

Founded 1846



Seamen's  
Society  
for  
Children  
and  
Families



Children need roots and wings

# Seamen's Society for Children and Families 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Since 1846, Seamen's Society For Children And Families Has Cared For Children From Infancy Into Early Adulthood.



*Garden of Hope*



*18th Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner*

## Our Mission

**Seamen's Society for Children and Families** has offered a safe haven from life's storms since 1846. As our name suggests, the agency was established to "afford relief and protection to the destitute children of seamen....by providing an asylum for them with proper arrangements for their health, comfort and education."

Our philosophy has not changed. Today we serve over 1,500 children annually in Staten Island and Brooklyn providing programs that protect and care for our most vulnerable children while strengthening families to overcome alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence and other family problems that can threaten a child's safety and future.

We believe that every child deserves a chance no matter the circumstances. We are committed to our mission to provide all our children with the roots and wings they need to grow.

**Mission:** We provide the highest quality services in the community to strengthen and preserve families so that children and adults have the opportunity to realize their full potential.

**Vision:** We will be a leading social service agency in New York City as evident by the comprehensive and effective services we provide to children, families and adults in their communities. The strong level of financial and collaborative support the agency receives from the community will further strengthen the quality of services we provide.

## Our Principles

**Ethics:** Staff will acknowledge and value the strengths of each client and will provide services that help them to develop the skills necessary to become more self reliant and productive in their family and community.

**Services:** Clients will receive services in a safe and nurturing environment that promotes their health, happiness, education and well-being. Services will be provided based on each client's individual needs and in a manner respectful of their race, ethnicity, culture, religious beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability and economic status. We believe that when people are valued and respected, they value and respect themselves and others.

**Relationship:** A partnership of Board Members and Staff will promote an innovative environment that offers opportunities for agency growth and professional development. Client participation and feedback, which is critical to success, will be supported and encouraged by staff at all levels.

**Collaboration:** The community will see its diversity reflected in all aspects of the agency and both will benefit from working together toward common goals.



Founded 1846



Children need roots and wings

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## **A Message from the Chairperson & President/CEO**

Dear Friends:

Reflecting on the incredible history of Seamen's Society for Children and Families in our 170th year of service to children and families in our communities, we are the legacy of charity and kindness resulting from a meeting of concerned "benevolent ladies" on April 2, 1846.

The "Society for the Relief of Destitute Children of Seamen" was responding to the challenge "to afford relief and protection to the destitute children of seamen . . . by providing asylum for them, with proper arrangements for their health, comfort and education." We live these historic words in upholding our present mission, that through our services we will continue to find solutions and partner with our communities to strengthen their role in the preservation of families. In addition, we continue to advocate for access to opportunities for the adults in our families to realize their full potential.

Seamen's Society in the 21st century continues to address the needs of our children and families through our drive towards providing personal and family based services. Our Foster Care and Adoption programs continue to fulfill our role in history. In the late 19th century, Seamen's was one of the early adopters of the practice towards integration of the child into the total community sphere; which is the current practice in child welfare. Safety, permanency and well-being are rubrics of our practice and we work hard toward achieving them with our families every day. We continue to work towards family preservation and support in the community with our Prevention and Family Treatment Rehabilitation Services which is becoming the best practice for providing services where we use family based interventions and strategies. Our Early Learn/Family Day Care Program has achieved a solid launch of educational readiness for our infants and toddlers. The program provides safe quality child care allowing parents and caretakers opportunities to achieve their personal and family goals. Our Safe Passage and Child Witness Programs are addressing some very tough situations that parents and children face with regards to domestic violence. Security and safety for the survivors is our goal to support and address trauma from the violence. We are on the cutting edge of our practice for our children.

We at Seamen's take education very seriously! We know that access to quality education will allow our children and young adults an even playing field in society. The Seamen's Society Annual Scholarship Program is in its 19th year. This program has seen 50 graduates. We look to enhance our educational support with mentorship and other forms of support for our students.

