



Our mission is to promote the well being of children from birth by supporting and strengthening their families in and with their communities.

Fall 2006

Family Network 330 Laurel Avenue Highland Park, IL 60035 847/433- 0377

CREATING COMMUNITY AT FAMILY NETWORK

Although Family Network has grown and changed in many ways since its beginnings almost 25 years ago, our basic goal has remained constant: to provide opportunities for parents with young children to connect with one another and to become part of a nurturing network which strengthens their families.

Our founders, board members, and staff through the years have shared the belief that, as the African proverb says, "It takes a village to raise a child." At the Parent/Child Center, located in the basement of the Highland Park Presbyterian Church, we create a "village" by offering a warm, informal environment where children can play while parents can relax, learn from one another, and begin to build mutually supportive relationships.

It's an oasis! When I moved here, I was at home with a new baby and a toddler, and didn't know a soul. Family Network saved my sanity!

As parents talk together in the Parent Lounge or the Baby & Me Room on a typical morning at the Center, they discover common questions, concerns and experiences despite widely diverse backgrounds. For many first time parents, families new to the community, or those who do not have extended family nearby, the Center is a place to find resources and friendships, reducing the isolation they might have otherwise experienced during this challenging phase of family



Lauren helps dad Larry arrange flowers on his Mother's Day hat.

life. When a family experiences a crisis, such as an illness, death, or job loss, Family Networkers offer support in many ways such as taking care of each other's children, delivering meals, and helping connect to other resources.

Our commitment to building community extends to families who are involved in Family Network's Right From the Start program, which serves immigrant Latino families in Highland Park and Highwood. For the past 5 years, our unique Dual Language Morning program has brought together English- and Spanish-speaking families on Thursday mornings. With bilingual staff in each room to facilitate communication and cultural sensitivity, we increase trust and comfort between families who attend the Drop-In Center and the Right From the Start program. As part of this process, a group of English-speaking

mothers began learning Spanish this spring, with the guidance of RFTS Coordinator Nora Barquin and her staff. As parents and children sing, play and learn together, relationships have begun to develop and deepen.

Family Network was the center of many laughs and cries... It has provided our family with much support over the years.

In this edition of the *Family Networker*, we will highlight the many ways that Family Network programs work to create communities within which parents and children can grow, learn, and thrive. With the help of many essential community partners, our nurturing network continues to expand. continues to expand.

SAVE THE DATE!

YEA! at Ravinia
Saturday, September 9
7:30 pm



Grammy-Award winning *Hootie & The Blowfish* returns to Ravinia. Concert proceeds will benefit local youth, education, art and social service programs (including FN!). For tickets, contact the Ravinia box office at 847/266-5100.

Partners Important to RFTS Success

Nora Barquin, PhD, MSW
Program Coordinator

Our community partners are a very important component of the Right From The Start (RFTS) program. I am glad that I have the opportunity to acknowledge our partners and to show my gratitude towards their collaborative efforts. Who are the RFTS partners? What do they mean to us? And how have they contributed to the enhancement of the program?

The RFTS program has doubled its services in the last 3 years. Our partners provide many services that RFTS would not be able to provide to our families without a huge increase in our budget. It is not only about money: with our partners we get highly qualified staff that bring their expertise to our program. Our partners help us to promote our services, help us to network with other agencies to start new services and, in some cases, we develop friendships. Briefly I will describe how our partners contribute to our program.

Family Services: Prevention, Education & Counseling NPO County provides counseling services for our families who are struggling. **Highland Park Hospital** refers clients to us when they deliver their babies. **Highland Park Public Library** facilitates the Family Literacy Sessions helping our families to enjoy reading and facilitating early literacy activities and crafts.



Jewish Child and Youth Services provide our families with the swimming groups in summer by lending us the Max Davidson Center's swimming pools and by providing transportation and swimming lessons to our families. Our families really enjoy this opportunity for summer entertainment.

