

Milestones

Magazine

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Exclusive Interviews
with Police Commissioners
Geraldine Hart & Patrick J. Ryder

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EAC Network
Milestones: 1969–2019

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Our Stories

50
YEARS

1969 - 2019

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SAMUEL J. FERRARA, Esq.

&

ABRAMS FENSTERMAN

are extremely proud to share in the
EAC Network HALL OF FAME
induction of our friend, mentor and partner

Steven J. Eisman, Esq.



A long time board member and past Chair of the EAC Network, his tenacity and dedication are sincerely missed. Steve worked tirelessly for the causes close to his heart, just as he did for his clients and their families.

Mr. Eisman was honored for his dedication to many charitable, civic and not-for-profit organizations including:

- Nassau County Republican Committee's Theodore Roosevelt Award
- Rick Keidel Memorial Tribute Award, Nassau County Bar Association
- Distinguished Service and Achievement Award, EAC Network
- Jurisperitas Award, Court Officers Benevolent Association of Nassau County
- Nassau County Bar Association, President
- Diabetes Research Institute Man of the Year
- East Meadow Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year
- NY District Kiwanis Past Governor's Council Distinguished Service Award

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Attorneys at Law



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Our Stories

EAC Network Programs
Transform People's Lives

EAC Network Executive & Division Leadership

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Island TASC*

Carol O'Neill, LMSW
*Senior Director of Senior &
Nutritional Services*



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Congratulates

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Of Dedicated Service
to the Community*

*Michael Schroder, Karen Strom,
and the entire firm of
Schroder & Strom, LLP*

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STATE OF NEW YORK
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ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

November 20, 2019

Dear Friends:

It's a pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for EAC Network's Golden Anniversary Gala.

Since 1969, the Empire State has been privileged to have EAC Network as a vital resource for Long Island and New York City – helping over 82,000 individuals each year through the provision of 100 innovative programs. I'm proud to commend the organization's leadership, Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff for your unwavering commitment to empowering, assisting, and caring for vulnerable and underserved populations. Because of your tireless dedication, countless individuals and families are experiencing a better quality of life, and I'm grateful for your exemplary efforts.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, I extend my gratitude to all affiliated with EAC Network for continuing to embrace its mission and for remaining committed to respecting the dignity and potential of every individual.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful celebration and many more years of success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andrew M. Cuomo".

ANDREW M. CUOMO



Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary EAC Network

and to this year's honorees,
**Commissioner Geraldine Hart and
Commissioner Patrick J. Ryder!**
We thank you. May you continue to
Empower, Assist and Care for others.



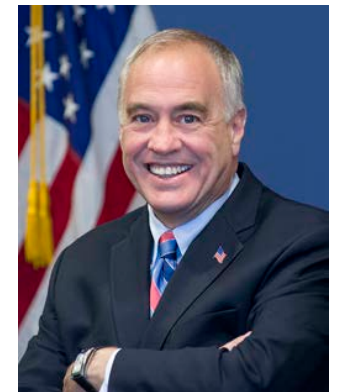
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November 20, 2019

Lance W. Elder, President & CEO
EAC Network
50 Clinton Street, Suite 107
Hempstead, NY 11550



Dear Friends:

Greetings to all the members of the EAC Network community on the occasion of EAC's Golden Anniversary. Committed to empowering, assisting and caring for people in need across Long Island and throughout New York City, EAC provides vital services, strengthens families, and builds healthy communities.

Established as the Education and Assistance Corporation in 1969, the EAC Network has grown over the past half-century into a large multiservice agency that helps some 82,000 clients a year through 100 programs. EAC's major program areas include: Children & Youth Services, ranging from individual mentoring and supervised visitations for noncustodial parents to the Suffolk County Children's Center; Family & Community Services, encompassing home energy assistance, dispute resolution and alternatives to the juvenile justice system; Behavioral Health & Criminal Justice Services, such as substance abuse, mental health and re-entry programs; Services for Seniors and the Incapacitated, including Meals on Wheels and the Fresh from the Garden nutrition initiative; and a variety of Vocational Services. Across the spectrum of programs and services, EAC remains committed to respecting the dignity and potential of each individual. The dedicated officers, board, staff and supporters of the EAC Network are developing effective responses to challenging social problems, and helping build a happier, healthier future for all.

Best wishes for a joyful celebration and continued success.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. DiNapoli
State Comptroller

The “Hart” of Suffolk County's Police Department

COMMISSIONER GERALDINE HART



Geraldine Hart was appointed the 14th Commissioner of Suffolk County's Police Department in April 2018.

Hart was chosen from more than 100 candidates. She is the first female Police Commissioner in Suffolk County history, a position that is both far-reaching and high-profile. She has embraced her position as a role model for women in criminal justice, and her distinctive collaborative management and leadership style has been a welcome addition to the department. “I’m very proud to be here – it’s a tremendous division,” Hart says.

In fact, the Suffolk County Police Department is the eleventh largest in the nation, with 2,500 sworn-officers on the force and 1,000 civilians, and a \$511.2 million budget.

“What draws me to this new role is that our work has a direct impact on the daily lives of the residents of Suffolk County,” Hart says and adds, “Playing a larger role in the day-to-day safety of our residents is an exciting and gratifying change for me.”

