# healthy housed educated safe



OVER SIX DECADES OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON BEHALF OF NEW YORK CITY'S CHILDREN



Since 1944, Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc. (CCC) has been providing a voice for children, especially poor and vulnerable children and children with special needs. As New York City's only locally-based, multi-issue child advocacy organization, CCC stands up for children because we know that their future – and the future of our city – depends on it.

#### 1940s



CCC is launched to focus on the "whole child", calling for a multidisciplinary approach to children's service delivery.

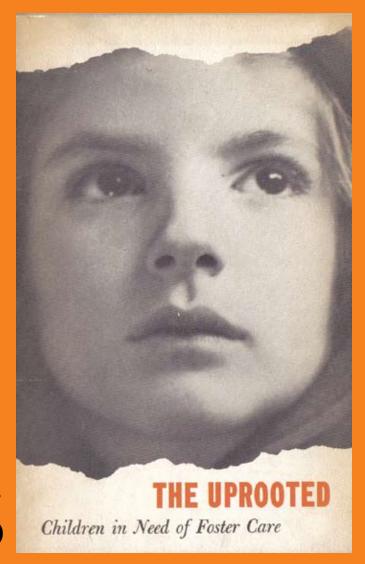
CCC releases its first published report, *Citizens Look At Their Schools*, recommending classroom, school-wide and system-wide improvements and resources required for every child to succeed.

CCC advocates successfully for state funds for the Mayor's Committee on Wartime Care of Children and publishes The Group of Living Children: Important Factors for Programs in Nursery Schools, Day Nurseries, Kindergartens, Day Care Centers, Play Schools and After School Groups. The report recommends consideration of facility development, constructive programs, adequate standards, and responsible supervision.

CCC releases Next Steps to Expand Facilities for the Care of Children Who Require Placement Outside Their Own Homes, exposing racial segregation in foster care placement and calling for development of local foster homes and reduced reliance on institutional care.

CCC crusades on behalf of "well babies" languishing in city hospitals for lack of foster homes. This leads to the development of the city's role in foster care placement.





1950s

CCC's methodology grows into fact-based advocacy: analyzing data and budgets and urging sensible solutions to difficult problems. CCC begins issuing monthly updates in its *Report on Health, Education, Welfare, Recreation and Housing* which quickly gains recognition among public officials and concerned New Yorkers.

CCC declares "fact finding before fault finding" as its new credo, documents racial quotas in NYC foster care agencies, and insists on the development of city-operated foster care services.

CCC works with social welfare agencies and leaders to pass the city's 1952 Sharkey-Brown-Isaacs Law, prohibiting placement of public charges with agencies that discriminate by race, ethnicity, or religion.

CCC secures withdrawal of a proposed amendment to the state's adoption law that would have encouraged under-the-table and black market child adoptions.

CCC produces its first annual in-depth budget analysis of children's services and funding levels.

CCC establishes the Institutional Visiting Project through which CCC volunteer advocates make site visits to child-serving programs. While visiting a children's hospital, CCC discovers that parents are permitted to visit children only once-a-week. This finding is published in the American Journal of Pediatrics, leading to a more liberal visitation policy in public hospitals.

CCC spearheads a movement to address juvenile delinquency with the publication of For Children in Trouble: An Exploratory Study of Major Problems Facing New York City Services. The report outlines the symptoms and problems of troubled children, available services, and recommendations for better options to meet their needs.

CCC proposes the development of child and adolescent psychiatric hospitals as an alternative to the placement of emotionally disturbed children together with adults in psychiatric facilities.

CCC studies the city's foster care system serving 20,000 children. In *Uprooted: Children in Need of Foster Care*, CCC recommends: emphasis on keeping families whole; timely placements; placements for children with special needs; and lifting exclusionary admission policies and serving children of color.

CCC interviews physicians, pharmacists, health and welfare agencies and low-income families as prescription drugs revolutionize medical practice. The findings are published in Modern Prescription Drugs: A Report on Their Impact on the Family Budget.

CCC issues *Planning and Coordination of Services for Children and Youth* in response to overcrowded facilities and dysfunctional programs within the juvenile justice, education, and child welfare systems. The report calls for the creation of a cabinet composed of the heads of all city departments dealing with children.

CCC leads the effort to increase the skill level of the city's child welfare workforce and assists the city in creating a professional job title.

