



**DON'T FORGET TO GIVE TO THE ANNUAL FUND TO HELP JULIE'S FAMILIES-IN-NEED**

If you haven't already given a financial gift to our first-ever Annual Fund Campaign, Julie's asks you to consider making a contribution for our families-in-need.

If you would like to make a donation, please cut-out the pledge card on the last page of the newsletter and mail it to Julie's.

*Thanks so much!*



## The 2006 Annual Fund: "From Our Family to Yours"

In his acceptance speech for the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize, Yitzhak Rabin, who was Israel's Prime Minister at the time, said the following: "A child is born into an utterly undemocratic world. He cannot choose his father and mother. He cannot pick his sex or color, his religion, nationality, or homeland. Whether he is born in a manor or a manger, whether he lives under a despotic or democratic regime, it is not his choice."

At Julie's, we recognize that we were all children at one time who were born into a family that we did not choose ourselves. We also realize that no two individuals are the same and that each of us has his or her own family story. Some stories appear to be like fairy tales, whereas others read more like tragedies. However, at Julie's, we place our trust and our efforts in

the hope that just because one's family story begins a certain way does not mean that it has to necessarily continue that way.

Our women are mothers who have endured and continue to endure some of life's most difficult hardships and challenges. Many of our mothers come from broken homes plagued by alcoholism, drugs, and violence. Many of our mothers do not have an adequate education or job skills to attain gainful and steady employment. Many of our mothers do not have an extended family to help support caring for their children. Many of our mothers see the need for change, but do not always know how to bring about change.

All of our mothers come to Julie's wanting a better life for themselves and their children, and we continue to do our best

to be a helping hand as these mothers go through this transition. We recognize how important a healthy family life is for mothers and children alike, and we are committed to supporting and educating the entire family unit so that they can become healthy, responsible, successful, and economically self-sufficient people.

Our desire is to see all our families grow holistically and have this growth be passed on from mothers to their children.

*[continued on Page 3]*



### Inside this Issue:

The 2006 Annual Fund	1
Julie's Students Speak Out	1
Montessori Literacy Program: Going Global	2
The Toddlers Go Fishing	2
Culinary Chefs Train Julie's Women To Eat Healthy	4
Year-End Holiday Gift Appreciation	5
AmeriCorps Volunteers, "Ready to Serve!"	6
Thanks to More Friends of Julie's	6

## Julie's Students Speak Out

On February 28, 2006, women from Julie's Family Learning Program attended the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless Annual Legislative Action Day at the State House. Julie's was the third largest group attending the Action Day.

The trip was organized by Sr. Linda Bessom, SND, who, in addition to being Advocate Coordinator for the Mass Coalition for the Homeless, is also one of Julie's board members. As a result of her



ongoing efforts to inform and educate the women of Julie's about government issues, nineteen of our women were able to go to the State House and voice their opinions and share their own experiences regarding the issue of homelessness in Massachusetts.

For many of the women who

attended, it was their first time at the State House and their first time listening to others speak out and ask for a commitment by the Commonwealth to create more affordable housing for low-income families.

Adding their voices to those speaking out, the women of Julie's met with their Massachusetts State Representatives and Senators to discuss the issue of being homeless and the difficulties of searching for a place to live in an ever-shrinking affordable housing market.

*[continued on Page 4]*

## Editorial Correction:

In our last *Families Matter* newsletter, we mistakenly acknowledged *The Law Offices of Regan Associates, Chartered* as "Regan Associates, Chartered Accountants."

Julie's sincerely apologizes for the error and any confusion it may have caused.

### JULIE'S INVITES YOU TO TAKE A BUILDING TOUR!

This year Julie's has helped over 100 families take steps toward becoming self-sufficient members of their communities.

Daily, we impact the lives of approximately 50 families. This number will continue to increase, now that we have settled in our new building, the George Robert White Family Development Center.