As the person largely responsible for building trust between the department and the community, Hart’s priorities include a strengthened focus on eradicating violent street gangs and combatting the opioid epidemic.

As a community, Suffolk County is invested in public safety, which is the bridge between the community and the police department, a role that suits Hart perfectly.

“I love to connect with the community by sitting down with our community partners, identifying problems and solving them together,” she says and adds, “A good learner is someone who listens.”

Hart said she understands that her job as Police Commissioner has given her the unique opportunity to be the face of a changing police department.

“We recently did a robust recruiting campaign with the goal of giving everyone a fair shot to get on the force,” she says.

Hart is also ensuring that the department is on the cutting-edge by using the latest scientific know-how including data-driven crime fighting technology, crime mapping, and targeted enforcement.

“Any time we can leverage technology, we’re going to use it. You must be creative and innovative,” she says.

Before being named Police Commissioner, Hart spent two decades rising through the ranks of the FBI. In 2014, she was selected as the Senior Supervisory Agent overseeing the FBI’s Long Island office with a taskforce that oversaw terrorism, cybercrime, and public corruption. She also led investigations on white color crime, police corruption, and mob cases.

Hart says she’s looking forward to new challenges in her role as Police Commissioner and continuing to work with EAC Network in many different capacities.

“EAC Network is such an impressive organization,” Hart says. “They are a steadfast and wonderful partner.”



“Ryder” Out Front: Drives Down Nassau County's Crime Rate

COMMISSIONER PATRICK J. RYDER

Patrick J. Ryder was named Commissioner of the Nassau County Police Department by County Executive Laura Curran in February 2018. At his Mineola-based headquarters, Ryder is surrounded by an extensive collection of law enforcement and community awards, certificates of achievement, memorabilia, and photographs that mark his passage through more than three decades of service. Known as the community-oriented police commissioner, Ryder recently completed his 34th year in law enforcement having served the last 32 years with the Nassau County Police Department.

While tasked with overseeing 4,000 employees of the Nassau County Police Department, and managing a billion-dollar budget, Ryder’s initiatives have successfully brought crime in Nassau County to historic lows ... and one of the lowest overall crime rates in the United States.

This year Ryder officially launched his Commissioner's Community Council (CCC) police task force. With a subdivision in each of the county’s 19 legislative districts, which includes more than 200 residents from every district, the unique issues plaguing every community are addressed. “It’s one message, one team,” he says.

Ryder's background is as long and impressive as the budget, programs, and team he commands. As the Commanding Officer of the Asset Forfeiture and Intelligence Unit, Commissioner Ryder has proactively implemented life-saving programs and initiatives that helped ensure officer and public safety. These include the NCPD’s Real-Time Intelligence (RTI) system, the R.E.A.C.H. Program, Civilian Intelligence Analyst Program, DNA Collection Initiative, Think Tank, the

Department’s Criminal Intelligence Rapid Response Team (CIRRT) which utilizes intelligence-led policing to combat crime, and creation of a Counter-Terrorism Unit.

To serve the public and fulfill the immense demands of his post, Ryder works in concert with the Nassau County Executive, 62 village mayors, 18 village police departments, two city managers, 19 legislators, judges, 56 school district superintendents and their principals, and a league of local politicians. “My door is always open, and we address every concern as it is the most important issue,” Ryder says.

Holding a Master’s Degree in Homeland Security and Management from Long Island University, Commissioner Ryder currently sits on the Advisory Board for Criminal Justice at SUNY Farmingdale and is a Counter-Terrorism Lecturer at the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security. He is a NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services-Certified Law Enforcement Instructor, a NYS Certified Crime and Intelligence Analyst, Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist, and has clearance with the FBI’s New York Field Office. He has also been deputized as an IRS Criminal Investigator. Ryder also teaches and is an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice and Intelligence-Led Policing at Nassau Community College.

Prioritizing the sheer number of people who are connected to being the Commissioner of Police in Nassau County department is a difficult job at best, yet Patrick Ryder is always there to meet the challenge. As a genuinely enthusiastic police and community leader, he is addressing formidable issues daily in a straightforward and refreshing manner.

CONGRATULATIONS EAC Network

on 50 years of empowering, assisting,
and caring for people in need.



And to the honorees
Geraldine Hart and Patrick J. Ryder



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and

PATRICK J. RYDER
*Commissioner of the Nassau
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YEARS
1969  2019
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for **50 Years** of
Commitment to Helping the Community

Thank you to the entire staff & all the volunteers
for making EAC such a great organization!

Carmine Inserra

Executive Director
631.270.3030
carmine.inserra@cushwake.com



We Proudly Salute
~EAC~
50th Golden Anniversary Gala



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On Your
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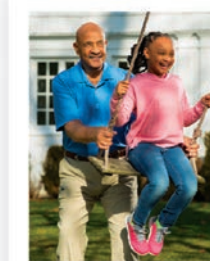
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Anniversary of extraordinary work
for our community & Honorees
Geraldine Hart & Patrick J. Ryder
for their leadership.

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50 Years
Of serving our community!

Thank You!!



