

ADVOCATES *for* CHILDREN *of* NEW YORK

WEDNESDAY

Spring Benefit

MAY 6, 2015

6:00 PM
COCKTAIL RECEPTION

7:15 PM
PRESENTATIONS



WELCOME

KIM SWEET

*Executive Director
Advocates for Children of New York*



AWARDS PRESENTATION BY

JANICE HUFF

Meteorologist, NBC4 New York

THE JILL CHAIFETZ AWARD

ROGER W. FERGUSON, JR.

President and Chief Executive Officer, TIAA-CREF



THE EDUCATION CHAMPION AWARD

ASHA JOHNSON-STEPTOE
AYANNA JOHNSON S.


2015 High School Graduates and AFC Clients



CLOSING REMARKS

ERIC F. GROSSMAN

*Board President
Advocates for Children of New York*

 On behalf of the Board of Directors of Advocates for Children of New York, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to AFC's 2015 Spring Benefit.

For 44 years, AFC has been championing the rights of low-income public school students and their families. Tonight we celebrate AFC and another phenomenal year dedicated to ensuring that every child in New York City's public schools has access to the best education possible regardless of race, poverty, ethnicity, disability, homelessness, language barrier, or involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems. These are the children and families that most need our help navigating the New York City public school system, and I am so proud to say that AFC is with them every step of the way.

We are very grateful to our generous Sponsors, who raised over \$1.6 million this year! Thanks as well to my Co-Chairs, all of whom can be credited with making this year's Spring Benefit another record-breaker. And finally, a big congratulations to our 2015 honorees, Roger Ferguson, Jr., and Ayanna Johnson S. and Asha Johnson-Steptoe. Thank you for allowing us to honor you tonight.

Hats off, once again, to our Executive Director, Kim Sweet, and her unparalleled staff. They are truly a "dream team." Our gratitude as well to AFC's pro bono partners, and to my colleagues on the Board and the Junior Board, who give so generously of themselves, in every way, to Advocates for Children and its clients. AFC could not do its vital work without your many contributions.

So please enjoy yourselves and take a moment to congratulate our honorees and to meet the AFC staff and Board members. And thank you all again for supporting Advocates for Children of New York.



ERIC F. GROSSMAN
*President, Board of
Directors,
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One of New York's most recognized forecasters, Janice Huff is the chief meteorologist for week-day *NBC 4 New York*, delivering weather reports for *News 4 New York's* four evening newscasts.

Ms. Huff is also a host of *Wednesday's Child*, a feature on adoption that airs weekly during *News 4 New York* and *Weekend Today in New York*. A passionate advocate for children and community-related issues, Ms. Huff has received numerous accolades for her reporting on *Wednesday's Child*. Ms. Huff also works with New York City Court-Appointed Special Advocates, "CASA-NYC," to help protect the needs and well-being of children in foster care, making sure that they are placed in safe permanent homes. Among the organizations that have recognized Ms. Huff's commitment to improving the lives of children are: the 199SEIU/Employer Child Care Corporation (2011 *Annual Care for Kids Gala*); Family Focus Adoption Services (2011 Gala); *The Miracle Makers Media Award* (2004); and the Second Annual *Nicholas Scoppetta Award for Service to Children*.

Ms. Huff has also been honored by McDonald's (2011 *Black Media Legends Award* recognizing Ms. Huff as one of 24 esteemed Black Media Legends); the YWCA of New York City (2008 "W" award); the New York Chapter of The National Black Journalist Association (2007 *Community Service Award*); the New York City Chapter of American Women in Radio & Television (2006 *Golden Apple Award*); the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (2006 *Laura Parsons Pratt Award*); and The Administration for Children's Services (2004 *Golden Heart Award*).

Ms. Huff is a member of the National Weather Association, The American Meteorological Society, the National Association of Black Journalists, the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and the Friars Club. A native of Manhattan, Janice Huff graduated from Florida State University at Tallahassee, where she majored in Meteorology. She is married and resides in New Jersey.



JANICE HUFF
Meteorologist
NBC 4 New York

Roger W. Ferguson, Jr., is President and Chief Executive Officer of TIAA-CREF, the leading provider of retirement services in the academic, research, medical, and cultural fields and a Fortune 100 financial services organization.

