

Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame

Archive Project

Inception to Induction

North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center

“Helping Children, Helping Family, Helping Communities”

Year of Founding: 1953

Issue(s) Addressed: Depression, Anxiety, Alcohol/Substance Abuse, Teenage Pregnancy, Physical and Sexual Abuse, Witness/Victim of Crime and Violence, Learning Disabilities, ADHD, Developmental Delays, Separation and Divorce, Suicide Threats and Attempts, and Chronic Illness or Death.

Induction Category & Year: Children and Youth Services, 2003

Founder: Beatrice Cohart

Personal Quote from Founder: “Competent, committed and caring to the community’s family that we serve.”

History: The agency was founded in 1953 by a group of parents who wanted to have a place where their children could get the help they needed- one that would allow for them to raise healthy children or to get assistance that specialized in the specific special needs of their children. Those children with mental behaviors and/ or dysfunctional family problems did not have such a place. Because these parents saw the need, the North Shore Child and Family and Guidance Center was created.

The agency works very seriously to keep its promise to keep the integrity of the founder’s mission to maintain the standards and the expectations for assessing each child’s mental behavior and evaluating family problems. Today, the agency has three locations. The headquarters are located in Roslyn Height, NY and the other two locations are in Westbury where the Leeds Place serves the young population and in Manhasset at the Marks Family Right From the Start 0-3+ Center.

Agency Mission: The North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center's mission is to provide programs and services to help children with problems or situations that can lead to more severe psychological or emotional problems.

The way they solve these situations is by scheduling a series of treatments for a child on a one to one basis. Then there is a group setting which transitions to and incorporates family therapy. They try to advocate for children when needed. Also, they work to

develop different programs that affect the community. Community awareness is essential to the growth of the agency.

Population Served: A community based agency that serves all of Long Island.

Scope of Activities:

Mental Health Services –These services are for children from birth through 24 years of age who are troubled or are part of a high risk population.

Substance Abuse Services – The services offer treatment and prevention services for children, teenagers and their families at the Guidance Center's Leeds Place and serving young people in Westbury.

Triage and Emergency Unit –This unit offers a rapid response to psychiatric emergencies. It can be a sudden set of circumstances where there is an impending risk of danger to the child or adolescent such as risk of suicide, risk of physical harm to others, or it can be a state of seriously impaired judgment in which the child is endangered, and situations of risk to a defenseless victim involving abuse, neglect, or exposure to domestic violence. The goal is to strengthen, stabilize and support.

Early Childhood Services –The Marks Family Right center from the Start 0-3 + Center in Manhasset offers parent education, therapeutic and support services for young children.

Diagnostic Services / Learning to Learn –These services offer families comprehensive diagnostic assessments by highly-qualified teams of caring psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and drug and alcohol counselors with special expertise in diagnosing and treating children. The Learning to Learn Center offers specialized screening and diagnosis for children thought to have learning problems, ADHD, and developmental disorders.

Bereavement and Trauma Services –The Schnurmacher Bereavement & Trauma Program offers assistance to children, youth and their families during times of grief and trauma. This includes family members of suicide victims and parents of murdered children at the Lucille and Martin E. Kantor Bereavement and Trauma Center in Roslyn Heights and at other sites.

Volunteer Involvement:

Mentors - Mentors work with middle school and high school students one afternoon a week providing guidance, friendship, and emotional support.

Tutors - Tutors provide academic assistance to children between the ages of 6-18 and are paired based on their age, abilities, and interests.

Program Advisory Councils – Councils make sure that the program is meeting the needs of the community and how to make the program even better.

Business Advisory - Business leaders on Long Island

Event Committees – Help plan the event of the community

Children's Center - The center oversees the Children's Center at the family court in Westbury and provides a safe environment for children with family involved in legal or domestic issues. It is for children 2 months to 12 years of age.

Most of the work is done by the volunteers who are members of the community as well as board members. The agency welcomes anyone who is interested to come and volunteer, and they will find a spot that can suit the needs of the agency.

Affiliate Organizations: North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center is affiliated with numerous organizations such as: The Early Years-- Child Care Council of Nassau County that gives assistance with helping find child care not only for family but also for employers looking for child care for their employees; National Association of Mothers' Center which helps promote maternal well being.

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