Thomas Maxwell Boerum
Vice President

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Congratulations to this year's
honorees, Geraldine Hart &
Patrick J. Ryder!



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Milestones: History of EAC Network

50 Years of Impact, Building Communities, and Making Long Island a Better Place

OUR STORY BEGINS IN 1969

EAC Network was founded in 1969 and then known as Education Assistance Corporation (EAC). The Port Washington-based Community Action Council (CAC) was central to housing social service agencies that addressed the community's growing unmet needs in the areas of housing, transportation, family services, job training, and employment for low-income individuals.

It was in this milieu that a group of community-minded volunteers and professionals would form the earliest seedlings of what would later become EAC Network.

The original founding members of the agency were Diana Freed, Joan Boden, Barbara Gross, and Nadine Heyman.

Our human service organization came to be at a time and place in our history when the social forces in the United States put forth a major effort to **battle poverty, crime, drugs, and racism.**

It was also a time when everything good seemed possible and the number of individuals dedicated to making society better was unprecedented. Several volunteers came together in providing their professional talents to help young people take advantage of vocational and educational opportunities.

What came together in those years, and still does today, was not only a unique time, but also a unique group of people: creative, committed, and energetic in pursuit of ways to make society better. Through good times and bad, frustration and success, the vision of what society could be was always there. Rather than an agency devoted to one service, the philosophy of EAC has been to employ a group of managers who can address any need."

– *Written by Diana Freed,*
an original founding member of the EAC Network



Diana Freed, original founding member of EAC Network (right).

THE 1970s

EAC NETWORK, THE FIRST 10 YEARS

The 70s were a tumultuous time where many continued the fight for equality, and more Americans joined the protest against the ongoing Vietnam War.

In 1971 President Nixon officially declared a “War on Drugs,” stating that drug abuse was “public enemy number one.”

The decade saw wide recognition of the problems of drug abuse and an influx of funds into the community to deal with the problems.

EAC Network was among the first to recognize that educational assistance was an essential part of treatment in an effort to develop programs to address these issues.

It was at this juncture that EAC Network initiated a concerted effort to identify resources and provide solutions.



Original EAC Network founders Diana Freed (left) with Nadine Heyman (right).

1972

1972 marked EAC Network becoming a private not-for-profit agency. Growth came from many different directions to address the needs of our community.

1975

Wayne Dyer, the Father of Motivation, who later became famous as a best-selling author and lecturer, credits EAC Network with giving him the platform to realize his speaking and writing career.

In his best-selling book, *I Can See Clearly Now*, Dyer says:

...It turns out that one of these students, Linda, works in Port Washington at the Education Assistance Center (EAC) as an administrator and tells me that the building is never used past six o'clock on Monday evenings. She'll make the EAC available at no cost if I'm willing to teach a course open to the public."

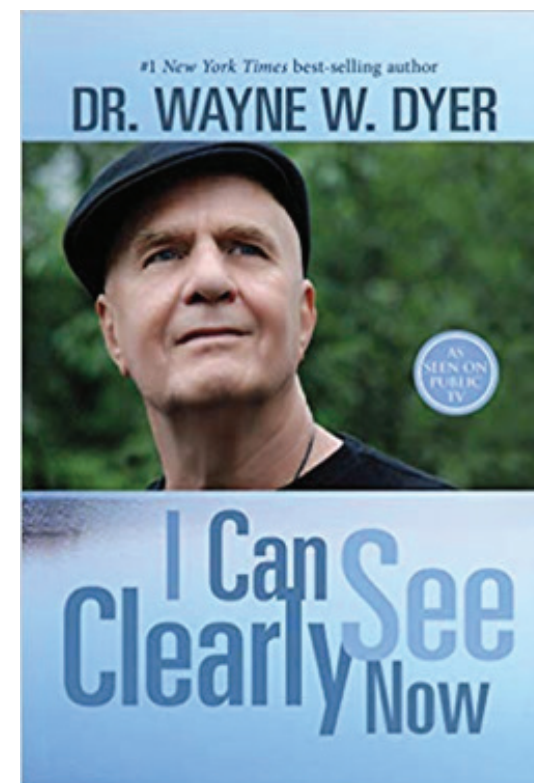
...I agree, and come up with a course for this four-week night-school offering...

Living a Self-Actualized Life, Overcoming Guilt and Worry, Farewell to Anger and Breaking Free from the Past."

These lectures are offered on four consecutive Monday evenings beginning in February 1975.

Dyer writes that when he arrived for the first presentation there were 25 students sitting in the classroom. Within a year, he had to leave EAC because of space limitations..."

In a thank you letter to EAC Network he said, "I am writing to express my appreciation for the fine cooperation your agency has provided in meeting the needs of the community...The Personal Mastery courses and group counseling experiences that I have offered through EAC have had a great deal of impact."



1976

Joan Boden, an original founder, passed away.

A friend remembers Boden and writes....

Mrs. Boden is remembered by her family, friends and associates for her unlimited capacity to love, understand, and give of herself. Her appreciation of her fellow man was continually evidenced by her ability to identify hidden potential in those who sought her aid. Her tenacity in fighting for the individual and her purity of purpose provided the inspiration and direction to the Education Assistance Center."