If you would like to experience our program in action, meet staff and students, and see the miracle of the new building, please call Amy Malkemes to set up a time for a site visit. She can be reached at (617)269-6663 ext. 33 or [amalkemes@jflp.org](mailto:amalkemes@jflp.org).

## Montessori Literature Reading: Going Global

Julie's Montessori class has been very busy during the winter months. With the warmer weather approaching, the students' educational growth and transformation is increasingly apparent. Literature is playing a large role in the classroom as the older students prepare to transition into the first grade and the younger students become more involved with print and stories.

To help celebrate our reading success, the Montessori children invited their families to a Family Literacy Day in early March. Moms and dads alike visited

our classroom to share a story and participate in the daily routines. The students loved showing off their new skills and being the experts of classroom conduct. Of course, the parents went along willingly and were excited to see the daily activities within the

classroom.

The Montessori teachers continue to make literature come to life for the students. In honor of St. Patrick's Day and *Read Across America*, the students prepared and ate green eggs and ham just like the ones in Dr. Seuss' *Green Eggs and Ham*. Although hesitant at first, by the end many children were asking for second and even third helpings!

The literature experience in Montessori is not limited only to the English language. With the help of our AmeriCorps volunteer, the Montessori classroom has gone global – French language, literature, and culture is presented to the children twice a week. The students are learning quickly and are now able to talk about



feelings, the weather, French monuments, and French artists. With the help of great literature, there are some budding Monets and future European travelers in our classroom.

However, literature is just one exciting aspect occurring in Montessori. The children are also working with math skills, sensorial materials, cultural studies, and practical life activities on a daily basis. Spring means the beginning of our butterfly and insect curriculum that will offer hands-on exploration and intense observations.

Spring is the season for new growth and in our classrooms that growth comes in the form of a better understanding of self and others. 🦋



## The Toddlers Go Fishing!!!

Being located in the middle of downtown South Boston without a fishing hole in site, you may be asking, "Did the toddlers really go fishing?"

No, our toddlers did not take a field trip to the nearest pond to go fishing. In the toddler room, we had activities that helped us learn about colors, shapes, counting, sharing, and more. We read the *Rainbow Fish*, a classic children's story about the most beautiful fish sharing his shimmering fins with his friends. Afterwards, we played, "Go

Fish," where we caught fish of all different colors with a magnetic pole. From this activity we talked about colors and the number of fish we had.

We have also expanded our song repertoire to include new favorites like, "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" and "The Hokey Pokey."

Overall, there is never a dull moment in our room! This spring we are planning even more activities to expand and enhance our learning skills. As the trees and



flowers begin to bloom we're going to plant our own garden in the classroom. Each student will receive a jar and grass seeds to grow. Through this activity the children will see how their own plants grow inside while experiencing the changing plants outside during our daily walks to the park.

This spring is sure to provide us with many more learning experiences about the world around us. 🦋



# The 2006 Annual Fund: "From Our Family to Yours"

[continued from Page 1]

**Our desire is to help all families break the cycle of poverty, but we are only one set of hands.** We are only one program, one family in the battle against poverty. This is why we need the help and support of you and your family.

**"From Our Family To Yours"** is the vision of our 2006 Annual Fund Campaign. Our desire for our first-ever Annual Fund is to see our donor families connect and commit to helping Julie's families-in-need. The dedicated staff and volunteers at Julie's have already committed to loving and supporting these families so that they can be transformed into healthy family units. In order for us to continue in this mission, we need the support of you and your family to help bring permanent changes into the lives of Julie's families.

*How can you and your family help bring lasting changes into the lives of Julie's families-in-need?*

**You and your family can help by giving a financial gift to Julie's 2006 Annual Fund Campaign.**

This campaign is being launched with the support of three families who have committed a \$150,000 challenge gift to

help Julie's build strong families and encourage others to give. We are trying to expand the number of families that we can reach, but because of our new building expenses and new staff, we continue to need your family's financial support to allow Julie's to maintain operations and expand in the future.