We humbly thank all our individual donors and partners who have supported our mission through generous donations of time and financial support. We thank our foundation benefactors who have shared their knowledge, skills, advocacy and financial largesse to help us achieve and work towards our mission to tackle the needs and challenges of our children and families within our communities and society.

Thank you again for being part of our rich history and legacy as we continue to answer the call as part of our humble family here at Seamen's Society.

*Caroline Ferreri*

Caroline Ferreri  
Chairperson

*William Sabado*

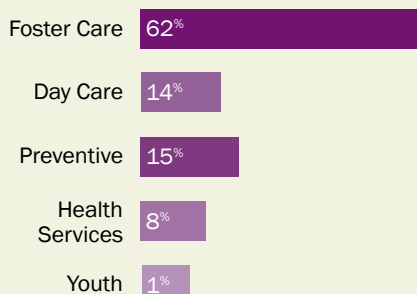
William Sabado, LMSW, JD  
President/CEO

# Statement Of Activity

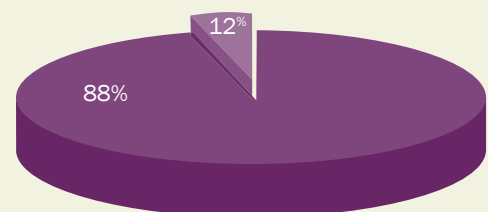
Seamen's Society for Children and Families - For Fiscal Years 2013 - 2015

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30	2015	2014	2013
<b>Revenue</b>			
Program Service Revenue	19,386,375	18,822,996	18,674,522
<b>Expenses – Program Services</b>			
Foster Care Programs	10,735,326	10,929,390	10,809,665
Health Services	1,434,922	1,377,175	1,522,455
Day Care Services	2,361,435	2,306,810	2,090,696
Preventive Programs	2,652,161	2,545,409	2,524,071
Youth Programs	127,456	60,481	64,155
Total Program Services	17,311,300	17,219,265	17,011,042
<b>Supporting Services</b>			
Management and General	2,223,268	1,928,312	1,920,378
Fund Raising	51,795	48,234	97,437
Total Supporting Services	2,275,063	1,976,546	2,017,815
<b>Total Expenses</b>	19,586,363	19,195,811	19,028,857
<b>Operating Surplus (deficit)</b>	(199,988)	(372,815)	(354,335)
<b>Non-Operating Revenue</b>			
Contributions/Special Events	116,712	286,814	187,978
Management Fees	50,995	0	0
Dividends and Interest Income	2,740	112	209
Total Non-Operating Income	170,447	286,926	188,187
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	(29,541)	(85,889)	(166,148)
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	1,929,247	2,015,136	2,181,284
<b>Adjustments</b>			
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	1,899,706	1,929,247	2,015,136

## Budget by Program



## Management vs. Program Costs



88% Program Costs – 12% Management Costs

Note: A copy of our financial statement, independently audited by BDO USA is available upon written request.

# Statement Of Activity

Friends of Seamen's Society - For Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30	2015	2014
<b>Revenue</b>		
Contributions & Grants	159,782	171,052
Special Events	66,858	65,354
Rental Income	570,000	570,000
Investment Income, Net	49,849	272,219
Other Income	5,476	88
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>851,965</b>	<b>1,078,713</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Management & General	421,009	382,578
Contributions	146,262	307,648
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>567,271</b>	<b>609,226</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>284,694</b>	<b>388,487</b>
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>2,954,503</b>	<b>2,566,016</b>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>3,239,197</b>	<b>2,954,503</b>



Note: A copy of our financial statement, independently audited by BDO USA is available upon written request.



