

Fairfield County Leadership Council 2018 Year in Review



January – We kicked the year off in cool style with a Winter Whites Cocktail Party at the Aspetuck Valley Country Club. Our thanks to host Bernie, as well as to Anne Troxell, Debbie Prister and Jen Gruen for their creative touches to make the night a winter wonderland! New and old friends mingled and danced, and the evening created a great feeling of goodwill for Save the Children.

February – Bernie had the opportunity to visit our programs in Puerto Rico to see our recovery efforts after Hurricane Maria. Almost 5 months after the storm struck, the devastation was still so evident. It was moving to see our international staff and local partners bonded in the mission to help families rebuild their lives. Bernie came back and wrote a blog about her experience.



March – Council members gathered at Save the Children's office on a snowy day to hear Carlos Carrazana, our COO, who was raised in Puerto Rico, discuss the toll of Hurricane Maria on children and their families, and the relief work that Save the Children has provided from the earliest days. Your Individual Philanthropy friends also took the occasion to review recent trips to see our work in the field, and recommend that more of you take advantage of this unique opportunity!



March also marked our annual Advocacy Summit in Washington D.C. Bernie and Anne attended with their daughters Katie and Leila. They had the opportunity to meet the Save the Children Action Network team, journalists, and policy experts, and learned the basics of advocacy. Then they had the chance to put their learning to work, and went to Capitol Hill to meet their Congressional leaders and advocate on behalf of Save the Children's goals of early education for all, and maternal and newborn health.

April – April belonged to "the Sheilas." Sheila Clancy and Sheila Sullivan graciously hosted our 2nd annual fundraising luncheon at the Brooklawn County Club. Guests gathered to learn about our *Return to Learning Fund* - our bold aim to ensure that every refugee child is back in an educational setting within 30 days of being displaced from their homes. Save the Children's own Maha Karahmad, a Syrian refugee, joined and shared her personal stories about life on the move. We also had a surprise guest in Deo Byakisaka, a Congolese native, who told the crowd about his daughter, who was educated in a refugee camp by Save the Children and was just accepted to Smith College!



May – We were happy to invite Council members back to our office, this time to hear Sara Hommel present our signature program Healing and Education through the Arts (HEART). It was an intimate discussion with very active Q&A. Sara was touched by the level of keen interest in social and emotional healing for children, things that are too often forgotten in times of emergency and crisis.



July – Joan Panagos and her daughter Lucy traveled to South Carolina to visit our work. They were able to see our Early Steps to School Success and Summer Boost programs, and had the opportunity to go on a home visit.

August – Lauri Posner co-hosted a lovely event in Nantucket, MA focusing on the global refugee crisis. Maha Karahmad was able to inspire more people at this gathering as well.

September – All Save the Children regional councils attend an educational session at headquarters. Nora O'Connell shared an inspirational video and reviewed our programs and advocacy aimed at achieving gender equality around the world. Lucy Roche reviewed plans for our approaching Centennial Anniversary

Year and ways that the councils can help us celebrate.

November – It was awesome to see so many of you at our annual Illumination Gala at the Museum of Natural History in NYC! It was a night of celebration and inspiration, with special appearances by Jennifer Garner, Kelly Ripa, and David Muir. For the first time we formed a Benefits Committee to help in planning the event - a huge thanks to to Bernie, Joan and Laurie for being a part of the committee. Many thanks also go to Debbie Prister for attending and having friends join as her guests, and to Barbara and Joan for being a part of the special night too.



December – The Fairfield County Youth Council held a Dodgeball Throwdown event at Weston High School. They had students from Hopkins and Weston High School participate. The tournament raised \$4,720 for Save the Children's mission support fund! This was an amazing accomplishment thanks to all who attended. Everyone invited friends, got the word out and most of the council attended.