**You and your family can help by volunteering your time and sharing your creativity.**

We can always use another set of helping hands to support Julie's families. Just to name a few things, we are in need of volunteers who can:

- Tutor our women and/or children
- Teach a job skill or lead a workshop
- Assist with lunch preparation
- Help with the landscaping around our new building
- Assist with administrative needs

**You and your family can help by giving in-kind donations.**

Our families have so many daily needs, most of which are not covered by welfare or food stamps (i.e. diapers, clothing, paper goods, etc.)

So please also consider giving:

- Emergency food cards (Stop & Shop, Shaw's)

- Store gift cards (CVS, Brooks Pharmacy, Old Navy, Target, Marshalls)
- Subway/Bus Combo T-Passes
- Food, women's and children's clothing, school supplies, etc.

Julie's 2006 **"From Our Family To Yours"** Annual Fund Campaign is a way to help bridge families in our community together by asking families to commit their time, their donations, and their heart to helping families who are making lasting changes to build a healthy family unit. Imagine how much more beautiful our world would be if families were always helping to better other families. We hope that you and your family will partner with us as we commit to helping Julie's families-in-need break the cycle of poverty and become self-sufficient members of their communities. ♀



If you or your family are interested in making a **financial gift**, please see the enclosed pledge card on the last page of the newsletter.

If you or your family would like to **volunteer**, please contact Doris Nord, Volunteer Coordinator.  
Phone: (617)269-6663 ext. 15 // Email: [dnord@jflp.org](mailto:dnord@jflp.org)

If you or your family would like to make an **in-kind donation**, please contact Amy Malkemes, Director of Development.  
Phone: (617)269-6663 ext. 33 // Email: [amalkemes@jflp.org](mailto:amalkemes@jflp.org)



## Julie's Students Speak Out

[continued from Page 1]

Among many legislators, our women met with State Representatives Brian P. Wallace and Eugene L. O'Flaherty and State Senators Jarrett Barrios and Jack Hart.

Speaking from their own experiences, our women urged their representatives to



pay closer attention to housing policies and the lack of development of affordable housing because they add to the deterioration of a healthy family life for many low-income households.

Julie's women also discussed the RAFT (Residential Assistance for Families in Transition) program. They spoke about the importance of voting to fund the supplemental RAFT program to get through the 2006 fiscal year and the necessity of voting to fund the FY 2007 RAFT program.

They explained that RAFT is important to them because it provides flexible funds for such needs as first/last month's rent, security deposits, utility payments, and moving costs.

They asked, "Who will be there to help us? Who can we reach out to as more

and more sources for funding disappear?" Another related topic that they spoke out about was the restrictions prohibiting anyone living in subsidized housing from using RAFT funds; they considered this an unfair limitation.

Julie's women also urged their legislators to reconsider budget cuts that are under consideration. These cuts will have severe effects for the homeless, and our women requested that their representatives take a long hard look at the reality of the impact these cuts will have on many families in our Commonwealth. It is our hope that our government representatives will follow through with the requests made by their constituents.

For our women, this experience was a momentous step forward in their lives. As one woman said, "Now I am a leader and am able to face and deal with people". As our women heard from people all throughout the

Commonwealth, they realized that they were not alone in the struggles and difficulties that they face each day—struggles and difficulties that stem from homelessness and its effect on themselves and their families. They realized that each person present at the Action Day had a piece of the puzzle of life and they were not alone in their struggle to survive.

As one of the women said, "Being part of a larger group gives me the strength to move forward." Another woman said, "I realize what little I have is more than what others have."

This experience has enabled our women to become strong advocates for themselves and for others. They now realize that their voices are important and they will continue to speak out in order to be heard. ♀



## Culinary Chefs Train Julie's Women To Eat Healthy

*Share Our Strength's* "Operation Frontline" is a national nutrition education program. Operation Frontline has returned for its twelfth year to Julie's. Chef Connal McCullough is with us for his second year to lead and educate our students in the six-week curriculum class. Working with him is Adrienne Worthington, who is both a chef and nutritionist.

