Staten Island Children’s Mental Health Society, Inc.

Annual Report 2015

Celebrating 120 Years of Serving Staten Island Children
We salute the members of our 
120 Club 
and thank them for their generosity and support.

Gary Applebaum  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Cambria  
Carl & Grace Campagna  
Sally & Richard Carp  
Robert S. Cutrona Sr.  
Robert Cutrona Jr., Esq.  
Anthony DeFazio  
Arlene & John Donovan  
Victoria Drumbakis  
Alfred Gill Jr.  
Rita Giovanucci  
John D. Hogan  
Francine & Tom Iliceto  
Anne & Frank Mondello  
Deeptha Nedunchezian, MD  
Elizabeth & Vincent Palagiano  
Lois & Dr. Kenneth Popler  
Marsha Rubenstein  
Mildred Safar  
David Silver  
Jennifer & John Tapinis  
Gary Timblin  
Roberta Vogel, PhD

Join our “120 Club” and become a valued *STAR* member of the Society.  
Ensure that our services continue to support Staten Island children and families.  
For more information on the 120 Club visit www.simhs.org.
Entering a New Era in Mental Health

As we mark the end of our 120th year of service to Staten Island children and families, we also mark the beginning of a new era in health care: to produce better outcomes, the health care environment is changing dramatically by stressing community-based holistic care for both mind and body in one setting. The Society is in the forefront of this shift, while maintaining our status as the Island’s go-to agency for children’s mental health/behavioral health services.

During 2015, New York State received a groundbreaking federal waiver totaling $6.42 billion (Staten Island’s share is $217.1 million) generated by Medicaid redesign. This Delivery System Reform Incentive Program is already shifting the bulk of physical and behavioral health care from hospitals or inpatient psych units to shared community settings. The goal is to achieve a 25 percent reduction in preventable ER visits and preventable readmissions within five years.

In our role as lead provider of behavioral health services to Staten Island children, young adults and families, we are already developing and promoting community-level collaborations with our sister agencies and medical providers - partnering with the Island’s hospitals to bring our professional clinicians into their outpatient clinics and urgi-centers and inviting primary care doctors to open offices in our mental health clinic settings.

We are in the process of forming a strategic alliance with Richmond University Medical Center. The synergy between our two institutions will lead to expansion and strengthening of community-based integrated primary care and behavioral health services for all of our residents.

We know that this collaborative process will work, as we experienced after Hurricane Sandy, with our Mobile Integrated Health Team. In various locations, SIMHS clinicians worked side-by-side with medical professionals from Community Health Action of Staten Island to provide both psychological and physical health care to individuals and families traumatized by the Superstorm. During its three years of operation, the team successfully treated thousands of Islanders.

Despite still coping with economic uncertainties on every level, the SIMHS has much to be proud of and much more to anticipate in the coming years.

Our skilled staff of more than 200, 500 devoted volunteers and hundreds of community supporters enable us to continue to meet the needs of a growing population. Although we have had to adapt to new funding streams, regulations, and policies, our stellar clinical, day treatment, early childhood, substance abuse treatment, vocational, social and support services for children, teens, young adults and families, as well as our sought-out programs for the developmentally/intellectually challenged, are still singled out for their longevity and success.

SIMHS will always honor its mission to provide access to high-quality comprehensive services for children and families with special needs and to raise the quality of their lives. We are proud of our resilience and our ability to say to every child, “We are your friend, your voice, your advocate, and your ally. We are here when you need us.”

Fern A. Zagor, LCSW, ACSW
President/CEO

John G. Tapinis
Chair, Board of Directors
Outpatient Clinical Services

Chait Children’s Mental Health Center
Dr. Kenneth Popler Children’s Center
South Shore Children’s Mental Health Center

SIMHS outpatient mental health centers provide comprehensive diagnostic and therapeutic treatment services for children and young adults (to age 26) and their families. Medicaid and some third-party insurance accepted. Fees on a sliding scale. Evening and Saturday hours available.

