Dr. Colleen Collins, F&CS Board member and Medical Director of Brandeis University Student Health Center, jumped at the opportunity to deliver diapers in Chelsea. She says, “It was a trip down memory lane for me. I used to work at a clinic in Bellingham Square. I know Chelsea; it’s a hot spot. I know those streets. These women were so incredibly grateful. This was such a small thing for me to do, but for them it was a game changer. One little boy ran out to meet me, naked. As his mother laughed, I joked, ‘you can really use these diapers!’ The need is huge.”

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, vulnerable families in Lynn and Chelsea are struggling to access basic necessities. Although food pantries are helping to fill the critical need for food, they do not provide baby essentials like diapers and wipes. As a response, F&CS launched a campaign to support a Diaper Hotline for families to request diapers.

Boosted by a $5,000 matching grant from The United Way and the generous support of Chelsea Fourth Street Investors, LLC, we asked for your help...and YOU responded!

You shipped and dropped off diapers and wipes. You called to volunteer. And you sent cash gifts to help us deliver 24,652 diapers so far. Your neighbors will still need your help. Visit www.fcslynn.org to support the Diaper Drive.
The Cook Street community gardens almost reverted back to weeds. The City of Lynn had decided not to allow neighborhood residents to farm the land due to COVID-19 safety precautions. That’s when Teen Scene staff convinced City Hall to keep the garden open by promising to be the sole custodian of the plots. Teen Scene youth were given the fifteen, 40-foot garden beds in the lower plot to manage. The youth quickly got to work planting tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins, beans, potatoes, kale, collard greens, eggplant, peppers, and squash.

“This is an opportunity for them to see where their food is coming from. It’s hard work, but they love being out here. Most of what they are growing will go back to the community,” says Program Manager, Phoeuth Phon-Nazario. During this pandemic, thanks to your support, Teen Scene staff have provided academic resources, therapeutic support, and structure to help youth cope with uncertainty.

Teen Scene Coordinator, Richard Valentine conducted daily check-ins, Zoom cooking demonstrations, and virtual hangouts on House Party that made life in quarantine bearable.

“You get bored staying at home, I miss going to school and learning new things. I wish I could spend more time with my friends, but working the garden allows me to still work at the agency and go outside, even during the pandemic.

Niko Vega, TS Mentor
It’s not hard at all for Mariana to conceive of what her magic wand would do…

“It would give the opportunity to everyone in the community to enjoy this place,” she says. “It would provide more resources, more access to programs, an open door to education, no barriers because of immigration status... I would like to create a children’s museum, cultural activities, programs for fathers, programs for single moms, groups for parents who have lost custody of their children... I have a long wish list.”

But that’s because she listens. And because she’s been here for 10 years! Working tirelessly for the families in our community who are working hard to get a leg up.

Because just like you, she has empathy. Like you she sees that some of our neighbors are really, really struggling. And she’ll do whatever it takes to find the support they need.

She understands, too, because she’s been in their shoes.

She sees what a difference your caring and generosity makes when you’re new. Whether new to a country, a culture, a community, to parenthood...

**Your generosity matters.**

Even though it may not seem like a lot, just a cup of coffee with those who understand can be all the difference in the world on a hard day.

**That’s the kind of family YOU are creating.** Where even if resources are tight, the warm smiles and welcoming “¡Hola! Hello!” are plentiful. And where a simple cup of coffee can provide relief from the everyday struggle and hope that there is a brighter future ahead...

**Thanks to people like you.**

“You can be a ‘warm cup of coffee’ every single month by becoming a sustaining donor. Please visit fcslynn.org to make a recurring monthly gift.”
Farewell to MarolíLicardié

After fourteen years as Executive Director, Maroli Licardie has announced her resignation. Maroli departs with an impressive legacy. Under her leadership, the agency doubled in size and increased its program offerings to better serve vulnerable populations.

Additionally, F&CS expanded its footprint to the Harbor Area and Chelsea by establishing a second location to meet the needs of that underserved community.

Maroli’s passion for illuminating disparities in minority and immigrant populations, and her work in strengthening local partnerships and collaborations will have an enduring impact on this agency...thanks to your continuing support.

Her enthusiasm and determination in helping grow Family & Children’s Service’s mission will be missed.

While the Board of Directors conducts a search for a new Executive Director, two current agency leaders, Ruben Montano and Denise Viscio have agreed to function as interim Co-Executive Directors. Both Ruben and Denise are exceptionally qualified professionals with extensive experience in their respective domains. They are well positioned to effectively lead through this interim period.

“I believe we must avoid intervening in ways that disqualify, constrain or diminish our clients’ authority over their own lives. Rather, personal empowerment should be pursued through strategies that acknowledge, support and enhance the individual’s capacity to set and achieve his or her own goals and aspirations.”

Rubén Montano-López has been on staff with F&CS for 8 years, five of those years as Associate Director. Rubén has developed expertise in the cultivation of program policies and procedures, grant writing, contract procurement, and program evaluation and reporting. He has provided oversight of all staffing functions, program marketing, and community relations. Rubén is a highly experienced administrator and mental health professional with a long standing history of addressing the social service and behavioral health needs of urban, culturally diverse populations.

“In the past few months Maroli has really taken me under her wing. I’ve only been here less than a year, but it seems like it’s been longer. I am grateful to have had Maroli as a mentor. I believe that Family & Children’s Service will benefit from a team approach to leadership. Ruben’s expertise in programmatic areas and my experience in fiscal management will complement each other.”

Winthrop native, Denise Viscio joined the staff of F&CS in August 2019 with 30 years of experience working for a variety of community based organizations. Denise’s career has concentrated on fiscal management of nonprofits with operating budgets upwards of $5M. She has developed strengths in operations, logistics, and administration by working for a wide range of organizations whose missions included youth development, domestic violence, behavioral health, and drug treatment. Denise is a seasoned fiscal manager of federal and state contracts and private foundation grants.