

CAROL WHEELER
1650 30TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20007

Ⓢ

Oct. 11

hi Melanne -

have you seen these?
and did you know Alicia
is Arnie's daughter? you
know Arnie and can
appreciate how wonderful
and unbelievable this all
is (where did she come from!?)
(actually Arnie's wife gives some
clues - beautiful, little, thin
etc...) - it's been so much
fun hearing about all this
from her proud (and stunned)
parents - Dance Theater of Harlem

is at the Kennedy Center
in April (I think ... sometime
in the spring for sure).

I'll let you know when I
find out the dates (& which
nights Alicia will be featured)
so you can mark your
calendar -

was nice to see you at
Tuesday's reception - a good
event ... and great press
coverage of Mrs. Clinton's
school visit on the evening
news. General Becton wasn't
the only one who appreciated
her thoughts on living (& carrying
on the work of her husband).

DANCE REVIEW

Balanchine Purity in a Harlem Mode

By ANNA KISSELGOFF

George Balanchine was the artistic godfather to Dance Theater of Harlem, and on Thursday night the company paid energetic tribute to him with three of his landmark ballets, "Serenade," "The Prodigal Son" and "The Four Temperaments."

Still on a roll in the second program of its current season at Aaron Davis Hall (City College, West 134th Street and Convent Avenue, Hamilton Heights), the troupe confirms the new spirit and dance power it displayed earlier in the week. This all-Balanchine bill, the first presented by Dance Theater since 1979, will be repeated today at 2 P.M. with a new cast and is worth the trip. For with this program, the company defines its lineage and asserts its distinctiveness.

The style of classical dancing it adopted from the start was filtered through the prism of Balanchine's 20th-century Neo-Classicism. This is only natural. Arthur Mitchell, Dance Theater of Harlem's director and its co-founder in 1968 with the late Karel Shook, was one of Balanchine's stars in the New York City Ballet.

From the start, Mr. Mitchell's dancers had the same attack and streamlined dynamic found in City Ballet. Balanchine had a head start in the 1930's in the United States, and within his style, City Ballet's technique remains unmatched. But Mr. Mitchell adapted that style to his own personality and those of his dancers, encouraging an individuality that Balanchine defined through dance alone.

In "Serenade" and "The Four Temperaments" on Thursday, the dancers were not afraid to smile. In "The Prodigal Son," Alicia Graf, an 18-year-old sensation as the Siren, and Duncan Cooper, an uncommonly assured performer as the Son, were not afraid to act.

The importance of Balanchine to Dance Theater of Harlem lies, nonetheless, in his pure-dance esthetic. In the plotless ballets that were his signature, a predominantly black classical company required its dancers only to dance. If Mr. Mitchell decided that a 19th-century ballet like "Giselle" needed to be transposed to a Creole milieu in Louisiana because its original Rhineland setting was not relevant to black dancers, he had no such problem with ballets like "Serenade" and "The Four Temperaments." Here, dancers move as unadorned bodies



Barton Silverman/The New York Times

Alicia Graf in a Dance Theater of Harlem performance of "The Prodigal Son."

through time and space, engaged with the music.

In effect, Balanchine liberated black classical dancers: They need only be themselves.

That Mr. Mitchell has since broadened the repertory has not obviated his basic esthetic. The exception that proves the rule is "The Prodigal Son," a distilled narrative inspired by a biblical parable. As the last work choreographed (1929) for Serge Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, "Prodigal Son" wears its modernism on its sleeve. Every-

thing about it, beginning with Prokofiev's score, was experimental, and the acrobatic choreography owes much to the 1920's Soviet avant-garde.

Mr. Cooper, like many in the title role, offered a realistic portrayal rather than a more apt stylized one. As such, his performance was magnificently detailed. Not yet a bravura dancer, he nonetheless made his opening solo a high-jumping expression of rage and rebellion. His leaps were exalted, his pirouettes clean. Seduced by the Siren, he looked terrified and, on his return home, spent.

Ms. Graf is a born Siren. Once her toe work is stronger, it will enhance her already extraordinary performance. Predatory and sinuous, she yanked the hapless Son into her coiled embrace, ending with a masklike expression of triumph.

Keith Saunders, as the Father, was fine, if a bit too welcoming in his gestures. Andre Levitt and Kevin Thomas were the son's energetic friends.

With "Serenade" (1934), the first work he created in America, Balanchine became Balanchine. The music, was admittedly by Tchaikovsky, but the choreography's allusions to 19th-century Romantic ballet, have a contemporary impetus. Dance Theater performs the plotless work with a new sweep. The choreography's beauties were made clear by a perfect ensemble led by Virginia Johnson and Eddie J. Shellman in the waltz, as well as a sparkling Judy Tyrus; Zalika Proctor and Ronald Perry were both imposing.

Set to a commissioned Hindemith score, "The Four Temperaments" (1946) is today the granddaddy of Balanchine's experimental ballets to modern music. The "Theme" section was danced with extra clarity by Simone Cardoso and James Washington; Andrea Long and Cedric Rouse, and a sensuous Stephanie Powell and Thaddeus Davis. Oscar Hawkins, with his suppleness and burdened weight, gave a new image of the "Melancholic" solo, while Donald Williams's "Phlegmatic" solo was a study in the ebb and flow of energy.

One could admire the playfulness of Ms. Tyrus and Mr. Shellman in the "Sanguinic" duet and the ferocity, exemplified by Ms. Graf, in the "Choleric" solo and the ensemble. In all, pure dance with a dramatic edge.

DANCE

Theatre of Harlem Comes of Age: After Divisive Strike, a New Spirit

By Jennifer Dunning
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Dance Theatre of Harlem, created nearly three decades ago to prove that black dancers could perform classical ballet, was always a company with a difference, a tight-knit family struggling together in a common mission. In January, that deeply ingrained sense of family was shattered by a strike that pitted the "children" against their "father," Arthur Mitchell, founder and director of the troupe.

But a new measure of self-awareness and growth resulted from that painfully divisive labor dispute. And that new spirit may be seen in the company's current season at Aaron Davis Hall at City College in a triumphant return to New York after a two-year absence, with a repertoire and performances that critics have described as dazzling and distinctive.

"For me, it was a learning experience," Mitchell said recently. "I would never have cut the umbilical cord."

A casual visitor to the troupe's busy, light-filled headquarters might be forgiven for assuming that not much had changed. But the company has been hurt by declining government and private support for the arts. Though no programs have been abandoned, the company and its school have streamlined their staffs, which now total 26. And the company's 38 dancers are pitching in to help run the organization as their rehearsal and class schedules permit.

The family, Mitchell says, is now a "team." The defiant strikers of eight months ago, members of the American Guild of Musical Artists, have not capitulated in their insistence on being treated as autonomous adult professionals. They are proud of

a settlement that gave them a 10 percent wage increase over the two years of the contract as well as a 30-hour workweek and a limit on apprentice dancers.

Dance is a profession whose rewards must be counted not only in wages, job security and good working conditions. Recognition is equally — if not more — important, whether it derives from the approval of artistic directors, audiences or critics. Dancers and their artistic directors also tend to have a more intense personal relationship than workers and managers in other fields.

The Harlem dancers are not alone in their partnership with management. The desire to help American Ballet Theatre survive financially in 1994 led its dancers to form a breakaway union in 1994, with givebacks from other unions.

The dancers had to grow up quickly during the strike. Eddie J. Shellman, a longtime principal dancer with the company, said of his newer colleagues. And as veteran dancers left over the years, only a handful were left to pass along the history and founding ideals of the company.

"In our generation, when Eddie and I were at the age these kids are now, Mr. Mitchell was also a young person," said Virginia Johnson, the company's prima ballerina. "We were doing this thing together, out of the blue. Learning together. He was Dad. We were the kids. It was fun and there were lots of great things about that atmosphere."

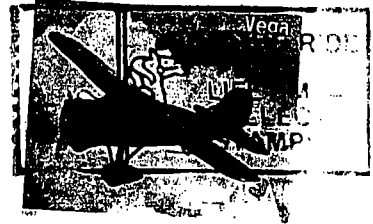
"But that got diluted as the company grew, and



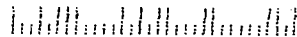
Sara Krulwich/The New York Times

Dancers Alicia Graf and Duncan Cooper in rehearsals.

more and more dancers were not a part of that first family. It became more of a job than something you just loved. We knew we could sit down together around a table. A lot of the younger dancers did not have that direct relationship with Mr. Mitchell."



Mrs. Melanne Verbeer
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC 20500



CAROL WHEELER
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 4, 1997

Mr. James Wolfensohn
President
The World Bank
Washington, DC 20433

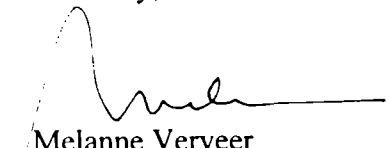
Dear Jim:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you very much for your letter and invitation to deliver the keynote address at the ***Knitting Together Nations - Fashions and Crafts from Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina*** exhibition on December 1, 1997.

Regrettably, Mrs. Clinton is unable to attend due to schedule conflicts, but sends her best wishes for a successful event.

Thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

Regret (R)

The World Bank
Washington, D.C. 20433
U.S.A.

JAMES D. WOLFENSOHN
President

September 2, 1997

The First Lady of the United States of America
Hillary Rodham Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

Knowing your long-standing interest in microfinance as a strategy for assisting vulnerable groups, it is my pleasure to announce ***Knitting Together Nations—Fashions and Crafts from Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina***, an exhibition in Paris from December 1-5, 1997, jointly sponsored by the World Bank, UNESCO, and UNHCR. On the possible chance that it might be compatible with your travel schedule, we cordially invite you to give the keynote address at the opening event, which starts at 4:00 p.m. on December 1, 1997, at UNESCO Headquarters, 7 Place de Fontenoy, Paris.

As you know, the war in Bosnia resulted in thousands of internally displaced women who lost husbands, sons, and fathers, and who need a new means of income. In order to help them and other war-affected groups move from humanitarian aid to income-generating activities, international donors and grassroots organizations are collaborating to provide microcredit and technical support to vulnerable populations. Through *Knitting Together Nations*, we are now moving further to assist displaced women in establishing trade links and marketing networks for their products.

The opening event will include:

- A roundtable discussion titled *Women, Trade, and Microcredit in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, moderated by a leading journalist from France.
- A music and dance performance and fashion show highlighting a spectacular collection of knitwear produced by displaced women.
- The opening of an exhibition of unique handicrafts from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We would be honored and delighted if you accept our invitation to be keynote speaker. We will contact your office to provide further details.

With warm personal regards
Sincerely yours,

Jim

James D. Wolfensohn

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 22, 1997

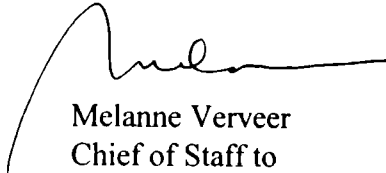
Ms. Joan Winship
Vice President
The Stanley Foundation
216 Sycamore Street, Suite 500
Muscatine, IA 52761

Dear Joan:

Thank you very much for your letter and for the Women's National Action Agenda which I have also given to the First Lady. The work you are doing is so important and this endeavor is yet another illustration. We are grateful for your leadership and commitment.

