



**Recent Events**

**YCS Foundation**

**235 Main Street  
Hackensack, NJ 07601**

**201-678-1312**

**foundation@ycs.org**

**[www.ycs.org](http://www.ycs.org)**



Fifteen year old Andre works on building agility and coordination each week with former Golden Glove champion and heavy weight contender Gerry Cooney. But in an open letter, Andre reveals what really keeps him coming back to the workouts.

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Gerard Costa, Director of the YCS Institute for Infant and Preschool Mental Health presents Dr. June Moss Handler with the Thea Bry Award for her contributions to the advancement of early childhood development, education and care at the Institute's 4th Annual Professional Conference.

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YCS Board of Trustees hosted the 2006 Annual Meeting at the Stony Hill Inn in Hackensack to acknowledge the agency's achievements and give thanks to volunteers, supporters and staff for all their efforts on behalf of the children. ← Trustees, Ellen Jacobs (left) and Elayne Rosen, paid special tribute to YCS President Richard Mingoia for his 30 years of service to agency. → Bruce Castro (pictured here with YCS site administrator Etta Sample)

addressed guests and told them how much it meant to him to be able to participate in the H'Olympics.

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(right to left) Senator Frank Lautenberg, Richard Mingoia and East Orange Mayor Robert Bowser

**Senator Lautenberg holds news conference at YCS to report on the 10th anniversary of domestic violence gun ban at the start of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.**

United States Senator Frank R. Lautenberg released a report on the effects of a bill he wrote in 1996 prohibiting the sale of firearms to convicted domestic abusers at YCS in East Orange.

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*What Victims of Domestic Violence Would Like You to Know.*

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**Three hundred professionals attend  
4<sup>th</sup> Annual YCS Institute Conference  
Helping young children with Sensory Processing Disorders  
with Jeannetta Burpee, M.Ed., ORT/L.**

Imagine what it is like for children who are so sensitive to touch that they cannot tolerate the feel of socks on their feet, the flicker of a fluorescent light or the sounds of another child's laughter. These are all real problems that affect the behavior of tens of thousands of children affected by autism or developmental delays. Ms. Burpee showed participants how to identify, understand and disarm these disorders which can impact all of a child's senses, speech and ability to problem solve.

*This conference was held in partnership with Seton Hall University  
School of Graduate Medicinal Education*



Jeannetta Burpee listens to a participant's question during a break



Rev. Darrell Armstrong, Director, Div. of Prevention and Community Partnerships, NJ Dept. of Children and Families opens conference with a call to arms.



Former Thea Bry Award recipient Cecelia Zalkind, Executive Director of the Association for Children of NJ, presented the plaque to Dr. Handler pictured here with Richard Mingoia and Gerard Costa.



Dr. June Handler (sitting center) with colleagues from CITE (Coalition of Infant /Toddler Educators).



Kate Colucci, (standing center) assistant professor in the SHU occupational therapy program, with her students.

## What boxing means to me One boy's response



*Before I started boxing, I was shy and scared and my self esteem was pretty low. Then Gerry Cooney came and made me get confidence in myself. I'd tell him I couldn't do a move or hit the speed ball, but he kept telling me I could and made me try.*

*Cooney has helped me in so many ways. I trust him with my personal stuff. When my mom died this summer on July 9, Cooney was by my side. He talked me through the hard times. He could have gone to be with the Yankees that day, but instead he came to see me. He also came to my mom's funeral. He didn't have to do that either, but he did.*

*I've been boxing for three years and on the days I'm feeling down, Cooney pulls me up. Cooney puts his big neck on the line for me a lot. So, I thank him. He talks to me about life, helps me prepare for the future and gives me advice about a girl that I have feelings for.*

*I thank him a lot for touching my life. Thank you Cooney.*

*Andre*

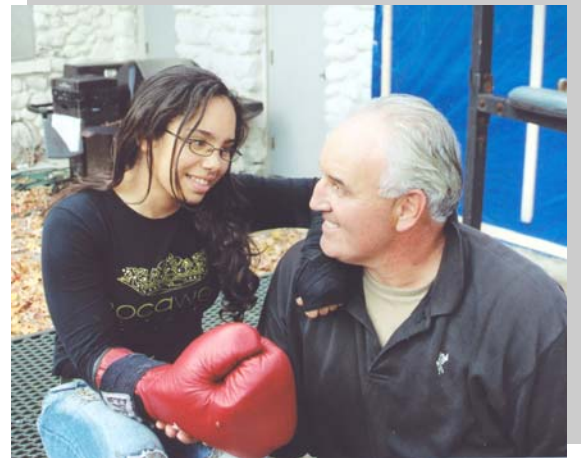
## Boxing is not just for boys... One young girl finds strengths she never knew she had

Jay started boxing lessons four months ago when she entered the Kilbarchan IRTS program. "I always wanted to learn how to box because I wanted to be stronger," said the 15 year old. What she discovered was that she has become not only stronger but a lot braver. Being the only girl in the class may have something to do with that.

"Now I am willing to take on more challenges and try more things."

What does Cooney think? He's glad she took the challenge. "I could tell she was smart and had talent."

But in the end, Cooney says it is all about becoming a better person.



*Gerry makes me feel better about myself.*



## 2006 Annual Meeting



**Dr. Helen Strauss surrounded by her sons (left to right) Donald, Walter and Robert.**

### **Dr. Helen Strauss honored with Sawtelle Award**

**Virginia Harkness Sawtelle Award** was presented to Dr. Helen Strauss at the annual meeting for her constant caring and commitment to the promotion of infant/early childhood mental health at the YCS Institute. Since the Institute's inception, in 2000, Dr. Strauss has voluntarily participated in weekly clinical case discussions with staff and interns where she is vital source of support and insight to the Institute's clinical, training and research services. The astute, spry septuagenarian is looked upon lovingly as the resident sage by staff and interns alike.