**Seamen's Society for Children and Families thanks the following contributors for their generous support of our efforts on behalf of children and families.**  
*(Gifts reported for July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015)*

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*(Individuals, corporations & foundations who contributed \$5000 or more)*

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*(In Kind Gifts)*

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# Scholarship Support

## Agency Affiliations

Brookdale Hospital  
Child Welfare League of America  
Community Health Action of SI  
Council of Family & Child Caring Agencies  
Day Care Council of New York  
DVERT  
Human Services Council of New York City  
New York City Administration for Children's Services  
New York Foundling  
New York State Office of Children & Family Services  
Richmond County Domestic Violence Committee  
SETI/YETU – Center for African Women  
Staten Island Mental Health Services  
Staten Island Children's Museum  
Staten Island Council on Alcohol & Substance Abuse  
Staten Island Community Partnership  
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STEPS – Steps to End Violence  
St. John's University  
Wagner College  
Workforce1  
TheraCare  
Early Childhood Development Center  
Children's Aid Society  
Bay Street Health Center  
Families on the Move  
Bridge Back to Life  
South Shore YMCA  
Saint Vincent's HeartShare  
Silver Lake Counseling Services  
Silver Lake Head Start

**“All of us do not have equal talent  
but all of us should have an equal opportunity”**

*~Former U.S. President John F. Kennedy*



Since 1998, Seamen's Society has awarded scholarships to graduates associated with Seamen's programs. The Society was able to do so because of the generous support of Seamen's Board of Trustees, its administration, foster parents, local corporations, foundations and friends. To date, we have had 47 graduates; some have gone on to obtain their master's degrees and one has received a medical degree. We are truly grateful for the assistance received from all our donors.

In the past fiscal year, support for full annual scholarships has been received from The Brooklyn Foster and Adoptive Parents Association (provided two scholarships); Mr. & Mrs. Lee Stephens III in memory of Annie B. Mariner; Mr. & Mrs. Lee Stephens III in memory of Margie Ree Stephens; Staten Island Children's Campaign Charitable Trust; Stephen Siller- Let Us Do Good Children's Foundation; The Staten Island Rotary Club in honor of Ann and Norbert Leeseberg; Barbara Simpson in honor of her father Robert O'Donnell; The Emblar-Cilenti Family (2); The Seamen's Society Board of Trustees Scholarship, The South Shore Kiwanis Club Scholarship and the Alex Inserra Memorial Scholarship; the Michael Petosa Memorial Scholarship. Staten Island Kiwanis Club presented the John Bovasso Memorial Scholarship; Priscilla Dunhill who presented the Emma Christman Memorial Scholarship. New donors included TD Bank Foundation.

Scholarships are critically important to young people who are underserved, some without families and financial resources. The most important recognition from your gift is in the knowledge that you have made an investment by helping to secure a brighter and more promising future for a young person in the community.

In 2013, the "Legacy Society" was created for those who wanted to contribute to the program but didn't necessarily want to support an individual scholarship on their own. A pooled fund was combined to create the "Legacy Society Scholarship". In July, at our eighteenth Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner we were able to award six scholarships provided by Legacy Society members. Special thanks to all our Legacy Society members for their support: Angela Angell, Victory State Bank (full scholarship), P.S. 19 – Young Helpers Club, Edith Holtermann, Caryn & Charles Mazzeo (full scholarship), Lynne C. Persing (full scholarship), Joe & Dorothy Conti, DeSantis, Kiefer, Shall & Sarcone, LLP; JRT Realty Corp; Bennett & Rhonda Pine; Dr. Stanley & Mrs. Ruth Soren; David Brandwein; MaryRose Morris; David Karbowski; Prime Landscape Services, LLC; Leonard Dahl; Seth A. Harris, PPL; Rose Levy; Deborah Jean Stinson; Precious Hayes; Constabile Galdi; Linda & John Iacono; Robert Schneider & Regina Mullahy; Margaret Accordino.

We also wish to thank the Brooklyn Foster & Adoptive Parent Legacy Society members; Joan Arnold, Lawrell Arnold, Bettie Ward, Ruby Holloway, Church of the Holy Redeemer, Betty Rock; Tara Arnold; and Viola Lucas-Spellman.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about the "Legacy Society" or would like to support a full scholarship please contact our development office at 718-447-7740 ext. 4269. Together, we will build bridges for the future.

