
THE AUDREY MILLER PORITZKY EDUCATIONAL FUND FOR CHILDREN

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2005

Board of Directors

Laurence H. Miller, M.D.
President

David F. Poritzky
Vice President

Anne K. Miller
Vice President

Robert E. Miller
Treasurer

Theresa L. Sweeney
Secretary

Philip Coltoff

Judith K. Dimon

Marciene S. Mattleman

C. Warren "Pete" Moses

President's Message

By Laurence H. Miller, M.D.

Dear Fellow Contributor,

It is a privilege to be sending you this inaugural edition of the newsletter of the Audrey Miller Poritzky Educational Fund.

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Fund which are helping to honor Audrey's wishes and her memory while improving the education of underprivileged youngsters.

Our goal is to be responsible stewards of your donations and to report to you our progress in making the Fund operational.

Toward that end, we have accomplished two things:

1. We have established a Board of Directors with officers who have clearly delineated responsibilities. This follows the development of a 501 (c) (3) Corporation with bylaws, and
2. We held our initial Board Meeting on August 26, 2004 and have begun to plan our first conference (which is discussed in a separate article in this newsletter).

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the members of the Board of Directors, some of whom are family, but each of whom brings unique expertise and talents from the fields of education, finance, development and administration. I also want to highlight each one's connection to Audrey.

Marciene S. Mattleman, Ed.D., is an educator who spent a major part of her career as a professor at Temple University training teachers and doing research on language learning and reading. Subsequently, she started five non profit organizations, including Philadelphia Futures, all of which are dedicated to improving access and opportunities for low income populations, mostly young people. Marciene is currently the president of ASAP, After School Activities Partnerships, and is an education reporter on KYW Newsradio, Philadelphia's CBS affiliate.

Audrey worked as an assistant to Marciene at Philadelphia Futures, participating as a mentor in its Sponsor-A-Scholar program as well. "The insights that she gained through mentoring made it clear that she would be an ideal staff member and she quickly grew very vital to the organization. Audrey's commitment to young people, her compassion and her belief that all kids can achieve added great strength to the program".

Continued on page 2

2004 Progress Report: Initial Steps

By David F. Poritzky

Creating and developing an education reform project that would do Audrey justice is no easy task. However, I am pleased to report that the beginnings of our program are taking shape, and we should see even more concrete progress over the next several months.

The two governing themes emanating from the Foundation's August 2004 board meeting dealt with teenage inner-city leadership and peer-to-peer mentoring. As many of you know, Audrey spent time in her career addressing both of these issues.

The Board members decided that the Foundation's main

project will be a peer-to-peer mentoring program, to be started as a pilot program in a single school, or possibly in conjunction with an existing successful program. One somewhat unique aim of this program, however, will be to grant academic credit to the mentors. As we discussed in the meeting, it is often the mentors – usually juniors and seniors in high school – who receive the most benefit from these peer-to-peer programs, and having academic credit would add another dimension to this reward concept.

As far as the "mentees" (usually the all-important age of 14-15-year olds, the group statistically most likely to drop out of high school) are concerned, we will work to ensure that the

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 1

Philip Coltoff, a renowned expert in the field of social work and social services, joined the Children's Aid Society (CAS) in 1956 and currently is the Chief Executive Officer of this organization.

Under his direction, The Children's Aid Society has undergone unprecedented growth. CAS has initiated Head Start classes, drug prevention programs, mental health care, aid to homeless children, mobile medical and dental clinics, and, in collaboration with the New York City Board of Education, the city's first multi-service, year-round community schools.

Phil is recognized for his written contributions to child welfare literature, as well as for his advocacy. He is a member of the Advisory Board of Administration for Children's Services and the Advisory Board of New York City's Human Resources Administration. In addition, he served as Chairman of the New York City Volunteer for Youth Campaign, which works with over 100 youth agencies to match volunteer mentors with students who have academic and disciplinary problems.

He received his Bachelor's Degree from City College of the City University of New York and his Master's in social work from New York University.

C. Warren "Pete" Moses, a social worker specializing in helping adolescents, joined The Children's Aid Society in 1969 and is now its Executive Director.

Pete has overseen strategic planning committees that focus on mental health, arts, sports, recreation services, camping, community schools, medical foster care and foster care permanency planning.

He provided key leadership in creating the Society's Community Schools program. In 1992, he worked with the New York City Board of Education and opened the first model school in Washington Heights. Today, the Society operates 13 community schools that provide more than 13,000 students and their families with after school, educational, health and social services, holiday and summer programs, parent programs, family life and recreation services. He also has given leadership to the Society's facilities development and engineering programs.