Thanks and best wishes in your important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



The Stanley Foundation

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C. Maxwell Stanley
Founder, 1984-Present
Richard H. Stanley
President

September 16, 1997

Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to
the First Lady
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. Verveer:

I am pleased to enclose two copies of the Women's National Action Agenda which are just off the press and almost ready for national distribution.

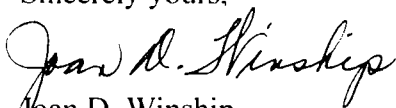
I am delighted that one of the contributions the Stanley Foundation is making to the post-Beijing process is publishing the National Action Agenda on behalf of US NGOs. We have printed 15,000 copies and will also have the NAA available on the foundation's website. With the cooperation of Church Women United, American Association of University Women, National Association of Commissions for Women, and Women's Environment and Development Association, distribution will be nationwide.

I have enjoyed working with Theresa Loar and Kathy Hendrix at the President's Interagency Council, on the UN Commission on the Status of Women, and more recently at the *Vital Voices* conference in Vienna. Although there were challenges to overcome, I am particularly pleased that we were able to collaborate in order to make this National Action Agenda available to so many women and groups around the country.

Thank you for your continuing support in these efforts as well. When we were in Vienna, I mentioned to the First Lady that I would send copies of the Agenda to you as soon as they were available. I am happy to do so now. If you would like to have more copies of the NAA, please let me know and I will be happy to send you additional ones.

My best wishes to you in your own work and in your support of efforts like these on behalf of women everywhere.

Sincerely yours,


Joan D. Winship
Vice President

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Families for Kids of Color: Ways
Your Organization Can Help



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FOUNDATION**

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Facsimile: 616-968-0413

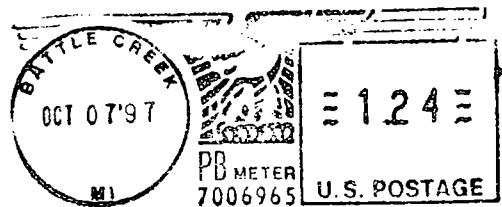
Families for Kids of Color:

**Ways Your
Organization
Can Help**



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**FAMILIES FOR KIDS NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POLICY PERSPECTIVES:
A SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

Renaissance Washington DC Hotel
June 25-26, 1997

Event Sponsor:
W. K. Kellogg Foundation

Conference Purpose and Scope:

The Conference brought some 350 current Families For Kids (FFK) grantee representatives and families from all FFK sites together with potential new allies from federal, state, and local government; the judiciary; philanthropy and the nonprofit sector; education; business; grassroots family advocacy groups; and organized religion.

The conference sought to focus national attention on the critical issue of children languishing in foster care ("waiting children"), and to create a sense of urgency about their plight which compelled action and systemic change at the highest levels. Conference presentations and activities also aimed to widen the circle of FFK supporters by clarifying the magnitude of the problems faced by waiting children -- as illustrated through the stories of waiting kids themselves; to articulate the FFK vision and principles of reform; and to disseminate up-to-the-minute information about pending legislation, as well as model policies and practices. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton brought the conference to a close by offering support and gratitude to FFK reformers for their commitment and work in the vineyards of reform.

The conference was timed to provide information useful to the current congressional debate on legislation affecting waiting children and their families, as well as executive branch initiatives on adoption. Sessions were designed to offer information at many different levels of detail: testimonials from affected children and families, conceptual information about intended initiative outcomes, as well as highly technical information needed to implement reform.

The conference's plenary and breakout sessions on June 26 were preceded on the evening of June 25 by a reception and dinner at which the following policy makers spoke about federal legislative and cabinet-level agency activities on behalf of children and families: **Congressman Dave Camp** (R-MI); **Senator Mike DeWine** (R-OH); **Congresswoman Barbara Kennelly** (D-CT); **Olivia Golden** (Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services). **Judge Julian Pinkham** (Yakima Nation Tribal Court System) offered a Native American prayer urging FFK participants and other leading policy makers to act wisely to protect the health and well being of children in care.

The morning session on July 26 included four brief video presentations on child welfare system problems and the FFK vision and outcomes which are not summarized in these proceedings.

**Morning Session
9:30 a.m.-12:00N
Families For Kids: A Vision for Children**

Opening Remarks By Valora Washington, Program Director, Families For Kids

(W. K. Kellogg Foundation). Dr. Washington began her remarks by noting that the conference was a call to action and an opportunity for all conferees to share what they knew about policies affecting permanence for children within the foster care system. She said that five questions would give shape to the proceedings:

- How can we better promote healthy development of children in foster care?
- Who are the children in foster care?
- Who should care for them when parents can't?
- What is the plan for these children?
- What can be done by systems and what can individuals do?

She underscored the special problems of children of color within the foster care system -- particularly their disproportionate representation within the foster care system of every state. She also deplored the lack of good data and adequate recognition of race/ethnicity in the policy debates on the issue.

Increasing the chances of permanency for children drifting in the system would, she said, require of new potential allies an act of imagination to elevate a dream of change above the intimidating presence of things as they are. This is what FFK reformers had succeeded in doing and what all reformers must do if we are to enact what 25 years of research has already taught us about children's needs and proven system solutions, she said.

Finally Dr. Washington emphasized the importance of expanding the circle of people who know and care about waiting children -- moving beyond relatively small professional communities to gain broader support.

She closed her remarks by introducing the next two speakers -- Shane Salter and Kevin Green-- two adult African-Americans who had spent virtually their entire childhoods in foster care, never experiencing permanent loving families. "Let there be no more Shane's and Kevin's; let them be our teachers," stated Dr. Washington.

Families For Kids: The Challenge "Through The Eyes of Youth"

Shane Salter, Deputy Director, For Love of Children *(Washington DC)*: Mr. Salter began by telling the story of his own childhood: abandonment at the age of four in a New York City basement apartment where he attempted to care for his six month old brother; later, nine foster homes, two group homes and an orphanage; a long period of school failure followed by a dramatic turnaround featuring graduation from high school as the valedictorian of his class, successful college years and professional development, marriage and children of his own (both biological and adopted).

Salter reminded the audience that the system expected "these [foster children like himself] our most fragile members of society . . . to succeed without help." He asked that society "make a place for each little gentle face," and suggested that he was himself everything the system was throwing away in children, a reminder of all that is "good in children."

Kevin Green, Member, Mississippi Sun Team/Speak Up Now *(Jackson, MS)*: Mr. Green, the son of a woman addicted to drugs, said that his story began in a hospital room where he struggled as an infant to survive and later experienced multiple foster care placements.

He indicated that his Families For Kids advocacy work as part of the Mississippi Sun Team was helping to fill a hole in his heart left by being a person without a family. "Why we turn our backs on kids, I don't know, he said."

Valora Washington noted that 16,000 youth leave the system each year merely because of age without ever achieving a permanent family. She said that an assumption that “we can do better for kids” had led the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to pull together a group of experts in 1990 to consider ways to have an impact. On the advice of these experts, the Foundation had undertaken Families for Kids, initiating reform with a “community visioning process” which ultimately involved 14,000 people in 15 states. The planning process in effect gave participants, she said, a “blank piece of paper” and asked them to imagine what reforms would best address the systemic problems causing so many kids to languish in foster care.

She also summarized the goals and outcomes that had given shape to all reform efforts:

FFK Goals:

- (1) eliminating the backlog of kids languishing in foster care
- (2) achieving system change

FFK Outcomes:

- one year at most before permanent placement
- one stable foster care family
- one assessment to determine need
- one case worker or case work team
- comprehensive support for caregivers

Community Visioning/Community Leadership

The Honorable William Byars, Jr., Judge of the Fifth Circuit Family Court, Kershaw County, SC. An acknowledged leader of South Carolina’s Families For Kids court and legal reform movement, Judge Byars reminded the audience that 100,000 kids nationally were stuck in foster care drift, and that only a “paradigm shift” -- a radical change in the way people began to see the issue -- could initiate successful reform. Byars recalled that his own paradigm shift came when he began to “see the system through the eyes of a child.”

Judge Byars noted that the child welfare system stood on two legs: social services *and* the legal system. He also noted just a few of the results of recent child welfare legal reform in SC:

- an embrace of family preservation, if possible
- a stronger focus on permanency
- support for kinship care
- increase in the termination of parental rights by a factor of ten
- increase in adoption by a factor of 6

He emphasized the importance of getting children who cannot return home freed for adoption faster, by expediting termination of parental rights (TPR), so that kids will have a better chance of achieving permanency.

Pat and Ricky Landrum and their two children David and Brittany (adopted through South Carolina Families For Kids) joined Judge Byars on the dais as he concluded his remarks.

State Perspectives On Permanency

Bill Graves, Governor of the State of Kansas and First Lady Linda Graves. Mrs. Graves noted that the most important crop in the State of Kansas was kids and that her husband's most important role was that of father to their newly adopted daughter Katie.

Governor Graves noted that when he took office, the child welfare system was broken, the State's leading child welfare agency was operating under the terms of a legal agreement, and adoption was taking much too long. Change was therefore a requirement, and safety and permanence for children were to be the hall marks of that change. The change process had three immediate goals, he said:

- protect kids -- the first job
- focus on outcomes, not social service process
- deliver services more effectively

The Governor also stated that Kansas had privatized the bulk of its child welfare services, and that the initial results of this privatization were encouraging:

- fewer children entering foster care
- more returning home each quarter
- the average stay in care was less than three months
- reunified families were remaining together longer
- more than 70% of those kids placed out of home were being placed *together with one sibling*
- the State was achieving a net gain of five placements a month

Joan Wagon, Former Kansas FFK Project Director and Newly Elected Mayor of Topeka, Kansas concluded the state perspectives presentation by noting that collaboration among many partners had been a successful, primary strategy in Kansas. She also thanked Linda Katz for her pioneering efforts to establish the concurrent planning process that had been such an important innovation in the Kansas FFK initiative and elsewhere.

Achieving Permanency: What We Must Do

Pat Babcock, Program Director (W. K. Kellogg Foundation). Mr. Babcock introduced a panel which included **Nicholas Scoppetta** (Commissioner, Administration for Children's Services, City of New York); **Donna Starr** (President, Native American Commission on Children and Families, State of Washington); **Jim Clark**, State Director, South Carolina Department of Social Services); **Kevin Fitzgerald** (Director of the North Carolina Division of Social Services); **JoAnn Lawer** (Deputy Secretary, Office of Children, Youth & Families, Pennsylvania); and **Marva Hammonds** (Director, Families Independence Agencies, Michigan).