Early Recognition Screening

Parents can assess the state of their child’s mental health by filling out a simple questionnaire, available at a number of community sites, that asks about the child’s behavior at home and in school. An SIMHS clinician determines whether the youngster has emotional/behavioral needs that should be addressed by a professional.

Day Treatment Centers

PS 25/IS 25 (West Brighton)
South Richmond High School (Tottenville)

The NYC Department of Education curriculum is combined with intense therapeutic services for children, ages 6 to 18, with severe emotional or behavioral challenges. Small classes led by caring special education teachers allow each student to work at his/her own pace. In the high school division, 60 students learn the academic curriculum, enhanced with work-study and other off-site educational/vocational/socialization opportunities. Almost all of our graduates have moved on to college.
**Health Services**

**On-Site**

**School Mental Health Program**

PS14/78; PS 44; PS 57; IS 27; IS 49

Our highly qualified professional clinicians provide school-based therapeutic services for at-risk students, with additional evening services for parents.

**Teen Center**

North Shore (St. George)
South Shore (Great Kills)
Chait Mental Health Center (West Brighton)

Abuse of all illegal drugs and alcohol by adolescents on Staten Island remains higher than the city average, and the borough has been marked by the nation’s heroin epidemic. The Teen Center - our state-certified outpatient chemical dependency treatment program - provides intensive substance abuse treatment services exclusively for adolescents and young adults, using an evidence-based approach that heals both body and mind. Teen Center also provides therapeutic services to children of substance abusers, to adolescents who have turned to drugs or alcohol as a reaction to the trauma of Hurricane Sandy or other events, and offers DUI/DWI screening and referral. Doubling down on our efforts, the Society continues its priority role in the community by leading borough-wide campaigns to stem these pernicious addiction problems.

**SafeTY.net**

SafeTY.net serves adolescents and young adults, 16 to 23, living with mental health challenges. The innovative program helps to develop their crucial educational, vocational, housing, and community living needs as they transition to adulthood. Therapy is complemented by work experience, academic advancement, and social opportunities to help them mature into mentally healthy grown-ups.

**Superstorm Sandy Services**

We continued to guide children and families who are still suffering trauma caused by the worst storm in a century. To promote their recovery, we provided a range of mental health and related services in their homes, schools and community settings, including our camp-like Summer Therapeutic Program and the Mobile Integrated Health Team, in partnership with Community Health Action of Staten Island, that offered side-by-side crucial medical and mental health services. Our Sandy programs operated through most of the year, and a number of school-based and day care center-based mental health and resiliency training services will continue into 2016.
Clinical Services

Skilled professional clinicians and physicians work together to provide comprehensive counseling, assessments, speech/language therapies, education, and support programs for more than 1,500 individuals of all ages challenged with developmental, intellectual, or neurological disabilities. The team also conducts interdisciplinary evaluations for children 3 to 5 years old who require the specialized preschool services provided in our Head Start Integrated Classrooms.

Head Start Integrated Classrooms

In two classrooms at the Osgood Head Start/Early Learn Center, 20 mainstream children and 20 children with diagnosed disabilities share the nationally recognized curriculum that combines learning, play, socialization and culture. Pouch Center special education teachers and Head Start teachers work together to manage the classrooms. Special education and related services, including counseling and speech, language, physical and occupational therapies, are delivered on site.

Training in Parenting Skills (TIPS)

In our innovative TIPS program, families in which one or both parents are developmentally challenged meet weekly for group education and discussion, counseling, and social activities to help them develop better family and parenting skills, with the added benefit of long-lasting friendships. During meetings, their children meet with Pouch Center staff for learning and social activities.

Additional Services

Club Saturday: Therapeutic socialization group for children, ages 8 to 11, who are challenged by autism spectrum disorders.

SUCCESS (SUpport, Counseling, Conversation, Education, Socializing Skills) Group:
Weekly group meeting for adults with mild developmental challenges provides a space for them to share their diverse concerns and experiences.

