

# THE ANCHOR

STAYING GROUNDED IN  
OUR MISSION



2026

## OUR MISSION

The mission of Seamen's Society for Children and Families is to 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.



Seamen's Society has been a pillar of strength and stability for children and families. Since 1846, just like an anchor keeps a ship steady through rough waters, our organization provides unwavering support to those who need it most.



*Save the Date* *New Location!*  
**OUR GALA IS 10.23.26 AT THE HILTON GARDEN INN**

STATEN ISLAND OFFICE: 50 BAY STREET, STATEN ISLAND, NY 10301 • BROOKLYN OFFICE: 1668 PITKIN AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11212

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## A Message from the Seamen's Society President & CEO

**DAVID GASKIN**

Dear Friends of Seamen's Society:

It is with heartfelt gratitude and great pride that I share this year's newsletter with you. As we celebrate 180 years of serving children and families, I am especially reflective and deeply inspired by both the resilience of the families we serve and the unwavering generosity of the community that has stood beside Seamen's Society for nearly two centuries.

In this issue, you will read about our recent trip to Albany, where our team had the opportunity to advocate for the needs of our families. Supporting these families on the state level is critical to our mission, and it was both energizing and affirming to ensure their voices were heard.

We are also thrilled to share that Seamen's Society was named a recipient of the Staten Island Foundation's Diamond Matching Grant. This meaningful support allows us to continue outreach and deepen our impact, and we are incredibly thankful for the Foundation's partnership and confidence in our work.

There is also exciting news about one of our most anticipated events

of the year. Our annual October Gala will be held at a new location this year-the beautiful Hilton Garden Inn on Staten Island. We look forward to gathering in this grand new space to celebrate our mission, our supporters, and the families who are at the heart of everything we do.

One of the highlights of this newsletter is a feature on one of our foster parents. Their story beautifully illustrates just how powerful and life-changing fostering and KinGap can be, offering hope, stability, and love to children when they need it most.

Finally, I encourage you to take a moment to review the impact numbers included in this issue. Behind every statistic is a family supported, a child cared for, and a future strengthened.

Thank you for your continued support, compassion, and belief in Seamen's Society. Because of you, we are able to move forward with optimism and purpose, making a real difference in the lives of so many families. I hope this newsletter leaves you feeling as proud and inspired as we do.

With gratitude,

David Gaskin  
President & CEO



On The Cover: Seamen's Society heads to Albany!  
Read more about our visit on page 3.

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### CONTRIBUTORS

Dan Barckhaus, Roosevelt Board,  
Teresa Cirelli, David Gaskin, Diana  
Hernandez, Maureen Higgins, Richard  
Larson, Jessica Scarcella Spanton,  
Debbie Vale & Philip Zweiger

## SEAMEN'S SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

### FINANCIALS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

#### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

##### REVENUE & SUPPORT

|                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Program Services                   | \$27,585,931        |
| Contributions & Other Revenue      | 610,192             |
| <b>Total Revenue &amp; Support</b> | <b>\$28,196,123</b> |

##### EXPENSES

|                       |                     |             |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Program Expenses:     |                     |             |
| Foster Care Program   | \$17,191,582        | 58%         |
| Health Services       | 3,042,602           | 10%         |
| Preventive Programs   | 4,549,993           | 15%         |
| Other Services        | 687,421             | 3%          |
| Management & General  | 3,546,767           | 12%         |
| Fundraising           | 501,692             | 2%          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$29,520,057</b> | <b>100%</b> |

#### BALANCE SHEET

##### ASSETS

|                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Cash & cash equivalents         | \$15,403            |
| Accounts receivable             | 6,189,226           |
| Prepaid expenses & other assets | 257,487             |
| Fixed Assets, Net               | 1,910,327           |
| Right-of-Use Assets             | 6,163,843           |
| <b>Total Assets</b>             | <b>\$14,536,286</b> |

##### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

|                                           |                     |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total Liabilities                         | \$14,039,900        |
| Unrestricted Net Assets                   | 176,182             |
| Donor Restricted Net Assets               | 320,204             |
| <b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b> | <b>\$14,536,286</b> |

