FamilyKind

Strengthening Families, One Step at a Time.

Impact Report 2024

Table of Contents

1. OUR STORY
2. WHAT WE DO
3. MEET THE FAMILY
4. THE FAMILYKIND FOOTPRINT
5. FUELING OUR GROWTH
6. GLOBAL NEWS ROUNDUP
7. HOW YOU CAN HELP
8. OUR STAFF
9. OUR BOARD
10. INSTITUTIONAL & FOUNDATIONAL SUPPORTERS

Our Story

...so far

FOUNDER'S LETTER

As a Court Attorney and Court Attorney Referee for over 25 years in the NYC Family Courts, I witnessed the devastating effects of family conflict, particularly on children caught in the middle between warring spouses. I recognized there was a critical need for accessible services to support families in these vulnerable moments of transition and beyond.

In 2012, along with like-minded professionals, I founded FamilyKind, after funding cuts decimated the parent education and mediation services to families in the New York Family Court System. My vision for FamilyKind is to be a supportive community resource and ally for every family, by providing essential guidance and tools to help foster healthy dynamics and build resilience on the path of co-parenting.

Divorce and separation affect our entire society and navigating the process successfully requires a village. FamilyKind aims to be that village.



Lesley Friedland
Founder & Executive Director

"For the first time, I feel a sense of optimism that peace may be lasting between me and my co-parent. ***We may just be able to build a new type of family together.***"

THE VISION

A world where families navigate challenges, including separation and divorce, with less conflict, prioritizing the well-being of children.

THE MISSION

To empower families to make informed choices and reduce the negative impact of challenges, including family transition, on children, fostering healthy parenting relationships.

A look into what we do

FamilyKind's services and classes promote child-centered approaches and work with other professionals in the best interests of children.

PARENT EDUCATION

Helping parents understand the complexities and challenges that they and their children experience by providing them with research-based, culturally responsive information and practical strategies.

"The class is nonjudgmental and gives me hope"

"I absolutely love and enjoyed this class. I feel empowered now with all the skills and tips that were given to me."

"I learned new skills and reinforced things that I knew that I could improve upon"

MEDIATION SERVICES

Our professional mediators help couples navigate the issues of parenting time, support, and equitable distribution. This process gives adults tools with which to handle various situations that may arise in the future.

"Our FamilyKind mediator was smart, skilled, savvy and professional. Under her guidance, we agreed upon the terms of a separation, a parenting plan, and are now addressing our finances. I am so glad that we have been able to make so much progress."

PARENTING COORDINATION (PC)

Parenting Coordinators provide high-conflict parents with tools, methods and recommendations to establish effective co-parenting strategies so that their children can thrive.

"No other professional has been able to handle our situation as well as our coordinator. Our PC has been very responsive to our tough situations whenever needed. She has helped us work out many co-parenting bumps in the road."



Call (929) 479-2975 or (212) 769-3057 or email info@familykind.org for a free, private consultation, or for more information.

Meet the Family

Just like a family, FamilyKind's success depends on a network of people working together.



OUR CORE TEAM

A person's first interaction with FamilyKind is through our Core Team which connects individuals with the right FamilyKind consultant based on the family's objectives and needs.

OUR DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS

Our team has the privilege of working with our own network of highly-trained consultants that bring a multitude of skill sets including experts in mediation, parenting coordination, coaching, and parenting education.





OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board is comprised of devoted volunteer professionals who represent diverse specialties including matrimonial law, mediation, finance and mental health.

"It has been, and continues to be an honor for me to offer my services to these families as a mediator consultant, so that they can move forward with their lives in the best way possible and with the least emotional damage to their children."



VOLUNTEERS

Our FamilyKind volunteers offer their time year-round, including during key events, such as our annual Gala.



ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our vibrant group of professionals donate their expertise to help FamilyKind succeed in all of its endeavors.

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The FamilyKind Footprint

In 2024, we served more families than ever.



We have positively impacted over **500 children** by supporting their parents, focusing on child-centered approaches during separations to prioritize children's needs and well-being.