Jewish Child and Family Services also provides social work consultation



Congratulations to the spirited mothers and wonderful teachers of the District 113 sponsored ESL program!

for our staff. These consultations help improve the quality of work RFTS does during the home visits and it provides on-going training to RFTS family support workers about family relationships and how to best approach them.

The **Lake County Health Department (LCHD)** provides educators to speak to our parents about several health issues. We hope to increase our collaborative effort with the new **Highland Park Health Clinic** and the WIC Program. RFTS is part of the **Community Advisory Committee for the Community Action for Child Health Equity (CACHE)** which is a joint project between LCHD and Evanston Northwestern Hospital. Their purpose is to explore health disparities in pregnant women and infants, and it is funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Moraine Township opens its pantry and clothing closet to our clients. **Neighbor To Neighbor** provides store coupons to relieve the immediate needs of our clients during crisis periods.

The **Suburban Fine Arts Center** provides our moms with jewelry-making and sewing classes, helping our moms to gain job skills and consequently to help their families financially. The art component of RFTS also helps moms to increase their self-esteem and promotes their creativity.

The **Township High School District 113** offers English as a Second Language Classes providing our families with the opportunity to obtain better

jobs and keep up with their school-age children. These classes also prepare them for the future by opening up their world to the American culture and the benefits of learning the language.

The **University of Illinois Extension** provides our families with nutrition classes to promote a healthier life style, including recipes to prepare healthy meals and cooking tips. Their prevention educator speaks on a regular basis to our parents at the parent-education groups. The RFTS staff has also received training to facilitate group work.

Our most recent partnerships include the **Community Action Partnership of Lake County** in which the Head Start Program will register and recruit families at our Center. And we are jointly advocating with **Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs** for the improvement of living conditions for our families, including a project to try to keep tenants from being displaced by the sale of the North Shore Estates Apartments.

While we keep looking for new collaborators we thank our current partners very much. ¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!

RFTS CALENDAR

Mondays

Art Group (at SFAC) 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Sewing Class 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Tuesdays

Parent Education 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Prenatal Education 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays & Fridays

ESL Classes 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Thursdays

Mi Bebé Y Yo 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Fitness Class 1:00-2:00 p.m.

ASAP: Building Community on Both Sides of the Doorway

Lori Levitt, MPH
ASAP Director

Building a sense of community is no easy task. But having a strong history and close ties makes it easier for a much-needed program to get off the ground. Family Network's long-time supporters and volunteers have worked hard to maintain quality programming over the years, but two years ago, those friends of Family Network opened the doors a little wider to fulfill a need, after school programming at elementary schools. We have been so privileged to partner with North Shore School District 112, Wayne Thomas, and Indian Trail to build this program. Their unbelievable in-kind support allows the program to operate at a high quality level.

The school is of course its own community, but by combining schools and grade levels, ASAP has built a small community in its own right. This, in part, is due to the program's working parents who enjoy seeing one another, depending on one another for friendship and assistance and meeting neighbors

within the larger community of Highland Park and Highwood. ASAP allows for a diverse group of families to relax at Family Nights, talking about their families, their work and their lives. Parents meet during pick-up time and talk about their child's hobbies, their school year and the joys of parenthood. Our talented teaching staff creates a welcoming environment for families to sit down and relax at the end of a busy day. The children make new friends outside of their school day classroom and plan play time with one another for weekends.

Many children are able to attend ASAP through the generosity of a few community agencies who have granted scholarship funds to Family Network: Moraine Township, United Way of the North Shore, the Trillium Foundation, Rotary Club of Highland Park, and the Human Relations Commission. In addition, Family Network works closely with the School Age Child Care Fund

and the YWCA Child Care Assistance Program to provide subsidized funding to families in need.

This school year will be a busy one. In our third year, we will welcome back many continuing families and introduce new families to our program sites. We will introduce new programming to ASAP, by working with the Highland Park Library and community volunteers who will share their talents and hobbies with the children. We will continue our work with the Highland Park High School Educators of Tomorrow Club who help the students with their homework and daily activities tremendously. The Highland Park/Highwood community helped Family Network build ASAP and now we bring just as much energy, hospitality, and creativity to the other side of the door - inside the ASAP room.