Before recognizing each panelist for separate remarks, Mr. Babcock noted that adoption reform was a partnership of three's:

- all three levels of government
- all three branches of government
- local communities, families, and kids

Brief summaries of the remarks of each commissioner follow.

Nicholas Scoppetta said that New York City had increased adoptions steadily and significantly since 1994, showing a 58 percent increase in 1995, a 58 percent increase in 1996, and a 78 percent increase in 1997 (4,131 adoptions). He credited the following strategies for these promising numbers:

- bringing a new focus on adoption and permanence
- improving system management
- getting the support of two key judges, especially the State's chief judge
- creating a special adoption expediting unit
- creating contract incentives for private agencies doing adoptions (number of completed adoptions a criteria for re-contracting)
- using concurrent planning

- boosting family recruitment with One Church One Child, adoption fairs, and the State's "Family Album"

Donna Starr, a member of the Muckleshoot Tribe, introduced herself by first naming her parents and grandparents, to dramatize how important ancestral and tribal roots are to Native Americans.

Ms. Starr noted that tribal people do not believe in severing their blood ties, as is often the case with mainstream, formal adoption processes. She said that many tribes preferred to place children in guardianships with relatives, using open adoptions as a good last resort. Children, she said, have to know where they are from, so family information must always follow them. She also noted that tribes provide children with something stable to come back to, because tribes will take ownership of kids.

The new State - and FFK-sponsored Native American Commission on Children and Families is, she said, an important vehicle for engaging Washington's 37 tribes in advocacy for Native American children and for bringing together all child-serving agencies to look at a child's whole life. FFK has, she said, "opened eyes."

Jim Clark stressed the importance of improving management of systems serving children. Such management, he said, must begin with good leadership that articulates a clear vision of change and brings together system units so that organizational learning can occur. He also stressed the importance of establishing accountability with county-level managers --making the foremost criterion of job performance by getting kids into families (adoption). Better measurement -- understanding children's points of movement through the system -- was a key to reform. Clark also said that to succeed, county-level managers needed to be granted greater authority, discretion, and flexibility. Ritualistic, hierarchical forms of bureaucracy were counter-productive, he said.

Clark pointed to two issues of great concern to the future of reform:

- 1) the need to raise the quality of foster care homes, always asking, "Is this a home I would want to put my own child in?"
- 2) the need to face more directly the problems of entrenched drug and alcohol addiction and avoid the tendency to automatically grant primacy to the biological mother's wishes (South Carolina has recently more than doubled the number of TPR's, from 800-1500)

Kevin Fitzgerald noted that North Carolina's 8 "FFK counties" were currently outperforming all other counties in terms of increasing adoption rates and stabilizing expenditures. He pointed to the following promising reform trends:

- income maintenance and services are more integrated around values of self-reliance and self-sufficiency
- program identities are now being subordinated to clear program outcomes, with finances beginning to follow outcomes
- a vision of safety and permanency are becoming a movement
- there have been important changes in court and legal reform
- managers and workers have recognized the importance of "being in the community"

JoAnn Lawer summarized developments in the State of Pennsylvania's collaboration with the Casey Foundation's "Family to Family" program, noting that it shared FFK's central values of permanency for children and the need to eliminate the backlog of children in care.

Lawer focused most intensely on the program's steps to develop technological ways of analyzing what is happening to kids in the system, noting that framing outcomes and other indicators of other success, and helping child welfare professionals understand that "data is our friend" were essential to progress.

Other developments of note included:

- adding an additional ground for TPR
- adding a medical history registry
- allowing children to petition for TPR
- creating a statewide adoption network (“SWAN”)

In closing, Lawer praised FFK reformers for their theme, “Through the eyes of the child,” and urged that child welfare services work more closely with mental health care providers to ensure stable adoptions.

Marva Hammonds noted that Michigan had embraced the value of permanency for kids and had in the Kent County (Grand Rapids, MI) Families For Kids initiative a “stellar” performer that had dramatically increased placement of waiting kids. She also summarized a number of other positive developments within the State of Michigan:

- a new package of legislative initiatives that would force attorneys and other legal personnel to recognize a child’s sense of time
- a new community-based process to review child welfare practice
- permanency-focused reimbursement to providers
- trust money to prevent child abuse
- wrap-around services to prevent disrupted adoptions

Luncheon Speakers On the FFK Mandate: Reduce the Backlog and Change the System

Ernesto Loperena (*Executive Director, New York Council on Adoptable Children*) opened luncheon proceedings by noting that the current national policy focus on the health and welfare of children made this an opportune time for the FFK vision.

He also briefed the audience on "Latinos and Child Welfare -- Voces De La Comunidad," a report sponsored by the National Latino Child Welfare Advocacy Group and funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to shed light on the lack of information and understanding that now exists about the role child welfare services play in the lives of Latino families and children.

According to the report, Latino children are often undercounted in system census data because they are miscoded as Caucasian or African American, or they are "lost" in the "other" category. Given the status of current data, distinguishing the nature of the Latino experience within the system is not possible. Understanding unique Latino needs is also complicated by the many differences among Latino subgroups now living in America, and by aggregate national data that tends to obscure the status of Latino children where their concentrations are greatest: California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New York, and Texas.

By way of introducing the first speaker, Nicholas Scoppetta, Mr. Loperena said that Mayor Giuliani had begun important child welfare reform in New York City by naming Nicholas Scoppetta, a former foster child, Commissioner of a newly-formed agency, Administration for Children's Services, City of New York (the agency is responsible for the welfare of some 40,000 children in 60 agencies). Mr. Loperena expressed confidence in the new changes.

Nicholas Scoppetta commended Mayor Giuliani for his courageous commitment to keeping needless abuse-related child deaths from recurring.

Mr. Scoppetta also summarized the most important recent developments in the New York City reform movement:

- establishing a separate agency for children's services
- protecting the agency from budget cuts
- adding 53 million to the new agency's budget
- regular meetings between the Mayor and Commissioner to report on progress
- a newly-released report of reform progress

He concluded his remarks by stating that recent reforms had done more for child welfare in NYC in the last two years than had been accomplished in the previous twenty years.

Rudolph Giuliani (*Mayor of New York*) reminded conference participants, with a smile, that New York City was the "Capital of the World" -- a city of seven and a half million legal residents, an additional 7 million illegals, and two million "guests."

Protecting children from abuse and neglect is, he said, "an enormously complex and difficult task" which required a special agency and a shift from a culture of unaccountability to one of accountability. He said that he was heartened by several recent interventions by ordinary citizens to help children in distress. These, he believed, were indications that the community at large was beginning to feel responsible for helping kids and confident that their efforts would be heeded by officials and indeed make a difference.

He said that local governments, particularly city governments, had the best chance of helping kids and families, because they were closest to problems and needs. "We must encourage the stability and preservation of families," he said, "almost as a compulsion."

The dramatic reduction in crime in NYC was also helping families and children, he said. New understanding and enforcement in domestic violence cases was particularly significant he said, because 75 percent of all violence perpetrated against wives also involved child victims. He stressed the importance of addressing domestic violence publicly, stating that if “we had dealt directly with domestic violence 20 years ago, we wouldn’t have so many violent young adults now.”

In conclusion, he noted that the “real beneficiaries of adoption are adults, and people are beginning to recognize this.” He also stated that reform efforts were “building a better, more secure country.”

Afternoon Breakout Sessions (2:00-4:30)
Implementing Change: Conversations About Permanency

Participants were at liberty to choose from among the following five different breakout sessions:

1. **Taking Action to Achieve Permanency for Kids**
Putting State Policy and Legislative Frameworks in Place
2. **Building Blocks for Permanence**
The movement to restructure or privatize child welfare services. Will these efforts ensure permanency for children?
3. **Funding Mechanisms for Outcome-Based Systems**
Innovative alternatives are addressing reduced mainstream funding. How are states developing new resources?
4. **Promising Practice Solutions: “Early Interventions”**
Innovative solutions that include intervention before children are removed from their family, reducing foster-care drift and identifying critical cultural issues.
5. **Promising Practice Solutions: “The Backlog Blitz”**
The end result: Movement into Permanent Families. How Best Can We Achieve this outcome?

Brief summaries of moderators, presenters, and discussion themes for each of these sessions follow.

Breakout Session #1
Taking Action to Achieve Permanency for Kids
Putting State Policy and Legislative Frameworks in Place

Moderators:

Kathleen Hayes, *Project Director, South Carolina Families for Kids*
Sara Anderson Mims, *Project Director, North Carolina Families for Kids*

Presenters:

Mark Hardin, *Director, Child Welfare, American Bar Association, Center on Children and the Law, Washington, DC*
Ron Haskins, *Staff Director, Subcommittee on Human Resources, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means, Washington, DC*
Cassie Bevan, *Staff Professional Assistant, Subcommittee on Human Resources, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means, Washington, DC*
Barbara Pryor, *Legislative Assistant to Senator John D. Rockefeller (D-WV), Washington, DC*
Judy McKenzie, *Executive Director, Spaulding for Children, Southfield (Detroit), MI*

Major Objectives and Themes

True system reform in child welfare services requires a fundamental paradigm shift away from programs and policy developed to suit specific interest groups, agencies, and funding sources toward services needed to assure that all children find permanent homes. Eleven (11) Families for Kids communities, funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, have encouraged policy makers and legislators to make this shift by establishing a clear vision of permanency for all foster children and specific goals that improve the child's stability and reduce the child's time spent in foster care.

Panelists in this session addressed those policy and legislative issues that most clearly support the type of reforms necessary to institutionalize improved outcomes for children. Key themes included: Reasonable Efforts, Enforcing Time Frames, Permanency Options in Statute and Policy, and Court Management.

Panelists compared and contrasted Senate and House versions of current adoption bills before Congress, noting that both made health and safety paramount concerns, shifted away from family preservation at all costs toward a greater emphasis on permanent placement, pushed for more expeditious placement of children into permanent homes, and redefined "reasonable efforts" (to reunify children with families). All agreed that the principle difference between the two bills was money, with the Senate bill being the more generous of the two.

Discussion of permanency options in policy and practice emphasized the need to recognize the importance of adoption as an option offering lifetime commitment and legal security. The value of doing strength-based assessments was also stressed. Yet older children must be prepared to make it with or without permanency, through partnerships with churches, planned rites of passage, internships, etc. Professionals, it was suggested, should ask, "What is the life plan?" not just, "What is the permanency plan?" Presenters noted that when politicians consider subsidies (e.g. for children with severe disabilities), they often engage in a "shell game" that ignores the real costs of caring for kids in the absence of permanent families. Such short-sighted thinking was roundly criticized.

Finally, the presentation on the Court Improvement Program (CIP) offered a definition of the three pillars of permanency: (1) good casework; (2) good service delivery; and (3) good court processing of cases. The principal features of CIP reform were also summarized, as follows:

- speeds up court decision making process
- improves scheduling of court hearings
- embraces “1 judge, 1 case” principle (for consistency)
- increases expertise of judges and attorneys
- creates officially-recognized caseloads (more time per case)
- had the potential to spotlight judicial stars and laggards

Breakout Session #2

Building Blocks for Permanence

The movement to restructure or privatize child welfare services. Will these efforts ensure permanency for children?