CCC advocates an end to the practice of using the Children's Court as a dumping ground for children the community has failed to serve. CCC's report, A New Pattern for Health Services in a Children's Court, proposes a demonstration project to serve juvenile delinquents and their families.

CCC publishes *Babies Who Wait*, documenting the long wait of infants left in hospitals and emergency children's shelters due to the unavailability of foster homes. The report becomes a landmark in child welfare literature.

CCC launches the "Orientation Course for Community Leadership," now renamed the "Community Leadership Course" (CLC), to educate New Yorkers about children's needs and services, develop community leaders, and encourage greater citizen involvement in children's issues.

CCC organizes and dispatches trained graduates of the Community Leadership Course to help the city's Bureau of Child Welfare place babies, languishing in hospitals or emergency shelters, into foster homes.

CCC advocates successfully for a reorganization of the city's Bureau of Child Welfare and increased funding for child welfare services, pushing for services designed to help keep families together.

CCC formulates a plan for the state's implementation of the 1962 Social Security Amendments that strengthens the preventive service capability of public child welfare services, including family day care for infants and young children.

CCC issues Child Care in New York City – Or Who's in Charge Here, calling for the creation of a state commission to develop a coordinated system of child care services.

CCC publishes *Protecting New York City's Children*, leading to the establishment of the Children's Protective Services function in the city's Department of Welfare.

CCC documents the need to create a joint legislative committee on statewide child care needs, which is later established.

CCC publishes *Life at the Bottom*, a pamphlet exposing, for the first time, the difficulties faced by children and families who receive welfare and drawing attention to inefficiencies and inadequacies in the city's Welfare Department.

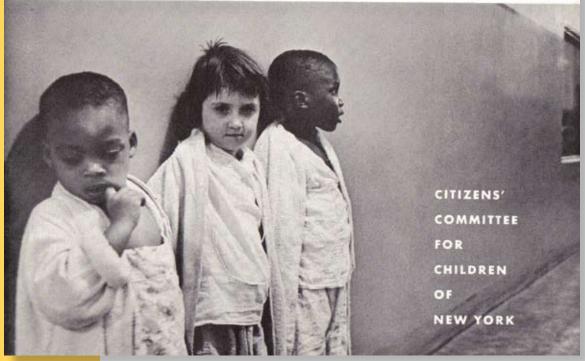
CCC advocates for a universal children's allowance to enable families to help counter child poverty. CCC sponsors the "Children's Allowance Conference," a national symposium, and publishes Children's Allowances and the Economic Welfare of Children: A Report of a Conference. To advance this national advocacy campaign, CCC also releases 19,000,000 Children Counted Out: Latest Figures on Child Poverty and Why We Need Children's Allowances in the United States.

CCC continues pushing for court reform for juvenile delinquency and provides recommendations for the Family Court Act of 1962 in Research and Potential Application of Research in Probation, Parole and Delinquency Prediction and Recommendations to the Joint Legislative Committee on Court Reorganization. CCC monitors progress of the city's new Family Courts and recommends needed improvements in Clinical Services for the New York City Family Court and in Adolescents and the Courts: A Study, an Analysis and a Plan for Jurisdiction and Procedures.

CCC opposes the use of public funds for private and parochial schools and argues in A New York State Constitution Can Mean a Brighter Future for New York's Children that such action would diminish a basic premise of our democracy by which children of all races and backgrounds learn together in public schools.

### 1960s

## THE SILENT CRY



Many of CCC's studies and subsequent action lead to a sea change in mid-century child welfare policy.



CCC develops expertise on children with special needs, expanding our focus to include mental health, disability, drug abuse, and juvenile delinquency. CCC releases a Report to Community School Boards on the School Lunch Program in New York City as part of a mobilization to increase the use of and improve the program.

CCC calls for a reorganization of the city's social service system to help families better cope with emergencies to avoid having to find substitute care for their children. In A Dream Deferred: Child Welfare in New York City, CCC recommends foster care placement be only one of an array of services available to families.

CCC is instrumental in the passage of the 1975 federal Education of All Handicapped Children Act, which guarantees handicapped children a free and appropriate public education and encourages mainstreaming these children in public schools.

CCC evaluates the Parents' Rights unit in the city's Department of Social Services, Special Services for Children agency. In Responding to Grievances of Parents with Children in Foster Care: The Parents' Rights Unit and Evaluation Study, CCC assesses the unit's performance in promoting and safeguarding parents' rights in child welfare and foster care placement decisions.