# Programs

“Families don’t have to match.  
You don’t have to look like someone else to love them”

~Leigh Anne Tuohy – Mother of Michael Oher, Profiled in *The Blind Side*

**Foster Care Services** provides a safe haven for children at a critical moment in their lives and the lives of their families until they can be reunited with their birth parents. Seamen’s Society offers nurturing foster homes and health care services that help children, birth families and foster families.

In 2015, Seamen have provided over 400 children with 150,399 days of care in foster or adoptive homes. 29 children were legally adopted and 376 children were in care on June 30, 2015.

**Health Services** provides comprehensive medical and psychological services to all children placed in foster care at Seamen’s Society. Psychological services address an essential need for our foster children who require diagnosis and referral services along with therapy. In FY 2015, 146,475 days of care were provided.

**Therapeutic Foster Boarding Home Program (TFBH)** provides intensive support and psychological services to foster children who are experiencing emotional and behavioral difficulties. Foster parents who care for these children undergo extensive training, including behavior modification techniques and clinical support from the treatment team. In 2015, 40 children received 12,774 days of care in Therapeutic Foster Boarding Homes.

**Preparing Youth for Adulthood (PYA)** provides youth ages 14 through 20 from our Foster Care programs with specialized training to prepare them for adulthood. Programs include; Educational Workshops, Life-Skill Workshops and helps them to explore career opportunities. Our youth specialist works closely with adolescents to guide them through any obstacles they may encounter on the road to adulthood. They also assist teens to obtain vital documents such as Social Security cards, New York State ID’s and driving permits. Seamen’s provides step by step assistance to complete college and vocational school applications and ongoing support through their college and vocational experience.

PYA is creating a Youth Advisory Board to help youth vocalize the needs of teens in Foster Care. Not only does this give them a platform to express their concerns but it will help us provide better and innovative solutions to the obstacles many of our youth face today in foster care.

Adolescents 17 and older are eligible to apply for Seamen’s Society’s paid internship program. In 2015 Seamen’s had 20 paid interns through a variety of businesses on Staten Island and Brooklyn. We wish to thank the following organizations who committed to help our youth and provide career experience. They are UAU Beacon @PS 18, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Council for Unity, Faber Pool, JCC Cornerstone @ Carter, RD2 Construction & Demolition, Vincent Albunio Law Firm, St. George Library, Gerard Carter Center, Literacy Inc., Angiuli & Gentile, LLP, Tri Community and Youth Agency, My Hero & Me Fatherhood Internship, The Doe Fund, and NYC School of Technology.



*In 2015, 29 children were promised a brighter future through the completion of the adoption process. Together, everyone shares this happiness in the knowledge that these children can begin their journey surrounded by loving members of their family.*

*Affordable and adequate housing remains a challenge for many of our clients; especially for foster youth aging out of care and birth parents who are being reunited with their children. The lack of suitable housing remains the sole barrier to their discharge. With the help of our housing specialist we have been able to secure or maintain housing for 20 clients, and pay rent arrears for 3 clients so that they do not lose their apartments.*

## Preventive Services



**PREVENTIVE SERVICES** provides case management, home visits, crisis intervention, advocacy, parenting classes, housing advocacy, support groups, and access to programs and services offered by Seamen's Society in both Staten Island and Brooklyn. In 2015, Preventive Services on Staten Island provided counseling, advocacy and support services to 248 families with 469 children. In Brooklyn, those services were provided to 257 families with 353 children. On Staten Island, 83 parents completed Parenting Skills Classes and 100 parents completed those classes in Brooklyn.