Moderators:

Wendy Lewis Jackson, *Project Director, Kent County, Michigan Families for Kids*
Antoinette Nelson, *Project Director, New York City Families for Kids*
Rita Wolf, *Interim Project Director, Kansas Families for Kids*

Presenters:

Teresa Markowitz, *Commissioner of Children and Family Services, State of Kansas, Topeka, KS*
Karabelle Pizzigati, *Director of Public Policy, Child Welfare League of American, Washington, DC*
Gary Crow, *Executive Director, Lorain County Children Services, Elyria OH*
Michael Weekes, *Deputy Commissioner of Quality Management and Program Development, Massachusetts Department of Social Services, Boston, MA*

Major Objectives and Themes:

A number of states are restructuring their child welfare services as a way to support reform and provide better permanency options for children. Major examples include the transferring of child welfare services to the private sector through an outcomes-based contractual agreement, privatization of state agencies, or the partial or full combining of mental health, social services and/or public health departments at the state or local level. A critical factor for consideration is how these new structures will impact permanency, casework decisions, and costs. Thus key themes for discussion were: Public/Private Sector Roles, Managed Care Integration, and Children's Services.

Presentations on managed care and privatization emphasized key principles and strategies in use across the country, and challenges involved in implementation. Essentials for a good managed care approach were also summarized, as follows:

- assessment
- building on what works
- good information management systems
- an emphasis on quality improvement
- realistic pricing systems

Presentations on child welfare service delivery systems stressed the importance of outcomes and the promise of incentive-based approaches.

Breakout Session #3 **Funding Mechanisms for Outcomes-based Systems**

Innovative alternatives are addressing reduced mainstream funding. How are states developing new resources?

Moderators:

Marie Jamieson, *Project Director, Washington Families for Kids*
Renay Sanders, *Project Director, Ohio Families for Kids*

Presenters:

Isaac Palmer, *Deputy Director, Office of Family and Children Services, Ohio Department of Human Services, Columbus, OH*
Fred Wulczyn, *Research Fellow, Chapin Hall Center for Children, the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL*
Chuck Harris, *Chief of Children's Services, Division of Social Services, Raleigh, NC*
MaryLee Allen, *Director of Child Welfare and Mental Health, Children's Defense Fund, Washington, DC*

Major Objectives and Themes

Public agencies are exploring new methods to involve private agencies in the delivery of child welfare services. Panelists described a spectrum of options from small purchase of service contracts to system-wide managed care, including consideration of such questions as:

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of various approaches?
- What safeguards should decision makers have in place before they move into a privatization of services or contracting out of services?
- How are outcomes measured?

Key concepts addressed included: Managed Care, Outcome-based Contracts, and New Approaches to IV-E and IV-B Federal Funding Waivers.

Definitions of managed care highlighted the tension between fiscal and social policy objectives, and noted that several levels of analysis were necessary to understand critical elements.

One level of analysis -- case management -- is, for example, more than a fiscal mechanism; it relates to staff organization, as well as coordination of service delivery. The fiscal level of analysis typically involves either fee-for service or fixed reimbursement formulas. Fee-for-service arrangements feature per unit costs with variable revenues, whereas fixed reimbursement systems tend to have more predictable revenues -- a characteristic that is appealing to county commissioners. There is a need to tie management reforms to fiscal incentives by linking service outcomes to payment and developing tools to improve case management and utilization.

Managed care is more than privatization if privatized systems merely shift responsibility without linking work to specific outcomes. Managed care is more than a so-called "performance based" system if contractors are not allowed to reinvest or reallocate dollars. Finally managed care systems are more than simple competitive businesses if they use outcomes and allow for reinvestment.

For child welfare systems, risk varies according to service conditions: Volume of Cases is a high risk condition because it is not within the system operators' control; Unit Cost, on the other hand, is a low risk condition because it is fairly easy to control. Planning for volume risk management is critical.

Presentations were made on both the North Carolina and Ohio models of performance-based contracts for the placement of children with special needs. Representatives from both states talked about the use of planned Title IV-E waivers, looking forward to the increase in flexibility offered by the waivers. Both models also feature payments made at intervals throughout the placement process.

For example, in North Carolina, payments for the placement of special needs children into adoptive homes are made according to this formula: 60 percent at time of placement, 20 percent at finalization, and 20 percent if placement is intact one year after placement.

The second example, North Carolina Families For Kids, involves 8 counties in a pure county-administered child welfare system. Data tracking to gauge performance is a hallmark of the system, which looks at:

- restrictiveness of placement
- number of moves and disruptions
- entry into and out of the backlog
- length of stay
- re-entry into care

The five Families For Kids outcomes now form the State of North Carolina's vision for children.

Key elements of the system include:

- the five outcomes
- specific measures of success
- a culture of striving for better performance
- attempting to get the incentives right

The session ended with a presentation on the ways in which the federal government signals its system of care priorities. These general signals were noted:

- higher level of reimbursement for a particular practice
- funding for base entitlement versus caps in the use of discretionary funds
- expediting activities through time-limited funding
- using specific conditions, sanctions, and penalties
- limiting eligibility to specific groups
- granting flexible dollars for innovations

Specific fiscal incentives to promote increased adoptions as written into current House and Senate legislation were also noted. The House bill (*The Adoption Promotion Act*), for example, offers an after-the-fact bonus for each adopted child and includes a significant increase in adoption opportunities grant program dollars. The more generous Senate version (*The Safe Act*) extends the definition of "special needs" to all kids in care, increasing by approximately one-third the number of children covered. It also allows for the use of IV-E dollars for family reunification services for a period of one year, and it includes \$50 million in entitlement dollars to track adoption goal achievement in states receiving federal grants.

The session ended with the expression of some concerns for the future, including:

- increasing numbers of children entering the system
- decreasing SSI benefits for special needs children
- the fate of family services in a child-based rate system
- changing oversight responsibilities vis-à-vis the federal government and the states

The presentations as a group emphasized the critical need for managed care systems to have feedback channels to help determine what is successful and what hard questions need to be asked, as well as to incorporate principles and outcomes to ensure that children have permanent families.

Breakout Session #4

Promising Practice Solutions: "Early Interventions"

Innovative solutions that include intervention before children are removed from their family, reducing foster care drift and identifying critical cultural issues

Moderators:

Jacquelyn Kidd, *Public Policy Analyst, North American Council on Adoptable Children, St. Paul, MN*

Linda West, *Project Director, Mississippi Families for Kids*

Gary Walsh, *Project Director, Montana Families for Kids*

Presenters:

Linda Katz, *Program Director, Lutheran Social Services of Washington and Idaho, Mountlake Terrace (Seattle), WA*

Veneese Chandler, *Executive Director Family Outreach Center, Grand Rapids, MI*

Ernesto Loperena, *Executive Director, New York Council on Adoptable Children, New York, NY*

Donna Starr, *Health and Human Services Director, Muckleshoot Tribe of Indians (Auburn, WA)*

Major Objectives and Themes

Prevention and intervention measures to reduce the length of time children lack permanence are helping to reshape child welfare as we know it. Family involvement and child-centered decision making are critical to reforming child welfare systems. This session discussed innovations in family group conferencing, kinship care, concurrent planning, family advocacy, as well as critical cultural considerations.

The Family Decision Making Conference. The Family and Community Compact Program of Kent County Families For Kids (Grand Rapids, MI) was offered as a promising example of the family group conferencing model, an alternative to foster care. The program serves predominately African American children and families, since 60 percent of children entering foster care in Kent County are African American. Parents of these children often have a history of drug or alcohol abuse and are frequently single parents.

Prospective Compact participants are offered two alternatives: the traditional foster care system, which involves the courts, or the Compact, which utilizes decision making conferences made up of extended family or kinship network members (aunts, uncles, cousins, etc.). This group assesses the permanency needs of the child and identifies primary and backup caregivers -- typically extended family members -- as well as needed services. The Family Outreach Center reviews the permanency plan developed in family group conferences, provides supportive services and referrals, and does case follow-up work. The Center receives approximately 100 referrals per year.

Kinship Care Models --New York City. A report on kinship care in New York City established that one-half of all children in the City are in kinship care at the same maintenance rate as regular foster care.

These benefits of kinship care were noted:

- the child knows the family
- visits with the birth mother are easier
- the placement is more stable

These disadvantages were noted:

- the length of stay in foster care is typically longer
- visits may need to be supervised
- there are unanswered questions about standards for subsidized guardianships (for kinship care) and about what impact such arrangements may have on adoption as a permanency alternative

A second kind of kinship care placement initiative provided for by the AIDS Orphan Adoption Program (established February 1993) was also summarized, as follows:

- 309 children assisted -- most by kinship placement
- the birth parent is empowered to identify caregivers
- staff ensures that appropriate caregivers are chosen
- funding is provided by AFDC, as well as Veteran's Administration and Social Security entitlements

Permanency and Native American Cultural Issues. Native American children are over-represented in the foster care system. This presentation summarized several values and characteristics of Native American communities that are highly relevant to permanency decision making for Native American children in care:

- reservations are distinct legal and political jurisdictions
- Native Americans regard children as wealth and often have large families
- extended family members are close-knit and often parent relative children as a matter of course
- Native American culture is typically more communal and less materialistic than the dominant culture
- Native American children who practice their traditional cultural ways are less likely to enter foster care

These characteristics need to be recognized and utilized as strengths by child welfare professionals when permanency decisions are being made.

Concurrent Planning In Washington State. This presentation explained that Washington State's pioneering concurrent planning model developed in relationship to a particular history and target population. Paradigm shifts preceding the establishment of the model were the passage of an open adoption law in 1990 and increasing numbers of adoptions both by foster parents and kin.

Children now entering the State's foster care system have increased dramatically primarily because of parental drug and/or alcohol addiction. Those most at risk for foster care drift are under age one and either African American or Native American. While 65 percent of all children entering the system return to their birth families within three months, those with adoption as a goal typically wait up to five years.

Concurrent planning works simultaneously toward two goals: (1) the reunification of the biological family, if possible; and (2) an alternative permanency plan such as adoption, if reunification isn't possible. The model depends on recruiting foster parents and relative families who will both be prepared to work with biological families to attempt reunification, and to adopt, if reunification fails.

Concurrent planning supports two Families For Kids outcomes: one year to permanent placement and one stable foster care placement. The model is child - and family-centered and committed to cultural sensitivity.

Breakout Session #5
Promising Practice Solutions: "The Backlog Blitz"

The end result: Movement into permanent families. How best can we achieve this outcome?