To volunteer in a classroom, share your talents or hobbies, or learn more about ASAP, please call Lori Levitt at Family Network at 847.433.0377, x 601.

ASAP In Action



Learning & Having Fun Take Many Forms

Notes From the Parent/Child Center

Terry Beem, MEd
Program Coordinator

The Center community has been busy this summer, and as always it has been a joy and a privilege to be a part of the growth of so many wonderful children and families – the babies who are now toddling across the hall to the Rainbow Room, the toddlers who experiment with water play on the playground, the preschoolers who are pretending to be princesses and “nobles,” and the parents who are reaching out to one another in support and friendship.

The staff and I look forward to seeing many of you back when we re-open on September 12, and we will miss those who have “aged out” – several families have been coming to the Drop-In Center since I started as Program Coordinator in 1997! Of course, parents are always welcome to come back for a visit or to attend a speaker program, Family Night, or other special event.

I hope that many of you will be able to come to the speakers and special

events which are planned for the fall (see calendar in this newsletter), and that you will spread the word about Family Network to other parents of young children (especially new parents) – you are our best publicity! We are fortunate to have many generous professionals and agencies in our community who donate their time and expertise for our parent education and staff training programs.

If you would be interested in becoming more involved in planning programs and events at the center, please watch for the announcement this fall of our new, improved Parent Committee.

On a personal note, I would like to acknowledge the amazing circle of compassion and support that grew around the Ness family during the last several years. The many Family Networkers who were involved have provided an inspiring model of community, and I am grateful to them and to Marisa for these lasting gifts.

Meet Our Volunteer, Julianne Brand: One Family's Story of Support

Discipline Do's and Don'ts was the lecture that brought Julianne Brand to Family Network. “I was at my wits’ end,” recalled Julianne, because her daughter, Gwendolyn, then 17 months, would “kick and scream when she didn’t get what she wanted.” The speaker’s advice helped her family get through Gwen’s communication problems; Julianne still keeps the discussion handout on her home office bulletin board.

Once in the door, Julianne found that Family Network became a significant part of her life. “It was great to talk with other moms about their children,” she said. “I quickly learned that we were not the only parents with a strong-willed child.” Julianne and her husband Bob moved to Highland Park in May 2003 and adopted Gwen two months later. “It was hard to meet people,” she said. “We had very few friends or relatives nearby and connecting with other families with toddlers in the area was difficult. Family

Network made us feel we belonged in this community.”

Shortly after Julianne discovered Family Network, she started taking photos of the children and families enjoying the drop-in activities. “I especially love to take pictures of children playing together. Kids remind us that race, gender, age - any external qualities- are ultimately irrelevant attributes.”

Her photos, often seen in the *Family Networker*, are so compelling that many were used in the annual report of Family Focus, FN’s parent organization. Creating a full color, multi-page web site for FN is Julianne’s current goal. “Once the site is complete, I hope more people in the community will be able to find out what Family Network has to offer.”

For the past four months, since being diagnosed with ovarian cancer, Family Network has been essential to Julianne’s family.

“Our friends created a dinner tree,

WELCOME NEW BABIES TO THE FN PARENT/CHILD CENTER

Sarah Brooks, Belle Fisher-Rohde, Lev Friedman, Tommy Hasselbring, Isabella Márquez, Max Rosner, Alexis Coronel, Jessie Hernandez, Lizbeth Palacios, & Fredy Quintana

Fall/Winter Drop-In Hours

Tue – Fri 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Drop-In Reopens

Tues, Sep 12

Drop In Closed

Fri, Oct 13 for Staff Conference

Thu - Fri, Nov 23-24 for

Thanksgiving

Dec 26 - Jan 5 for Winter Break

Parent Meetings

Sep 22, Oct 20, Dec 1

Fridays 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Groups

Grandparents Together

TBA

Postpartum Depression/Anxiety Support

Wednesdays 1:00-2:30 p.m



(l to r) Bob, Gwen, and Julianne

made play dates for Gwen, shopped for groceries, and even lent a hand in our garden! The staff and Family Network parents also put us in touch with other helpful agencies in the community. But most of all, these generous people provide social support, which is critical to our getting through this very stressful time,” Julianne said.