1970

The number of programs proliferated and the roots of EAC Network's present programs were firmly planted.

1971

1972

1973

1974

EAC Network's first Board of Directors was formed.

1975

1976

1977

Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities (TASC) program begins in Nassau County.

1978

EAC Network had 21 employees and served 291 TASC clients.

1979

EAC Network offered 11 programs through 13 funding sources

THE 1980s

10 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

The 80s see the collapse of traditional communism and the ending of the Cold War. Microsoft, IBM, Intel, and Apple begin to have an impact on all of our lives as small computers become cheaper and more accessible.



1980

EAC Network is organized into three program divisions:

- ▶ Criminal Justice
- ▶ Developmental Learning
- ▶ Alternative Education and Vocational

1985

EAC Network receives Presidential Recognition Award.

1987

- ▶ Senior Respite program opens.



- ▶ EAC Network wins grant to open Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program in Nassau County.
- ▶ Meals on Wheels is funded by the Nassau County Dept. of Senior Citizen Affairs under the Supervision of EAC Network's Carol O'Neill, LMSW, Senior Director of Senior & Nutritional Programs.
- ▶ Thomas DiNapoli replaces May Newburger as member of the Assembly and continues as an EAC Network supporter.



Tom DiNapoli with founder Nadine Heyman.

1980s

1988

CASA is replicated in Suffolk County, funded through NYS Senator James Lack. STOPLIFT opens in Suffolk County. Staten Island and Queens TASC open. In cooperation with the Family Service Association of Nassau County, and a group of physicians and other specialists, EAC Network implements its first research project: investigation of the effects of certain nutrients on the learning behavior of children with special needs.

Suffolk County Bar Association and Suffolk County DA's office ask EAC Network to open the TASC program in Suffolk County. Mediation Alternative program begins. EAC Network accepted as a member of United Way of LI.

Nassau STOPLIFT launches. EAC Network takes over administration of Youth Advocates of Long Island, an advocacy program for parents of special needs children.

Nassau Supervised Visitation opens ERASE in Suffolk County. EAC Network is known as the Education & Assistance Corporation.

Suffolk TASC receives county legislative approval and funding. Stores Mutual Protection Association (SMPA), the security organization of major department stores, asks EAC Network to design an alternative program for first-time shoplifters.

THE 1990s

DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY

The 90s are often remembered as a time of peace and prosperity. The internet, personal computers, and mobile phones begin to offer unprecedented communication possibilities.

1992

Katie Beers was kidnapped at the age of 10 and held captive in an underground bunker in a Bay Shore house for 17 days by a family friend.

After Katie's story was revealed, a grand jury report found issues with the Beers' investigation. EAC Network's Child Advocacy Center (CAC) opened in 1997 to work with sex crime survivors by offering medical and mental health, peer-to-peer, and other services.



1996

EAC Network's Suffolk County Children's Center is established in the Cohalan Court Complex in Central Islip as a safe place where children engage in fun and educational activities, with a special focus on literacy, while their parents or guardians attend to court business.

THE 2000s

THE NEW MILLENIUM

The War on Terror began after the September 11th attacks in 2001, changing our way of life forever with increased racism, discrimination, and national security.

The decade was tumultuous in the financial and IT industries as technology continued to explode with new inventions, devices, and online programming.

2002

The Suffolk County Child Advocacy Center at the Pat & Mary Bagnato Place for Kids (CAC) is accredited by the National Children's Alliance (NCA).



2005

EAC Network's Alternatives For Youth (AFY) and Sanction Intervention programs were among the nine National Association of Counties Achievement Awards for Innovative Programs and Services received by Suffolk County.

2007

Chance to Advance (C2A) program launches as a foster care advocacy program with trained mentors connecting youth with enrichment programs and extra-curricular activities.

C2A CLIENTS SERVED SINCE 2007: 1,364

EAC Network received Bank of America's Long Island Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Award which recognized the agency's significant contributions to enrich and improve our communities.

2008

Helping Each other Reach Success (HERS) Group

This psycho-educational group was created by AFY staff out of a need to address the needs of AFY young women in a safe open environment. Through non-traditional ways they teach young women to recognize and manage emotions, understand their personal values, develop caring and concern for others, make responsible decisions, establish and maintain positive relationships, and handle challenging situations effectively.

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999

First EAC Network Senior Center opens in Hempstead.

First food pantry for HIV positive clients is located at EAC Network headquarters in Hempstead. First EAC Network Volunteer Reception is held for 160 volunteers.

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009

THE 2010s

SOCIAL REFORM

The Affordable Care Act goes into effect in 2013, the largest expansion of social welfare in decades.

Americans continue to dig out after the great recession of 2008, while Occupy Wall Street protests begin in NYC.



2014

EAC Network's Safe Harbour program is established and supported by EAC Network's Suffolk County Child Advocacy Center to protect and care for children that have been, or are at risk of being, sexually exploited within Suffolk County.



2015

EAC Network's Alternatives For Youth (AFY) program established a significant partnership between the Suffolk County Department of Social Services, Department of Probation, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Youth Bureau.