Moderators:

Joe Kroll, *Executive Director, North American Council on Adoptable Children, St. Paul, MN*

Brenda Gadson, *Project Director, Massachusetts Families For Kids*

Karen Abman, *Project Director, Pima County (Arizona) Families For Kids*

Presenters:

Ruth Amerson, *Program Administrator, Another Choice for Black Children, Inc., Sanford (Raleigh), NC*

Kim Stevens, *Family Advocacy Coordinator, Massachusetts Families for Kids, Boston, MA*

Polly Pfeuffer, *Permanency Planning Specialist, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Administration for Children, Youth and Families, Tucson, AZ*

Major Objectives and Themes

This breakout session identified system change strategies designed to eliminate the backlog. New cross-functional assessment teams, specialty placement agencies for children of color, and policy-oriented advocacy were chief among the strategies presented.

Cross-functional Assessment Teams (Pima, AZ). To assist in eliminating Pima County's backlog of 395 legally-free children (all in care for two years or more), local Families For Kids organizers created cross-functional assessment teams composed of a permanency planning specialist, a consulting psychologist, a case manager, a support specialist, as well as invited parents and other caregivers. These administratively and culturally diverse teams have helped overcome system fragmentation and in doing so expedited permanency for waiting children. Job duties include:

- collaboratively reviewing cases
- profiling individual children and their needs
- meeting with the case managers and children
- developing permanency and action plans

Several concrete team achievements are already apparent, such as:

- increased community awareness of waiting children
- better agency collaboration
- a greater sense of responsibility for children (ownership)
- improved training and permanency planning procedures
- placement of 239 children as of March, 1997
- more older children asking for families

Another Choice For Black Children, Inc. Specialty agencies focusing on the placement of children of color have become an important element of the child welfare system. The final presentation described the philosophy and practices of one such agency, Another Choice For Black Children, Inc., located in Sanford (Raleigh), NC.

The agency actively seeks to dispel several destructive myths that often impede permanency for Black children:

- that Black children aren't adoptable
- that there are too many children in Black families
- that the Black community isn't interested in adoption
- that the Black family is defeated

Unlike many more traditional child placement agencies, Another Choice does not make extensive use of the church, advertisements, or match meetings. Its distinguishing features include a focus on assessing potential parents in terms of strengths, describing children positively, and emphasizing positive phone contact work. Each worker places 12-15 children per year and provides limited supportive services for approximately three months after placement.

Family Advocacy. Adoptive parents can discover that they are unprepared to deal with the needs of their new children because so many support services are needed but not available to them. The final presentation in this session focused on the strategies family advocates can use to gain necessary support and attention from policy makers. These strategies were advocated:

- recruit families by *retaining* the ones you already have
- engage legislators using legislative breakfasts
- let children and teens speak out
- expand family resources
- get the community, courts, and legislature involved

Concluding Session: Adoption 2002

An Address By First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

The First Lady began her remarks by noting that the video on adoption made in 1995 (shown immediately prior to her remarks) was the White House's first venture focusing public attention on adoption. Since that time, she said, the President has made an unparalleled commitment to improving the foster care and adoption system through the Adoption 2002 initiative.

She thanked all reformers (including Foundation and government leaders like Valora Washington, Paul Vander Velde, Olivia Golden, and Carol Williams) for their help on the President's initiative, for their work on behalf of children needlessly languishing in foster care, and for the knowledge about effective models of service they were contributing to the change process. She called the assembled reformers "heroes to children" and ground breakers for policy makers, and she expressed pleasure in hearing about the many positive impacts growing out of reform efforts.

She also characterized the conference as timely given that federal legislators were forging a bipartisan coalition on some crucial child welfare issues that put the country "within reach of bringing common sense to the overburdened and outdated foster care system" by redefining "reasonable efforts" and offering financial incentives to those interested in adopting children (especially special needs children) from the public system.

To illustrate the significance of current developments, she recounted a case she had tried some 20 years previous when she was representing a neglected four year old whose biological mother had psychological problems. The child's foster parents wanted to adopt; the child welfare agency had refused their request; the biological mother was suing for custody; Mrs. Clinton was arguing that the child be placed with the foster parents. Although serving "the best interests of the child" was not common court doctrine at the time, the judge ruled in favor of the foster parents. The First Lady noted that "we now have a clearer consensus about which children should/shouldn't be reunited with their biological parents"; yet, she acknowledged that "none of us can predict with certainty the outcomes of our difficult decisions" and it is therefore necessary to act on our best judgment at the time. . . and support our professionals when they do so.

She also emphasized the need to recognize and work harder to overcome the disproportionate representation of children of color within the foster care system.

She underscored the President's commitment that no child should be deprived of a safe and permanent home for longer than necessary, and she summarized current efforts to:

- highlight successful strategies
- breakdown financial and other resource barriers to permanency
- make available tax credits for adoptive parents

Finally she thanked the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for bringing reformers to the table to reduce the number of kids waiting for homes and for launching FFK and achieving positive results (as evidenced by church involvement, changing judicial attitudes and systems, and 7,000 new child placements). She expressed optimism about the prospects of reform to change thousands of lives and urged that all present continue to work together.

Conclusion

The W.K. Kellogg Families For Kids initiative is committed to continuing its efforts to focus national attention on the plight of waiting children and to create a sense of urgency that compels action on their behalf. Efforts to widen the circle of those who support change and to educate policy makers and others based on lessons learned from the experience of participating FFK states and localities also remain top priorities.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 20, 1997

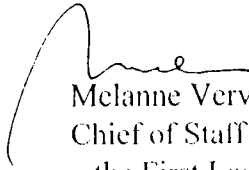
Dr. Valora Washington
Project Director
Families for Kids
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
One Michigan Ave, East
Battle Creek, MI 49017

Dear Valora:

Thank you very much for your letter and the materials on the June conference. We are glad to have them as this issue is of much importance to us, as you know. We look forward to your participation in the Childeare Conference.

Thanks and best wishes in your important work.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

2

October 1, 1997

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
White House
Old Executive Office
17th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Our Vision: "A permanent, loving family for every child"

Dear Ms. Verveer:

During the June, 1997 "Perspectives on Permanency" meeting, many of you requested a written summary of events and activities of the meeting. In response to that request, please find "Families for Kids National Conference on Policy Perspectives: A Summary of Proceedings" enclosed.

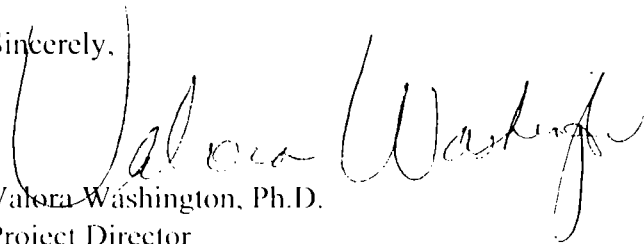
Also enclosed is a copy of the newly published brochure titled, "Families for Kids of Color: Ways Your Organization Can Help."

It is our sincere desire that these materials will be helpful to you as you strive to find permanency for children. We applaud you and your commitment to children and families.

**W.K.KELLOGG
FOUNDATION**

One Michigan
Avenue East
Battle Creek, MI
49617-4058
USA
616-968-1611
TDD on site
Facsimile: 616-968-0413
World Wide Web
<http://www.wkkl.org>

Sincerely,



Valora Washington, Ph.D.
Project Director
Families for Kids

VW/cas

Enclosures

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*To help people
help themselves
through the practical
application of knowledge
and resources to improve
their quality of life and
that of future generations*

Pls. sign to
Alice McNeil
(Afters-school
Program Asst.
Director)

pls. sign to
Erma
Fields
(J.O. Wilson
Principal)

pls. sign to
Nettie
Jones
(J.O. Wilson
After-school
Program Director)

CAROL WHEELER
1650 30TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20007

- 3 columns
Signed + mailed
children's letters
sent to Alice

Dear Melanne:

We finally got the photo stats back . . . so over to you (with a BIG thank you for your help in getting them signed). I can't think of a nicer memento for our directors than a personalized copy of Mrs. Clinton's column. They'll all treasure it.

The people to whom the columns will go are:

Mrs. Erma Fields
(J.O. Wilson Principal and all-around guiding light)
Mrs. Nettie Jones
(After-School Program Director)
Mrs. Alice McNeil
(After-School Program Assistant Director)

I'm also enclosing a few letters and drawings the children did for Mrs. Clinton and would appreciate it if you would pass them along to her. Everyone at the school is very much aware of her involvement, and I think she'd be pleased at the degree to which she's thought of as a member--albeit a very special one--of the J.O. Wilson family. And you know how grateful all of us associated with WIN are to both Mrs. Clinton and to you.

We'll keep you posted on fundraising progress. There are a couple of foundations that are very good prospects for underwriting two new schools, and we're working on others. As for corporate funding, Father O'Donovan is making another pass at Abe Pollin, and I'm going to call Beth Dozoretz for lunch. Long-term funding? We're still

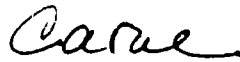
working on that too. If Baltimore can figure it out, so can DC.

Mike Gecan goes back to his real life (in New York and New Jersey) in September, and Arnie Graff will take over once again as the lead IAF organizer for DC (though he'll be spending much less time here than he did in the initial organizing period). WIN just hired its own full-time lead organizer who will start in September.

Thanks again, Melanne. You can get the columns back to me, and I'll get them distributed.

Were there any photos available from the J.O. Wilson visit? If so, we'd love them as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carol".

Carol Wheeler

P.S. I'm enclosing an article I tore out of "People" magazine the other day about Wishbone. Have you ever seen him? With your schedule, probably not. He's the star of a quite wonderful PBS show that retells classic stories in an authentic, kid-friendly way. The article reminded me that a friend of mine (who's very close to the creators of the show) told me Wishbone was up for doing something useful in Washington. If you're looking for a "special guest" for a reading/literacy event, he'd be a possibility. I'm told by Ervin and Julia Duggan, who met him in California at a PBS programming event, that he's irresistible (and reliable). Julia, in particular, fell in love.



▲ Soccer (duded up for a western based on tales by O. Henry) "was the right dog for the role," says *Wishbone* creator Rick Duffield.

REIGN OF TERRIER

With a personal trainer and the full star treatment, Soccer scores big in PBS's *Wishbone*

ON THE PBS CHILDREN'S SERIES *Wishbone*, a dreamy—and very literate—dog imagines himself the hero of such classic tales as *Oliver Twist*, *The Red Badge of Courage* and *Don Quixote*. But *Wishbone*'s grandiose fantasies are no grander than the real-life attentions

lavished on the series' star, a 9-year-old Jack Russell terrier, Soccer (named for his markings as a puppy and a lifelong fondness for miniature soccer balls). At mall appearances during a national promotional tour last year, the 15-pound actor held court in a red armchair surrounded by thou-

sands of young fans. He flew first-class (the seat belt was looped over his carrier cage), stayed in four-star hotels and had guards to accompany him on his appearances. On outside missions to take care of "personal business," says Sue Furman, the tour's publicist, "I could hear the security people on their headsets saying, 'We've lost the President,' when he would disappear behind a tree. Then, 'We've just found the President!' when he reappeared."