Managed **over 500 inquiries** providing support to individuals during vulnerable times to ensure they receive tailored care



Expertly assisted **130+ individuals** through mediation and parenting coordiation



Upskilled **650+ parents & caregivers** through parent education services

Projected numbers utilizing data collected as of November 15th 2024.

FamilyKind aims to provide high-quality services while transforming the culture of divorce and separation. Our goal is to shift the focus from a litigious mindset to educating families on achieving healthy separations, thereby minimizing negative impacts on children.

OUR REACH

FamilyKind provides in-person, virtual, live, and online self-paced services to families in all five boroughs of New York City, Long Island, Westchester and beyond. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our services have been extended to accommodate families nationally and internationally.

OUR VILLAGE & COMMITMENT TO REDUCE BARRIERS

We are committed to being a safe, inclusive and diverse resource for all families, offering services in multiple languages and building our cultural awareness and responsiveness to better serve our clientele.

Currently, **32%** of our families are low and lower-middle income groups. FamilyKind is proud to offer sliding-scale fees and free services to those below the poverty line.

50% of FamilyKind's clients self-identified as BIPOC, a reflection of our commitment to reaching diverse communities. We offer services in numerous languages, including Spanish, Mandarin, Russian and French.

We serve couples who were never married and people in the LGBTQI community as they recouple and form blended families.