“We are immensely grateful to these friends -- we’ve known them just over one year! For me, it makes Desmond Tutu’s teachings very real: None of us can be totally self-sufficient – a person is a person through other people.”

PARENT/CHILD CENTER CALENDAR

Speakers

Programs are free and held from 10:00 - 11:15 am.



BABY & ME ROOM



Wednesday, September 20

The Happiest Baby On the Block

Learn to calm your infant from **Cecelia Deslauriers, RN, Lactation Consultant** at Highland Park Hospital Breastfeeding Resource Center. This approach is based on the popular book by Dr. Harvey Karp, and anyone can do it!

Friday, September 29

Tuesday, November 14

Wednesday, December 13

Communicate Through Touch:

Learn To Massage Your Baby

Infant massage is a naturally rewarding way to relieve stress for you and your baby. **Tina Malnati, Certified Infant Massage Instructor**, will demonstrate techniques to relax and soothe your baby, deepen bonding, and improve communication and overall development.

Tuesday, October 24

Understanding Your Baby's Temperament

Babies are born with very different personalities, and it can sometimes be challenging for a parent to understand and adapt to their infant's unique temperament. **Karen Benson, MEd**, Senior Infant Specialist at the Erikson Institute Fussy Baby Network, returns to FN to discuss research and practical suggestions for new parents.

Wednesday, November 29

Mom and Baby Yoga

Lela Schneidman, Certified Yoga Instructor and former FN staff member, will introduce the safe and relaxing practice of yoga for you and your infant together. Wear comfortable clothes and come prepared for a delightful, energizing experience.

PARENT ROOM



Wednesday, October 4

Raising Twins: Challenges and Charms

Join **Nancy Jarvis, MEd** (and mother of 5, including twins) in a discussion of the special issues that arise for families with twins during the early years.

Friday, October 27

Helping Your Child Feel Safe In Today's World

Wendy Anker, MA, LCSW, will discuss common fears that young children experience at different developmental stages, and how parents can help their children manage and master them. Wendy has a private practice with children and families in Highland Park and Buffalo Grove, and provides consultation to early childhood programs.

Wednesday, November 1

Choosing A Preschool For Your Child

Many area preschool programs begin registering for next fall in December and January. **Lois Kupritz, MA**, Early Childhood Specialist and frequent FN speaker and volunteer, will discuss what parents should look for to find the best program for their child.

Friday, November 17

Will My Child Ever Be Out of Diapers?

Join **Arlene Handler, RN** and Development Specialist, for this practical discussion of this important (and challenging) developmental step. Arlene will discuss readiness, techniques, and what to do when problems arise.

Tuesday, December 5

Taking Care of Yourself:

Women's Health In the Childbearing Years

You take care of everyone in your family, except sometimes yourself! Come to this informative program with **Eileen Kerem, RN**, Nurse Practitioner, to learn how to stay healthy during the stressful years of raising young children.



Special Events

Thursday, September 14 5:30-7:00pm

Welcome Back Family Picnic at Sunset Park.

Wednesday, October 18 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Fall Family Night

Join other Family Network families, Board members, and staff for pizza, salad, dessert, and beverages in the gym, followed by playtime in the children's rooms. This is an opportunity to meet other parents and enjoy informal play with your child.

Tuesday, October 24 5:30-7:30 pm

Open House for New & Expectant Parents

Infant Massage and Prenatal Yoga Demonstrations will be offered in the *Baby & Me Room*. Meet Family Network staff and enjoy healthy refreshments in the Parent Lounge.

Friday, December 22 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Annual Cookie Exchange

Join Family Network parents, staff, volunteers, and Board members for this delicious tradition! Bring some of your favorite cookies to share and take a selection of goodies for your family!