Mr. Ferguson is the former Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Federal Reserve System. He was the only Governor in Washington, D.C. on 9/11, and led the Fed's initial response, taking actions that kept the U.S. financial system functioning and successfully reassuring the global financial community that the U.S. economy would not be paralyzed.

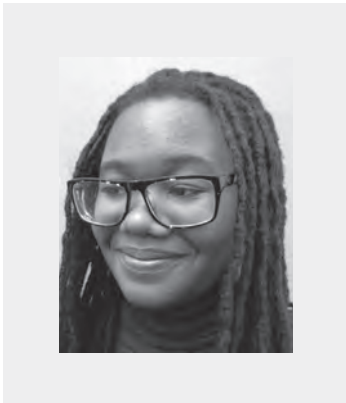
Prior to joining TIAA-CREF, Mr. Ferguson served as head of financial services and Chairman of Swiss Re America Holding Corporation. From 1984 to 1997, he was an Associate and Partner at McKinsey & Company. He began his legal career at Davis Polk & Wardwell. Mr. Ferguson is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and serves on the boards of International Flavors & Fragrances Inc., The Conference Board, the American Council of Life Insurers, the Institute for Advanced Study, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He is also a member of the advisory board of Brevan Howard Asset Management LLP. Mr. Ferguson is chairman of the Business-Higher Education Forum and a member of the Economic Club of New York, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Group of Thirty.

Mr. Ferguson serves on the Congressional Budget Office's Panel of Economic Advisers and was a member of President Obama's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness. He holds a B.A., J.D., and Ph.D. in economics, all from Harvard University.



ROGER W.
FERGUSON, JR.
*President and
Chief Executive Officer
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"I'M HONORED TO RECEIVE THE JILL CHAIFETZ AWARD BECAUSE I DEEPLY ADMIRE AFC'S WORK. EDUCATION IS THE CORNERSTONE OF SUCCESS IN LIFE. BY ENSURING THAT STRUGGLING, LOW-INCOME CHILDREN GET THE EDUCATION THEY DESERVE, AFC HAS HELPED OPEN THE DOOR TO OPPORTUNITY TO THOUSANDS OF NEW YORK CITY'S MOST VULNERABLE RESIDENTS."

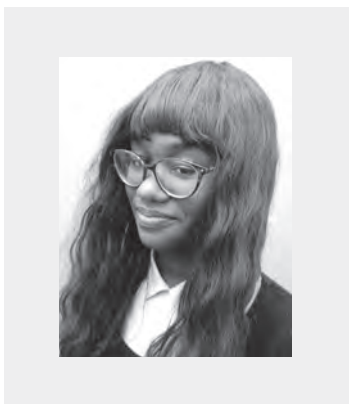


ASHA JOHNSON-
STEP TOE
*2015 High School Graduate
and AFC Client*

Asha and Ayanna are twin sisters who will graduate from Bay Ridge Preparatory High School in June. The sisters began receiving special education services in second grade when their mother, Bweela Steptoe, became concerned about their academic progress. At first, Ms. Steptoe was told that her daughters would “grow out of it.” However, by 5th grade, they had fallen so far behind that their promotion was in doubt.

Knowing she could no longer “wait and see,” Ms. Steptoe contacted AFC, and together we worked quickly to find the girls 6th grade placements at The Sterling School, where their unique learning needs would be met. AFC then filed for and won an impartial hearing requiring the Department of Education to pay their tuition. Once at Sterling, for the first time in years, Asha and Ayanna made academic gains and wanted to attend school. When they needed a new program for 7th grade, AFC won tuition for Bay Ridge Prep’s (BRP’s) Bridge program.

“ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN
HELPED ME GET INTO A
SCHOOL THAT WAS RIGHT FOR
MY NEEDS AND HELPED ME
LEARN AT THE PACE I NEEDED
TO LEARN.”



AYANNA JOHNSON S.
*2015 High School Graduate
and AFC Client*

For each of the past six years, AFC, with the help of pro bono attorneys Elizabeth Callahan, Meridith Krell and several pro bono partners before them, has represented the family and gone to hearing on one or both of the cases to make certain the girls received the curriculum and support they needed to be successful in school.

