

At the Center for Family Representation, we firmly believe that *every family matters*

Our mission is to provide families in crisis with free legal assistance and social work services **to enable children to stay with their parents safely**. We strive to keep children out of foster care whenever possible, and for those in care, we work to shorten their separation from families, friends, and schools.

Our model provides families at risk of separation a **lawyer, a social worker, and a Parent Advocate**—a trained professional who has experienced the child welfare system and can empathize with the struggles vulnerable families face.

Our reach is broad and expanding. We have served **2,700 families** since our founding in 2002 and consistently keep **50% of children** out of foster care and keep foster care stays to an average of just **four months**. We serve **500 families** per year in Manhattan and due to our success there we received a contract to serve **600 families** per year in Queens. We began serving clients there in January 2011. We also provide training on our interdisciplinary model to child welfare practitioners across the city, state, and country to give families everywhere the chance to stay together.

Our clients are especially vulnerable—**100% live in poverty**. 95% are people of color and 80% are women. 27% are under age 25 and a third of these young clients have experienced foster care. Our clients struggle with issues like domestic violence, substance abuse, homelessness, and mental illness, which our teams help them to overcome through intensive, individualized services.

Our financial impact is significant. Our services cost just \$5,900 per family, regardless of the length of the case or number of children, as opposed to a minimum of \$29,000 per year to keep a child in foster care. **In one year, CFR's services save taxpayers \$9 million.**

Learn more at: www.cfrny.org