Seldom has a dog so deserved his day. The weekly half-hour series, blessed with good reviews and numerous awards, graduates to its first

Photographs by Jeffrey Lowe

night, time special this October with a Halloween episode in which Wishbone plays superstitious Ichabod Crane from "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." And a *Wishbone* merchandise blitz has begun, including toys, CD-ROMs, bed-sheets, books, videos and backpacks.

But though he's on the verge of eclipsing Benji, Soccer takes it all in stride. "He wants to be at work, he wants to please, and he's very focused," says his trainer and owner Jackie Kaptan, 45, who also coached the yellow Lab in *The River Wild*

and the Dobermans in *True Lies*.

Soccer has unwhimpering worn more than 100 Velcro-fastened (and Emmy-winning) costumes, including molded plastic armor as Odysseus, a white beard as Rip Van Winkle and a plumed hat (but no fake nose) as Cyrano de Bergerac. He nearly always gets a scene right on the first take (at which point Kaptan rewards him with treats). Occasionally he *does* have trouble getting into character. "When a prop is involved," says Kaptan, "Soccer might want to play tug-of-war

rather than give it to the actor." His costars overlook such antics. "I give him the respect I'd give another actor," says Adam Springfield, 15, who plays computer genius David Barnes. "He needs to concentrate too."

Before discovering this consummate canine, series creator and executive producer Rick Duffield auditioned more than 100 dogs. Then in walked Soccer, former star of commercials for Mighty Dog and Chuck Wagon dog food. "I thought Soccer was magic as soon as we saw him," says Duffield. "He was so expressive."

If less than a genius. "Soccer is not any smarter than your average pet," says Kaptan, who raises and trains about 40 other professional dogs on two ranches, one outside L.A. and the other near Plano, Texas, the Dallas suburb where the show is filmed. But, she adds, "Soccer always wants to try something new." In the Halloween special, for instance, he bobs for apples—an unexpected trick that developed one afternoon when Kaptan dropped a stone in a bucket of water. Soccer impulsively dunked his head and retrieved it.

Oddly, though, he doesn't like to swim. For those shots, says Kaptan, "we use a female named Phoebe." In fact, Soccer has three other doubles: Slugger and Shiner help with stunts, and Bear does publicity stunts.

Between scenes, Soccer relaxes in an air-conditioned dressing room with his own kennel crate. At Kaptan's Dallas ranch he has a whole room to himself ("He doesn't keep it very clean," she says). And he stays fit with a steady diet of dry food plus skinless chicken—grilled and lightly seasoned—and regular exercise.

At some point could all this go to Soccer's head? He has been known to bark when he wants the AC turned on in the car, and he prefers human company to his own kind. "In dog years, he's 63," says Larry Brantley, 30, who supplies Wishbone's inner voice. "I imagine him as this crusty old show-biz hound." Kaptan thinks a kid in a candy store is more like it. "When production started," she recalls, "Soccer had \$200 to spend on toys and chew-bones to last through the season. He spent it all in three trips to PetsMart!"

■ TOM GLATTO

■ DEBBIE MARKLEY in Plano

► "I make sure he gets playtime," says trainer Kaptan (with Soccer in Santa Fe, during a filming break).

▼ "Everyone on the set is his friend," says Kaptan—including assistant trainer Brian Turi (left) and costumer Barbara Baker.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 2, 1997

Mr. James D. Wolfensohn
President
The World Bank
Washington, DC 20433

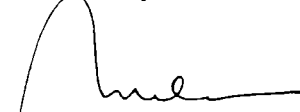
Dear Jim:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you very much for your letter and invitation to "Call to Action for Safe Motherhood" on April 7, 1998.

It is too early to predict whether Hillary will be able to join you and your invited guests. It's obviously a most important topic and convening, and one that is of keen interest to the First Lady. I assure you the invitation will receive serious consideration.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

The World Bank
Washington, D.C. 20433
U.S.A.

(R)
copy to
Patti

JAMES D. WOLFENSOHN
President

August 13, 1997

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Old Executive Office Building, Room 100
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton: *My dear Hillary -*

It is my pleasure to invite you to open a special event at the World Bank on April 7, 1998, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., in celebration of World Health Day and the Year of Safe Motherhood. This "Call to Action for Safe Motherhood" will be sponsored by the World Health Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Population Fund, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Population Council, and World Bank. The event will be the centerpiece of a year-long campaign, on the tenth anniversary of the Safe Motherhood Initiative, to support maternal survival and family well-being.

You will be joined on the panel by other distinguished leaders and opinion-leaders. Others who have been invited to lend their support include the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Presidents of Sri Lanka and Uganda, the chairman of a coalition of business leaders for safe motherhood, and the head of the Pan American Health Organization. Live satellite reports from selected sites around the world will demonstrate what safe motherhood or the lack of it means to millions of people worldwide, and international media will cover the event.

The heartfelt support of prominent leaders such as yourself who care about and work for humanitarian causes and equitable development will make a difference to women and their families worldwide. It would be an honor and a pleasure to have you join me and other invited guests at this special event.

Warmest wishes
Sincerely yours,

Jim

James D. Wolfensohn

encl.

Safe
Motherhood

Inter-Agency Group
for Safe Motherhood

UNFPA

UNICEF

WHO

WORLD BANK

IPPF

POPULATION COUNCIL

To: Eric, Office of the First Lady
Fax #: (202) 456 5309
Re: Invitation to Mrs. Clinton
Date: October 10, 1997
Pages: 2, including this cover sheet.

FACSIMILE

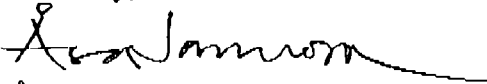
Dear Eric:

Further to our conversation last week I am writing to you to follow up regarding the invitation from James Wofensohn of the World Bank to the First Lady Hillary Clinton to open a special event to celebrate World Health Day on April 7, 1998. Please find enclosed for your reference a copy of the invitation.

While we have been informed that it may not be possible to confirm her attendance earlier than a couple of months prior to the event, I am following your suggestion of contacting your office once more. We are further delighted to inform you that there has been a strong indication from Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, that he will accept our invitation as key speaker of the event.

Thank you very much for your kind assistance, and please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

Sincerely,



Asa Jonsson
Family Care International

Chairing Agency:

IPPF

Regent's College, Regent's Park

London NW1 4NS, UK

Telephone: 44 171 487 7864

Fax: 44 171 487 7865

email: pscnanayake@ippf.org

Secretariat:

Family Care International

588 Broadway, Suite 503

New York, NY 10012 USA

Telephone: 212 941 5300

Fax: 212 941 5563

email: smi10@familycareintl.org

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 27, 1997

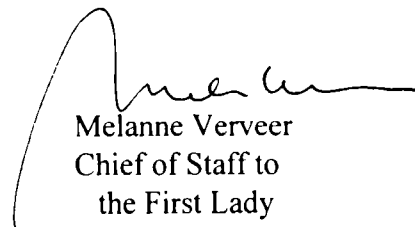
Ms. Deborah Wadsworth
Executive Director
The Public Agenda Foundation
6 East 39th Street
New York, NY 10016-0112

Dear Ms. Wadsworth:

Thank you very much for your letter and for *Different Drummers: How Teachers of Teachers View Public Education*. I appreciate this important research from Public Agenda and we will share it with colleagues.

Thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

THE PUBLIC AGENDA FOUNDATION



P

October 22, 1997

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Verveer:

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Deborah Wadsworth
Public Agenda

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Frank Stanton
Former President, CBS Inc.

In recent years Public Agenda has explored the views of the general public, parents, education reformers, teachers, community leaders, and students toward our nation's public schools. A missing voice has been that of the professors of education from colleges and universities. Public Agenda's latest research was designed to hear and understand their perspective. The result, *Different Drummers: How Teachers of Teachers View Public Education*, is enclosed for your review.

Education professors have a distinct and highly evolved vision of what teaching should be, which many will find appealing. They speak with passionate idealism about goals of teacher education programs and the qualities teachers should bring to a classroom. But, as you will read, their views are frequently dismissive of the views of many Americans who are deeply disturbed by what they see as widespread lack of skills and motivation by today's students.

In a study Public Agenda released earlier this year, *Getting By: What American Teenagers Really Think About Their Schools*, students told us they are rarely held accountable, and that their teachers are the key to helping them achieve more. As we work to meet the needs of our nation's children, it is critical that we understand what teachers of teachers believe is vital to pass on to those who will teach our youngsters on a daily basis. These findings suggest education professors might listen more carefully to the concerns being voiced by parents, employers, teachers, and students.

Sincerely,

Deborah Wadsworth
Executive Director

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 22, 1997

Ms. Leslie R. Wolfe
President
Center for Women Policy Studies
1211 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 312
Washington, DC 20036

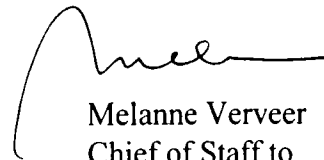
Dear Leslie:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you very much for your letter and invitation to the Summit on Girls and Violence on December 15, 1997.

I have forwarded your letter to Patti Solis Doyle, Director of Scheduling to the First Lady, and she will be in touch as to whether or not it will be permissible for the First Lady to participate.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

R

Center for Women Policy Studies

1211 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 312
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 872-1770
Fax (202) 296-8962

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October 17, 1997

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
c/o Melanne Verveer, Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I am writing to invite you to participate in the Center's Summit on Girls and Violence on December 15, 1997 in Washington, D.C.

We are convening the Summit to enable a small group of leaders and thinkers to strategize about how to galvanize public opinion and create the national will needed to respond to the crushing violence that today's girls and young women experience.

Since its founding in 1972, the Center has been a leader in research, policy analysis and advocacy on violence against women. In 1991, we published a groundbreaking report that placed rape and battering in the context of bias motivated hate crimes.

Last month, we published a report, Victims No More: Girls Fight Back Against Male Violence, which presents the findings of the Center's qualitative and quantitative research with girls and young women. Victims No More discusses girls' experiences with violence as both victims and, increasingly, as perpetrators.

As you know, in 1994, nearly five million women age 12 and older were victims of violent crime -- including rape, aggravated assault, robbery and homicide. We know that teenagers are nearly three times as likely to be victims of violent crimes as adults over age 20; and a disproportionate number of women who are raped are under age 18.

At the same time that girls are more vulnerable to victimization than others in our society, we are witnessing an increase in the number of girls arrested for violent crimes. In fact, arrests for violent crimes are increasing at a much faster rate among girls than among boys. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the number of girls and young women under age 18 who were arrested for violent crimes more than doubled between 1985 and 1994 -- from 9,000 to 21,000.