2017

EAC Network's Safe Harbour program experienced a dynamic shift in educating the community on the issue of human trafficking and how to identify potential victims. In addition to providing community education, Safe Harbour would offer medical and mental health assessments, peer specialists, case management, referrals for residential placement, therapy and counseling, vocational counseling, and potential police intervention.

*In 2018, EAC Network served **82,177** people in need.*

TODAY,
the EAC Network
name reflects a
strong commitment
and mission to
**EMPOWER,
ASSIST,
AND CARE.**

2013

A name change to EAC Network reflects a commitment and mission to Empower, Assist, and Care for people in need through a network of diverse programs.

Teen Enrichment Program (TEP) is developed to offer positive youth development services for youth in the Alternatives for Youth (AFY) program.

TEP PROGRAM CLIENTS 2013-2019: 2,621



2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

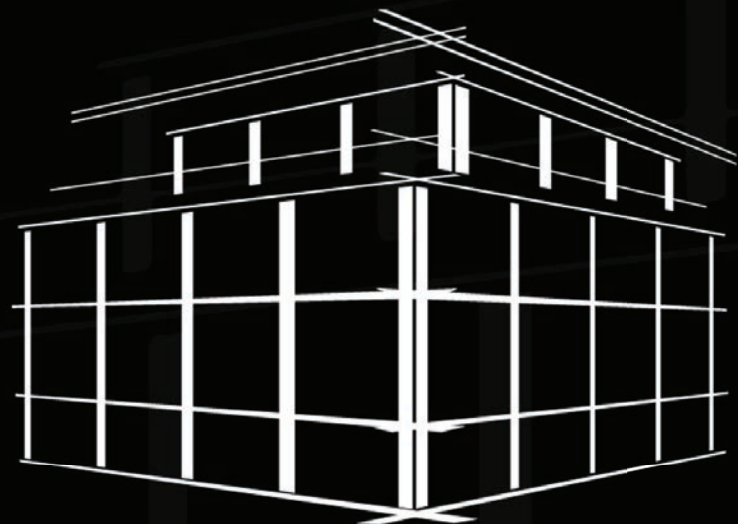
2016

2017

2018

2019

Chance To Advance is licensed by N.Y.S. to host a traveling summer camp, a program that reinforces basic skill sets that are essential for our youth in care to have a healthy and successful adult life.



410
MOTOR
PARKWAY
HAUPPAUGE

COMING IN
2020



Today

EAC NETWORK ON TURNING 50

Turning 50 only happens once in a lifetime.

For EAC Network, our 50th year took on a life of its own. While digging deep into our agency's history, we were reminded of the many people who helped us get to where we are today.

We found black and white and sepia-tone photos of our earliest supporters and friends who guided us into new directions. We reconnected with one of EAC Network founders, Diana Freed, who shared her inspiring story of how and why she became EAC Network's first leader.

As we pieced together the EAC Network timeline, which came together like a puzzle, our humble beginnings reminded us of the reason, purpose, and meaning for becoming our region's leading human service agency.

In 1969 when Americans first walked on the moon and the New York Mets did the impossible by winning the World Series, four Long Island women, Diana Freed, Joan Boden, Barbara Gross, and Nadine Heyman, were busy launching an entity that would go on to meet our community's growing unmet needs for the next 50 years and beyond. EAC Network was built on grit, determination, and dedication.

These women had a vision that has grown to more than 100 human service programs implemented throughout Long Island and the Greater New York area.

Fifty years later, the landscape of our society has changed, but many of the same challenges remain, and EAC Network's services are still a vital lifeline for those in need.

We have no choice but to remain steadfast in our commitment to help others face and overcome obstacles to make our society a better place for all. It is who we are and what we do, and we will continue to do so for the next 50 years and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support of EAC Network.

Lance W. Elder
President & CEO

Richard Kessel
Chairman of the Board

*Congratulations to EAC Network
on 50 years
of caring for those in need!*

*We met EAC in 1992 and have
made great friends along the
way.*

*We have enjoyed a Day at the Races, Black
Tie Dinners, Sunset Cruises, Miniature Golf,
and an Indoor Cruise at the Garden City
Hotel.*

Michael & Roberta Schroder

To All Our Friends At EAC Network

Thank you!

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Anniversary with you.

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Our Stories

Over the past 50 years, EAC Network has been providing a wide range of educational, vocational, criminal justice, intervention, and human service programs that protect children, promote healthy families and communities, help seniors, and empower individuals to take control of their lives.

EAC Network's mission is to respond to human needs. Its success in meeting the critical needs of our region's most vulnerable and underserved populations may be credited to the concerted effort of outstanding leadership, dedication, and volunteerism from its professional staff, board of directors, sponsors, community partners, and league of community volunteers.

At the helm of EAC Network are President & CEO Lance W. Elder, and Vice President of Operations Tania Peterson Chandler, Esq., MPA, who have guided and nurtured the agency for more than 20 years, providing solutions that save lives while addressing some of the most formidable problems facing our society today.

The challenging path between despair and hope is often fraught with barriers, but with your help our clients can surmount obstacles, achieve successful outcomes, and go on to live successful lives. We hope you will be inspired by these stories of transformation that have resulted in substantive benefits not only for the individuals and families we serve, but for our communities overall.