SIDDSO (Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Services Office): SIMHS clinicians provide assessments and speech and physical therapies for DDSO-based clients.
SIMHS was a pioneer in developing Head Start programs and services that advance positive social, emotional and cognitive development in young children. Our Dongan Hills, Kingsley, Osgood and Port Richmond Day Nursery Head Start Centers served 395, 3 and 4-year-olds whose parents met mandated income guidelines. Each of the 18 classrooms at our four sites reflects the children’s multi-cultural backgrounds and teachers are bi-lingual. Thirteen Universal Pre-Kindergarten classrooms operate within the four sites; Dongan Hills is fully devoted to Pre-K.

The programs’ mental health components, supported by continuing government and private grants, proved especially relevant at the Dongan Hills Center, where most of the 57 preschoolers are still feeling the effects of Hurricane Sandy. One of the first Head Start programs in the nation, Dongan Hills celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015, and as a most welcome gift received urgently needed City Council funding to operate for at least another year.

In the two Integrated (inclusion) Preschool Classrooms at the Osgood Center, 20 children with special needs learn and play with 20 mainstream peers, helping all to develop their strengths and overcome their weaknesses.

Head Start parents have a strong voice in program planning, activities, and overall decision-making. Families receive an array of support services including medical and dental care, vocational planning, educational assistance, family skills training, and referrals.
We Remember

Gala honoree Robert Cutrona, Sr. (2nd l.) and his wife Jennifer (l.) with Gala Chair Victoria Drumbakis, SIMHS President/CEO Fern Zagor, and Board Chair John Tapinis.

Gala guests danced the night away at the Hilton’s Above Ballroom.

At Snug Harbor’s Neptune Ball, Children’s Theatre Association Director Rosemarie Callahan accepted the Captain Randall Award for her service to Staten Island youth.

The Rotary Club of Staten Island celebrated the gift-giving season at their annual Holiday Luncheon for students who attend our Day Treatment Center.

SIMHS President/CE0 Fern Zagor with Women’s Guild Spring Luncheon honorees from Marine Corps League, Det. 246, sponsor of the Toys for Tots campaign that distributes thousands of toys to Island children with special needs.

Our School Reading Volunteer Program got a boost with a $10,000 grant from the Northfield Savings Bank, presented to President Zagor (c.) by Northfield Executive Director Diane Senerchia.
The Year Past

The vibrant voice of Franc D’Ambrosio, internationally known singer, actor, and the world’s longest-starring “Phantom of the Opera,” enchanted guests at the Pouch Auxiliary Fall Fundraiser.

The singer joined SIMHS Board Chair John Tapinis and his wife Jennifer after the show.

Society President/CEO Fern Zagor presented City Council Minority Leader Steven Matteo with the Dr. Richard M. Silberstein Memorial Award for his extraordinary service to Staten Island children with special needs.

Our Women’s Guild and staff enjoyed a hearty repast with members of the Knights of Columbus’ Drumgoole Council at its annual All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast that benefits children served by the Society.

The TD Bank branch in Port Richmond Center sponsored a “Bring Change” fundraiser to benefit our Children’s Theatre Association. The talented children performed as donors dropped off their change.
Volunteer Programs

SI Children’s Theatre Association

Since the 1960s, the Children’s Theatre Association has thrived as a self-sustaining program that is both a cultural resource for Island children and a source of positive mental health through the arts. The Performing Arts Company, now in its 33rd year, nurtures youngsters from 5 to 18 in developing their stage talents, self-confidence, communication skills and commitment to teamwork, during year-round musical theater workshops for two age groups. “Annie” and “Sleeping Beauty, KIDS” were among their 2015 performances on Island stages that delighted school and family audiences.

