

Family & Children's

S E R V I C E O F I T H A C A

F&CS: Community Awards

Dear Friends,

Every year, F&CS holds an Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, where we invite the public to join us in recognizing the service of outgoing Board Members, and welcome new faces joining the F&CS Board. We also use this gathering to celebrate volunteers and recognize community partners for their service to the community, and their efforts to support F&CS.

This year, due to the health and safety restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, F&CS felt it was not possible to safely gather for an Annual Meeting. Still, the Board of Directors had work to do, so they met virtually to elect new members, vote on award recipients, and acknowledge the great work done in 2019.

It wasn't the same, without our nearest and dearest supporters, without friends, clients, and coworkers there to welcome new faces and to recognize the achievements and service of volunteers and community partners.

We're still hopeful we may be able to gather in the fall to celebrate together, but we wanted to share the news with you now.

In the meantime, our staff are continuing to do the critically important work in our community to provide mental health care during this unprecedented time

in our history.

On behalf of the F&CS staff and Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support.



Karen Schachere
President & CEO

Welcome to New Board Members

We are proud to welcome new Family & Children's Service of Ithaca Board Members:



Nadia Rubaii, PhD, is a Professor of Public Administration and Co-Director of the Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention at Binghamton University. She has over 30 years of experience teaching graduate courses and professional workshops on all aspects of human resource management. She has worked with leaders of local government and nonprofit organizations throughout the United States and abroad to improve their hiring processes and decisions, overhaul their performance appraisal processes, increase communication skills among supervisors, ensure compliance with laws governing employment relations, and to more effectively manage increasing diversity within the workplace and in the community.



Omar Stoute was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, and studied Corporate Communication Management and Design at Ithaca College. As an undergraduate, Omar founded the First Generation Student Organization, in order to develop discussion of intersectionality and shared experiences, receiving an award for “Most Outstanding New Student Organization” (it has since been endowed within the Office of Student Engagement). Since 2020, Omar serves as the Title IX Deputy Coordinator at Ithaca College, leading the college’s sexual and dating violence prevention efforts, and conducting investigations for the Title IX Office. Omar is also the President of the Iota Iota Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated—the first historically African American intercollegiate Greek-lettered fraternity (founded in Ithaca, in 1906), whose mission is to develop leaders, promote brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for the community. Omar is honored to serve and to advocate for the Ithaca Community in both a professional and personal capacity. He looks forward to working with the Board to ensure that F&CS continues to provide high quality service to our community.



Kelly White, PMP, has more than 20 years of experience in project management and operations, leading cross-functional teams in publishing, e-learning, online medical communication, software, healthcare, and nonprofit environments. Kelly is the principal consultant at Illume Projects, a certified NYS Women Business Enterprise (WBE). Since 2011, Illume Projects has been proud to serve mission-driven organizations in Central NY and the Southern Tier. As a certified Project Management Professional from the Project Management Institute (PMI) and a certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, Kelly is committed to bringing teams, processes, and technology together to achieve positive results, continuous process improvement and meaningful, fun work. Since 2013, Kelly has been a trainer for the Human Services Coalition of Tompkins County Workshop Series. She has a special interest in health care and served for two years as board president for Ithaca Free Clinic and is thrilled to join Family & Children's Service of Ithaca. Kelly is a past director of programs and membership for the PMI Rochester – Ithaca branch. She is a graduate of the Leadership Tompkins class of 2015 and the Rev Ithaca Passenger to Pilot program for women entrepreneurs.

We hope you will join us in welcoming them as they join Family & Children's Service of Ithaca as members of our Board of Directors. We are excited to work with, and be supported by, individuals whose goals and passions support our community in such diverse and inspiring ways.

2020 Community Awards

One of the most special parts of our Annual Meeting is celebrating the work and achievements of community partners and volunteers who go above and beyond to serve our community.

The Family & Children's Service Family Partner Award is given annually, in recognition of a business or corporation that has made a significant contribution to F&CS, and to our community.



This year's **Family Partner Award** is presented to **CFCU Community**

Credit Union for their long history of supporting F&CS through program and event sponsorship, and for their dedication to our community through the Credit Union's continued philanthropic efforts. CFCU has sponsored numerous programs at F&CS, including the Grandparents and Caregivers Support Group, the Open Doors program for runaway and homeless youth, and in 2019, CFCU became the lead sponsor on F&CS's inaugural Cardboard Boat Race. In 2019 alone, CFCU Community Credit Union staff supported 130 local nonprofits, offered 4,185 volunteer hours, held 30 Jeans Days, each supporting a different nonprofit, and raised more than \$75,000 for local nonprofits. CFCU Community Credit Union is proud to champion their tag line, Community to the Core.