Operation Frontline instructs students about the "Food Pyramid." They teach what the Food Pyramid is, and how to use it to introduce healthy foods to their families and incorporate those foods into daily meals. Each

week, students will learn about nutrition, prepare and cook a meal with Connal and Adrienne, and take home the meal components in order to recreate the meal for their families.

As part of the program, the students will take one class to go shopping with a ten dollar voucher, and they will put together a healthy meal for their families. The idea is that people can be taught how to create healthy, inexpensive meals. The chefs will check



to see who got the best value for their money. The students will also learn to shop differently, read food labels, and check prices in order to get the biggest and healthiest bang for their buck using fresh fruits and

vegetables and other foods that help lower their intake of fat as well as their cholesterol.

Julie's is grateful for this ongoing collaboration with Operation Frontline as it has helped many families over the years become healthier and improve their overall physical well-being. ♀



*Julie's Family Learning Program would like to give special recognition  
to all who made "Gift of Hope" contributions to our  
2005 Year-End Holiday Gift Campaign.*

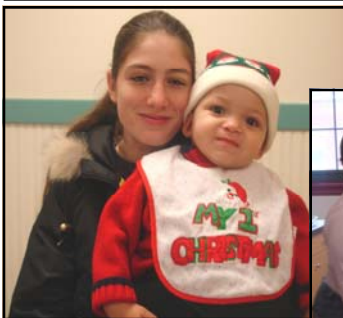
*Your generosity helped raise \$21,900 for Julie's families-in-need!*

## *Thank You!*

*Mr. and Mrs. Gerald J. Giusti  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter W. Kittler  
Ms. Barbara B. Bailey  
Mrs. Catherine Farnum  
Mr. John C. Driscoll  
St. John's Fund  
Ms. Mary A. Marotti  
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas C. Ryder  
KNF&T Staffing Resources  
Mr. George M. Miller  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nota  
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Larry's Children Fund  
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Mr. Daniel J. Gleason  
Ms. Theresa R. Boni  
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Mr. & Mrs. John Finn  
The Underwood Charitable Foundation  
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Ms. Madeline A. Ryan  
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Mr. and Mrs. John W. Rohrer  
Mr. and Mrs. Jefferey P. Hiserman  
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Mr. Robert J. O'Leary, Sr. and St.  
Mark's Salvage Crew  
St. Luke's Parish  
St. Bartholomew Parish  
Ms. Christine M. Pantalieri  
St. Jerome Church  
St. Patrick's Parish  
St. Mary of the Sacred Heart Church*



## Julie's AmeriCorps Volunteers... Ready to Serve!

Have you heard about Julie's AmeriCorps volunteers? Are you wondering about the three young women who have been working in the classrooms since last September? These are the AmeriCorps volunteers that have chosen to give a year of service to Julie's.

Tiffany, Natalie, and Beth are very happy to be a part of Julie's family and appreciate everything that the staff has done to make them feel welcome.

You may recognize Tiffany Horne as a recent graduate of Julie's program. Her belief in Julie's program philosophy led her to respond to the request of

assisting the staff in the infant room. Tiffany is very much a success story of Julie's. She loves to care for the babies, especially now that her baby, Tasia, is a very opinionated four-year-old.

Natalie Tucker is a recent graduate of Kalamazoo College in Michigan, who majored in psychology. She is stationed in the very active toddler room, which has given her many opportunities to intersect her textbook knowledge into the reality of a toddler's mind, abilities, and temperament. Learning about child development is one thing, but running after a mobile toddler is quite another.

Beth Hanna is another recent college

graduate. She completed her studies at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this past spring with a double major in English and Elementary Education. Beth's fresh educational training has been quite beneficial to the Montessori classroom. She has a new appreciation for Pre-School culture since entering the classroom.