The cast of “Annie”

SI School Reading Volunteer Program

Reading comprehension is a crucial preparation for life. Our School Reading Volunteer Program, founded in 1960, has helped thousands of public elementary school students learn the ABCs and discover the joys of reading. Critical skills learned through reading improve confidence and overall mental health. In 2015, our more than 200 trained volunteers donated 15,600 hours to over 1,000 children in 30 schools, bringing the motto, “Open a Book, Open a Mind” to life.

Reading Volunteer chairpersons joined SIMHS staff at the Kick-Off Breakfast.
Volunteer Services

The Society is truly fortunate to enjoy the services of more than 500 volunteers who generously donate their time, energy and resources to plan and support exciting fundraisers and other events.

The Board of Directors provides oversight of our policies and programs, ensuring that crucial services for Island families continue without interruption.

The Annual Gala, overseen by a dedicated committee of Women’s Guild and Pouch Auxiliary members, staff, and community leaders, is our primary yearly fundraiser. The Guild and Auxiliary also sponsor the yearly Spring Luncheon, Fall Dinner-Show and $10,000 Raffle; deliver holiday food baskets to families served by Pouch Center programs; donate school supplies to PS 25 students; and plan and participate in activities for and with the children.

Volunteer Foster Grandmothers provide assistance to teachers and warm affection to the preschoolers in Head Start classrooms.

Thrift Shops

A corps of hard-working volunteers staff and manage our “bargain boutiques” in Great Kills and Tottenville, assisted by the South Shore Clinic Committee. All proceeds support SIMHS, and over the years have added thousands of dollars to our coffers. Furthermore, low prices benefit shoppers on limited budgets. Tax-deductible donations of clothing, housewares, and other items are welcomed at each thrift shop.

SIMHS President Fern Zagor announced the winning ticket at the $10,000 Raffle.

Volunteer and Advisory Committee Chairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEAD START PARENTS’ COMMITTEES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dongan Hills - Mary Seton, chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingsley - Stacey Singh, chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Osgood - Rasma McCollin, chair</td>
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<td>Port Richmond - Kareema Curry, chair</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEAD START DELEGATE AGENCY POLICY COMMITTEE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stacey Singh, chair</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION #242</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PS 25 - DAY TREATMENT CENTER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robin Cocozza, president</td>
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<td>James McKeon, principal</td>
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<tr>
<th>SOUTH SHORE CLINIC COMMITTEE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Janet Kalriess, president</td>
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<tr>
<th>STATEN ISLAND CHILDREN’S THEATRE ASSOCIATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rosemarie Callahan, director</td>
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<tr>
<th>THRIFT SHOPS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Kills - Cheryl Keohan, president</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tottenville - Maria Morio, president</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WOMEN’S AUXILIARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELIZABETH W. POUCH CENTER FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Palagiano &amp; Paulette Russo, co-presidents</td>
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<tr>
<th>WOMEN’S GUILD</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATEN ISLAND MENTAL HEALTH SOCIETY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivian Carbonaro, president (7/14-6/15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fran Habib, president (7/15-6/16)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Board of Directors - 2015

Chair
John G. Tapinis

Vice Chair
Robert S. Cutrona, Jr., Esq.

Treasurer
Anthony J. DeFazio

Secretary
Elizabeth Palagiano

Honorary Directors
Janet Kalriess • *Ronna Lasher • *Mark Marcario
Rev. William Merryman

Directors
Nancy Myers Benbow
Christine Cea, PhD
* Robert Conti
Robert De Gennaro
Victoria Drumbakis
Ronald A. Gregg, Esq.
* John Hogan
Laura Kennedy
Al Lambert
* Former Chairs

Robin Lefkowitz
Bernadette Paulo
Michael Prendamano
Nancy Shanaphy
Stacey Singh
Deeptha Nedunchezian Sithian, MD
Sharde Thomas
Roberta Vogel, PhD
Linda Wilson