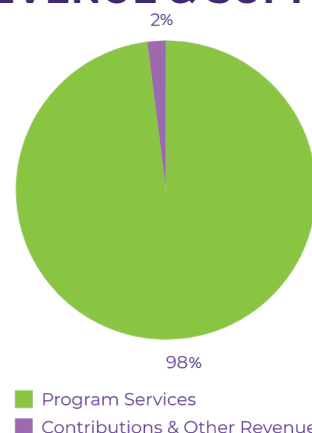
##### Top Charity Ratings:

Platinum  
Transparency  
2026

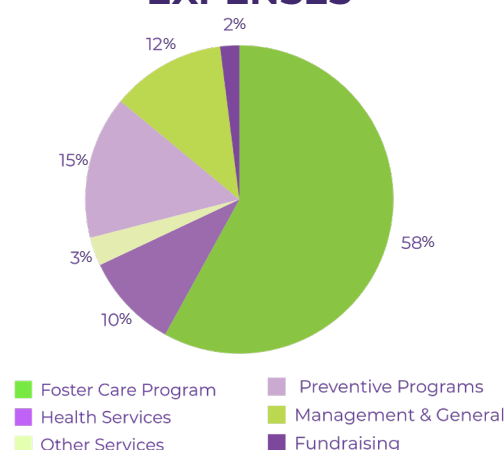
Candid.

Seamen's Society is committed to transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility. We proudly earned the Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency on GuideStar, a recognition that reflects our dedication to sharing clear, comprehensive, and up-to-date information about our mission, programs, financials, and impact.

#### REVENUE & SUPPORT



#### EXPENSES



## THANK YOU

Thank you for your dedicated support of our mission. Your generosity powers change in your community and positively impacts those in need. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without your support.



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT [INFO@SEAMENSSOCIETY.ORG](mailto:INFO@SEAMENSSOCIETY.ORG)

# SEAMEN'S SOCIETY HEADS TO ALBANY!

This year, Seamen's Society staff traveled to Albany to advocate for critical investments supporting the children and families we serve across Staten Island. The visit offered an important opportunity to speak about our mission, highlight pressing needs, and strengthen partnerships with state leaders who share our commitment to community well-being.

During the trip, our team met with Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton, Senator Andrew J. Lanza, Assemblymembers Charles Fall, Michael Reilly, Sam Pirozzolo, and Michael Tannousis. Conversations focused on priorities including essential infrastructure upgrades-resources that are vital to maintaining safe environments for the families who depend on our services.

A special highlight of the trip was being recognized on the floor of the Capitol

by Assemblymember Sam Pirozzolo-an honor that underscored the impact of our work and the value of advocacy in action!

"Seamen's Society plays an essential role in supporting some of Staten Island's most vulnerable, and I am proud to stand with them in advocating for resources that strengthen our community," said Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton.

President and CEO David Gaskin added, "Advocacy is a critical part of our mission. By sharing the voices and needs of our families in Albany, we are working to ensure that every child we serve has access to the care, education, and opportunities they deserve."

We are grateful to our legislative partners for their time, engagement, and continued commitment to our programs.



“

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— David Gaskin  
President & CEO



## BECAUSE OF YOU: MOMENTS THAT MATTER

**At Seamen's Society, our children experience a wide range of enriching activities that support their growth, confidence, and sense of community.**

Recently, some of them proudly advanced to new belt levels through martial arts classes, demonstrating focus, discipline, and perseverance. Others enjoyed the excitement of a baseball game at the Staten Island FerryHawks stadium.

Each opportunity reflects our commitment to helping every child explore their interests, build skills, and create joyful memories.

We are especially grateful to the  
**Barbara and Robert Fitzsimmons Children and Family Fund,**  
whose support helps open doors to meaningful experiences  
that allow our children to learn, grow, and thrive.



For more information on the fund, visit:  
[seamenssociety.org/donate/fitzsimmons](https://seamenssociety.org/donate/fitzsimmons)



## THANK YOU

Your support creates moments  
that inspire confidence, build  
character, and last a lifetime.



