

# Our Voice

The Official Newsletter of Families Together in New York State

A publication for and by families of children and youth with social, emotional, and behavioral challenges



October 2010



## Information and Referral Reaches Across The State

Daphne Brown is always talking to someone.

As the Family Involvement and Chapter Coordinator for Families Together in New York State, Daphne is involved in just about every aspect of the agency, including overseeing the valuable Information and Referral (I & R) system. I & R inquiries originate from phone calls, emails, postal mail, the website, and face to face interactions. Throughout her day, Daphne is fielding I & R requests, and she does so with diligence, commitment, confidentiality, and kindness.

“I & R is not a hotline or crisis intervention. It is a service we offer at Families Together to help people throughout New York to understand and utilize services related to children’s mental health,” Daphne said. “The I & R inquiries I receive run the gamut, from where to find support groups to how to read a child’s IEP. No two questions are alike, but they have one thing in common...I can always refer them to our Chapters and Parent Advisors out in the field.”

“Whenever I can’t answer an inquiry immediately with the best information, I give the caller the contact information of our Chapter Members and Parent Advisors. No matter what part of the state the inquiry comes from, Families Together has a rich network of quality advocates ready to help and guide anyone in need. I am always confident when I make a referral that the inquirer will be placed in the right hands.”

The I & R system was put in place to: link people with available and appropriate resources at the lowest cost without duplication of effort; increase collaborative efforts with programs, agencies, schools, support groups, and families; ensure that families receive the benefits and services to which they are entitled, and; ensure that organizations within the service delivery system meet the collective needs of the community.

For more information regarding Information and Referral, please contact Daphne Brown at 518.432.0333 x 25 or [dbrown@ftnys.org](mailto:dbrown@ftnys.org).



How wonderful it is that  
nobody need wait a single  
moment before starting to  
improve the world.  
~Anne Frank

## A Message from Paige Pierce...



Executive Director Paige Pierce talks with Ginny Wood, the first Executive Director of Families Together in New York State, during a recent visit.

Greetings! Looking at the photo of Ginny Wood upon her recent visit to Families Together in New York State, I am reminded of how far we have come! As our staff shared the many accomplishments of the past years, I was so proud of the hard work, dedication, and diligence of the talented staff, Board, Chapters, and Membership of this growing agency that works every day to represent the family voice. Thank you all for your perseverance and commitment to this movement.

This is an extraordinary time for Family Support, and we are all working so hard to demonstrate the impact that Family Support has on the wellbeing of children and families. Over the years that I have been Executive Director of this agency, I have witnessed the growth, support, and recognition of the importance of the family voice and the Family Support movement. I am hopeful and excited for the future of Family Support, and will not stop advocating for our rightful place at every table.

We must continue to forge forward as a unified force. That is why I am asking you today to join, or rejoin, Families Together in New York State as a Member. There is strength in numbers, and joining as a Member adds to the power of our collective voices. You are important to us and your Membership will help children, youth and families with social, emotional, and behavioral concerns every day.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paige A. Pierce".

*Our Voice* is the official newsletter of Families Together in New York State.

Families Together is a non-profit, family-run organization that strives to establish a unified voice for children and youth with social, emotional, and behavioral challenges.

Our mission is to ensure that every family has access to needed information, support, and services.

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### Families Together in New York State

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#### *Paige Pierce, Executive Director*

For the latest information on children's mental health, including upcoming events, articles and resources, please subscribe to our listserve by visiting [www.ftnys.org](http://www.ftnys.org)

For additional copies of *Our Voice*, or to submit an article, contact Tracie Killar, Communications Director, at [tkillar@ftnys.org](mailto:tkillar@ftnys.org)

**Join FTNYS as a member today.**

**We need you!**

**It only takes a few moments to join.**

**To join, please visit:  
[http://www.ftnys.org/](http://www.ftnys.org/membership.cfm)**

**[membership.cfm](http://www.ftnys.org/membership.cfm).**

# In November...Become A Member!



**"I joined for my son."**

**"I joined for my granddaughter."**



**"I joined to support Families Together."**



**"Our parents joined because they care about kids."**

## Why Will You Join?

As a nonprofit organization, Families Together relies on the support of people like you. Your support is essential to our growth as an organization. Your support helps us continue to advocate for children, youth and families throughout New York State. We invite you to join as a Member and help facilitate change for children and youth with social, emotional and behavioral challenges. An Individual Membership is only \$15.00.

### Annual Dues:

Individual: \$15.00, Family: \$20.00, Family Run Organization: \$50.00,  
Other Organization: \$75.00, Patron: \$100.00, Sponsor: \$500.00,  
Founding Member: \$1,000.00.

### FTNYS Membership Benefits Include:

- Membership in a network of unified voices representing children, youth and families
- A reduction in the registration cost at our Annual Statewide Conference
- Eligibility for scholarship opportunities at our Annual Statewide Conference
- Personal invite to the Annual Legislative Luncheon
- One vote for FTNYS Board of Directors nominees
- Organizational memberships are eligible to receive bulk newsletter mailings
- Individuals receive a personal membership card; Organizations a certificate
- Print newsletter, list serves, e-bursts, & children's mental health updates

## Don't Delay...Join Today!

Join the other Members who have made a commitment to children and families.

To join, visit: <http://www.ftnys.org/membership>

**Thank you!**



2010 Poster Contest  
Winning Entry by  
Monique Carpenter

**Families Together in New York State  
2011 Annual Conference  
The Best of our Knowledge  
Sharing Expertise to Strengthen the Family Voice  
May 1 – May 2, 2011 at the Marriott Hotel  
Albany, New York**

## **Call for Presentations**

The Families Together in New York State Annual Conference is attended by youth with social, emotional, and behavioral challenges, their families, service providers, educators, policymakers and advocates. With this in mind, proposals should be family-driven and youth-friendly. Parent-professional collaborations are encouraged and preferred. The Families Together Annual Conference Committee is seeking workshop and presentation proposals that address children's mental health topics and issues.

WORKSHOP PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE DECEMBER 17, 2010  
FOR THE PACKET OF INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:  
<http://www.ftnys.org/news.cfm>.

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