Next time you visit Julie's please do not be afraid to introduce yourself to these AmeriCorps volunteers. They are so excited to be involved with the children of Julie's families and look forward to all of the experiences the rest of the year will offer! 🦋

### *A Special Thanks to Thoughtful Friends of Julie's!*

Julie's Family Learning Program is grateful for all of our donors who continuously think of ways to connect new people with Julie's and to increase our revenue.

This past winter and spring there were three organizations that went above and beyond by choosing Julie's as a recipient of funding for their event managed by their business or organization.

#### *We would like to thank:*

**Nutter, McClennen & Fish, LLP and Margaret Heylin** for operating an in-house firm raffle, which raised \$1,720 dollars.

**Fred Peterson and the coworkers of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority** for operating a roving restaurant event raising \$406 dollars.

**The Musical Theatre Society of Emerson College and Nicole Cardamone** who raised \$775 dollars from their spring theatrical production of "HONK", a musical tale of the ugly duckling. Also, we want to thank Julie's staff and volunteers who helped with these outreach efforts.

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*These additional efforts led by thoughtful people and generous organizations are what help Julie's continue to break the cycle of poverty.*

**If you have an event of any kind (i.e. birthday, wedding, retirement party) where you would like to honor and help raise support for Julie's Family Learning Program, please contact:**

Amy Malkemes, Director of Development, at 617-269-6663 ext. 33 or [amalkemes@jflp.org](mailto:amalkemes@jflp.org).



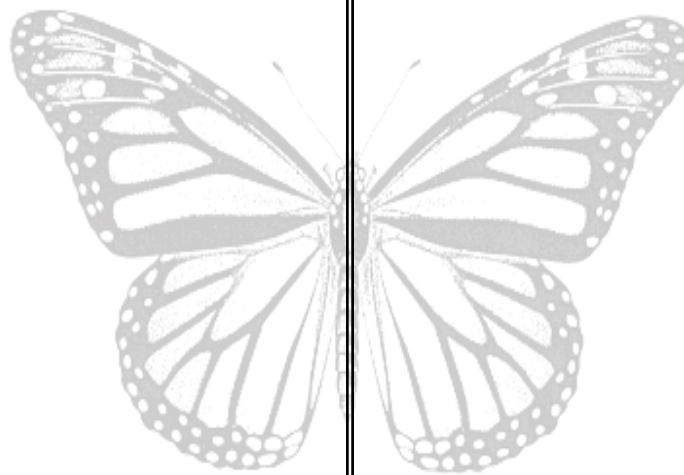
## JULIE'S MISSION AND HISTORY

Julie's is a community-based family support and education program that is committed to the development of strong, healthy family functioning. Julie's breaks the cycle of poverty among low-income, at-risk families by providing services that enable mothers and their children to become healthy, responsible, successful at life, and economically self sufficient members of their communities.

Julie's was established in 1974 by the Sisters of Notre Dame in response to their experiences in South Boston with large numbers of families, mostly female-headed, living with the pervasive effects of poverty. The program is named after the Foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, St. Julie Billiart, whose mission included working with impoverished women and children in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## JULIE'S SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Adult Basic Education classes
- Family literacy classes
- Computer literacy classes
- Tutoring for all family members
- Job readiness training
- Employment and career counseling
- Post Employment support services
- Advocacy/referral related to housing, health, job, school and legal issues
- Individual and family counseling
- Family crisis intervention and prevention services
- Support groups/peer counseling groups
- Parenting, life skills, and substance abuse education
- Multi-cultural awareness programs
- Cultural enrichment activities
- Craft-making activities
- Family-centered summer activities
- Montessori Pre-School Program
- Infant & Toddler Child Development Centers
- A collaborative summer campership program for school age children



To learn more about Julie's, please call  
(617)269-6663 or email us at [info@jflp.org](mailto:info@jflp.org).