**FAMILY TREATMENT AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES (FTR)** is provided on Staten Island and Brooklyn to combat substance abuse and assist its victims. In 2015, FTR provided intensive counseling, advocacy and support services to 112 families and 136 children on Staten Island and 63 families and 121 children in Brooklyn. 11(FTR) Families attended Parenting Skills Classes on Staten Island.

## Community Programs

### **FAMILY DAY CARE SERVICES**

Seamen's Society Family Day Care Services has seen many changes in its program but remains a critical need for our families. Our Family Day Care Network served 244 children who received 60,422 days of care. They ranged in age from 6 weeks to 5 years old. There were 244 children in 204 families receiving day care services as of June 30, 2015. These services are provided to low income families on Staten Island through our Family Day Care Network of 27 providers. The cost of day care is based on a sliding scale depending on a parent's income.

**SAFE PASSAGE** is a crisis intervention program on Staten Island that helps women and children who are in danger from abuse. The program offers counseling, access to legal services and referrals. In 2015, we logged in 2747 domestic violence hotline calls. We counseled 220 individual clients providing 201 individual counseling sessions. We furnished 297 referrals and completed 150 advocacies on behalf of our clients. We assisted Safe Passage clients to develop and then review 471 Safety plans for FY 2015. 58 outreach events were conducted during the year providing domestic violence services to approximately 600 individuals.



**CHILD WITNESS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM** was established in 2009 with the support of the Richmond County Foundation, the Verizon Foundation and the office of Councilwoman Debi Rose. In FY 2015 we received funding from HRA (Human Resource Administration) and OCFS (Office of Children and Family Services). Its mission is to provide psychological services to children who have witnessed domestic violence within their families. It is our hope to restore tranquility and confidence within the family and alter the cycle of domestic violence which moves from generation to generation. It is the only program of its kind offered on Staten Island and continues to have a waiting list of clients needing services.

In fiscal year 2015 the Child Witness to Domestic Violence Program served 35 individuals; providing 21 children and 14 parents with 44 weeks of therapy (2 sessions per week). There was a combined 67 individual and family sessions. Our therapist made 69 referrals to our clients for additional assistance. We also conducted 31 advocacies on behalf of our clients for challenges that they faced concerning mental health problems, school, police and court difficulties. As of June 30, 2015 there were 21 families waiting for services.

The program is in the process of being transformed by an expansion in line with its purposes and customary procedures. This includes expansion of staff and the creation of additional services to alleviate the wait time for services.