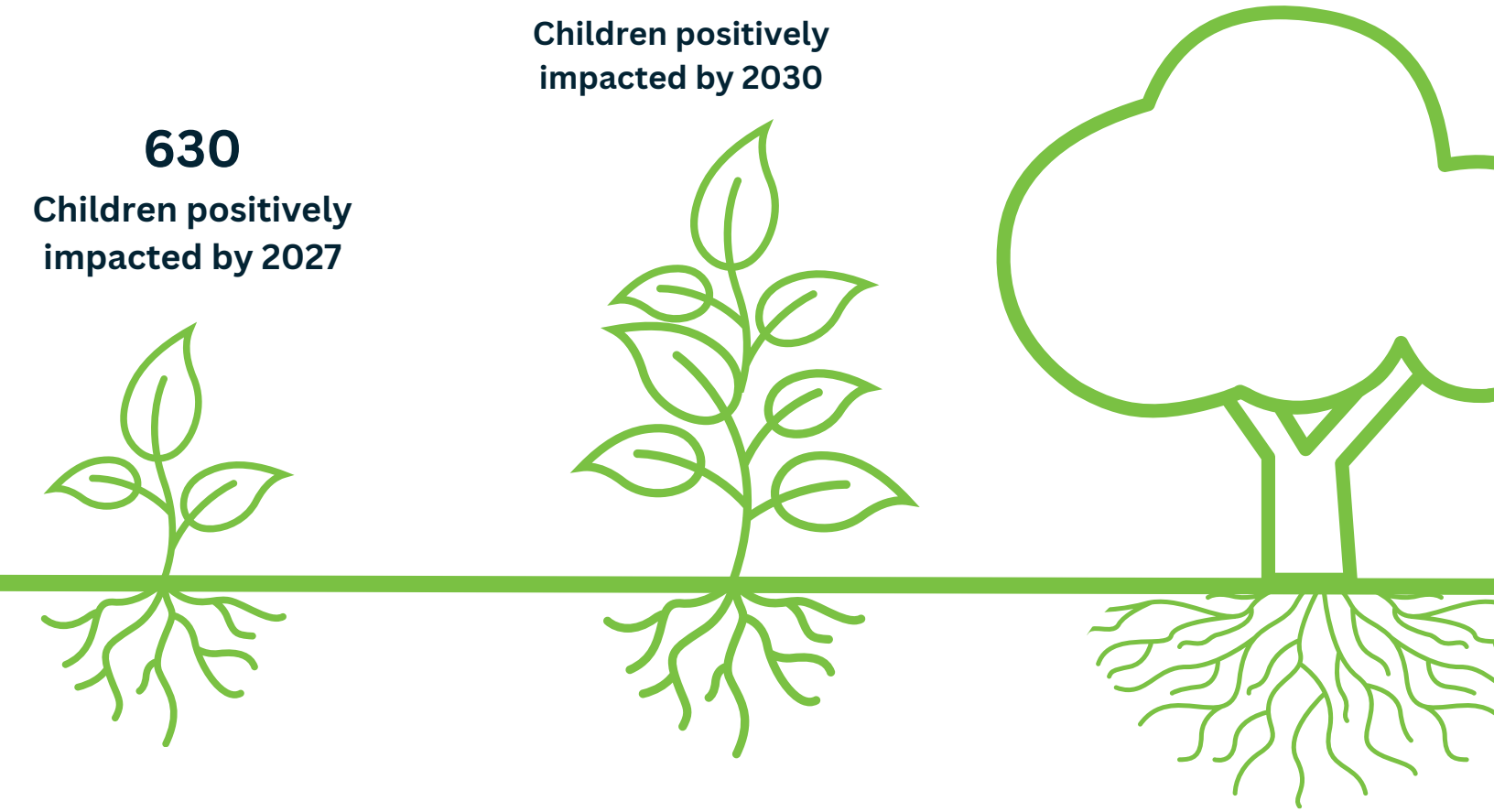
How your contributions fuel our growth

Like a “family” tree, your contributions are the lifeblood of our shared ecosystem, creating a legacy that will flourish for generations to come.

630
Children positively impacted by 2027

750
Children positively impacted by 2030

1,000
Children positively impacted by 2035



Our next 3 years

Workforce Focus
Our goal is to enhance our staffing to ensure that all essential roles receive the necessary support.

Our next 5 years

Expand our reach
We aim to expand our donor base in order to attract more clients and connect with as many individuals in need as possible.

Our next 10 years

Helping families to weather the storm
We are working towards establishing ourselves as a safe harbor, meeting the various needs of divorcing and separating families and beyond.

Call (929) 479-2975 or (212) 769-3057 or email info@familykind.org for a free, private consultation, or for more information.

Global News Roundup

FamilyKind aims to transform the cultural narrative surrounding divorce. Throughout the year, we share news and opinion articles that illuminate the intricacies of contemporary family dynamics.

Here are some highlights from our monthly summaries.

JAN

Revealing Divorce Statistics in 2024

Christy Bieber, J.D.,
Forbes,
January 8, 2024

FEB

Leaving 'Mr. Mom' Behind

Kelly Marie Coyne,
The New York Times,
Updated February 20, 2024

MAR

Buying Houses Before Finding Spouses

Deborah Kamin,
The New York Times,
March 1, 2024

APRIL

Mutual Orders Of Protection: Do They Harm Or Protect?

Patricia Fersch,
Forbes,
April 19, 2024

MAY

Japan's Diet Passes Bill To Allow Joint Custody After Divorce

Kyodo News,
All Japan
May 17, 2024

JUNE

Why These Chinese Working Mothers Don't Want More Babies

Isabelle Qian,
The New York Times,
June 18, 2024

JULY

National Child-Centered Divorce Month

AUG

You Don't Need a French Vineyard to Have a Prolonged Divorce

Gina Cherelus,
The New York Times,
July 25, 2024

SEPT

Will You Marry Me (Again)?: The Rise of 'Divorce Regret'

Amelia Abraham,
The Guardian,
September 22, 2024

OCT

How Does Your State Compare with National Marriage and Divorce Trends?

Clayton Buck, Paul Hemez, and Lydia Anderson, Census.gov
October 8, 2024

NOV

For Older Unmarried Couples, Caregiving Obligations Can Be Murky

Paula Span,
The New York Times,
November 10, 2024

DEC

As 'gray divorce' rates rise, women open up about becoming single after 50

Doc Louallen,
ABC News,
December 4, 2024

How you can help

Donate

Help make our high quality services and classes accessible to families who cannot afford it.

