MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

The Schuyler Center continues to focus on strengthening families and preventing enduring hardships like ill-health, economic insecurity, child welfare involvement, and encounters with juvenile justice. We believe that investment and improvements in certain key areas of policy can significantly impact the lives of many New Yorkers.

Every year during the legislative session in Albany we are prepared with research and data-driven solutions to help end poverty. Our goal is simple: get the attention of our leaders and convince them to make serious long-term investments today that will generate positive outcomes for the long term. The current state of New York proves that plugging holes – addressing immediate needs and visible symptoms – is not enough. New York State stands as the 14th strongest economy in the nation, yet we rank 31st in overall child well-being. We can do better and we can be better.

The decisions our leaders make are key. They can help disrupt systemic inequalities with public policy to benefit young children living in families facing serious adversity. They can invest in policies to ensure equal opportunity for our children.

Imagine. What if New York invested in policies to improve the health and well-being of all New Yorkers in their first three years of life? What if New York focused on the epidemic of youth anxiety and depression? What if New York strengthened its working family tax credits as part of a larger strategy to dramatically reduce child poverty? What if New York expanded access to high-quality child care to all NY families needing it, and paid the child care workforce a family-sustaining wage? And what if New York expanded access to prevention, screening and treatment for maternal depression to all mothers who need it?

These are the policy changes the Schuyler Center believes in and fights for every day. As an agent of change, we know you share the dream. Please tell a friend to join our email list or follow us on Facebook or Twitter. Support on many different levels is needed to make these dreams real. We need as many New Yorkers as possible to work together to create a better tomorrow. Thank you for your support. We truly value your partnership.

Sincerely,

Paul Kaye, M.D.           Kate Breslin
Chair, Board of Trustees        President and CEO
TOXIC STRESS THREATENS THE HEALTH OF NEW YORKERS

New Yorkers with 1 or More Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)

- 45.3% of children ages 0-17 experienced at least 1 ACE
- 38.7% of children ages 0-5 experienced at least 1 ACE
- 59.3% of adults experienced at least 1 ACE
- 13.1% of adults experienced at least 4 or more ACEs

30.3% of those growing up in a family making under $15,000/yr experience 3 or more ACEs.

HIGH COST OF CHILD CARE CREATES ECONOMIC HARDSHIP, PULLS PARENTS OUT OF THE WORKFORCE, AND DEPRIVES CHILDREN OF OPPORTUNITY

The average cost of child care in NY exceeds rent and college tuition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Description</th>
<th>Average Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average monthly child care payment (infant in center)</td>
<td>$1,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median monthly rent</td>
<td>$1,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly SUNY college tuition &amp; fees</td>
<td>$706</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yet, fewer than 20% of NY families with income below 200% of poverty receive subsidies.
WHY PUBLIC POLICY MATTERS and SCHUYLER CENTER’S IMPACT ON IT

Public policy is the manner in which governments – federal, state and local – address issues relevant to the public – taxation, safety, public health and welfare, criminal justice. These policies matter because they affect almost all aspects of people’s lives. While elected officials are charged with passing the laws and public policies, the shaping of those policies is a result of considerable debate and compromise among legislators and those of us outside of government representing the public affected by such policies.

That’s where the Schuyler Center comes in. For nearly 150 years, we have effectively shared data and shined light on the needs of the most disadvantaged New Yorkers. As lobbying has become big business over the years, we have remained independent and a leading voice for New York’s children and families who cannot afford lobbyists.

Our founder, Louisa Lee Schuyler, strongly believed in public policy long before it was described with those words. One of her fundamental and guiding principles was, “that state government can and must be made to work for children and families.” Each year, the staff and Board of Trustees determines Schuyler Center’s policy priorities with Louisa Lee Schuyler’s guiding principle in mind. And while we use modern technologies and data available to us to ensure these priorities are heard by elected leaders, nothing replaces the personal relationships and reputation our staff – as individuals, as the Schuyler team, and as members of critically important coalitions – have with individual lawmakers who make the final decisions.

For 147 years the Schuyler Center has championed the interests of New Yorkers in need. Starting with children in orphanages and poor houses in the late 1800s through our efforts today to protect children and families from the ravages of racism and poverty, we are the voice of the voiceless in Albany. We are politically independent, respected on both sides of the aisle.

— Paul Kaye, M.D.
Chair, Schuyler Center
Board of Trustees
2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES — A LASER FOCUS ON STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

MAKING CHILD CARE MORE AFFORDABLE FOR FAMILIES

- restructure and expand access to quality child care
- fairly pay child care educators
- focus especially on children with special needs and of all cultures

EXPANDING WORKING FAMILY TAX CREDITS

- expand child tax credit to cover children under age 4
- increase percentage of federal EITC credit paid to families
- expand EITC to young adults without children

FOCUSING ON FAMILIES IN CHILD WELFARE

- increase funding for evidence-based preventive services
- strengthen relative and family-based foster care and reduce use of congregate care
- restore State funding for protective and preventive services

LEADING NEW YORK’S FIRST-IN-THE NATION FIRST 1,000 DAYS ON MEDICAID

- partner within and outside State government to ensure robust implementation
- expand work to include cross-sector policies in public health, housing, child care, tax policy child welfare and more

IMPROVING PREVENTION, SCREENING, AND TREATMENT FOR MATERNAL DEPRESSION

- use established research to develop policies that increase screenings and treatment
- develop better measurement tools for maternal depression
- strengthen workforce

WORKING TO PREVENT DENTAL DISEASE IN CHILDREN

- community water fluoridation is the best prevention
- only about 47% of NYS residents (outside of NYC) have optimally fluoridated water
- bring attention to importance of oral health
How You Can Make A Difference

The Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization. Our independence allows us to advocate appropriately and effectively for New York’s most vulnerable residents. We need your financial support to continue meeting our mission of helping those families in the greatest need.

Please visit our website at www.scaany.org.

Easy ways to give:
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO SCHUYLER CENTER

July 2017 - December 2018

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The Health Foundation for Western and Central New York
The New York Community Trust
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