Management Team - 2015

Aruna Agni, MD
Rose Marie Belfini
Rosemarie Callahan
Roseann Catania
Patchara Changpertitum
Laura Chernoff
Carmen Chisvette
Jayne Cooper
Ancilla Cuffy
Lenora DePrimo
Maria Fazzolari
Linda Ferrigno
Joan Fisher
Cheryl Gonzalez-Thevenot
Steven Johnsen
Eileen Joseph
Janet Klein
Ruth Liberman
Geraldine Matthews
Alicia Melendez
Clifford A. Mevs, MD
Robert Morrison, Psy.D
Yezenia Ortiz
Rosemary Pannese
John Petillo
Lucille Sharp
Michael Skinner
Robin Sklarin
Peggy Spurling
Maryann Strifflolino
Elizabeth Traynor
Patricia Verardi
Lydia Walsh
Fern A. Zagor

Memorials
2015

Irma Conti
Joan McTeigue
Eleanor Rivello
### Services to Staten Island Children

**for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Children &amp; Family Service Visits</th>
<th>Unduplicated Individuals Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children's Community Mental Health Center</td>
<td>50,318</td>
<td>1,621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth W. Pouch Center for Special People</td>
<td>11,270</td>
<td>1,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>55,955</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Reading Volunteer Program</td>
<td>15,600</td>
<td>1,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane Sandy-Related Programs</td>
<td>10,704</td>
<td>628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>143,847</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,144</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>
# Financial Report

for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th>CHILDREN’S COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER</th>
<th>ELIZABETH W. POUCH CENTER FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE</th>
<th>STATE EDUCATION INTEGRATED PROGRAM</th>
<th>DAY CARE &amp; HEAD START</th>
<th>NON-GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS AND PROGRAMS</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York City Contracts</td>
<td>843,727</td>
<td>322,000</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1,165,727</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health and Mental Hygiene</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>44,250</td>
<td>780,532</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>824,782</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration for Children’s Services</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>5,481,792</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>5,481,792</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees for Service</td>
<td>4,023,552</td>
<td>828,388</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>4,851,940</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City and State Grants</td>
<td>3,235,002</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>3,235,002</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration for Children’s Services</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>52,426</td>
<td>217,914</td>
<td>270,340</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous revenues</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>521,579</td>
<td>521,579</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-governmental revenues</td>
<td>388,247</td>
<td>382,203</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>126,476</td>
<td>1,641,479</td>
<td>2,538,406</td>
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**TOTAL REVENUES** 8,490,528 1,576,841 780,532 5,660,694 1,859,393 18,367,988

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPERATING EXPENSES</th>
<th>SALARIES &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</th>
<th>5,304,702</th>
<th>839,730</th>
<th>410,418</th>
<th>2,968,014</th>
<th>177,093</th>
<th>9,699,957</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits</td>
<td>2,028,840</td>
<td>279,787</td>
<td>179,295</td>
<td>978,766</td>
<td>19,627</td>
<td>3,486,317</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Operating expenses</td>
<td>2,227,012</td>
<td>470,437</td>
<td>51,678</td>
<td>1,699,050</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>4,493,177</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>282,275</td>
<td>282,275</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-governmental expenses</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>521,579</td>
<td>521,579</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL EXPENSES** 9,605,554 1,589,954 641,391 5,645,830 1,000,574 18,483,303

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES</th>
<th>% TO TOTAL</th>
<th>MANAGEMENT &amp; GENERAL EXPENSES</th>
<th>949,865</th>
<th>5.14%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fund Raising Expenses</td>
<td>340,110</td>
<td>1.84%</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Expenses</td>
<td>17,193,328</td>
<td>93.02%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES** (1,115,026) (13,113) 139,141 14,864 858,819 (115,315)

| STARTING NET ASSETS | 3,263,377 |
| ENDING NET ASSETS | 2,599,558 |

The books, accounts and fiscal practices of the Staten Island Mental Health Society, Inc. are audited on an annual basis by Neral & Company, CPAs, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and government auditing standards. The data presented above summarize these findings.
Annual Report 2015