**EAC Network provides more than
100 human service programs
throughout Long Island
and Greater New York.**

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& YOUTH

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SERVICES

Children & Youth

PROGRAMS



For most, childhood is a time of learning and play, growing confident with the love and encouragement of family. It is a precious time to live free from fear, safe from violence, and protected from abuse and exploitation.

For abused children, their childhood experience is nothing short of terrifying.

EAC Network's Children & Youth programs work intensively with victims of child abuse and neglect or who are involved in the foster care system or child trafficking.

EAC Network's Suffolk County Child Advocacy Center (CAC) offers a safe and child-friendly environment, coordinates medical and investigative responses, and helps connect children and families with community-based services that address their medical, emotional, and financial needs.

EAC Network's Chance to Advance program enriches the lives of children in foster care through group activities and with the support of one-to-one mentors who allow foster children to participate in a variety of recreational and educational enrichment programs. Mentors also provide college and vocational counseling to help children explore their options for a successful future, including awarding college scholarships to those who qualify.

In 2014, Chance to Advance was expanded to include mentoring opportunities for adopted children, provide college and vocational coaching, promote independent living skills, and encourage self-esteem.

Our Stories

Melisa Shares Her Chance to Advance Story

Throughout my life I have faced adversity head on, but, the **escape from my chaotic life was education.**

Losing my mother and being brought into the foster care system at a young age was the most terrifying period of my childhood. I was torn from my brother and sister's arms and felt lonely and yet the only thing that stuck beside me was my education. I always knew that what I did in the classroom would reflect on myself and my future.

The Chance to Advance scholarship aided me with my education goals. I was able to help others with my volunteer work as well as attain a 4.0 GPA. This scholarship allowed me to attend Suffolk County Community College full time, where I made new friends as well as met brilliant professors.

This scholarship has motivated me to use my education for a career. I love helping others, so I began tutoring students from William Floyd High School in different areas of mathematics, pre-calculus, algebra, trigonometry, and statistics.

While tutoring, I continued my education to become a physical therapist. One day, I will graduate with my doctorate's degree and own my own physical therapy practice. What motivated me to choose physical therapy as a profession is because of my mother, who

was paralyzed and blind, yet fully recovered just before passing away. Watching the physical therapists help her to gain mobility back in her joints was so heartwarming.

This scholarship has helped me with my education, and I am so grateful for the people who are helping me change my life, just as I will change someone else's life with the aid of this scholarship."

– Melisa, Chance to Advance 2016 Scholarship Recipient



Wishing EAC Network a Happy Golden Anniversary!

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**Happy 50th Anniversary,
EAC Network**

The Children’s Center at Cohalan Court



In 2018, the Children’s Center at Cohalan Court served **1,540 children from over 500 families.**

At the Children’s Center at Cohalan Court, children are provided a safe and enriching environment while their parents attend to court matters. Young visitors are given nutritious snacks and presented with educational models that promote literacy and imaginative play. At the end of their visit, each child leaves with a book. Additionally, low income families are linked to support services such as shelters, food pantries, healthcare, and more.

With the support from the Suffolk County legal community, EAC Network has hosted an array of events including distributing backpacks filled with school supplies to young learners and an adopt-a-family program that distributes food baskets to families in the community.

EAC Network’s team of professionals takes pride in the work they do at the Children’s Center at Cohalan Court knowing that our services bring joy to children and provide relief to their parents.

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Family & Community

PROGRAMS



At EAC Network, we recognize the importance of our Family and Community programs to help our neighbors pay bills, resolve family and business conflicts, and navigate through obstacles that can hinder self-sufficiency.

It is a challenging mission, but we continue to seek ways to improve our effectiveness by building collaborative relationships with our partners and contacts throughout health and human services, the criminal justice system, and the community at large.

Our Stories

Alternatives for Youth (AFY) Success Story: Victoria G.

AFY is a crisis intervention program that works in harmony with a number of Suffolk County agencies and departments to provide immediate intervention services aimed to help strengthen families and keep them together in times of crisis.

The program was launched in 2005, and has since **served 8,000 families.**



My name is Victoria G. You may have read my name in a Fox News byline, or seen an article of mine pop-up on your Twitter or Facebook feed. Although I am a published journalist now, that isn't where I began, and *the path to get here was far from an easy one.*

I grew up in an abusive home, where I lived from the age of six to about 14. My biological mother would hide my insulin, a medication I needed to survive, not allow me to use the bathroom, and starve me, among other physical and emotional tactics.

At age 14, EAC Network came into my life and changed it for the better. My education was lacking, I was slacking and I had no motivation to continue.



When Cassandra, my Peer Mentor, came into my world, everything changed. From taking me out for a cup of tea to letting me have the freedom to discuss what was going on in my life, I began to find myself and I realized something was really, really wrong at home.

I began to find respite and asked for help getting out of the situation I was in. AFY introduced me to group homes, and coming from a hectic and terrible home

life, I found them to be a safe haven. I could take my medication and I wouldn't be hurt. I was happy. My grades excelled and so did I.