In 1993, the Center began an examination of the link between girls' experiences as victims and, increasingly, as perpetrators of violence. To bring the voices of girls and teenage women into the public policy debate about youth violence, the Center conducted original research on the connection between girls' victimization and their increasing willingness to fight back through violence. In 1995, the Center conducted a survey of readers of two girl-focused magazines, New Moon: The Magazine for Girls and Their Dreams and Teen Voices: A Magazine By, For, and About Teenage and Young Adult Women. Through this survey, the Center listened to the voices of girls and teenage women to discover how their lives are affected by violence and how they respond.

I hope you will agree to join us at the Summit on December 15. Please return the enclosed reply form by November 10, 1997.

We look forward to working with you to bring public attention to the reality of violence in the lives of girls and young women and to develop girl-focused policy options, research agendas, and violence prevention programs.

For your further information about the Center, I am enclosing our 1997 brochure/catalog. If you have any questions please call me or Jennifer Tucker, the Center's Vice President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leslie".

Leslie R. Wolfe
President

Enclosure

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

CENTER *for* WOMEN POLICY STUDIES

❖ 1972 Celebrating 25 Years 1997 ❖

❖ 1211 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 312, Washington, DC 20036 ❖
❖ 202.872.1770 ❖ fax 202.296.8962 ❖ email HN4066@Handsnet.org ❖

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 30, 1997

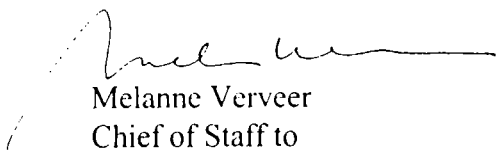
Ambassador Joris Vos
Embassy of the Netherlands
4200 Linnean Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Thank you very much for your holiday greetings and for the beautiful calender. It was so thoughtful of you.

Best wishes and happy holidays and a most warm welcome to Washington in you new post.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



Thank for
Callahan

*With my very best wishes for
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joris Vos'.

Joris Vos
Ambassador of the Netherlands

Washington, D.C.
December 1997

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 30, 1997

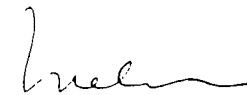
Ms. Tania Vitvitsky
Sabre Foundation
872 Massachusetts Avenue
Suite 2-1
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Tania:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful fax and for sending me a copy of the e-mail concerning the books donated by the Sabre Foundation. What important work you do and we know it is making such a positive difference for the people you assist.

Best wishes and happy new year.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

SABRE FOUNDATION, INC.



Scientific Assistance Project
872 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 2-1
Cambridge, MA 02139

telephone 617/868-3510
fax 617/868-7916
e-mail sabre@sabre.org

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: Melanne Verveer, Chief of Staff to the First Lady

At: The White House

Date: December 17, 1997

Fax: 202/456-6244

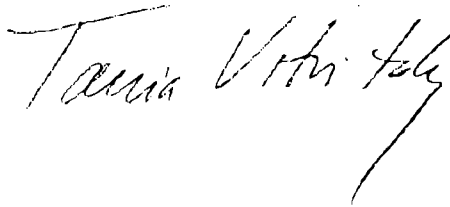
From: Tania Vitvitsky, Project Director

Pages (including this one): 2

Message:

Attached please find a copy of an e-mail message received today from Dr. Badarch, director of Sabre's partner organization in Mongolia. I thought that both you and Mrs. Clinton would enjoy reading about how the President of Mongolia and the First Lady, along with Ministers and members of Parliament, are involved in the distribution of Sabre's donated books.

We hope to continue our work in Mongolia and I plan to travel to Ulaanbaatar sometime in the next few months. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or would like additional information.



badarch@magicnet.mn, 09:25 AM 12/17/97, Re: Hello!

Date: Wed, 17 Dec 1997 09:25:58 -0500
X-Sender: jbe@world.std.com
To: tania@sabre.org
From: badarch@magicnet.mn (by way of John Emery - Sabre Foundation
<badarch@magicnet.mn>)
Subject: Re: Hello!
Cc: colin@sabre.org

Dear John,

Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year to you and your Director.
We are now completing the distribution process of the books.
All members of Consortium already received the books.
The other higher education institutions also received upon request.
Now we are distributing to the secondary schools and kindergartens.
We are trying to distribute to all aimag(provincies).
We are involving in the distribution process even President of Mongolia,
first Lady
and Minister of Education and some Parliament members.
Our President when he visited most west province he deliver the few carton
books for
rural Pedagogical Institute in Hovd.
The First Lady is distributing a books for several secondary school and
kindergarten.
Ms.Hulan-Chairman, Standing Committee of Parliament is agree to help
distribute the
books for several schools and kindergartens. Mr.Ganhuyag-member of
Parliament also
working with us to distribute the books to rural areas.
Minister of Education Dr.Lhagvajav already distribute the books for SELENGA
province.
Everybody is great satisfaction for Sabre and IREX.
The newspapers Unuudur"Today" is translating an interesting articles and
publishing in
Mongolian regularly. The other newspapers also working to deliver the
information to
all mongolia.
This is what is going now in the Country.
I will do this soon.
Probably I will go to Utah next week.
Then I will contact you and inform more.
With best regards,

Badarch.D
President
Mongolian Technical University
POB 46/672
Ulaanbaatar
Mongolia
Tel/Fax: 976-1-324121
badarch@magicnet.mn

<---- End Forwarded Message ---->

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 30, 1997

Ms. Laura Velasquez
Presidente
Foro de Mujeres del Mercosur
Esmeralda 626 2 "A" - (1007)
ARGENTINA

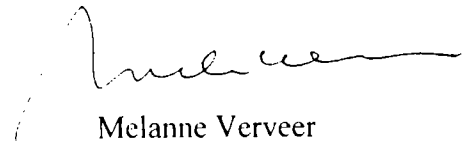
Dear Ms. Velasquez:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you very much for your letter and invitation to the Mercosur Women's Forum's "First Conference of Women Legislators of Mercosur Countries in April 1998.

Regrettably, the First Lady will not be able to accept your kind invitation due to a scheduling conflict. We wish you all the best for a successful conference and happy new year.

Thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



Foro de Mujeres del Mercosur

Buenos Aires, November 1997

Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House

Dear Mrs Clinton:

The Mercosur Women's Forum will hold its IV Meeting in April, 1998 in the city of Buenos Aires, under the name of "First Conference of Women Legislators of Mercosur Countries" to which Chile and Bolivia have also been invited, as well as the "First Inter-regional Meeting."

As discussed at the time of your recent visit to our country, I am honored to invite you to participate in these Conferences as Special Speaker.

In the hope it may be possible to have the pleasure and the benefit of your presence at these events, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 2, 1997

Ms. Lillian Vernon
National Women's Business Council
409 Third Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Ms. Vernon:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you very much for your letter and for *Growing Women's Businesses*, which we have shared with others here. Congratulations on the marvelous job you have done as Chair of the National Women's Business Council.

Thanks for your dedication and best wishes.

We're all indebted to you

Sincerely,


Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



November 4, 1997

The First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

On behalf of the National Women's Business Council, I wanted to share with you the enclosed report, *Growing Women's Businesses*, the report of the Access to Capital and Credit Expert Policy Workshop Series, which was respectfully submitted to the President. Dr. Janet Yellen accepted the report on behalf of the White House on Tuesday, September 30th at the joint meeting of the National Women's Business Council and the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise.

Three years ago the President appointed me to be the chair of the National Women's Business Council. Without hesitation, I can report that the Council has achieved the goals we set out to accomplish. Women entrepreneurs have gained greater visibility both for their numbers and contributions. We have made a difference by focusing the attention of the public and private sectors on the economic importance of increasing women's access to capital and business opportunities. However, there is much work to be done.

The enclosed report contains the recommendations of the more than 500 experts who attended the access to capital workshops we hosted this summer with the Federal Reserve and the Small Business Administration. These proposals merit serious attention by federal decision makers who have the ability to create the infrastructure that supports women's entrepreneurship and business growth. I am certain my successor will seek to work with the President in implementing these innovative recommendations.

I thank you for your support over the last three years. The President has always had my strong support in large measure due to his commitment to building a strong economy and one which values the contributions of women-owned businesses. I hope the Council's work will assist him in furthering his efforts on behalf of women entrepreneurs.

Sincerely,



Lillian Vernon

Enclosure



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 24, 1997

Ms. Marianna Vardinoyannis
President
Foundation for the Children and the Family
Herodou Attikou 12A
15124 Maroussi
Athens, GREECE

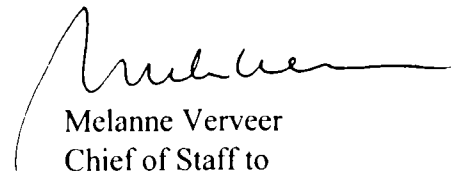
Dear Ms. Vardinoyannis:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you very much for your letter and invitation to the "FAMILY-EUROPE-21st CENTURY: Visions and Institutions" forum next May.

I have forwarded your letter to Patti Solis Doyle, Director of Scheduling for the First Lady, and she will be in touch. However, it is too early at this time to determine whether Mrs. Clinton will be able to attend.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

FOUNDATION
FOR THE
CHILDREN AND
THE FAMILY

Athens, September 12th, 1997.

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

I was so impressed by your love and your concern towards children after our last meeting in Athens. I was also deeply touched by your thoughts emerged from the pages of your book. Your sensitivity, your warmth and your action have become symbolic inspiring all of us who share the same values and visions for a better and more human world for our children.

With honour I would like to inform you that the "Foundation for the Children & the Family" is organising a European Forum "**FAMILY-EUROPE-21ST CENTURY: Vision and Institutions**" which will take place in Athens, on the 20th to 22nd of May 1998.

The Forum, which will have a clear European perspective promoting the idea of equality and democracy in the family and examining new, flexible models better suited to the changing needs of European society, has been put **under the auspices of UNESCO** and the **European Commission** and the support of the **Fondation pour l' Enfance -Paris**.

The Forum will address governments, NGO's, scientific and academic Institutes, social partners, service providers, experts, and individuals. We have estimated that there will be about 400-500 participants from E.U. countries, Central and Eastern European countries and observers from non-European countries. The enclosed material briefly explains the background and the purpose of the Forum and a draft preliminary program.

Recognizing your high and substantial contribution in the field of social values, it would be an honor and a privilege for me to greet you at this European Forum as a member of the Honorary Committee. Your presence would be also most welcome and truly wonderful.

May I take this opportunity to thank you. I very much look forward to a favourable response of yours.

Respectfully yours,



Marianna V. Vardinoyannis, President
Foundation for the Children and the Family

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 24, 1997

H.E. Joris Vos
Royal Netherlands Embassy
4200 Linnean Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

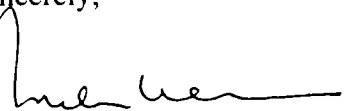
Dear Ambassador Vos:

Thank you very much for your letter and for expressing your support for Mrs. Clinton's attendance at "The Crisis in the Ecology of the Child, the Challenge for the Dutch Educational System" in The Netherlands next Spring.