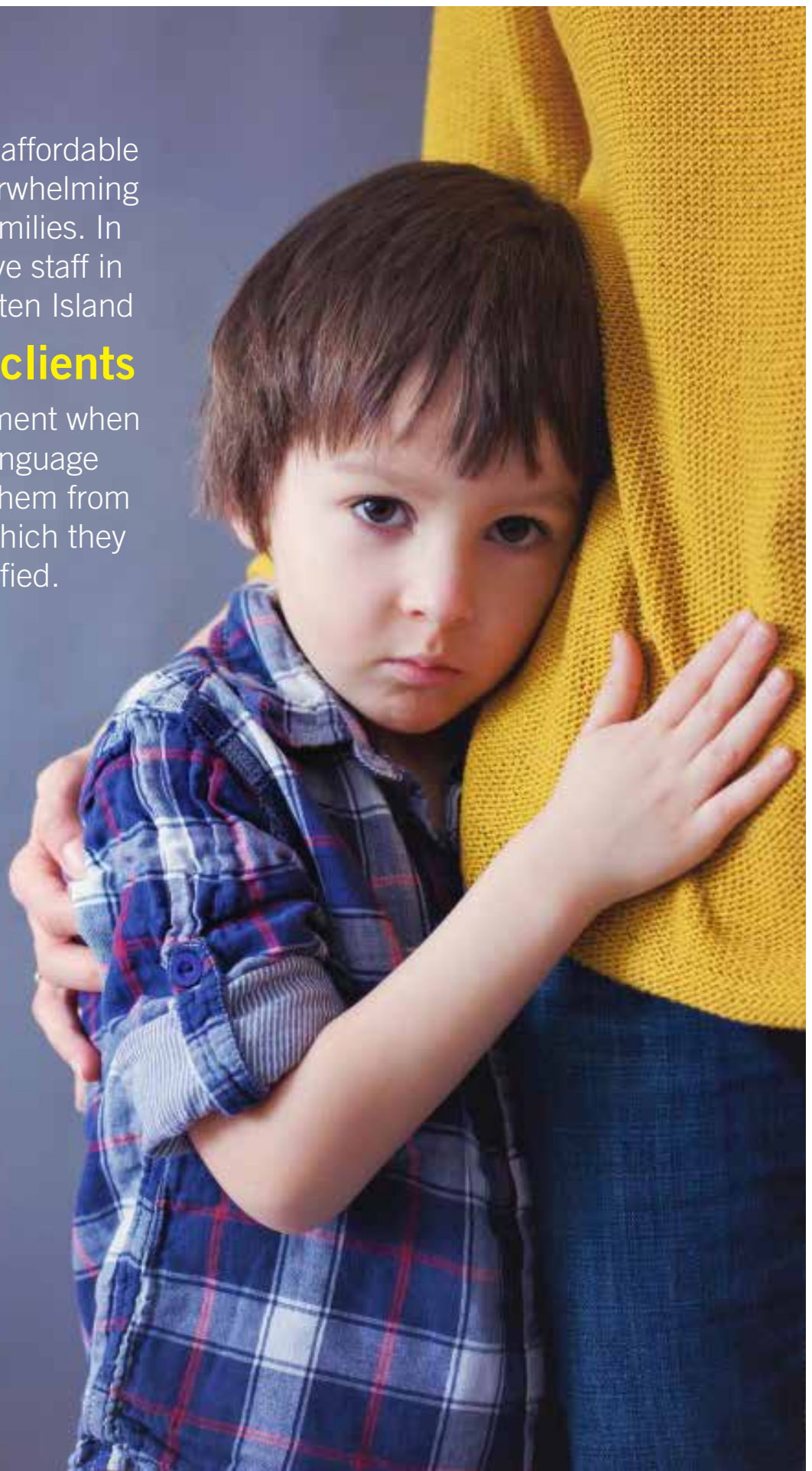
Unemployment and affordable housing present overwhelming problems for our families. In 2015, our Preventive staff in both Brooklyn & Staten Island

**assisted 188 clients**

in obtaining employment when paperwork and language barriers prevented them from securing work for which they were well qualified.

With the help of Preventive Services in both Staten Island and Brooklyn

**265 families** secured permanent housing.



## Educational Services

“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.”

- Sydney J. Harris



“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.



Involve me and I learn.”



- Benjamin Franklin

**EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES:** The educational needs of children have always been a priority of Seamen’s Society; especially now because of the changes coming to the organization’s health services. Seamen’s has joined the Collaborative for Children and Families which is a consortium of child care agencies who have partnered to become a Health Home for children as part of the NYS Medicaid redesign. In addition we will provide care management services for children in Brooklyn and Staten Island. Care coordination services will assist children with medical and behavioral health needs; this includes education and any social support services. The community must understand the importance of meeting the child’s overall wellness needs to prevent unnecessary health problems as they become adults and keep them on track developmentally.

Our mission remains to help our young people to secure a brighter and more promising future. For the last three years, through a partnership with St. John’s University – School of Education, Seamen’s has recruited tutors from the Academic Service Learning Program & Ozanam Scholars Program to work with our children during the school year in our Forward through Education Program, an afterschool tutoring program. Most recently we have worked with tutors from the Speech Pathology Department at St. John’s. This was particularly helpful because we had tutors that were knowledgeable in evaluating speech patterns and reading abilities. This is important because of the growing immigrant population on Staten Island where many of the children live in homes where English is a second language. Participants and tutors form a close bond that creates an environment of trust and understanding to make Seamen’s a “safe haven” for learning and wellness enhancement.