At 16, I was released from the group home and went to live with my aunt, who I consider my "real mother." She went above and beyond to restore my life to normalcy.

I graduated from high school, got a job as a camp counselor, and went to therapy. I couldn't have done it without Cassandra and the encouragement I got from the AFY program, which introduced me to the way I could change my life.

I am now in college, in a healthy relationship, and living my dream in New York City. I am happy and healthy, and I've become really good friends with Cassandra.

AFY took my life down the right path because I was willing to work the program, not have the program work me.

The best advice I can give to anyone in the program is that your life now tells you absolutely nothing about your life later.

Only four years ago, I was travelling from group home to group home, now I'm taking business classes.

You can change your destiny.

– Victoria G.

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See Chapter 28 of his memoir
"I Can See Clearly Now" and Chapter 2 of
"Forty Years of PMS" by Linda G. Nanos

**Bert J. Cunningham
wishes EAC Network
a very Happy 50th
Anniversary**

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Congratulations for 50 years of service
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EAC Network on its 50th Anniversary



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Behavioral Health & Criminal Justice

PROGRAMS



EAC Network's Behavioral Health & Criminal Justice programs work in tandem with the criminal justice system to help individuals suffering from mental health and/or substance abuse issues obtain treatment.

EAC Network offers programs for anger management, community service, educational intervention for domestic violence offenders, and more.

Typically, EAC Network does not provide treatment, but instead coordinates and facilitates the treatment process in partnership with the courts. After our clients' needs are assessed, we identify the services and providers needed to meet treatment goals. EAC Network then monitors and manages the treatment.

As a result, the impact of the services EAC Network provides can be measured in many ways including the reduction of crime, enhanced public safety, strengthening the integrity of the family, promoting health and healing, and helping clients to be productive members of the workforce and the community.

Our Stories

TASC (Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities)

TASC is an alternative to incarceration program that promotes public safety by integrating the criminal justice and substance abuse treatment systems, diverting individuals from jail or prison, while providing a variety of services that support individuals through their journey of recovery while ensuring offender accountability.

EAC Network oversees TASC programs in the following counties: Bronx, Brooklyn, Nassau, Queens, Rockland, Staten Island, and Suffolk (plus Suffolk TASC Re-Entry).

Nassau TASC Success Story

Ms. L was a repeat offender who was referred to Nassau TASC because of a Felony Aggravated DWI. After being screened and assessed, she was determined eligible for the TASC program and was a participant for 19 months and successfully completed the program.

“I was always supported by the staff through all of my challenges,” Ms. L says. “The two things I learned from TASC is that I must come first and nothing is worth destroying my sobriety.”



TCM (Transitional Case Management)

The Suffolk Transitional Case Management (TCM) program prepares incarcerated individuals with psychiatric illness with the tools and resources they need to successfully transition back into the community upon their release.


TCM Case Managers ensure that participants receive appropriate community-based case management for an average of 90 days before being transferred to a long term case management program.




Suffolk TCM Success Story

Miguel R. was diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder and had past drug use. He began working with EAC Network’s Transitional Case Management (TCM) program while in jail in preparation for his reentry into the community.

With TCM’s help, Miguel was able to secure housing in a sober home. He worked with the TCM staff to create his resume to apply for a job and is currently working full time while continuing to receive support from EAC Network’s Health Home Case Management program.



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Congratulations to the honorees, EAC staff, leadership, and board members. We are forever grateful for the tremendous impact EAC has on our community and are so proud to continue to support EAC and its mission.

James P. Joseph



Managing Partner and Former EAC Board Chairperson



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Senior & Nutrition Services

P R O G R A M S



As the aging of America continues at a fast pace, whereby the year 2030 there will be more people over the age of 65 than 18 and under, EAC Network has stepped to the forefront to aid and assist this growing population.

Many of these seniors want to “age in place” and stay in their own homes, where they can be surrounded by family and friends. This trend also translates into higher levels of independence, vitality, and health.

These lifestyle preferences present unique challenges that EAC Network addresses with several programs comprised of an outstanding leadership team along with exceptional volunteers, who help seniors, their caregivers, and families meet those challenges with dignity and resourcefulness.

Working closely with local, state, and federal agencies, and steadfast community partners, EAC Network provides diverse services for seniors including its Meals on Wheels (MOW) nutrition program, and an In-Home Respite Services program.

Our Stories

Meals on Wheels



At EAC Network Meals on Wheels, we deliver more meals to Nassau County’s homebound seniors than anyone else – **over 1,200 meals in 40 towns every week.**

But that’s not all we do. While we nourish the body with nutritious food we also bring hope to those whose age and health have left them very much alone. Meals on Wheels fights hunger among the elderly, which is especially critical for seniors who suffer from life threatening illnesses.

Our partnership with Northwell Health began as one hospital opening up their kitchen facilities and dietary staff to provide nutritious meals for the homebound elderly in the community. Today, Northwell Health Hospitals at Plainview and Glen Cove continue to serve up kindness along with the provision of nutritious meals.

But the most important impact on the lives of the most vulnerable is knowing that someone cares about them. Birthdays are celebrated with a cake and a personalized card, pet food for furry companions is included in the delivery along with daily wellness checks to ensure the safety of those who live alone.