**THESE MOMENTS ARE MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH  
THE GENEROSITY OF OUR SUPPORTERS.**

## MEET THE STAFF

### RICHARD LARSON

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT  
OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



#### How did you first become involved with Seamen's Society?

I've done a lot of work involving families and children in the past. When I was thinking about a new job, I saw the ad for Seamen's and thought it would be a good fit. I worked with Dan Barkhaus, our Senior Vice President of Programs, at a previous job. Dan has high standards and is not afraid to speak his mind, both of which are things I appreciate. So, the opportunity seemed interesting. My kids are grown up now, so I don't have to be home for early dinner which made the (gulp!) two-hour commute worth it. And so far, I have liked the agency and being on Staten Island. I've lived or worked in every borough, including a couple of jobs where I supervised staff on Staten Island. So, I have a better than average sense of New York City. I have enjoyed hearing from various people how Seamen's Society is well known and established as the Staten Island group. It ends up feeling like working for a small-town place in the big city.

#### Why did you choose this line of work?

I did a stint as a resident tutor during my sophomore year in college for the A Better Chance (ABC) Program. At the ABC house I worked with a host family and nine city youth who attended high school in central New York. I liked working with teens and when I graduated, went to work at Covenant House – a shelter for runaway and homeless young people. I was just 22 and only marginally older than the people I was counseling. At the beginning I was assigned to the outdoor security booth to welcome new kids and to help keep order out in front of the building. Fresh out of college and 120 pounds soaking wet, I think it is safe to say I was over my head! Eventually, I was working on the younger kids floor and figured out that this Hawaiian nun, Sr. Shirley, was the one who seemed to best know what she was doing. She had a master's in social work degree. I don't think I even quite knew what that was, but I looked at the work she was doing and decided I should get me one of those. So I did! I have been social working ever since.

#### Since you've joined the team, is there a highlight that you can share with us?

The staff have been great and really step up to help a lot of people. It's been a pleasure working with them. We help a lot of families, and I admire the dedication of the staff. On a less direct service note, I attended the bowling fundraiser a couple of months ago. I got assigned to a group with some of the Board members. The last game was a tense back and forth with me and Jeanne from the Board. With time running out until they turned the lanes off, we got in our final shots and the game got decided on the last ball. In chatting with Jeanne, I found out her sister was my daughter's kindergarten teacher many years ago! It's a small world.

#### What are some of your favorite things to do while not working?

My family and I used to go to the Adirondacks every summer. At one point we decided to become 46ers, which means summiting the 46 highest peaks in New York State. There are many pictures of my kids smiling brightly after some of these hikes. These pictures are lies. They were forced to smile if they wanted ice cream. The kids hated them and would have been perfectly happy to hang around the campsite or the swimming holes. My wife Jessica and I realized that if we only did one of these hikes a year, we would be 90 before we finished them all. So now that the kids are older, she and I go mountain hiking about once a month. If all goes according to schedule, we should finish the Catskill 35 highest mountains and the Adirondack 46 later this year. Then we will need a new list! There are 435 or so National Parks and Monuments in the US. So that might be next up. Guam will be tricky...

## OUR ANNUAL IMPACT

### 848

Children received support through our Family Support Services and Family Treatment and Rehabilitation Programs in fiscal year 2025.

### 25

Children were provided nutritional meals and snacks through our Child and Adult Care Food Program in fiscal year 2025.

### 415

Children were entrusted to Seamen's Society within the Foster Care program in fiscal year 2025.

### 10

Students received homework assistance, tutoring, and learning enrichment through the support of 8 tutors during fiscal year 2025.

### \$23,625

Total scholarships awarded in fiscal year 2025 to help young adults pursue a college or vocational degree. (Over \$270,000 awarded over the past 29 years!).

### 134

Foster Care youth received social and emotional support through our Empowerment Coaches in fiscal year 2025.