President's Column

Marisa Ozburn, Co-President
Family Network Board of Directors

We hope that everyone enjoyed their summer!

Many Family Network families gathered together to celebrate the season by participating in the 4th of July parade, and Ravinia concerts. Our parade turnout was magnificent with many Right From the Start and drop-in families walking together. With a truck, a banner, and walkers pushing strollers and handing out flyers, we were hard to miss! Hopefully, your family was able to join us during one of our summer events.



Family Networker Santiago shows his patriotism on the 4th of July.

With the change of seasons, we have also experienced a change in the Board of Directors. Kirsten Laurie and I are excited to be sharing the duties of Board President. We joined the Board together in 2002 when our boys were in the Rainbow Room. Having co-chaired fundraising events in the past, we work well together and hope that our shared talents and energy will continue to make FN a wonderful, dynamic place.

We are lucky to have Phyllis Siegel

continuing in her role as Vice President and Eric Ephraim remaining as Treasurer, while our Immediate Past President, Kathy Shea-Urbat, will take on new duties as Secretary. We wish to thank Kathy for her tireless efforts over the past 2 years and we look forward to working together in our new roles.

This year promises to be very exciting! FN will celebrate its 24th year and there are many events already planned. Mark your calendars for the annual Book Review Luncheon to be held on Friday, November 10, 2006. And, in January, we will be hosting our 5th annual Kohl Children's Museum fundraiser on Saturday, January 27th.

We welcome your ideas and suggestions at the monthly parent meetings. If you or someone you know would like to get more involved in FN, please feel free to contact either of us at Marisa.ozburn@comcast.net or michaellaurie@comcast.net. We look forward to this coming year and hope that your family will join us as we share in the celebrations!

SAVE THE DATE!



5th Annual Book Review & Luncheon

Friday, November 10

12:00-2:00 pm

Highland Park Presbyterian Church

Popular dramatist Barbara Rinella will perform for this special event.

Please contact the FN office at 847/433-0377 for tickets or more information.

BOARD MEMBER OPPORTUNITY

We are in the process of adding to our active Board of Directors. We are looking for dedicated individuals who are committed to our mission and can help advance our presence in the community. We are seeking board members who have connections with the corporate and business communities, enjoy fundraising and marketing and like working collaboratively with others. Knowledge of the field of Child Development and the populations served at Family Network is a plus. Please forward all interested candidates to Jordan Friedman, Center Director at 847/433-0377 x 302 or email him at jordan.friedman@family-focus.org.



847/433-0377 * 847/433-0461 (fax)
847/681-0890 (RFTS) * 847/681-8496 (RFTS fax)
familynetwork@family-focus.org
www.highlandpark.org/fmnetwork

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KIRSTEN LAURIE *Co-President*
MARISA OZBURN *Co-President*
PHYLLIS SIEGEL *Vice-President*
ERIC EPHRAIM, CPA *Treasurer*
KATHLEEN SHEA-URBAT *Secretary*
GAIL TULER FRIEDMAN
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EDWARD KAUFMAN
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EDNA RACHAL
NEIL VASTUPAL SHAH
SONIA SWANSON
CARYN PLATT TATELLI

JANET FREUND *President Emeritus*
MARTHA FREEMAN *Director Emeritus**
** of fond memory*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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IA BACKSTROM
MICHAEL D. BELSKY
JACK BLANE
ESTHER EMMERMAN
ARIE FRIEDMAN, MD
PATRICIA GOODMAN
GEOFFREY GROSSMAN
DAVID HOFFMAN
BILL KAUFMAN
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GERRY KRISER
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ANGELA LEVENSTEIN, PhD
FRED MILLER, MD, PhD
SANDRA RAIZES
MICHAEL SIEGEL, MD
MARILYN STRAUS
BERT WELLER

