feel better about themselves." Lori Rotolo, Community Coordinator for Maternal Infant Services Network is also a Board member. "I like the structure and how it is presented to families. It is a deeper, more insightful process and requires the youth to reflect on what they have done. Hope is a key ingredient. Instead of feeling like they are now labeled and will offend again and again, the youth and the family feel support from the community. The offense is a misstep, and this process is a step back onto a good path."

**T**he Board asks the youth to talk about what interests them. They suggest volunteer activities that build on those interests. According to Dana Katz, the idea is to help youth connect and get involved in positive activities. The Board suggests options that are relevant to the offense and to the young person. For example, one young person chose to work with younger children and help pass what he learned along. Another offered to care for the lawn of an elderly neighbor, a

relationship that continued long past the initial commitment. In addition, the youth write letters of apology to their families, to themselves, to the police officer involved, and to the direct victims of their crime. One young person created a public apology in the form of a public service announcement that aired on the public access channel in Ellenville. In some cases, anger management training or other specialized intervention is required.

**B**etween the two Board hearings, the young people continue to meet with their case managers and participate in journaling, art projects, hikes, and other positive activities. Lori Rotolo sees tremendous change between the two meetings. "It is touching. They are face-to-face with everyone who matters. All are devastated by what has happened. When they leave they see that the situation can be addressed in a meaningful way with guidance and support, focusing on strengths." Dana Katz can see the change physically in the young people. "They come to the first meeting ashamed and apologetic. When they return for the second time, they are excited to tell the Board members what they've done and how they have made things right, what they have learned."

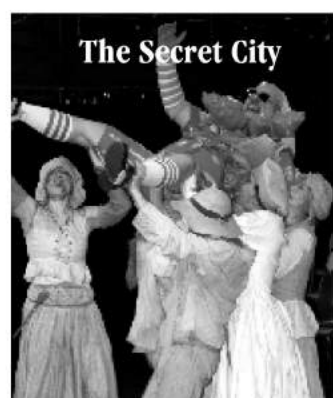
And then there is Jen. In her own words, she shares her **One80** turnaround...

**FT:** I'd like to get more specific. Can you tell me what about the program has made a difference in how you see yourself? And what do you mean by "I think harder about random stuff more?"

**Jen:** What made me think different about myself is that we would talk about what's been happening at school and stuff like that and as we talk I realized that I am not what a lot of people are calling me and some of the stuff they do to me I shouldn't let it bother me because it's not as bad as it could be.

Then when I say "I think harder about random stuff more" I mean that if someone calls me a name I really think if it's worth me even thinking about. Or if I am watching a movie that people aren't talking about I will just say to myself that if I like it, it's a good movie. Basically the program makes me think about everything more no matter what it is.

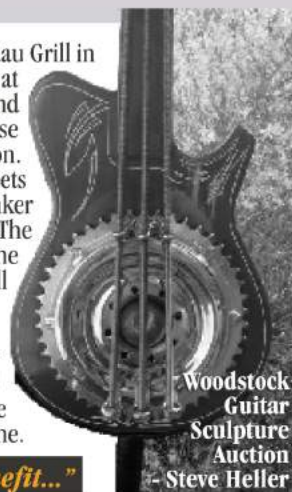
Building on this theme, **Woodstock's Annual Guitar Sculpture Exposition and Auction**, to be held on September 5<sup>th</sup> at Landau Grill in Woodstock, is earmarked to benefit the Walk In Center's "Doors and Floors" campaign to replace the well-worn flooring and entryways at



**The Secret City**

the busy building on Rock City Road. Some towns dot their streets with cat sculptures or cows, and Woodstock of course sports guitars. Rennie Cantine is the organizer of the guitar event and has crafted the basic guitar sculptures after a "tele" style model by Woodstock luthier, Harvey Citron. Local artists add beauty and personality. Some are funny, others moving. The guitars grace the streets in town all summer before the auction. As he was securing a guitar in front of one store on Tinker Street, Cantine commented on the event. "I wanted to work on something specific for FAMILY. The Doors and Floors campaign is perfect. I've even lined up carpenters to do the work." This year, the auction is being preceded by some artist meet-ups at Landau Grill, and Cantine's band will entertain. Each gathering will feature a raffle of one of the guitar sculptures too!