# SETTING SAIL IN THE COMMUNITY





# CELEBRATING 180 YEARS

OF CARE, COMMITMENT, & COMMUNITY

For 180 years, Seamen's Society for Children and Families has been a steady force of compassion and innovation, evolving to meet the changing needs of New York City's most vulnerable children and families while remaining true to its founding mission. Founded in 1846 to care for children of sailors lost at sea, the organization began as The Society for the Relief of Destitute Children of Seamen, offering safety, shelter, and hope at a time when few protections existed for children in crisis.

From its earliest days on Staten Island, Seamen's Society demonstrated forward-thinking leadership. Long before community-based care became standard practice, the organization championed approaches that moved away from large institutions and toward foster care, education, and family preservation. By the early 20th century, Seamen's Society was already recognized nationally for its progressive child welfare practices, including its emphasis on placing children in family homes rather than congregate settings.

As the city and its families changed, so did Seamen's Society. Over the decades, its services expanded beyond foster care and adoption to include preventive services, runaway and at-risk youth programs, domestic violence intervention, mental health care, family day care, educational support, and scholarships for young people pursuing higher education. In 1998, the organization formally adopted the name Seamen's Society for Children and Families, honoring its roots while reflecting its broader mission to strengthen and preserve families across Staten Island and Brooklyn.

Today, under the leadership of David Gaskin, President & CEO, the organization continues to look forward while honoring its past. David shares, "When you look back over 180 years, what's most moving is not just how long this organization has existed, but how many lives have been touched along the way. Generation after generation, Seamen's Society has shown up for children and families in moments when it mattered most, and that is a legacy we are deeply honored to carry forward."

Seamen's Society for Children and Families stands as a testament to what enduring compassion, community partnership, and a belief in every child's potential can achieve-yesterday, today, and for generations to come.

Scan the QR Code if you would like to make a donation, or visit [seamenssociety.org/donate](https://seamenssociety.org/donate).



## WE'RE HIRING

We're more than just a job - We're a purpose! If you're passionate about making a meaningful impact, we want you on our team.  
Apply today!

### WHY WORK FOR US?

- Competitive Salaries
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### SCAN ME



LEARN MORE

## NOW Enrolling



## CHILD CARE CENTER



- 95 Central Avenue SI NY 10301
- Short Walk to Staten Island Ferry
- Close to transportation HUB
- Spanish Speaking Services



Servicing children 3 and 4 years old

### CONTACT:

929-425-4195

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Learn

Share

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**Seamen's Society**  
for Children and Families

# FOSTER CARE BUILDS FAMILIES

*You can foster.  
We can help.*



**BECOME A FOSTER PARENT**

[seamenssociety.org/foster](https://seamenssociety.org/foster)

## BOARD HIGHLIGHT

### ROOSEVELT BOARD



Roosevelt Board is the owner-operator of Chick-fil-A at the Staten Island Mall and a dedicated leader in business and community engagement. A South Carolina native and Coastal Carolina University graduate, he began with Chick-fil-A as a general manager and later served as a Grand Opening Supervisor nationwide. At 27, he opened Staten Island's first Chick-fil-A, building it into a hub for service and leadership.

Board actively supports youth and entrepreneurship through programs like the Staten Island Chamber's Young Entrepreneurs Academy and Chick-fil-A Leader Academy. He partners with local schools and nonprofits, leading initiatives that address food insecurity, homelessness, and cancer awareness.

A recipient of the Louis R. Miller Business Leadership Award, Board measures success by the positive impact he makes in his community.

## EAT MOR CHIKIN. GIVE MOR HEART.



Seamen's Society celebrated a successful Chick-fil-A "Spirit Day" at the Staten Island Mall, raising more than \$4,000 to support the children, youth, and families we serve.

Hosted by Roosevelt Board, Owner/Operator and Seamen's Society Board Member, the event reflects a shared commitment to showing up for families in need.

Thanks to the Staten Island Foundation's Diamond Matching Grant, the total impact will be doubled, helping every dollar go even further in strengthening families and building brighter futures.



## A DIAMOND MATCH FOR OUR COMMUNITY

SEAMEN'S SOCIETY NAMED STATEN ISLAND FOUNDATION **DIAMOND MATCH RECIPIENT**



Seamen's Society was proud to be named a recipient of the Staten Island Foundation's Diamond Matching Grant, which helps turn community support into an even greater impact for children, youth, and families across Staten Island and Brooklyn. Through the program, eligible donations were double matched, tripling their value.