CCC releases *Youth and Narcotics*, a report that includes interviews with substance abusing youth and recommendations for treatment and prevention.

CCC convenes the "Conference on Violent Youth" attended by juvenile justice and child welfare providers and educators. Participants propose reforms in Violent Youth: What Shall We Do?

CCC evaluates the Board of Education program to provide services for children with mental and physical handicaps in Teaching ALL Our Children, Special Education in the New York City School, and in Proposed Reorganization of the Division of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services of the New York City Board of Education: A Study of Professional and Citizen Opinion.

CCC acts to avert deep budget cuts to children's services during the city's fiscal crisis by rallying public support for a "Children's Budget." The combination of analyzing the budget, publishing reports, and ongoing advocacy sets the stage for CCC's future budget activities.

CCC calls attention to the plight of homeless families and develops, in partnership with the Henry Street Settlement, the Urban Family Center, a city-funded model shelter that provides homeless families with apartment-style shelter and support services to safeguard child and family stability.

CCC studies group home programs to identify ways to prevent family breakup, reduce children's length of stay in foster care, and create more suitable environments for children in need of long-term care.

CCC, following the release of Lost in the Maze: Mentally III Mothers and Their Children, develops a plan to serve parents with mental illness and their children through clinical treatment and family support services as alternatives to hospitalization and foster care placement.

CCC identifies programs to foster better learning environments and reduce growing racial tensions between students and teachers in NYC public schools.

CCC calls for the repeal of the Juvenile Offender Law: In Search of Juvenile Justice: An Interim Report on the 1978 New York Juvenile Offender Law.

CCC, in Children of the Welfare Hotels; 7,000 Homeless Children: the Crisis Continues; and Children in Storage: Families in New York City's Barracks-Style Shelters, urges the city to establish temporary housing and support services for homeless families needing shelter.

CCC steps in to reverse the city's plan to place a new juvenile detention facility atop an adult jail, promoting, as an alternative, significant reforms and program enhancements at the Spofford Detention Center that are soon implemented.

CCC establishes the Emergency Alliance for Homeless Families and Children, bringing together 100 organizations and individuals to identify solutions to the problem of family homelessness. The Alliance's advocacy leads to a 1990 local law that mandates the closure of barracks-style shelters and the development of regulations and standards for hotels and shelters.

CCC uncovers long delays by the city's Human Resources Administration in processing adoptions, citing adoption rates of less than 20% of eligible children and poor efforts to match children ready for adoption with available homes.

CCC concludes that the 1978 Juvenile Offender Law neither increases public safety nor serves juvenile offenders. CCC works for the law's repeal and releases a seminal report on the subject called *The Experiment that Failed: The New York State Juvenile Offender Law.* 

CCC, in *The Invisible Emergency: Children and AIDS in New York*, surveys available programs for HIV-positive children and identifies gaps in care. CCC partners with the Gay Men's Health Crisis and the United Hospital Fund to promote the development of policies for a coordinated approach to pediatric AIDS.

CCC develops St. John's Place Family Center, a model shelter for 100 families providing apartment-like accommodations, support services, and assistance in finding and relocating to permanent housing.

CCC publishes To Form a More Perfect Union for Juvenile Justice: Mental Health Services and the Family Court to improve the system's ability to give help and hope as well as render justice to troubled children and families.



Recognizing a child's need for a stable home, CCC turns its attention to the plight of homeless families.



19905

With *Kids First New York*, CCC engages a new kind of advocacy emphasizing community outreach and public education to mobilize New Yorkers on children's issues. CCC evaluates the LYFE program for teen parents and publishes For a Better LYFE, A Study of School Based Day Care and Support Services for Teenaged Parents and Their Children detailing limitations in the way the Board of Education identifies and serves pregnant and parenting teens.

CCC launches *Kids First*, *New York*, a community outreach and public education campaign to mobilize New Yorkers to make children's issues a priority.

CCC calls on the city to restore funding for essential children's services and to roll back plans for \$1 billion in budget cuts. No More Pencils, No More Books I and II: Reviewing the Impact of Budget Cuts on New York City Public Schools highlight the effects of proposed cuts to city schools.