CENTER DIRECTOR

JORDAN FRIEDMAN, MSW, LCSW
SONIA CALLES *Office Manager*

Parent/Child Center

TERRY BEEM *Program Coordinator*
CAROL BRUSSLAN *Teacher*
JANE GLICKMAN *Bilingual Teacher*
BARBARA GARLAND *Baby & Me Facilitator*
SUSAN GROSSMAN *Community Outreach*
CATHLEEN HAMILI *Baby & Me Facilitator*
PATTY PELL *Bilingual Teacher*
HELGA SCHRIMMER *Teacher*
CHERYL SCHULTZ *Social Worker*

Right From The Start

NORA BARQUIN *Program Coordinator*
MARILÚ BETANCOURT *Child Care*
MARIA BULTÓ *Librarian*
BERTHA CHÁVEZ *Family Support*
LUISA ESPINOSA-LARA *Office Administrator*
ALEJANDRA MARTINEZ *Child Care*
LUCRECIA SORUCO *Family Support*
LUZ MARIA VEGA *Child Care*
LISA WISNIEWSKI *Family Support*

After School Activity Program

LORI LEVITT *ASAP Director*
RALPH BROCK *Wayne Thomas Coordinator*
ELVA VELEZ *Wayne Thomas Assistant Teacher*
MELISA LARSON *Indian Trail Coordinator*
MARINA SHUBIN *Indian Trail Teacher*

Family Network Builds Community

Notes From The Center Director
Jordan Friedman, MSW, LCSW

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world.

Margaret Mead

It's not often that one enters an agency and feels an immediate sense of community. However at Family Network this happens to be a reality. Our caring and dedicated staff and volunteers are passionate about our mission to promote the well being of children from birth by supporting and strengthening their families in and with their community.

In addition to the creative talents of our Parent/Child Drop-In Center staff, we are connected to the community through the home visits of our dynamic Family Support Workers from our Right From The Start Program (RFTS) and by our innovative After School Activity Program (ASAP) teachers reaching out to children at Indian Trail and Wayne Thomas elementary schools in Highland Park. Collaborative relationships with multiple agencies and municipal entities locally and throughout our region continue to be established. In fact it is through these partnerships that our RFTS and ASAP programs were founded.



Avra & Jona dance during Tricia Sebastian's bilingual concert, funded in part by the Highland Park Cultural Arts Commission.

Martha Freeman Lecture

One example of a community partnership that we are especially proud of is our Martha Freeman Memorial Lecture. Martha Freeman was one of the founders of both Family Network and the Highland Park Community Nursery School. To commemorate her outstanding contribution to both programs, a memorial lecture was established between our two agencies in 2004. A committee made up members of both agencies and FN Advisory Board members Pat Goodman and June Aimen have joined together to plan this year's lecture, entitled *When More Is Less, Socializing Your Child In A Materialistic Society*.

The format of this interactive and informative offering will be a panel discussion with Dr. Maureen Hager, Superintendent of North Shore School District 112 of Highland Park/Highwood; Rabbi Wendi Geffen, of North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe; and Linda Watson, PsyD, former Director of Child and Adolescent Services at the Josselyn Center in Northfield and now in private practice.

Each panelist will bring her unique perspectives to the table and provide the audience with practical approaches to help address this challenging topic. The lecture will take place on October 12th from 7-8:30 p.m. This promises to be an excellent presentation and we look forward to seeing all of you there.

Our Board

No discussion of partnerships can be complete without mentioning our Board of Directors. It has been a privilege to work with members of our board and our Advisory Board this past year. Whether it's relying on them to help plan and organize our fundraisers and special events, or calling upon them for their expertise and collective wisdom, their unselfish dedication and commitment to our agency has been invaluable. Family Network would not be as strong as it is today without having such an engaged and dedicated group of individuals to

Just Breathe...



Shuddhananda Baba, a yogi from India, demonstrated stretching and breathing techniques this past Spring during a well received stress management seminar provided to FN staff, volunteers, and the community.

partner with.

