

# NYFS News & Views

*A publication of NYFS - Winter 2012*

[www.nyfs.org](http://www.nyfs.org)

[Print](#) 

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- [King Foundation pledges \\$500,000 to NYFS Capital Campaign](#)
- [NYFS is now on Facebook](#)
- [Mentor a child – change a life](#)
- [NYFS announces Service to Youth Award winners](#)
- [STEP students serve up smiles](#)
- [Thank You NYFS Donors!](#)
- [We want to hear from you...](#)
- [Contact Information](#)

### THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

Archie D. & Bertha H. Walker Foundation | Berger Transfer | Business Data Record Services  
Deluxe Corporation Foundation | Ideacom MidAmerica | ION Corporation | Jostens Foundation  
Land O'Lakes | Lillian Wright and C. Emil Berglund Foundation, Inc. | Medtronic Foundation  
RBC Wealth Management | Roseville Community Fund | Stevens Square Foundation  
Shoreview Community Foundation | Target Foundation | Trillium Family Foundation  
Unity Church Unitarian of St. Paul | Wally McCarthy Cadillac | Western Bank

**If you have any comments or suggestions for future publications, please contact Amelia Maijala at [amelia@nyfs.org](mailto:amelia@nyfs.org)**

## King Foundation pledges \$500,000 to NYFS Capital Campaign

NYFS is pleased to announce that the Peter J. King Family Foundation has pledged \$500,000 in support of our Kay Andrews Discovery and Event Center Capital Campaign. This is the largest one-time pledge in NYFS' history.

"This pledge is a huge step toward meeting our goal of paying off the construction loan for the center," said NYFS President and CEO Jerry Hromatka. "We are excited and grateful to have the King Foundation on board."

The pledge provides \$100,000 in up front money and will contribute an additional \$400,000 in matching funds as they come in. This means that for every dollar pledged by individuals, businesses, civic groups and foundations, the King Foundation will match that donation, dollar for dollar, up to \$400,000. Hromatka notes that once that goal is met, NYFS will be

over halfway to our goal of raising \$2.5 million to completely pay off the construction loan. At the halfway mark, NYFS will be able to contact additional foundations who have already indicated that they will entertain a donation proposal once half the money has been raised.

In addition to the monetary value of the pledge, Hromatka adds that the Discovery Center has already made valuable contributions to the lives of NYFS clients and the surrounding community. During the day, the center is used by severely emotionally and behaviorally disturbed youth enrolled in our NETS program. After school hours, the space is open to youth and families in other NYFS programs and to the general public. Since completion of the center in 2009:

- Visits by NETS students to the behavioral intervention room have dropped by 20% due to the expanded and enhanced learning environment created by the Center.
- NYFS has greatly expanded its after-school programs. Seventy percent of youth involved in our after-school programs at the center have improved their grades in school.
- Thousands of community members have attended events hosted at the center including weddings, corporate events, holiday parties, meetings, a senior expo and exercise classes. All revenue generated from these events is invested back in NYFS programs and services.

Hromatka notes that because the pledge is for the capital campaign, the funds cannot be used for general operating expenses. Fortunately NYFS continues to be fiscally stable even in these difficult economic times. Continued progress toward eliminating the construction loan will strengthen NYFS financial position even further. "It will give us more flexibility and breathing room in the budget," Hromatka said.

In response to the pledge, NYFS is working on finding new ways to garner matching funds. For more information about how you can help the campaign, please contact Jerry Hromatka at 651-379-3404 or email [jerry@nyfs.org](mailto:jerry@nyfs.org).

For more information about Peter J. King Family Foundation, visit them on the web at: <http://www.pjkingfamilyfoundation.org/>

## **NYFS is now on Facebook**

If you are too, please take a moment to like us or leave a comment. We'd like to hear from you! Please click the link here



## **Mentor a child – change a life**

We're glad that mentors come in all shapes and sizes-even extra large. Members of the Minnesota Vikings organization recently proved that point by offering a very special mentoring experience to NYFS youth. Holly Walters, coordinator of NYFS' STEP (Service + Tutoring Equals Pride) program, recently led a group of youth on a field trip to Winter Park facility in Eden Prairie.

"We got to tour the facility and meet other employees besides the players and learn about what it takes to succeed," Walters said. "We also had the chance to meet the players."