**Trustee Ellen Jacobs reads a tribute to President/CEO Richard Mingoia at the 2006 Annual Meeting extolling his 30 years of service and achievements at the helm of YCS for the past decade. Mingoia was presented with a bronze plaque that will be hung in a room on YCS Kilbarchan campus that will be turned into a Family Resource Center and Library in his namesake.**



### **New Trustees Welcomed**



Vanessa Tyler is an Emmy nominated anchor/reporter with more than two decades of broadcast experience. She has won awards from the New York Associated Press, the National Association of Black Journalists and the Garden State Association of Black Journalists. The WPIX news correspondent became acquainted with YCS five years ago when she was covering Derek Jeter's visit to a YCS school for a Christmas holiday event. Since that time, she has done stories highlighting our foster families, written and produced a Public Service Announcement for our infant foster care program, hosted the opening of our Blossoms Art Exhibition and spoke at several of our Foundation fundraising events.



Walter Enders has been a child advocate for well over 20 years. He and his wife Patti have two adopted sons - Nicolas (13) and Robert (9),- two foster siblings, 13 and 4, and their 18 year-old nephew. The Enders learned about YCS seven years ago when their son Nicholas was diagnosed with autism and enrolled in the YCS Sawtelle Learning Center in Montclair. Walter now sits on the Executive Committee of the YCS Northern Region Advisory Council, donating generously of his time and services for YCS. As the owner of several independent food service businesses, Walter has also involved his vast network of employees and business contacts to help support and promote YCS, widening the circle of people who care about our children.

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## Senator Lautenberg holds press conference at YCS at the start of Domestic Violence Awareness Month

YCS/PALS program in East Orange hosted a news conference where Senator Frank R. Lautenberg released a report on the impact of the law he wrote 10 years ago that prohibits the sale of firearms to convicted domestic abusers. Lautenberg reported that by the end of 2006, this law will have denied 150,000 gun purchases to domestic violence abusers.

“Numbers tell a story - and the story here is (that) the gun ban is helping save lives,” said the Senior Senator from New Jersey.

Lautenberg spoke alongside a group of public officials and community leaders including, Essex County Executive Joe DiVincenzo; Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura; Essex County Prosecutor Paula Dow; Representative Donald Payne; Mayor Robert Bowser, State Council President of the Million Mom March Carole Stiller and Executive Director of NJ Coalition for Battered Women Barbara Price. YCS President Richard Mingoia was MC for the event.



Congressman Donald Payne meets with Richard Mingoia after the press conference.

### *What Victims of Domestic Violence Would Like You to Know*

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## *What Victims of Domestic Violence Would Like You to Know*

Mary Houtsma, PALS Director

When a battered woman makes the decision to leave an abusive partner, she often must flee with her children, leaving behind their personal possessions, support systems, and community ties. Stripped of resources, battered women often turn to domestic violence programs and social service agencies for help as they relocate to new communities, sometimes fleeing to another state, in an effort to hide from their batterers. Because of limited capacity, domestic violence shelters must turn away more women than they are able to serve. Battered women who cannot find refuge at a domestic violence shelter must choose between homelessness or returning to the man who brutalized them physically and emotionally. A significant number of women who turn to homeless shelters are battered. Many describe shuttling with their children from shelter to shelter by night, often living out of their cars.

Regardless of where a woman finds shelter, they all face a common dilemma. When their temporary shelter stay expires, they generally lack the resources to obtain permanent housing and financial stability. Domestic violence victims tell of countless hours spent applying for financial assistance for themselves and their families and their frustrating attempts to obtain housing assistance. Stymied by onerous procedures, long waiting lists for child care assistance, and blocked access to housing assistance; many find themselves making desperate choices between returning to an abusive partner to secure financial security or meeting the basic needs of their children...often having to choose to do without food, medicine, or heat in order to make ends meet.

When a woman leaves an abusive partner, she is at increased risk of serious assault or homicide after separation. Battered women who have separated from abusive partners describe living in a state of constant fear and vigilance as they anticipate their abusers stalking them and carrying out threats to kill them and often to kidnap or kill their children as well. Daily functioning is dramatically changed as battered woman must constantly survey their surroundings, scanning the street, parking lots, their own homes each time they return to them in order to protect themselves and their children from the retaliatory violence that has been threatened and that she knows with gut wrenching certainty he is capable of. We owe it to every woman who has been battered to ask the uncomfortable question, "has he threatened to kill you and do you believe that he is capable of killing you?"

Victims of domestic violence often gauge their decision on whether to stay or leave based on what they feel is best for their children and how they can best protect them. Stay and maintain an intact family and financial security or leave and face an uncertain future, potential retaliatory violence, and impossible hardships. Typically the decision changes back and forth again and again throughout the hallmark cyclical phases of abusive relationship tension building period, violence or abusive incident and respite period. As the nature of the relationship changes, swinging from abuse and violence to remorse and promises of change, decision-making becomes complicated. Often battered women choose separation when they determine that the benefit of staying are not worth the devastating effects of domestic violence and abuse on their children.

For more information on the effects of domestic violence and services for children, contact Mary Houtsma, YCS PALS program director, 973-854-3636 or mhoutsma@ycs.org