While at Bay Ridge Prep, the sisters have grown academically and socially, developing their talents as visual artists and joining after-school clubs. They even created an Anime Club! And that hard work has paid off. Asha and Ayanna passed all five of the State's required Regents exams and are graduating with Regents diplomas with bright futures ahead of them! Asha, whose interest in cooking started in BRP's after-school program, will attend the culinary program at Johnson and Wales University, while Ayanna, a manga artist, will pursue her love of anime in the sequential art program at Savannah College of Art and Design. AFC has selected Asha and Ayanna to receive its 2015 Education Champion Awards in recognition of all of their hard work and perseverance to receive an appropriate education.

“BECAUSE OF ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN, I WILL NOW ATTEND COLLEGE AND I CAN EVEN BE OK WITH BEING MYSELF.”



ADVOCATES
FOR
CHILDREN
AT A
GLANCE

PHOTO COURTESY OF
JOCELYN LEE

Since 1971, AFC has been speaking out for the children and youth who are at greatest risk for failure or discrimination in school because of their poverty, race, disability, immigrant or English Language Learner status, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, or involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems. No other city-wide organization is like AFC: working in the trenches to provide these vulnerable students and their families with urgently needed guidance and advocacy, while at the same time, pressing for systemic reforms that benefit all students, even those who are most challenging to educate. Our efforts on the individual and policy levels inform and strengthen each other, further increasing our effectiveness for the communities we serve.

FOR OVER FOUR DECADES AFC HAS MADE
COUNTLESS FUTURES BRIGHTER

By Solving Problems for Parents in Need:

Any parent of a New York City public school student knows how difficult it can be to navigate a school system that has 1.1 million children. Our Jill Chaifetz Education Helpline is a crucial resource for New York families having problems with special education, transportation, school suspensions, transfers, and more. Our experienced lawyers and advocates work with parents to get their children the educational support they need in school.

*By Sharing Our Unique
Expertise in Education
Advocacy:*

We know that one of the best ways to reach the most isolated students is to collaborate with other organizations that serve them. AFC is currently partnering with twenty-one organizations funded by the Robin Hood Foundation in areas like child welfare, juvenile justice, and domestic violence. In addition, AFC's highly skilled staff can be found in foster care agencies and community-based organizations across the five boroughs, sharing their expertise in educational advocacy, providing legal representation to families, and helping these partners build their capacity to advocate for the educational needs of the children they serve.



PHOTO COURTESY OF
JOCELYN LEE

ADVOCATES
FOR
CHILDREN
AT A
GLANCE

By Understanding and Addressing the Education-Related Challenges Confronting the City's Most Vulnerable Children:

AFC proudly serves on the frontlines of the fight to champion the education-related rights of children and youth who are most likely to experience failure or discrimination in school because of factors beyond their control.

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

AFC's multi-pronged approach is a model for education advocacy throughout the city and state. First, we provide one-on-one legal representation and advocacy to help low-income families of children with disabilities get the educational services and support they need. Second, we offer free workshops throughout the city to bring training, information, and direct assistance on the education system to parents and the professionals who work with them. Third, we address systemic problems with the education of students with disabilities through our policy work and when





necessary, federal litigation. And finally, we coordinate and lead a collaborative effort called the ARISE Coalition, which brings together more than fifty different organizations and individuals to press for policy change to benefit children with disabilities in the New York City schools.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
JOCELYN LEE

IMMIGRANT STUDENTS & ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

AFC's bilingual project staff advocates on behalf of individual parents and their children, trains parents and community-based organizations serving immigrant families on education-related rights, monitors access to interpreters and translated materials in the city's schools, and collaborates with other groups to support communities seeking to improve outcomes for immigrants and English Language Learners.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

AFC's Early Childhood Education Project provides individual case assistance, community education, and policy advocacy to improve access to early childhood education for low-income children, ages 0–5, so that children can enter kindergarten prepared to succeed.

ADVOCATES
FOR
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CHILDREN IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

AFC's Project Achieve advocates for the educational needs of children in or at risk of placement in foster care while building capacity in the agencies that serve them. Project staff operates satellite offices in child welfare agencies, providing on-site assistance and training to caseworkers, birth parents, and foster parents so that they can address the education-related issues affecting their children. Project staff also conducts policy advocacy on the city and state levels to improve educational outcomes for students in foster care.