CCC investigates issues arising in the transition from a Medicaid fee-for-service benefit to Medicaid managed care plans. Finding a Way Through the Labyrinth: Medicaid Managed Care for Children in Southwest Brooklyn is used to inform policymakers as managed care for Medicaid recipients is implemented citywide.

CCC wins the creation of the Early Intervention Program. The program serves infants and toddlers with developmental delays.



CCC launches
YouthAction NYC
to empower young
people to become
leaders and effectively
advocate for their
communities.

CCC tracks families who leave the shelter system without a referral to permanent housing. On Their Own at What Cost? A Look at Families Who Leave Shelters reports that these families do not find permanent housing and inevitably return to the shelters. In Assessing the Needs of Homeless Families and in Getting Shelter – The Homeless Family Odyssey, CCC reports on the complex process that homeless families and children encounter when seeking shelter in the city's system.

CCC, in Secrets of Success: Personal Support Services for Public Elementary School Students, reports fragmented and limited counseling and mental health services in city schools.

CCC partners with the Advertising Council and the State Communities Aid Association, in a successful statewide campaign to establish a Universal Pre-Kindergarten program for four-year olds. At the same time, Put Kids First for New York's Future followed by Put Kids First in the New York Budget help CCC to reverse harmful state and city budget proposals.

CCC turns a spotlight on welfare reform's impact on children with the publication of *Thinking About the New Welfare Bill: How it Hurts Children* and *Putting New York City's Children at Risk: The Welfare Reform Act of 1997.* CCC also convenes *New Welfare Laws: Choices and Consequences for New York City's Children*, a conference in partnership with Columbia University, The New School for Social Research, and the New York City Partnership.

CCC releases Carrots and Sticks: The Impact of the New York State Family and Children's Services Block Grant on Child Welfare Services in New York City. This publication and its follow-up report, Family Support Services: Keeping Children Safe and Promoting Positive Family Life, call for an overhaul in state and local financing for child welfare services. CCC gets the state Office of Children and Family Services to adopt many of the reports' recommendations in their legislative proposal to reform child welfare financing.

CCC launches the Children's Mental Health Alliance. With the Coalition of Voluntary Mental Health Agencies and the Mental Health Association of New York City, CCC brings together 100 stakeholders to increase attention on the crisis in children's mental health.

CCC releases the first edition of *Keeping Track of New York City's Children* in 1993, for the first time assessing indicators of child well-being in every NYC neighborhood and setting a baseline to track conditions for children over time. The report is featured in the city's major media outlets.



CCC surveys 900 New Yorkers in its first public opinion poll – *Picture Imperfect: the State of Children in New York City Through the Eyes of New Yorkers* – documenting specific services New Yorkers view as vital or in need of improvement. The participants' recommendations for more quality child care, education, and after school programs become the agenda for CCC's *Kids First, New York* campaign.

CCC produces its first video, *Bronx Dreams*, to represent visually the challenges faced by children growing up in NYC as outlined in CCC's premier publication *Keeping Track of New York City's Children*.

CCC launches YouthAction NYC, a program to empower young people to become leaders and learn about issues affecting NYC children, families, and communities.

CCC exposes serious gaps in service delivery for youth post-detention in Returning Home: A Look at Aftercare Services Provided to Delinquent Youth.

CCC testifies at a Charter Revision Hearing supporting the proposal to create the Administration for Children's Services, a new stand-alone city agency responsible for child welfare, child care and Head Start services. The proposal is listed on the November ballot and is adopted.

CCC publishes A Window of Opportunity for Children Who Stay Too Long: A Study of the Length of Psychiatric Inpatient and Residential Treatment for Children and Adolescents in New York City and Before It's Too late: Ending the Crisis in Children's Mental Health, and advocates for what becomes the largest investment in state history in residential and support services for children with serious emotional disturbance.



CCC's new action campaign – Securing Every Child's Birthright® – is challenging policy makers to go beyond short term fixes and instead create long term structural reforms.

CCC releases Can They Make It on Their Own: Aging Out of Foster Care, a report on NYC's Independent Living Program.

CCC releases Child Welfare Financing: Looking Beyond the New York State Family and Children's Services Block Grant, the recommendations of which are adopted by the Office of Children and Family Services.

CCC releases *The Adoption Safe Families* Act (ASFA) and the Family Court, highlighting barriers faced by the Family Courts in meeting ASFA requirements and underscoring the benefits of enriched staffing, early mediation/case conferencing, and parent and child legal representation in meeting parents' and children's needs.