Pete holds a Bachelor's Degree in Community Leadership from Springfield College and a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Connecticut.

During Audrey's tenure at the Children's Aid Society, Pete worked with Audrey on the Ad Council application which allowed him to see how "bright, hardworking, committed and productive she was. Her caring for children and her commitment to education were expressed in her creation of a high quality and very robust application which was accepted by the Ad Council and led to \$50 million of donated airtime for our community schools ad".

Judith K. Dimon has played a pioneering role in the launch of Community Schools and is a trustee of the Children's Aid Society, having founded their Education Board which she chairs. Prior to this work, from 1985-1989, Judy was the Executive Director of the Spunk Fund, Inc., a foundation based in New York City which supports local, national and international programs promoting the education, health and well-being of children in need. Earlier in her career, she was a Vice-President of Shearson Lehman Brothers, where she launched and oversaw the Consumer Lending Group and a Management Consultant at Booz, Allen & Hamilton. A major philanthropist and advocate, she sits on many educational and museum boards.

A graduate of the Harvard Business School, Judy holds a Masters Degree in Psychology from Catholic University and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Newcomb College, Tulane University, where she instituted a separate discipline and course of study in Organizational Behavior.

She is married to Jamie Dimon for whom Audrey worked as an

Administrative Assistant at Smith Barney. She was instrumental in introducing Audrey to the Children's Aid Society, its personnel and its work.

Theresa Sweeney, Board Secretary has over 10 year's experience working in the loan servicing divisions of several mortgage companies. Moving to New York in 1990, she joined the Treasury Group of Smith Barney. In 1993, she began working as the Administrative Assistant to Jamie Dimon, who would become President of Citigroup. She met Audrey before she joined Jamie's team in 1998 and they worked closely together for six months, and shared a common passion of keeping everyone organized and in line! Audrey and Theresa became close friends.

Theresa holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting from the University of Texas at Austin.

Robert Miller, Board Treasurer, Audrey's brother and confidante, is Vice President in Private Wealth Management at Goldman Sachs. Previous positions he held were Institutional Salesman in Equities at Goldman Sachs, Analyst in the Investment Research Department at Salomon Brothers and Analyst in Goldman Sachs Asset Management.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania and a Masters in Management from the Kellogg School at Northwestern.

David Poritzky, Board Vice President, is Director of Operations for Eurasia Group, an independent research firm in New York. Dave oversees the finance, operations, business development and several key external relationships for the firm. He is also responsible for managing the firm's strategic-planning process.

Dave received a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Cornell University, a Masters in Business Administration from the Wharton School and a Masters in International Relations from the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania. "Audrey is and was Dave's wife of nearly three years, as well as his true love, soul mate, best friend and mother of their beautiful daughter, Sophie."

Anne Miller, Board Vice President, is Audrey's mother. Anne has been involved in fundraising for the past 25 years. She served as the youngest president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center of Boston, a 6,000 woman organization. She then went on to become Director of Development for the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum in Weston, Massachusetts. After moving to Little Rock, Anne became involved in the Jewish Federation of Arkansas and was appointed First Vice President, a position she held until Audrey was diagnosed with cancer.

Anne received a Bachelor of Arts from Boston University.

Lastly, I am Audrey's father and I serve as **Board President**. I am Board Certified in Adult and Geriatric Psychiatry and am currently Medical Director for the Arkansas Division of Behavioral Health Services, Medical Director of the Arkansas State Hospital and a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Previously, I served as Director of the Division of Psychiatry at Boston City Hospital.

I have served on several philanthropic and professional boards both in Boston and Little Rock, including having served as President of the Arkansas Psychiatric Society.

I received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Vermont and a Medical Degree from the Chicago Medical School. I completed my psychiatric residency at Boston University School of Medicine.

Thank you once more for your ongoing support and financial contributions. We look forward to communicating with you through our newsletter.

Continued from page 1

mentoring program meets their needs as well – the program should be well-organized, brief in length, and should feature concrete goals and objectives that can also be followed after the program ends (at several points in the discussion, we acknowledged that Audrey would have been the ideal person to manage such a program!)