A new entry into the Woodstock pantheon of great benefits for FAMILY is **The Secret City**, winner of a Special Obie in 2010. It is part ceremony, part salon, part tent revival. It is truly a special experience, full of joy and laughter (and some tears usually). Each gathering has a different theme and features an ever-changing roster of artists and performers sharing work relating to the theme. Started in New York City, it added Los Angeles to its venues. Originators Chris Wells and Bobbie Lucie moved to Woodstock in



**Woodstock Guitar Sculpture Auction**  
- Steve Heller

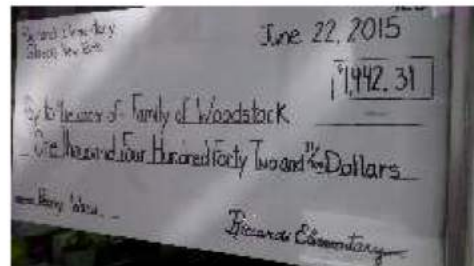
**continued on page 4 "Benefit..."**



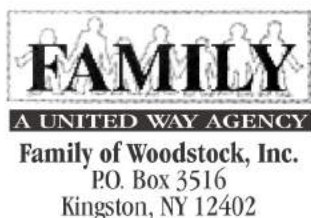
continued from page 3 "Benefit..."

2014, and on Sunday, August 2nd, The Secret City will blossom at Woodstock's Byrdcliffe Theater with the theme CAMP. "The Secret City is all about bringing people together," commented Wells. "The event is free, though we pass the plate and are happy to be partnering with FAMILY. We want all kinds of people who make up this community to feel welcome. FAMILY represents that spirit."

This year's graduating class of the Ulster Leadership Development Institute (sponsored by the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce and M&T Bank) wanted to take on a project that would benefit children. The program introduces core leadership skills and builds awareness of important public policy and social issues. The graduates decided to interview a number of organizations that work with children. They selected FAMILY's Darmstadt Shelter, which has recently been converted from housing homeless adults to housing homeless families. At a bowling event that included a bake sale and silent auction, \$5,400 was raised to build a playground at the shelter. They met their goal with sponsorships from Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, M&T Bank, Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, Rondout Savings Bank, Sawyer Savings Bank, and Ulster Savings Bank. Students at Riccardi Elementary School in Kingston earmarked this year's "Penny Wars" gleanings to help provide shelter to homeless families and presented FAMILY with a check for more than \$1,400.00.



No mention of benefits to FAMILY would be complete without noting the always terrific **HITS (Horse Shows in the Sun) Concert** which will take place in Saugerties at HITS on Sunday, September 6th. We don't yet know who will be performing (they've had Emmy Lou Harris with Rodney Crowell and the Charley Daniels Band in past years) but it is a great day. It begins at 11AM with the Million Dollar Grand Prix show jumping event (the culmination of HITS' Triple Crown) and ends with a great concert at 5PM and the drawing for FAMILY's \$20,000 BIG \$\$\$ Raffle prizes. Your raffle ticket is your free entry to the concert! The Struzzi family is a generous and steady partner with FAMILY, and both the HITS summer weekend admissions and their holiday gift collection benefit the entire agency and the people we serve in many ways.



NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #286  
NEWBURGH, NY

Or CURRENT RESIDENT



The staff of FAMILY is grateful for each and every event produced by outside organizations and individuals. These events add so much to our community, raise much-needed funds for FAMILY's helping programs, and give FAMILY's own staff more time to devote to those programs. Perhaps you will be inspired to create an event. Perhaps you will have a greater appreciation for the commitment that has gone into an event you attend. Whichever it is, FAMILY thanks you from the bottom of our hearts for your support and contributions.

### More information on these events:

Calling All Angels: An Evening of Duets July 2 [www.Bearsvilletheater.com](http://www.Bearsvilletheater.com)  
The Secret City August 2 [www.theseccity.org](http://www.theseccity.org)  
Guitar Sculpture Exposition September 5... Find it on Facebook!  
HITS Concert September 6 [www.hitsshows.com](http://www.hitsshows.com)  
Drum Boogie September 12 [www.drumboogiefestival.com](http://www.drumboogiefestival.com)  
The Woodstock Comedy Festival September 18-20 [www.woodstockcomedyfestival.org](http://www.woodstockcomedyfestival.org)  
Ladies of the Valley TBA  
Woodstock Invitational Luthiers' Showcase October 23-25 [www.woodstockinvitational.com](http://www.woodstockinvitational.com)

