

Something New for the New Year



[City Access New York](#) is excited to ring in the New Year with what for us is a very different kind of project. In collaboration with Person Centered Care Services and public school IS 27, CANY will soon provide individual and family counseling, service coordination for graduating students, and information and referral services to families of children with

Autism Spectrum Disorders on Staten Island. This new project complements CANY's existing academic, socialization and respite offerings and brings us one step closer to our goal of providing comprehensive services to people with disabilities.

The three-year pilot project is made possible by the generous support of **The FAR Fund**. Established in 2001 by an anonymous donor, The FAR Fund's mission is to improve and expand services and systems for people on the autistic spectrum. We sincerely appreciate their support.

The Not Too Terrible Twos



CANY began its work on January 1, 2006. With our second anniversary just weeks away, it's time to take stock of what's been quite a year. From the expansion of our academic and respite services to students - and families of students - with sensory and developmental disabilities, to a new work readiness project that teaches young adults to get and keep good jobs, to an on-the-water camp with Rocking the Boat, to the

launching of the website and the publication of this our pilot newsletter - 2007 was a year of growth.

With support from foundations, corporations and individuals like you, CANY grew steadily in the number and kind of projects that it developed with diverse educational and cultural NYC partners. We take a moment to express our sincere thanks to Educational Vision Services (EVS), the Brooklyn Occupational Training Center, Person Centered Care Services, New York State Institute on Disability, New York Aquarium, Queens Botanical Garden, Rocking the Boat, schooner *Pioneer* and the Museum Access Consortium. Without such partners, we could not do our work.

Among CANY's mainstay grantmakers, we want to express special gratitude to the Lavelle Fund for the Blind for its longstanding support. The Lavelle Fund helped CANY take its first steps and, since 2004, its generosity has made possible innovative multi-year projects like Adapted Arts & Science for EVS Students. We hope you'll take a moment to view WNBC reporter Cat Greenleaf's terrific news piece on the project at this link - [Adapted Arts & Science Summer Camp](#).

"The Adapted Arts & Science program was wonderful. Not just because it allowed my daughter to learn something new, but also as a vessel for her sighted friends to learn to respect those with visual impairments. CANY's staff touched my daughter's heart."

- Susan Swift, mother of Arts & Science camper

Program Assessment & Measurable Outcomes



Okay, it's true, evaluators, indicators, measurable outcomes...not things we usually associate with holiday cheer. Still, how do you know how you're really doing without them? In 2007 we set out to survey families of children with disabilities whom we serve. We wanted to know what they thought of our work. Among the questions we posed were

whether they felt less stress because of their child's participation in our Respite program; or whether they could reduce absenteeism at work, often brought on by the demands of holiday childcare; or if

their child made a new friend or discovered, say, a great new museum in a strange new borough?

Well, the findings did cheer us. Of the 40 families surveyed, more than three-fourths gave CANY's Respite program the very highest rating - "excellent". And we met a quantitative goal, too. By year-end, CANY had delivered more than 2,100 hours of respite to families who truly need it.

So with outcomes like these, we say, Pass the egnog!

The Museum Access Consortium

More than a decade ago, the [Museum Access Consortium](#) (MAC) was created to provide assistance to cultural institutions as they learned to welcome new audiences, creating better access for people of all abilities. Today there are more than 100 MAC members in the metropolitan NYC area. MAC provides information and training to museum professionals, educators, advocates, individuals with disabilities and all parties interested in improving access to cultural institutions. MAC hosts public workshops that are wide ranging in their subject matter and have included such topics as: Effective Inclusion for Students with Disabilities, Planning and Fundraising for Accessibility, Case Studies in Multi-modal Learning, Maneuvering the DOE Re-Reorganization, and Welcoming Families with Disabilities: Parents Speak Out. Since 2002, in partnership with [Abilities!](#), MAC has also twice surveyed NYC cultural institutions for access. CANY is a proud member of the Museum Access Consortium.



If you would like to become a member of the Museum Access Consortium, or receive information about upcoming events, or request a copy of the Abilities!/MAC 2007 Member Survey on citywide museum accessibility, please contact MAC at the link at the top of this article.

'Tis the Season



Amazing, really, that 90% of all contributions made to charities are made by individuals - not foundations, or corporations - but by individuals. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to City Access New York, it's as simple as clicking here. And thank you!

City Access New York would also like to thank these sponsors for their generous support:



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