CCC releases Closer to Home: Serving Children and Families Where They Live, detailing issues arising in the transition to neighborhood-based child welfare services. The report informs the development of ACS's Neighborhood Network Strategy Guide that lays out components of a well functioning network. CCC's follow-up study, Neighborhood Based Services II, monitors the early implementation of neighborhood-based child welfare service networks.

CCC and allies
bring hundreds of
New Yorkers to
City Hall to advocate
for restoring cuts to
children's services.



CCC examines the impact of welfare reform in *Opportunities for Change: Lessons Learned from Families Who Leave Welfare.* Five years after the passage of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act, CCC's report Responsibility and Risk: TANF Reauthorization Creates an Opportunity for Needed Improvements recommends changes in federal and state welfare laws to allow more flexible spending of TANF dollars and enhance programs that help families move from welfare to work.

CCC calculates the need for child care among low-income families in each of the city's 59 community districts and citywide. Child Care: The Family Life Issue in New York City provides solid numbers and leads to substantial allocations of child care funds in the state budget. Recognizing barriers to developing new child care programs, CCC releases Caring from Home: Addressing Barriers to Family Child Care Expansion.

CCC assesses the city's rent subsidy programs and calls for a unified and coordinated approach to preventing homelessness in *Implementing Rent Assistance Programs that Work: A Review of New York City Funded Rent Assistance for Families* 

CCC publishes the Resource Guide for Working Families in New York City. Over 200,000 copies are distributed to families at the request of the Human Resources Administration.

CCC, working with the New York City Council and the Commission on the Public's Health forestalls the closure of nine Child Health Clinics and 15 school-based health clinics.

CCC assumes a leadership role on the ACS Child Care and Head Start Advisory Board Sub-Committee, and produces with ACS, *Counting to 10: New Directions in Child Care and Head Start*, a roadmap for the reorganization of child care and early education services at ACS.

CCC releases New York City's Public High School Students Review their Schools' Performance, a survey of 1001 students who give their schools low marks with regard to fostering a climate that encourages academic success. The poll informs CCC's out-of-school time (OST) advocacy for more academic OST services and paid internships.

CCC hosts a Mayoral Candidate Forum moderated by Newschannel 4. CCC also disseminates 2001 Voter Guide: Candidate Priorities for Children and Families, detailing the responses of candidates for all city offices on issues affecting children, youth, and families.

CCC examines children's access to health care as enrollment in managed care plans for children covered by Medicaid and Child Health Plus soars in Health Insurance Creates Access to Health Services: The Experiences of New York City Children Enrolled in Managed Care. CCC also releases Promoting Teen Health and Reducing Risks: A Look at Adolescent Health Services in New York City. In a subsequent report, Road to Recovery: Substance Abuse Treatment for New York City Teens, CCC takes a closer look at the pathways for teenagers to treatment services.

CCC holds a Town Hall meeting with Children's Defense Fund-New York, Lessons Learned from 9/11: Helping Children and Families. The findings are released at the Lessons Learned from 9/11: Helping Children and Families One Year Later conference. CCC also produces a short film The Bridge Back: New York City's Children After 9/11 and releases Children in Crisis: New York City's Response after 9/11, a public opinion poll of NYC parents.

CCC releases the *Millennium Edition of Keeping Track of New York City's Children* at a City Hall press conference hosted by New York City Council Speaker Gifford Miller.

CCC is asked to house the NYC Child Welfare Advisory Panel to assist ACS in identifying ways to further develop child welfare management, practice, and policy reforms. The New York City Child Welfare Advisory Panel Report on Family Engagement outlines measures to improve interaction between parents and workers and expedite permanency for children.

CCC convenes the Outpatient Treatment Workgroup to identify barriers limiting the availability of children's outpatient mental health treatment and releases *Paving the Way: New Directions for Children's Mental Health Treatment Services* that serves as a guide for reform.

CCC is joined by Councilmembers, colleagues, parents, children, and youth to support a children's budget agenda. The press conference is followed by a campaign to maintain essential children's services. CCC focuses on helping NYC close a \$6 billion budget gap in Fiscal Year 2004 by proposing efficiencies and advocating in Albany for a tax package enabling the city to raise revenue. The additional revenue allows for restorations of children's services.



advocates for the establishment of the NYC Earned Income
Tax Credit (EITC)
which provides yearly tax relief to 800,000 low-income families.