I have forwarded your letter to Patti Solis Doyle, Director of Scheduling for the First Lady who will be in touch with you when a decision has been made.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melanne Verveer", with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



R
Copy to file

Royal Netherlands Embassy
4200 Linnean Avenue N.W.
Washington D.C. 20008
(202) 274-2502

Washington, D.C., 20 October 1997

Dear Mrs. Verveer,

Recently, you have received an invitation from the Matthes Alliances & Management Services in the Netherlands for Mrs Rodham-Clinton to present her book "It Takes A Village And Other Lessons Children Teach Us" at an Educational Conference to be held in the Netherlands in April 1998.

The issue of reform of the educational system that could prepare our children for the next century, even the next millennium, is a major topic in both our countries. Because decisions on which direction to take are still under discussion, it is of eminent importance that people with a clear view and message on this subject, are heard.

The above mentioned Conference, "The Crisis in the Ecology of the Child, The Challenge for the Dutch Educational System" would be an excellent opportunity to consider Mrs Rodham-Clinton's views more in depth and discuss how they can be incorporated in the renewal of the educational system, both in the Netherlands and in the United States.

It is therefore that I warmly support the invitation to Mrs Rodham-Clinton. I hope she will be able to find time to present her ideas and her book to an undoubtedly very receptive audience.

yours sincerely,

Joris Vos

Ambassador (appointed) of the Netherlands

The White House
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Mrs Melanne Verveer
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington D.C. 20500

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 22, 1997

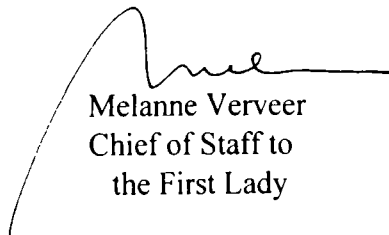
Ms. Frances M. Visco
President
National Breast Cancer Coalition
1707 L Street, NW
Suite 1060
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Visco: *Fran*

Thank you very much for your letter and for expressing your views on the priority of breast cancer research. I have shared your letter with appropriate officials.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER COALITION

- a grassroots advocacy effort -

September 24, 1997

Melanne Verveer
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
The White House
OEOB, Room 100
Washington, DC 20500

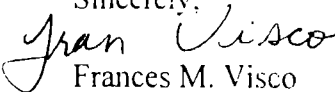
Dear Ms. Verveer,

We are writing to ask for your help to ensure that breast cancer research is a national priority by including funding for the Department of Defense (DoD) peer-reviewed breast cancer research program in the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 1999 Budget.

Congress first established the DoD peer-reviewed breast cancer research program in 1992 by appropriating \$210 million for peer-reviewed breast cancer research for FY 1993. Since then Congress has continued to fund the program at various levels. The DoD peer-reviewed program is respected for its progressive and efficient use of its resources -- over 90% of the funds go directly to research grants. The program's Innovative Developmental and Exploratory Awards (IDEA) grants -- which are funded only through the DoD peer-reviewed program -- have been critical in the effort to respond to new discoveries in breast cancer research and to encourage and support innovative, risk-taking research. The IDEA grants are uniquely designed to dramatically advance our knowledge in areas which offer the greatest potential. I've enclosed an NBCC fact sheet which gives additional background on the DoD peer-reviewed breast cancer research program.

We appreciate the President's continued support and praise for the DoD peer-reviewed breast cancer research program. We believe the President's formal recognition and visible support are critical to the future success of this program. The President's budgets have never included funding for this program. By including funding in his budget, the President sends a strong message to the Congress and strengthens our efforts to ensure the program is fully funded. We hope you can work with us to include \$200 million in the President's budget for FY 1999 to fund the DoD peer-reviewed breast cancer research program.

We have been pleased to work with you and the Administration in the past in our fight against breast cancer. We look forward to continuing to work with you to give hope to the 2.6 million women living with breast cancer.

Sincerely,

Frances M. Visco
President



• a grassroots advocacy effort •

FACTS: DOD BREAST CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM

How the Program Came About:

- Launched in 1991, the National Breast Cancer Coalition's (NBCC) first priority was to increase the amount of money appropriated by the federal government for breast cancer research.
- As a result of NBCC's work with Congress, in 1992, \$210 million was appropriated to the Department of Defense (DOD) for peer-reviewed breast cancer research.
- In 1993, \$25 million was appropriated for the DOD breast cancer research program and critically, Congress included language stating that the program should continue:

The Committee commends the Department of the Army for its fine management of the breast cancer research program. . . The Committee understands that the program has had a positive effect on recruiting new scientists into the field, developing needed infrastructure, and bringing innovative proposals to the fore, and that its continuation is necessary to build on these advancements.

- Again, in 1994, NBCC fought hard to continue the program. With strong bi-partisan support, \$150 million was appropriated for the DOD peer-reviewed breast cancer research program.
- In 1995, NBCC again won an appropriation for this program: \$75 million for peer-reviewed research. In 1996, \$100 million.

Goals of the DOD Program:

- Focus on innovation and new ideas
- Encourage new investigators to enter the field
- Emphasize underrepresented areas
- Foster multidisciplinary approaches
- Enhance infrastructure
- Fill gaps in research - fund where the agencies and organizations do not

How the Program Works

- The Army entered into an agreement with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to develop a strategy for allocating funds.
- The IOM put together a committee of the highest caliber, including Harold Varmus, M.D., Mary-Claire King, Ph.D., Kay Dickersin, Ph.D., and other renowned scientists, who recommended a programmatic strategy and process to the Army.
- Requests for Proposals are broadly disseminated cumulatively over 7,500 proposals have been received in response.
- Put through a rigorous peer review process, over 4,100 proposals were deemed of sufficient merit to warrant funding.
- These proposals are ranked by score and presented to a panel made up of distinguished scientists and consumers who then review the proposals and rank them for overall programmatic relevance. The funds appropriated to date were sufficient to fund 1,052 of the 4,100 proposals deemed worthy.

The DOD Breast Cancer Research Program has Accomplished:

- Healthy competition among researchers that motivates innovative ideas and new approaches to research in areas of environmental and genetic research among many others.
- New scientists have been attracted to the field of breast cancer research: both scientists starting-out in research, as well as established scientists who bring years of research experience and knowledge, have joined the fight against this disease.
- The creation of new model of a "lean and mean" research program where 91% of the dollars go directly to research that can be applied to all areas of big-medical science in the DOD and throughout the scientific community.
- The continuation of the program will be a cost effective use of the structure that the Army has created. The Army stands ready to proceed with continued and expanded research.
- Greater attention to women's health care needs within the military. Women in the military and military dependents have been overlooked for too long.
- By the year 2000, 20% of all members of the military will be women. Currently, a large number of military personnel and their dependents are treated in military medical facilities. Finding the cause of, and cure for breast cancer will save billions of health care dollars.

- New, highly productive relationships have been forged between the Army and the academic, research and consumer communities.
- The 1996 Program featured a change in emphasis from past years. Funds were designated for innovative scientific ventures that represent unattempted avenues of investigation, or novel applications of existing technologies. The categories for funding are:

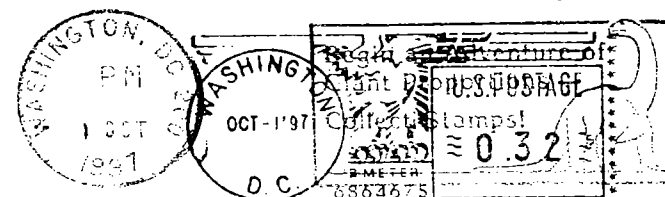
IDEA awards, which are qualitatively different from traditional research projects. The goal is to stimulate and reward speculative but especially promising and creative ideas that may yield a high payoff. Proposals may not require pilot data, yet must demonstrate solid scientific judgment;

research with translational potential awards that will support larger interdisciplinary research projects and translate into advances in the field of breast cancer prevention, treatment and ultimately eradication; and,

training and recruitment awards for pre- and post doctoral traineeships, career development awards and sabbaticals.

- The 1997 Program continues this strategy. Last year, the program was unable to fund the majority of worthy IDEA grants.

1707 L Street, NW, Suite 1060
Washington, DC 20036

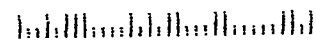


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NATIONAL BREAST CANCER COALITION

" a grassroots advocacy effort "

Melanne Verveer
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
The White House
OEOB, Room 100
Washington, DC 20500



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 4, 1997

Ms. Kathryn Kahler Vose
3020 Tilden Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Kathryn: *Kay*

Thank you for your kind comments about The Washington Post Magazine article. I'm relieved to have survived the experience!

Wishing you all the best. *We miss not having you in the Administration.*
Sincerely,

Melanne
Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

Kathryn Kahler Vose

My husband, Bill Vose, and he met with you and the First Lady last week to discuss D.C. He is President of the Downtown BID. He's delighted by your interest in the problems of D.C.

I hope you and your family have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Warm regards,

Kay

Dear Melanne,

I really enjoyed seeing The profile of you in The Post magazine this past Sunday. It confirmed what I've always known - that The First Lady is very fortunate to have your counsel. Many thanks for all your hard work and dedication.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 13, 1997

Ms. Rochelle Udell
Editor-In-Chief
SELF Magazine
The Conde Nast Publications, Inc.
350 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

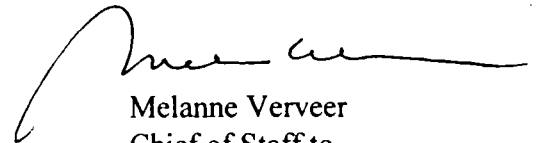
Dear Ms. Udell:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you very much for your letter and invitation to SELF Magazine's Pink Ribbon Awards Luncheon in October 1997.

I have forwarded your letter to Patti Solis Doyle, Director of Scheduling for the First Lady, and she will be in touch with you as to whether or not the First Lady will be able to attend.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

C

August 7, 1997

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Room 100
Washington, D.C. 20501

ROCHELLE UDELL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Ms. Verveer:

SELF magazine has sent an invitation to President Clinton to be honored during Breast Cancer Awareness Month at our Pink Ribbon Awards Luncheon in October. We have submitted information for a scheduling request and are optimistic that the President will accept this honor for his leadership in initiating legislation and propelling this cause to the forefront of his health care agenda. We would like to extend this invitation to the First Lady, who, of course, has also made the breast cancer issue a priority. We hope Mrs. Clinton will attend with the President.

The Pink Ribbon Award was established in 1994 to honor individuals and organizations who have furthered the cause of breast cancer. We are planning to present President Clinton with the award in October at a luncheon in New York. We remain flexible in order to accommodate both of their schedules.

SELF magazine created the Pink Ribbon as a symbol to bring much needed awareness to this cause and has been in the forefront of covering and uncovering news about the issues that face women. In October, we print a Breast Cancer handbook in the magazine (which I am enclosing) which has additional distribution in doctor's offices and hospitals.

We are very excited about the opportunity to present the President with an award he so clearly deserves, and to bestow recognition on this Administration's work in making the fight against breast cancer a priority.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