DONATE

OTHER WAYS TO DONATE

- Gift by **check**, send your check payable to "FamilyKind" to FamilyKind, 26 Broadway, 3rd Fl, New York, NY 10004.
- **Bank/ACH** transfer or a gift of stock or securities, email accounting@familykind.org.
- Gift from your **Donor Advised Fund (DAF)** or charitable fund, recommend a grant referencing our Federal Tax ID (#45-4636528).
- Taking distributions from an IRA, request a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** directly to FamilyKind. If you are age 73+, you may be able to avoid income tax on unused Required **Minimum Distributions (RMDs)**.*
- If you work for a company that matches your contribution, you may be able to double or triple your gift to FamilyKind.

**Consult your own tax advisor about your circumstances.*

FamilyKind is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. For more information, and copies of our financial statements, email info@familykind.org.

Volunteer

Dedicate your time and effort to support FamilyKind events and professional programming.

Sign up at info@familykind.org.

Become a board member

Support families experiencing separation or divorce through board membership. Contribute to furthering our FamilyKind program reach, and connect with a network of like-minded professionals.

Reach out to saraleeevans@aol.com for more information.

Call (929) 479-2975 or (212) 769-3057 or email info@familykind.org for a free, private consultation, or for more information.

OUR CORE TEAM

Lesley Ann Friedland
Founder and Executive Director



Beth Cole
Chief Financial Officer



Danielle Gonzalez
Coordinator, Parent Education Department



RobinAnn McGonigle
Director of the Parent Education Department



Rhabia Cowell
Director of Analytics and Bookkeeper



Isabella Rodriguez
Head of Client Services



Naz Madani
Senior Family Engagement & Program Strategist



Vivian Rivera Drohan
(Of Counsel)

OUR BOARD

Hon. Saralee Evans (Ret.), Chair

Karla Valdez Hernandez, Vice Chair

Jennifer Safian, Secretary

Jeffrey Vincent, Treasurer

Lesley Ann Friedland, Executive Director

Barbara Adler

Patricia Ann Fersch

Michael Prentis Knuff

Teresa Ombres

Maurice Robinson

Sallie Mullins Thompson

John Yacos

“As a retired New York State Supreme Court justice, I've seen how divorce negatively affects families, especially children. Lesley Friedland of FamilyKind has worked hard to provide education and support for divorce without litigation. The classes and mediation services offered for couples, parents, and professionals are impressive and unique in the New York metropolitan area.”



Meet FamilyKind’s Chair

Saralee Evans is a distinguished retired Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, known for her extensive legal career and dedication to public service. Elected to the Civil Court of New York City in 1993, she spent 18 years on the bench, addressing a wide array of cases from matrimonial to labor law. Her final years as a judge were focused solely on matrimonial law, a testament to her expertise in family-related legal matters. Before her judicial tenure, she served as a staff attorney for Queens Legal Services Corporation, advocating for the indigent and successfully representing asylum seekers from countries with oppressive regimes. Beyond her judicial duties, Ms. Evans contributed to legal education as an adjunct professor at CUNY Law School and participated in various Bar Associations' legal education programs. She also played a pivotal role in organizations like FamilyKind, where she continues to support families navigating the challenges of separation and divorce. Her career reflects a profound commitment to justice, education, and community service.

INSTITUTIONAL & FOUNDATIONAL SUPPORTERS

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML) Foundation

Department of Education Family & Community Engagement

J. Carlo Cannell Fund of the Community Foundation of Teton Valley

The New York Bar Foundation

New York City Council

New York City Department of Youth & Community Development

The New York Community Trust

New York Women's Bar Association

PwC

Westchester Women’s Bar Association



Save the Date

Tuesday, April 1st, 2025
FamilyKind Gala & Auction
HK Hall,
605 W48 St.
NYC

Sponsorship Levels
$25,000 Diamond | $15,000 Platinum
$10,000 Gold | $5,000 Silver
$2,500 Bronze | $1,000 Patron

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THANK YOU

We gratefully acknowledge FamilyKind's many partners and generous supporters who help make our work possible.