Imagine that the only person you see every day, for a few minutes, is a Meals on Wheels volunteer or driver. This is the plight for so many of our most vulnerable seniors. We are working with our community partners to end the loneliness and isolation that often accompanies old age and illness.

When our newest initiative, “Lunchtime Buddies”, launches in the Spring of 2020, volunteers will be matched with lonely and isolated meal recipients. The Buddies will spend an hour of quality time, once a month, to help ease the pain of loneliness through friendship and caring. EAC Network Meals on Wheels helps Long Islanders live longer and healthier lives, one meal at a time.



PSEG Long Island put the 'Wheels' in Meals on Wheels with the donation of this delivery vehicle. Pictured: Carol O'Neill, LMSW, EAC Network, with Paul Napoli, PSEG Long Island.



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In-Home Respite Services

When EAC Network launched its first senior program in 1986, little did we know that 33 years later, In-Home Respite Services would become the premier service for Nassau County caregivers. EAC Network is proud of our outstanding record of giving time off to family caregivers – relief that helps combat the physical, emotional and financial stress associated with caregiving. Most caregiving falls on the family's shoulders and they often delay asking for help until a crisis hits.

Respite helps aging families stay together through a network of in-home services that reduces anxiety and stress for family caregivers. This gives caregivers time to “recharge” so they can to continue to do what they do best, care for an older family member at home. Respite companions are mostly retirees who bring the outside world into the home of an older adult who enjoys spending time with a peer.

Success Story: Frank Perunko, a 20 year Respite Companion



When Frank Perunko, a CPA from Franklin Square saw a notice in his church bulletin for respite volunteers he “hit the ground running.”

Frank understood the plight of family caregivers, as he cared for two family members while working as an auditor and Human Resources Director. Frank’s relationship with his first two families lasted more than three years and since that time he has helped hundreds of caregivers with his compassion and willingness to lend a helping hand to a neighbor. He truly loves working with older adults and their caregivers and knows how much caregivers depend upon someone, like him, who is trusted to stay with a loved one when they can’t be there.

Twenty years later, Frank reflects on the impact of his dedication to helping caregivers, “I feel that I have collected many pages in a photograph album of Long Islanders – all different but forming a picture of people who helped to forge Nassau County communities, and now I’m saying ‘thank you’ by giving them my time.”

Frank’s willingness to give his time and compassion to help ease the burden for family caregivers is a shining example of the good that people do for their neighbors and communities.

Congratulations to EAC Network on 50 years of service within Greater New York!

Richard Kessel
Chairman of the Board, EAC Network and Chairman, Nassau County Industrial Development Agency

Congratulations EAC Network on your

50th Anniversary

May you continue to be an inspiration in the community.

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THE EAC NETWORK

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Vocational Services

PROGRAMS



Vocational Services

EAC Network offers a variety of vocational programs that provide skills to clients for obtaining and retaining employment, particularly with the homeless and at-risk populations. EAC Network's Enhanced Employment Initiative advances education and employment opportunities for those involved in the criminal justice system.

EAC Network's Vocational Services provides vocational and educational counseling services to individuals who are challenged with substance abuse issues, and to those who receive services from drug treatment agencies in Nassau County.

Mission Employment

Mission Employment assists at-risk youths who reside in the Town of Hempstead or City of Long Beach, guiding them towards a successful career path by providing counseling, a career assessment, job readiness workshops, on-the-job training, and paid internships for individuals who are not currently attending high school or college and are economically disadvantaged, including ex-offenders, the homeless, those residing in foster care, are pregnant or parenting, or have a documented disability.

EAC Network offers an individual service strategy plan goal, which includes 14 elements and provides supportive services which will connect them to a career pathway.

Our Stories

Mission Employment Success Story

EG was homeless and **facing pending criminal charges.**

Upon entering the Mission Employment program, EG was connected with a shelter in Roosevelt, where he found housing. He got a job at a local factory which then allowed him to rent his own apartment.

While working, EG continued to attend all Mission Employment workshops. As a result, he began to explore other job opportunities and got a job as a Class B CDL driver.

Mission Employment recently received a phone call from EG's place of employment, asking us if we could recommend other young men who possess a strong work ethic like EG, who had recently been promoted to shift supervisor.

During this time, while still facing criminal charges, he informed the court of his participation in the Mission Employment program, and with his permission, they contacted EAC Network to verify his status.

As a result, EG received a lesser charge, and as a member in good-standing in the Mission Employment program, part of his sentence included completing community service hours through EAC Network.



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Many thanks to the EAC Network for their continuous care and assistance to improving the quality of our most vulnerable community members.

Congratulations on 50 years of serving the community!

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Congratulations to EAC Network for 50 years of service and impact on our communities.

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Northwell Health is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all— **that's why we support EAC Network**



By opening our hospitals' kitchens and providing fresh, nutritious food prepared by our executive chefs, we're proud to help EAC deliver more than 100,000 meals to homebound seniors each year.

**Congratulations to EAC on 50 years
of empowering, assisting and caring for those in need.**

We look forward to continuing this important community partnership.

Michael A. Epstein
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Michael J. Dowling
President & CEO