STUDENTS FACING DISCIPLINARY ISSUES
& COURT-INVOLVED YOUTH

AFC's School Justice Project (SJP) provides case advocacy and legal representation to address the educational needs of youth facing school suspension or court involvement. Through relationships built with social services agencies, community-based organizations, and community courts, project staff are able to reach the students who often fall through the cracks. The Project also provides trainings and technical assistance to parents, young people, and the professionals who work with them. Finally, project staff advocate for systemic reform with respect to school discipline and school climate, as well as the education of court-involved youth.



STUDENTS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING

AFC operates the New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students (NYS-TEACHS), which focuses on building the capacity of school districts throughout the state to improve educational opportunities for homeless children and youth.

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IN THEIR EFFORTS
TO ENSURE A QUALITY EDUCATION FOR
THE CHILDREN OF NEW YORK CITY
AND CONGRATULATE

ASHA JOHNSON-STEPTOE
AND
AYANNA JOHNSON S.

2015 RECIPIENTS OF
THE EDUCATION CHAMPION AWARD

Morgan Stanley

**Morgan Stanley is honored to continue
to support the important work of**

Advocates for Children of New York

**and applauds the outstanding achievements of
this year's honorees**

Roger W. Ferguson, Jr.

President and Chief Executive Officer, TIAA-CREF
2015 Recipient of the Jill Chaifetz Award

Asha Johnson-Steptoe
Ayanna Johnson S.

2015 High School Graduates and AFC Clients
2015 Recipients of the Education Champion Award

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Davis Polk is proud to join
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Roger W. Ferguson Jr.



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for protecting every child's right to an
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Congratulations to the 2015 honorees,
Roger W. Ferguson, Jr., Asha Johnson-Steptoe
and **Ayanna Johnson S.**

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**Education is a right,
not a privilege.**



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With over a thousand legal professionals around the world, Integreon is proud to support Advocates for Children of New York and its mission to protect every child's right to learn. Our congratulations to all of the 2015 honorees: Roger W. Ferguson, Jr., Asha Johnson-Steptoe, and Ayanna Johnson S.

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Giving children a chance to learn and grow

For more than 40 years, Advocates for Children of New York has been dedicated to protecting every child's right to an education, focusing on students from low-income backgrounds who are struggling in school or experiencing school discrimination of any kind. We are proud to support their efforts.

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Asha Johnson-Steptoe

AND

Ayanna Johnson S.
2015 High School Graduates and AFC Clients
2015 Recipients of the Education Champion Award



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We are proud to support
Advocates for Children of New York
In their work to enable children
to reach their full potential

Congratulations to this year's honorees:

Roger W. Ferguson, Jr.

President and Chief Executive Officer, TIAA-CREF

Asha Johnson-Step toe and **Ayanna Johnson S.**

2015 High School Graduates and AFC Clients

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and congratulate honorees

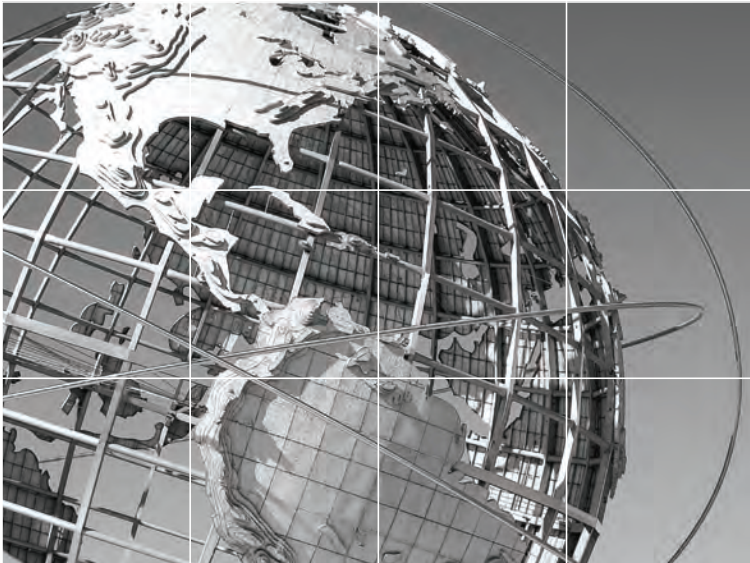
Roger W. Ferguson, Jr.,

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and

Asha Johnson-Stephoe

and Ayanna Johnson S.