We would also like to acknowledge Kathy Shea-Urbat for all that she's done for the agency during her tenure as Board president, and welcome our new Board co-presidents Kirsten Laurie and Marisa Ozburn. Kirsten and Marisa are both current and former Family Network parents who have been long time contributors to our board. We look forward to working with them in the years ahead.

In Memoriam - Marisa Landa Ness

On May 10, 2006, Family Network lost one of its more dynamic members, Marisa Landa Ness, after a four-year battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband Tim, her daughter Jillian and son Liam, her sisters Margot and Marianne, brother Karl, and an extended family of relatives and friends that reaches around the globe. She was preceded in death by her parents, Marita and Stuart.

Marisa came to Family Network in 2000, shortly after Jillian's birth and she continued to attend with Liam until her death. "I met Marisa in 2000, shortly before Jillian's birth," remarked Michelle Holleman, a friend of Marisa's. "We both agreed to meet there after our babies were born. It turned out to be the cornerstone of our friendship."

Once Marisa discovered Family Network and realized its great benefits for young mothers, she became its biggest advocate. "She brought so many people into this organization," said Terry Beem, Family Network's Parent/Child Center Coordinator. "Her dynamic personality really drew people in. She helped to make Family Network a home



for many young families."

When Jillian was young Marisa could be found in the Baby Room chatting with other moms, discussing feeding issues, playing with her baby, and making people feel welcome. "I remember the day I met her in the baby room," explained Marisa Ozburn, now Co-President of the Family Network Board of Directors. "I was a new mom, new to Ravinia, and I didn't know anyone. She immediately introduced me to the moms in that room and we discovered we lived in the same neighborhood. I left with a couple of phone numbers on a

scrap of paper and the seeds of some wonderful friendships."

As her children and family grew, Marisa became an active member at Family Network, co-founding the annual parent fundraiser at the Kohl Children's Museum, organizing Fridays in the park during the summer when the center was closed, and always advocating and supporting fund- and friend-raising efforts on behalf of the center.

"We will all miss Marisa, terribly," reflected Kirsten Laurie, FN mother and Co-President of the Board of Directors. "But her memory and legacy will always live on in the lives that she touched."

Her dynamic personality, generous spirit, and inclusive nature were a perfect fit for Family Network and she helped to expand its membership and reputation during the last six years.

"We appreciate the generosity that people have demonstrated in donating funds in Marisa's name," said Jordan Friedman, Center Director. "We want to thank everyone for their gifts. It's a fitting tribute to such a generous woman."



In lieu of flowers, Marisa wished to have memorial gifts made in her name to Family Network. To date, gifts in her memory total almost \$8,200. Current contributors include:

Glenna & Robert Ackerman
Charlotte & Joel Albert
Velta & George Anast
Kendra & Mark Beaven
Gordon J. Boozer
Dina & Alexander Bravy
Winifred & Ronald Byer
Barb & Fred Capaldi
Darcy & David Carnal
Stacy Chambers-Leven & Ben Leven
Dale T. Cochran II & Todd B. Cochran
Mary Frances Coleman
Elaine Cook
LeeAnn & Dane Delli
Sonya & Francis Evanofsky
Karen Spinelli-Falberg & Eric Falberg
The Family Network Board
Linda & Peter Flihan, Jr.
Donna & James Gottlieb
Susan & Geoffrey Grossman
Maureen & Matthew Hart
Elizabeth Hastings
Helen & James Heggie III
Michelle & Thomas Holleman

Paula & Robert Johnson
Elizabeth Kann
Marianne Kattner
John B. Kellenyi
Vikki & James Kelly
Jenny Kintopf
Ron Kucirko
Nadia & Donald Lasher
Susan & Robert Loewy
Mantoloking Men's Club
R-Jay Marcus
Scott Markman
Kimberly & Donald Matthews
John A. McMahon
Blythe & David Mendelson
Lissa & Derek Nelson
Meredith & Ronald Orgiefsky
Ljiljana Ortega
Marisa & John Ozburn
Roberta A. Patt
Pediatric Partners
James Perry & Robert Horton
Albert L. Potter
Ravinia School PTO

