

RESILIENCE IN THE NEWS

Media Coverage of Resilience Issues

May, 2009

The Resilience Advocacy Project compiles monthly overviews of news articles pertaining to low-income children and families. These overviews focus on four core resilience themes - *Emotional Support, Education, Basic Needs, and Youth Enrichment* - and provide condensed access to important news and policy trends, interesting stories, and current data.

Child Care Costs Soar, *Daphne Retter, NY Post, May 11, 2009*

According to a study conducted by Representative Anthony Weiner, the cost of childcare in NYC has increased by 20% over the past 4 years. The Brooklyn/Queens Democrat's office found that the average cost of care for toddlers under age 5 went from \$7,848 in 2004 to \$9,382 in 2007. Further, he found that a family earning about \$50,000 per year pays about 45% of their annual income on childcare costs. Weiner proposes to double the current \$5,000 tax credit for childcare expenses in order to help families who must spend such a percentage on childcare facilities.

http://www.nypost.com/seven/05112009/news/regionalnews/child_care_costs_soar_168634.ht

Community Mediation Services Building Bridges Out of Conflict, *NY Nonprofit Press, May 29, 2009*

After working for eight years as a Law Guardian with the Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Rights Division, Mark Kleiman found the Family Court system ineffective, so started Community Mediation Services (CMS)—a non-profit dedicated to providing mediation services for youth and their families. The program began in Queens, working with youth aged 9-17 who were referred from the Family and Criminal Court systems. CMS trains college students to work as mediators between the children and their families. Mentors meet intensively for fifteen weeks, working on anger management issues, effective communication, conflict resolution, and setting personal goals with the teenagers. The focus of the process is to help teens and their parents come to a resolution and understanding.

More recently, the forms of mediation that CMS provides have expanded to various other arenas. For example, parents in court for divorce who participate in this program learn how to better understand their children as they go through the divorce. In addition, the program serves to help families dealing with issues such as curfew, drug use, and truancy.

<http://www.nynp.biz/index.php/agencies-of-the-month/928-community-mediation-services-building-bridges-out-of-conflict>