I would like to express CFCU Community Credit Union's gratitude for being recognized as this year's recipient of the Family & Children's Service Family Partner Award. I appreciate the important work that Family and Children's Service continues to provide to our community and I thank CFCU employees Paul Kirk, CFO and COO, and Tanya Brozost, AVP HR, for contributing their knowledge and service as F&CS board members. In partnership with Family and Children's Service, we continue to cultivate our vision: Transforming Generations and Communities. Simply. Personally.

-- Lisa Whitaker, President and CEO at CFCU Community Credit Union

The Family & Children's Service Agda Osborn Award is given annually in recognition of an individual or community organizer who has, in the judgement of the Board of Directors, made outstanding contributions to the community through exemplary community service and volunteerism.



This year's **Agda Osborn Award** is presented to **Cal Walker**.

An Alabama native, Cal Walker has lived in Ithaca for over forty years. He

worked for Cornell University for 25 years in Student & Academic Services, and as Outreach Liaison in Community Relations. Now retired, he is a social entrepreneur actively pursuing various interests.

He was a co-founder of the Village at Ithaca whose mission is to advocate for excellence and equity in Ithaca's public schools, by developing strategic community relationships, programs, and services to ensure that all students, particularly Black, Latino/a, low income, and other underserved students, consistently meet or exceed local and New York State standards of achievement. The organization has been recognized locally and statewide for its work in expanding educational opportunity, increasing access and furthering the cause of social justice in the community.

Cal has also served as a deacon at his church for nearly 30 years, taught in the county jail and has been an Alternative Instructor in the local school district since 1993. He has served on numerous boards and advisory committees supporting the work of local non-profit organizations.

Cal and his wife Glenda have four biological children, six grandchildren and, over the past 20 years, have welcomed 52 other children into their home as foster parents.

"I'm honored to be this year's recipient of the Agda Osborn Award. It is all the more meaningful because of the significant role Family & Children's Service has played in helping my family affirm, support and care for many of the foster children we've welcomed into our home over the past twenty years. Your services have been vital contributors to the healthy social and emotional development of these precious children while simultaneously strengthening their resiliency.

I feel blessed to live in a community where there are so many opportunities to serve, and I remain committed to making a positive difference wherever I can, whenever I can and while I can!"

-- Cal Walker

The Family & Children's Service Sandy True Award for Exceptional Volunteerism is presented when there is a volunteer, or committee of volunteers, that through exceptional volunteerism have demonstrated devotion and commitment to advancing the mission of Family and Children's Service of Ithaca; and through the volunteerism, long-lasting impacts have been realized at Family and Children's Service of Ithaca.



This year's **Sandy True Award for Exceptional Volunteerism** is presented to **Andrea Mooney**.

Andrea Mooney is a clinical professor of Law at the Cornell Law School with an extensive career in teaching and child advocacy. She has worked at the Law Guardian Office of Citizens Concerned for Children, in Tompkins County (representing children in Family Court), where she has worked closely with F&CS therapists to protect and serve the interests of her clients. She is a Project Counsel for Cayuga County Safe Schools/Healthy Students Partnership. Andrea has worked with F&CS in many capacities for nearly thirty years, including running the Home Care Program from 1978-82. She served on the F&CS Board of Directors from 2010-2017, and as Board Chair from 2015-2016, as well as serving on several other non-profit boards in our community. Andrea continues to serve on F&CS's Incident Review Committee as a community member. Over the years, she has donated countless pro-bono hours of legal consultation and support to help maintain the highest level of confidentiality for F&CS clients, and has provided essential guidance in regards to legal issues in family court.

"Receiving the Sandy True Volunteer Award is like receiving the Meryl Streep Oscar, the Babe Ruth Baseball Prize or the Neil deGrasse Tyson Award for Astrophysics. Sandy True is a superb friend of F&CS. She models grace, generosity and "true" commitment to the work of the agency. Having been a staff member and a Board member at F&CS over the years, I have had a good view of the dedication of the staff who work at the agency and the volunteers who support that work. It is an honor to receive an award in Sandy's name."

-- Andrea Mooney

Become a Sustaining Donor

Want to support F&CS but feel that you're unable to make a gift that will really make a difference? Don't let that stop you from becoming a Mental Health Advocate! **Consider becoming a Sustaining Donor by making a monthly recurring gift.** A small monthly contribution can quickly add up to significant annual support.

Your support matters, whatever what form it takes.

Support F&CS