**FORWARD THROUGH EDUCATION:** 140 children grades 1 through 12 received tutorial services during our fall, spring and summer enrichment program. The program is open to both Seamen’s children and those in the community at large. All services are provided free of charge.

**SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:** 24 recent high school graduates and college students already enrolled in school received scholarship assistance. In 2015 the program had three students graduate from a variety of colleges; SUNY Plattsburg, Mount Saint Mary College and Russell-Sage Albany College. Since its inception in 1998 the program has produced 47 college graduates. Several of them have obtained master’s degrees and one student has graduated from medical school and the other most recently from law school. To be eligible for Scholarship assistance students must be involved in one of the agency’s programs.



# Continued Support - Thank You!

Seamen's Society is pleased to extend appreciation to government and foundation funding sources for their continued support of our mission.

## **New York State**

Department of Health  
Office of Children and Family Services

## **New York City**

Administration for Children's Services  
Department of Youth and Community Development  
Human Resources Administration

## **Thanks To The Following Elected Officials Who Provided Special Grants And/Or Assistance To The Seamen's Society**

Councilwoman Debi Rose, 49th District  
Councilman Steven Matteo, 50th District  
Councilman Vincent Ignizio, 51st District

## **Special Thanks To Those Foundations And Other Non-Government Organizations Which Assisted Seamen's Society Through Grants**

George Link Jr. Foundation  
New York Community Bancorp  
Richmond County Savings Foundation  
South Shore Kiwanis Charitable Foundation  
South Shore Rotary Foundation

Staten Island Children's Campaign Community Trust  
Staten Island Foundation  
Staten Island Rotary Foundation  
The Stephen Siller Foundation  
Victoria Loconsolo Foundation

## **Establishing a Legacy with Planned Giving For Seamen's Society**

The current economic environment poses significant challenges to all non-profit organizations. With reductions in city and state funding, we at Seamen's Society for Children and Families rely increasingly on the generous support of our donors to maintain the highest quality of programs and services we provide to the community.

With a look toward the future and in an effort to plan for growth and sustainability of Seamen's for years to come, we ask that you consider one of the following Planned Giving options in support of Seamen's:

- Wills and Bequests
- Gifts of Retirement Plan Assets
- Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Pooled Income Funds
- Gifts of Appreciated Securities
- Life Insurance
- Gifts of Real Estate
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Charitable Lead Trusts

Through one of these Planned Giving options, your generous gift could:

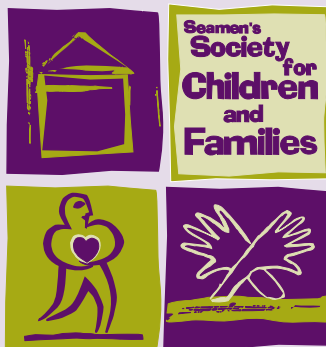
- Preserve a lifetime income stream for you or your loved ones
- Leverage your donation to make a more significant impact on the lives of the families we help
- Provide potential income, gift and estate tax benefits
- Ensure your legacy supporting Seamen's future for years to come
- Allow you to witness first hand the positive effect that your generosity has on our organization

If you would like more information about Planned Giving options to help support Seamen's Society for Children and Families, please call Christina Marino in our Development Office at 718-447-7740 ext. 4269. All calls will be kept confidential.

*Please note: The photos used in this annual report may or may not be children who participate in programs at Seamen's Society. The children may not, however, be involved with the particular program that their photo is used with. The photos were taken by Seamen's staff, Big Stock, Laura Volsario and Bill Higgins.*



*Today's children are tomorrow's teenagers.  
Today's teenagers will be the parents of our next generation.  
Thank you for providing the roots and wings they need to grow.*



**Children need roots and wings**

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Staten Island, NY 10301  
718-447-7740

1668 Pitkin Avenue  
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718-313-1111