CCC houses the Family Homelessness Special Master Panel, created by an historic settlement agreement between The City of New York, the Department of Homeless Services, and The Legal Aid Society to address issues affecting homeless families. The Panel releases reports on homelessness prevention and on the Emergency Assistance Unit and shelter eligibility determination.

CCC works to establish a NYC Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and advocates in Albany for its successful passage. This \$50 million tax credit provides tax relief and a refundable tax credit to 800,000 low-income families.

CCC releases Out-of-School Time Funding and Regulations and Best Practices in Out-of-School Time to inform the city's reorganization of after school programs based on data analysis, focus groups and a poll of 1000 NYC parents.

CCC publishes Checking-Up On Children in New York City Foster Care: Does The Medicaid Per Diem Rate Ensure Access to Care?, documenting inequities in Medicaid coverage for children in foster care. CCC's report informs the creation of a Medicaid waiver for 3,300 children in foster care.

CCC publishes Child Care Oversight: Assuring Safety, Health and Learning in Early Care and Education Services, which examines the role of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Day Care both prior to and after implementation of the NYS Quality Child Care Act. Report findings inform the establishment of a Day Care Activity Tracking System to track group child care programs, and the passage of 3 pieces of legislation to improve the quality of city child care oversight and information sharing with parents on child care options.

CCC works with NYS Office of Mental Health to craft a comprehensive children's mental health initiative to improve access to assessment, screening and treatment at the community level. The initiative, "Achieving the Promise", is supported by an historic investment of \$62 million.

CCC releases Understanding the Service Needs and Experience of Girls in the Juvenile Justice System, a report which results in a City Council hearing as well as the development of gender-specific programs and services in city detention facilities and alternative-to-detention programs. The report is also included in the OCFS training curriculum for new staff.

CCC convenes the Youth in Placement Task Force to better understand service needs and experiences of youth in state detention. Preliminary findings from the Task Force lead to the doubling of ombudsman, 218 new staff positions in placement facilities, and the revision of the physical restraint policy to improve conditions of care.

CCC releases Youth Weigh In: The Eductional Priorities of NYC High School Students. CCC Staff and YouthAction NYC students present report findings and recommendations to Department of Education officials and testify at the Contract for Excellence hearings.

CCC releases its seventh edition of *Keeping Track of New York City's Children* and launches *Keeping Track Online* – an interactive database that provides customized data reports about child well-being. This edition features over 300 indicators, tracks well-being and risks to children in each NYC neighborhood and includes a time trend analysis of conditions for NYC children and families from 1940 to present.

CCC creates a Securing Every Child's Birthright®: Voter Guide for 2005, an online guide informing voters of the City Council and Mayoral candidates' proposals and views related to children, youth and families. Post-election, CCC releases Prospects and Promises 2006: A Guide to Children's Services and Budget for New York City Policymakers, which includes recommendations in the areas of government relations, planning resources, interagency coordination, system reform and operations.



Every year CCC wins critical victories that make New York City a better place for children.

CCC launches the CCC E-Action Network, an online communications program that expands the ways CCC educates New Yorkers about *Securing Every Child's Birthright* policy initiatives. The CCC E-Action Network enables New Yorkers to connect directly with elected and appointed officials with targeted customized messages. Membership in the CCC E-Action Network grows from 600 to over 3000 to date.

CCC advocates for and wins \$4.2 million in city resources to reduce caseload ratios in preventive services and increase the contact caseworkers have with families.

CCC urges key appointed officials to improve the quality and price of food available in low-income "food deserts." The City appoints a food policy coordinator and the Governor creates a NYS Council of Food Policy to coordinate policy and make recommendations to ensure access to fresh, nutritious and affordable food for all New Yorkers.

CCC advocacy leads to the expansion of the Newborn Home Visiting Program, reaching 9,500 first-time parents in Brooklyn, Bronx and Manhattan.

CCC speaks out to ensure that the NY State Fiscal Year 2008 Budget provides health care coverage for 400,000 New York State children.

CCC secures an additional \$145 million from the state to support expansion of Universal Pre-Kindergarten.

CCC was instrumental in advancing and securing the first local Child Care Tax Credit in the nation. This new tax credit will give 50,000 New York City working families a refund of up to \$1000 to help offset the cost of child care.

#### CONTACT CCC TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

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