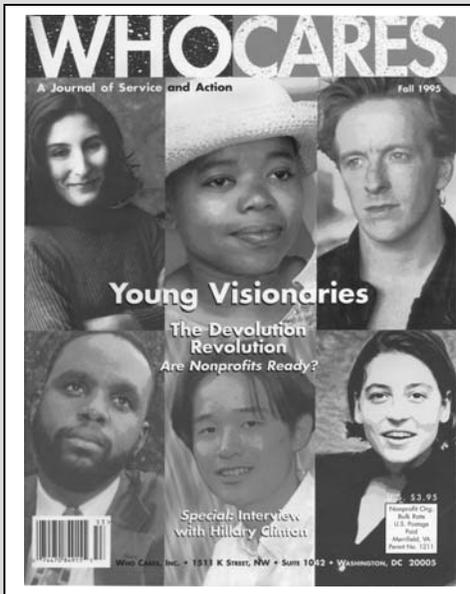
In addition to the mentoring program itself, the Board also discussed the idea of a kickoff conference, in which both mentors and “mentees” would be given the opportunity to spend at least a full day together listening to interesting speakers, receiving needed education and general advice, and fostering the feelings of leadership, camaraderie and self-confidence that become the marks of successful mentoring programs.

As a next step, a meeting was convened at the Children’s Aid Society office in New York in December. Board members Phil Coltoff, Pete Moses, Marcienne Mattleman

and I were joined by a dozen CAS-related experts from throughout the New York City public school district. I was awestruck by the level of competence and perseverance displayed by these professionals, while I was also genuinely touched by their desire to help honor Audrey – a person whom most of the group had never met in person.

Working closely with Michael Roberts, a senior Children’s Aid Society manager who has been designated to lead this stage of the project, we are beginning to look at the concrete next steps of the opening conference, as well as the administrative needs involved with a full-fledged mentoring program. At this point, our primary aim is to balance our collective ambition with healthy doses of feasibility and reality, so that we can formally begin a sensible, effective and soon-to-be longstanding program in Audrey’s honor.

We look forward to not only keeping you posted on this project, but also to your concrete participation as the need and opportunities arise.



Audrey was featured as one of 21 “Young Visionaries” in the fall 1995 issue of Who Cares magazine, a national journal published by the Who Cares organization in Washington, DC.

21 YOUNG VISIONARIES SPEAK OUT

In the summer of 1995, *Who Cares* delivered a “Call to All Young Visionaries,” soliciting answers to two questions from thousands of young people nationwide:

1. **What is the most pressing problem facing society today, and what are you doing to address it?**
2. **As we approach the year 2000, what is your vision for a better future?**

Who Cares’ editors and editorial board members read each entry, rating them on originality of ideas, clarity of expression, and commitment of the individual to positive change. We tried to select a wide diversity of issues. Though the process was grueling – there were so many good submissions – we managed to select 21 outstanding compositions. Most essays were edited for length, but we tried to maintain the integrity of each author’s voice and ideas. The opinions expressed in these essays do not necessarily represent those of Who Cares’ editors, editorial board or advisors.

Continued on page 4

CHANAÉ

How could I make a difference? I wasn't positive that I could, but I took a deep breath and walked into the Roy Rogers where I was meeting the high school freshman whom I would mentor through her first year in college. What would she think of me? She was still a child, yet had lived in a different place every year of her adolescence and, at the time of our meeting, was living in a shelter with her mother. My life had been full and stable in a way that was so different from hers; we could have been from different worlds. All I knew was that I cared.

Chanae and I have been together for the past two years. We have gone to museums, watched movies, gone out for dinner, attended sporting events and gone to New York City. Who am I in her life? An adult that she knows she can rely on. I have helped Chanae find summer enrichment opportunities, read and discussed books with her, and encouraged her to learn both in and out of school.



I believe that one person *can* make a difference. Everyone can remember the one teacher who inspired us to explore, to think critically, to embrace and utilize words and numbers, and to believe in the strength of our own thoughts and ideas. I know that each one of us has the potential to positively impact a young person. We need to encourage more people to get involved in the lives of children. We must also support agencies that make it easy for individuals to volunteer their time meaningfully.

The most urgent issue facing society today is the quality of education available to our nation's youth. We need to focus energy on restructuring the educational system and creating an atmosphere in which learning is valued, accessible, encouraged, and also fun! Each of us needs to act to ensure universal quality education. Hopefully, in the future, access to high-quality education will be blind to color, gender, and class.

As young people begin to embrace education, they will in turn foster an environment that celebrates learning. If we succeed in fortifying the next generation with confidence, intellectual curiosity and values, as well as ensure access to both educational and economic opportunities, then we will have secured better futures for everyone.

Audrey Miller, 23, administrative assistant at Philadelphia Futures, a nonprofit that expands options and opportunities for youth in Philadelphia, PA.

Audrey Miller Poritzky Educational Fund for Children

P.O. Box 688

Summit, NJ 07902-0688

Dedicated to helping children realize their academic potentials and pursue their education dreams