Thanks to generous donors, foundation support, and community fundraising efforts, Seamen's Society was able to strengthen programs that support families in challenging times.

One highlight was a bowling fundraiser at Rab's Country Lanes, held in partnership with Emma's Place and the Noble Maritime Collection. The event brought supporters together for a fun and meaningful evening.

"We're incredibly grateful to the Staten Island Foundation and to everyone who made the most of this opportunity," said President & CEO David Gaskin. "Their support makes a real difference for the families we serve."



SEAMEN'S SOCIETY THANKS ALL THOSE WHO HELPED MAKE EVERY CONTRIBUTION GO FURTHER.



# A FAMILY BUILT ON LOVE: DEBBIE & JULIO'S KINGAP JOURNEY



**For Debbie and Julio Vale, family has always been at the heart of everything. As parents of eight, grandparents of ten, and great-grandparents of five, their home has long been filled with love. Four years ago, that love expanded in an unexpected way.**

"We didn't even know kinship fostering existed until the day ACS came to our door with two little girls," they recall. "At that moment, we thought it was one of the hardest days of our lives. But we quickly learned that life isn't about what happens to you, it's about what you do with it."

Today, Debbie and Julio are raising their two grandchildren through KinGap (Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program), which supports relatives who step in to provide permanent, stable homes for children. What began as a challenge has become one of their greatest blessings.

The girls, though very different in appearance and personality, bring endless joy into their home. "They truly fill our home with love," the Vales share.

Kinship fostering allows children to stay connected to family, culture, and community, and families like the Vales show just how powerful that connection can be.

With support from Seamen's Society, including parenting classes and mentorship, Debbie and Julio have embraced both the challenges and rewards of raising children in today's world.

"We want to sincerely thank everyone at Seamen's Society," they say. "And especially our parenting class teachers, Mr. McCall and Ms. Lissa Torres, who have taught us so much."

Their story reflects the mission of Seamen's Society to support families when it matters most.

Dan Barckhaus, Senior Vice President of Programs, shares, "Debbie and Julio Vale represent the exact reason we do this work. They remind us of the power, strength, and true meaning of family. Their unwavering commitment to their grandchildren is a testament to the importance of fostering and a reminder that we can be there when it matters most. For all of us who work alongside these incredible children at Seamen's every day, people like the Vales inspire us to deepen our own commitment and dedication."

The Vale family's journey is a reminder that even in life's most difficult moments, love can create something extraordinary.

**"Debbie and Julio Vale represent the exact reason we do this work. They remind us of the power, strength, and true meaning of family."**

**Dan Barckhaus**

*Senior Vice President of Programs*



**Kinship care keeps children connected to family, culture, and community, and families like the Vales show the power of those bonds.**

**WE'RE HERE FOR FAMILIES, EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.**



**SEAMENSSOCIETY.ORG**



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 Seamen's Society for Children and Families

 @seamenssociety

 Seamen's Society for Children and Families

#### LEARN MORE

To learn more about Seamen's Society and how you can support us visit [www.seamenssociety.org](http://www.seamenssociety.org).



Seamen's Society  
for Children and Families

*Save the Date*

# HOPE Gala

**JOIN US FOR A FABULOUS NIGHT OF  
DINNER, DANCING, CASINO & RAFFLES!**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026**  
— 7:00 PM TO MIDNIGHT —

*New Location!* **HILTON GARDEN INN**  
1100 SOUTH AVENUE  
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314

— COCKTAIL ATTIRE —



## “SEA” THE CHANGE *YOU* CAN MAKE



### YOUR DONATION GOES THE DISTANCE!

At Seamen's Society for Children and Families, your support helps us provide safety, stability, and hope to children and families in crisis. With your help, we can continue to offer life-changing programs, from foster care and education support, to trauma counseling and emergency services. Every donation, big or small, helps us stay afloat and steer brighter futures. Chart a course for compassion, and join us on this meaningful journey.

