

## **Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame**

### **Archive Project**

#### ***Inception to Induction***

### **Mothers' Center Hicksville National Association of Mothers' Centers**

**Year of Founding:** 1975

**Issues Addressed:** Work/Life Issues of Mothers

**Induction Category & Year:** Family Support, 2005

**Founders:** The Honorable Hope Zimmerman (inductee), Patsy Turini, Lorri Slepian, and Linda Juergens (Executive Director)

**Personal Quote from Linda Juergens:** "You have to be a part of the change."

**History:** The vision for the Mothers' Center was Patsy Turrini. She was a clinical social worker who was curious about the experience of mothers through childbirth, adoption, and pregnancy. She also had children herself. She wanted to hear feedback and to know more information and explore what other mothers felt throughout their journey of becoming a new mother, and about the transition from before to after the births of their children. Many patients were struggling to raise their children and the women felt they had no confidence in the role that became a job for them, "mother". The mothers felt alone and didn't know where to go to for help. Turrini started a research study that included four women who met to discuss the issues they were dealing with and solutions to solve them. The discussions became very helpful to the women, and when Patsy Turrini's research came to an end, the women (led by the Honorable Hope Zimmerman) created the first Mothers' Center in January, 1975 in Hicksville under the Family Service Association of Nassau County. During those formative years, Judge Zimmerman wrote their first grant proposal to the Veitch Committee for some initial funding for the Center and edited the first manual that was used to replicate the first center. Judge Zimmerman currently sits on the Board of Directors of the NAMC and is a former co-chair. Since the Mothers' Center rapidly grew in Nassau, the organization decided to open one in Suffolk. Another member of the center enjoyed her work in the organization but she had to move. She then decided to continue the growth and opened one in St. Louis. Since 1975, the Mothers' Center has grown rapidly and has opened ten centers in New York and thirty centers in other states and expanded to the web world using social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and also using their own website.

**Agency Mission:** The National Association of Mothers' Centers offers a second home to mothers. NAMC offers skills and solutions for mothers who have low confidence and don't feel they are able to handle the responsibility that is involved in such a great transition in life. Although the organization doesn't have all the funds they would like to have, they still seek many various ways to help these women get through with their daily life. This is why they do outreach to show Long Island what NAMC has to offer and what they can do to help these mothers. The agency is filled with mothers who have answers to all questions that any mother has. NAMC is trying to make a difference and prevent mothers,

especially teen moms, from being looked down upon and unable to receive help. The main goal is to try to expand this agency and get more mothers involved and see how NAMC can help them out.

**Scope of Activities:** NAMC is a service that is open to mothers who are single, divorced, newly married and the list continues. NAMC has group discussions where different topics are discussed every week. The topics can be anything from, “How to Teach My Child to Be Potty Trained?” to “What Skills Can I Use to Strengthen My Relationships?” NAMC also holds fundraisers for various occasions One at the one at the end of April is “Miles for Mothers.” It is an event that mothers and also children and family members can participate in by walking a mile to see how it is to be in a mother’s shoes. Donations are made to honor mothers in addition to mothers who died. Dinners, brunches, parties for kids, spring parties, Halloween parties and “Summer for Fun” are other activities that are organized for mothers and their children to interact and pick up communication skills. Also, a National Conference is held to provide information for any mothers who want to know how to run a Mothers’ Center, what topics should be discussed, or just to browse and give ideas. The National Conference has made a big difference and so far NAMC has held 23 conferences. Another conference that is also held by the NAMC since 1996 is the Work Conference. The Work Conference was created for employers to offer flexibility for workers to make a profit. This conference is to get employers to understand and try to come to an agreement to help mothers and provide for their families.

**Volunteer Involvement:** The organization NAMC consists of volunteers. The mothers are the volunteers in this committee and, as Linda states, the mothers are the “Steering Community.” These volunteer mothers have control and come up with discussions and activities. They also have volunteers for Child Care when mothers come in for discussion and don’t want to bring the children so there are volunteers to watch them.

**Affiliates:** The organization has been affiliated with many other organizations, such as Madonna House and SNAP. Since NAMC doesn’t have the funds to provide mothers with homes or certain supplies for teen moms, these organizations help the mothers until they have the strength and funds to get back on their feet.

**Future Plans:** NAMC future plans are to continue to grow and to let all mothers know that NAMC is place where someone will understand you as a mother.

**Contact Information:**

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**Submitted by:  
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