She said Vikings players also spoke directly to the kids. "They talked about how much work it takes to make your dreams come true and that nothing is impossible. They really touched on the importance of academics and attending a college and obtaining a degree." A month later, two Vikings players visited NYFS after school programs to reinforce their message and meet the kids in their community.



While not every mentoring event involves the Minnesota Vikings, helping these kids learn how to be successful adults is still a rewarding way to spend your time. If you are interested in learning more about mentoring opportunities at NYFS, please contact Tim Gusk, Director of Youth Development, at [tim@nyfs.org](mailto:tim@nyfs.org) or call 651-379-3406

## **NYFS announces Service to Youth Award winners**

NYFS and the Rotary Club of Arden Hills/Shoreview Rotary is pleased to announce the winners of the 2012 Service to Youth Awards. They are:

- Justus Canfield
- Megan Gjere
- Jackie Hays (Paul Harris Award winner)
- Wayne Powers
- Marvin Sims, Jr.
- Ed Sypniewski

Please join us as we honor their volunteer service on behalf of youth. The award ceremony will be held on Thursday, Feb. 9 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Kay Andrews Discovery & Event Center. The center is located next to NYFS headquarters at 3490 Lexington Ave. N. in Shoreview. Cost to attend is \$30 and includes dinner. Vegetarian meals are available by request.

For more information, please visit us on the web at [www.nyfs.org](http://www.nyfs.org) or contact Sandra Bahr at 651-379-3422

## **STEP students serve up smiles**

Students in NYFS' STEP (Service + Tutoring Equals Pride) program take the "service" portion of their program name very seriously. Over 30 STEP students recently spent three

days serving meals to residents of Presbyterian Homes of Arden Hills.

STEP coordinator Holly Walters said the students chose the activity specifically because it was a great way to help others while also learning about what it takes to be a waiter or waitress.

"Many of these students are looking to apply for wait staff jobs as a way to earn money for college," Walters said. "So they set up this service opportunity to also be a taste of what it would be like to be a real waiter or waitress. They took residents' orders, served the meal, and got valuable feedback on how they did. It was a great experience for them."



The STEP program is designed for middle-school age youth who are not reaching their full academic potential and may be struggling socially. The program challenges them to stretch themselves academically, pursue leadership and service opportunities and learn more about planning for college and post-secondary educational opportunities.

Walters said that students were also encouraged to socialize with residents and ask them about their favorite holiday memory. "The holidays can be a lonely time and it's good for our youth to reach out and make connections with people they might not ordinarily meet."

Since the fall of 2010, STEP students have completed thousands of hours of service to the community and 100% of them have shown improvement in their grades at school. For more information about the STEP program, contact Holly Walters at [holly@nyfs.org](mailto:holly@nyfs.org).

## **Thank You NYFS Donors!**

We at NYFS would like to thank everyone who made year-end donations to support the vital work we do. We are fiscally strong because of generous efforts of people like you. With your help we are able to live out our mission of preparing youth and families for healthy lives

## **We want to hear from you...**

Has your mailing or email address changed recently? Is it going to change soon? Please contact Alex at [alex@nyfs.org](mailto:alex@nyfs.org) and let us know so we can update our records. We make every effort to keep our information as up to date as possible. With your help, we can do an even better job.

Thank you!

# Contact Information

Main number: 651-486-3808  
Fax: 651-486-3858  
NETS Fax: 651-379-3400

## Leadership Team

Jerry Hromatka, President & CEO: 651-379-3404 [jerry@nyfs.org](mailto:jerry@nyfs.org)  
Rachel Cain, Outpatient Mental Health Director: 651-379-3403 [rachel@nyfs.org](mailto:rachel@nyfs.org)  
Jill Buckingham, Day Treatment Services Director: 651-379-3405 [jill@nyfs.org](mailto:jill@nyfs.org)  
Tim Gusk, Community Services Director: 651-379-3406 [tim@nyfs.org](mailto:tim@nyfs.org)  
Ken Pazdernik, Chief Financial Officer: 651-379-3464 [ken@nyfs.org](mailto:ken@nyfs.org)

[Subscribe](#) | [Information](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

3490 Lexington Avenue North, Suite 205 Shoreview, MN 55126  
Tel.: (651) 486 3808 - Fax: (651) 486-3858  
Copyright NYFS 2011 - All rights reserved