Catherine & Michael Rosen
Jennifer Lee Russo
Maria & Charles Ryan
Phyllis & Michael Sadoff
Lynne & James Sakanich
Judy & Lloyd Schad
Allison & Lee Schenk
Cheryl & James Schultz
Karen & Hugh Scott
Barbara & James Sedgwick
Mary Lou & Roger Shulas
Amy & Thomas Smith
Barbara & Willard Smith
Pamela & Jarrod Spadino
Elizabeth & Walter Stern
Caryn & Paul Tatelli
Linda & Melvin Teetz
Marilyn & Edward Thompson
Andrea & Jacob Wallach
Frederika & Kevin Walsh
Sandra & Stanley Witkowski
Women's Group of Northwestern
Patricia & Charles Woodward



Tribute Cards

In Memory Of

Carl Mendoza

Denise & Daniel Grunzstein

In Honor Of

Terry Beem

Louise & Marc Beem

Jessie & Alan Gilbert

Esther Emmerman

Janet & Herb Emmerman

The Family Network Board

Patty & Ken Pell

Janet Freund

Mrs. Katherine Deane Wright

Geri Krasner

Andrea & Jerry Whitman

Pat Goodman

Janet & Merrill Freed

Patty Pell

Corrine Bronson-Adatto

Lisa & Holland Fisher

Ruth Ann & Raymond Geraci

Mary & Bruce Goodman

Barbara Mehlman

Sara & Saul Rosen

Karen B. Ury

Justin Rubin

Donna & James Gottlieb

Marilyn Straus

Janet & Merrill Freed

Caryn Platt Tatelli

Kristin & Claude Lerner

Tributes provide an opportunity to honor loved ones. Please call the office (847/433-0377) for details.



Thanks to...

Highland Park Presbyterian Church for providing our home.

Spring gala co-chairs, **Lisa Beth Gansberg** and **Caryn Platt Tatelli**.

Once Upon A Bagel, Sunset Foods, Great Harvest (Evanston) for baked goods.

Piero's of Ravinia for discounts on food for Family Nights and ASAP.

Julianne Brand for photos.

John Moore for handyman services.

Paula Johnson for Osborne Book Fair.

Patty Pell for South American art work.

Lisa Beth Gansberg for organizing FN's 4th of July Parade involvement and **Muller Honda** for providing the Ridgeline.

The Trillium Foundation & Urban

Gateways for ongoing ASAP support.

Staff & Administrators at Wayne Thomas & Indian Trail schools.

Educators of Tomorrow Club at Highland Park High School.

Dr. Maureen Hager, Superintendent, North Shore School District #112 for ongoing ASAP support.

Staff & Students at the Firehouse North Shore School District #113 for providing ESL teacher and staff.

Suburban Fine Arts Center for RFTS group collaborations.

Our office and program **volunteers**.

The **families** who donated Cheerios and toys



Noe Jr. & Taylor take part in the end of the school year ASAP Olympics at the Indian Trail site.

Wish List

Family Network depends on the generous donations of our friends. Please remember us if you can donate any of the following:

Parent/Child Center

- Digital camera
- Paper towels & kleenex
- Laptop
- Current Magazines for Parent Room
- Cheerios & coffee (regular & decaf)
- Diapers and wipes
- Handy wo/man for Center projects

ASAP

- New board games, puzzles, Legos
- Indoor & outdoor sports equipment
- Bean bags & large floor pillows
- CD player
- Art supplies (markers, paints, yarn)
- Movies for school-aged children



Please help us thank the following sponsors of the Fall 2006 Networker by using their services.



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RFTS Summer Picnic: Fun In The Shade



SAVE THE DATE!

Martha Freeman Memorial Lecture

Thursday, October 12

7:00-8:30 pm

Elm Place School Auditorium

Please join us for an interactive presentation on the challenging topic: *When More Is Less, Socializing Your Child In A Materialistic Society*. For additional information or tickets, call Jean Wallace-Baker at Highland Park Community at 847/432-3301.