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is proud to support the

Advocates for Children of New York Spring Benefit

and congratulates this evening's honorees

Roger W. Ferguson, Jr.

President and Chief Executive Officer, TIAA-CREF
Recipient of the 2015 Jill Chaifetz Award

Asha Johnson-Steptoe and Ayanna Johnson S.

June 2015 High School Graduates and AFC Clients
Recipients of the 2015 Education Champion Award

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Congratulations

We are pleased to support
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and congratulate tonight's honorees,
Roger W. Ferguson, Jr.,
Asha Johnson-Steptoe
and Ayanna Johnson S.

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of NEW YORK

AND CONGRATULATES THIS YEAR'S HONOREES

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ASHA JOHNSON-STEPHENS

AND

AYANNA JOHNSON S.

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We proudly support
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of New York** and
congratulate the
2015 award recipients

Jill Chaifetz Award
Roger W. Ferguson, Jr.

Education Champion Award
Asha Johnson-Stephoe
Ayanna Johnson S.

O'Melveny & Myers LLP
proudly supports

Advocates for Children of New York

and our friend

Eric Grossman

for working to

secure quality public education for
every child in New York City.

We congratulate this year's honorees

Roger W. Ferguson, Jr.

President and Chief Executive Officer, TIAA-CREF

Asha Johnson-Steptoe

Ayanna Johnson S.

2015 High School Graduates and AFC Clients



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We Proudly Support
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and Congratulate this Year's Honorees

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Advocates for Children
of New York.

We congratulate
Roger W. Ferguson, Jr.,
and wish all the best to
Asha Johnson-Steptoe
and Ayanna Johnson S.

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WilmerHale is proud to sponsor Advocates for Children of New York's Spring Benefit and joins AFC in applauding this year's award recipients, Roger W. Ferguson, Jr., Asha Johnson-Steptoe and Ayanna Johnson S.

We support AFC in its mission to promote access to the best education New York can provide for all students.

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We are proud to support

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and we salute

ERIC GROSSMAN

for his longstanding support of AFC
and his ongoing commitment to
helping children with special needs



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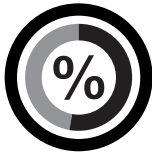
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We are proud to support Advocates
for Children of New York.

Congratulations to Roger W. Ferguson, Jr.,
President and Chief Executive Officer,
TIAA-CREF, recipient of the 2015
Jill Chaifetz Award, and
Asha Johnson-Steptoe and
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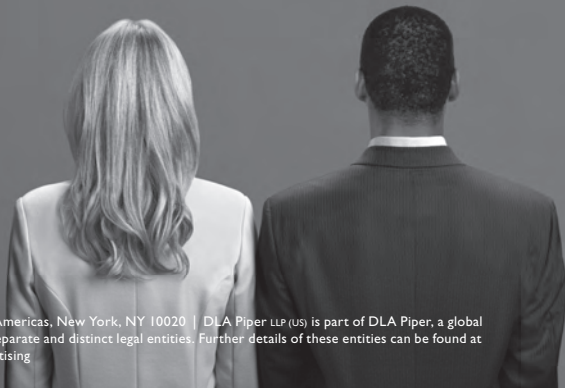
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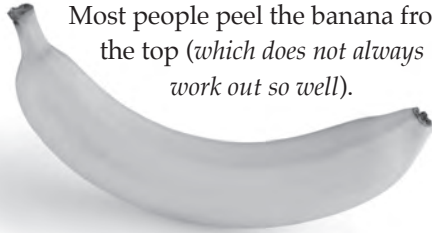
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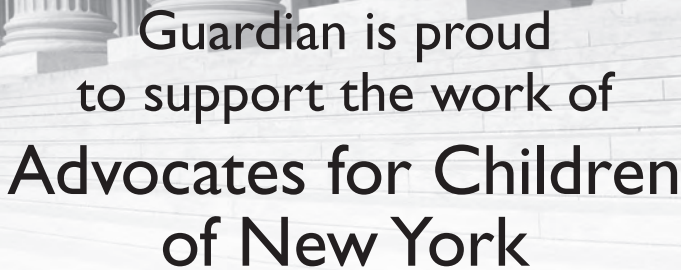
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