

## Meet the 2008 Suffolk County Women's Hall of Fame Inductees...



**Artice Hale**, a resident of Medford and First Lady of Cornerstone COGIC, is program director and social services outreach president—both unpaid positions—for the Harrison Hale/Gordon Heights Community Action Center. In this capacity, she networks with organizations and designs programs and activities to assist community residents who are homeless, single parents, at-risk youth, low-income individuals, and families in need.

Among the programs Mrs. Hale has designed are Empowering Women Through Mentorship, the Macedonia Case Management Program and, for the fifth year, a Summer Youth Enrichment Program for young girls for which she pays all expenses out of pocket.

She is currently working toward the opening of the Center's soup kitchen, which will serve a hot meal every day; she is training women and youth to operate the service.

In addition, Mrs. Hale has adopted five children (all siblings) who had been removed from their single mother's home—which has increased the size of Mrs. Hale's family to nine!



**Carol Carter**, of Yaphank, is the co-founder of Sunshine Prevention Center for Youth and Families, a Port Jefferson Station agency which since 1996 has helped children and teens in families where there is drug or alcohol addiction. For the first seven years she volunteered her time; she is now the executive director.

Mrs. Carter has planned and implemented numerous groups for children/teens, adults, and families, as well as programs that reach out to schools, communities, and other organizations. Among them are Child/Teen Anger Management, SafeKids (a social skills group), Teen Support Group, Teen Leadership Council, and several Summer Prevention Programs.

Her newest program, Prevention Not Suspension, is an alternative high-school program for youth on suspension. Local school districts have contracted to send their most at-risk students to this program to receive not only academic support, but also one-to-one and group counseling, violence prevention, tolerance training, and drug and alcohol prevention.

Mrs. Carter is also the creator of Prevention through Puppetry, a program with preschool and academic components that utilizes puppets and other media to teach young children about social skills and areas of prevention.



**Sandra Feinberg**, of Stony Brook, is the director of the Middle Country Public Library, the largest and busiest public library on Long Island. Ms. Feinberg has long acted on her belief that a library should be integral to the life of its community, and at the forefront of community solutions to regional problems and challenges through collaboration and coalition-building.

To that end, she created and continues to manage the Community Resource Database of Long Island, an online directory of more than 12,000 community services available to support the health and human service needs of area residents.

She also developed and launched Family Place Libraries (a program for babies, toddlers and parents now in use in over 250 libraries in 25 states), the Miller Business Resource Center, the Suffolk Coalition for Parents and Children, the Mid-Suffolk Regional Literacy Center, and the Women's Expo annual trade show for women entrepreneurs.



**Miriam Spaier**, a resident of Riverhead, has been a tireless advocate for people with HIV infection, since she herself was diagnosed in 1991. She has gone public and spoken forcefully to the news media about her life, not only to tell her own story but also to argue for improved services for people with HIV infection.

Ms. Spaier has been written about and pictured in the New York Times, Newsday and Long Island Voice, and has been interviewed on Channel 12 News and local cable TV. She has spoken to high-school and college students and drug rehabilitation centers, and also has led Recovery Outreach Peer Program (ROPP), a peer program to educate people about drugs and HIV infection.

She has volunteered her time on countless committees, the client advisory board of the Long Island Association for AIDS Care (LIAAC), the United Way committee to assess Ryan White funding, and the David Rogers Center patient and advisory committee, and has worked with most of the Long Island AIDS service providers—such as Suffolk Project for AIDS Resource Coordination (SPARC), Thursday's Child, Options, and the Nassau-Suffolk Law Center. She has served on panels at conferences such as the World AIDS Day Conference at Southampton Hospital.



**Sister Patricia Griffith**, who lives in Ronkonkoma, is founder and executive director of Mercy Haven, which provides housing to formerly homeless persons who are living with mental illness. Mercy Haven, with offices in Islip Terrace, owns or operates 46 properties in Suffolk and Nassau counties and has more than 75 employees.

In 1985, Sister Pat—a schoolteacher at the time—needed to find permanent housing for people who would be losing their temporary shelter at a motel in Bay Shore. Her project survived considerable controversy, and Mercy Haven opened the doors of its first community residence in that year.

Sister Pat quickly realized that formal legal support was needed for her residents, and with the assistance of attorney John Castellano, Mercy Haven became the only agency in Suffolk County to offer its clients free access to legal services. Mercy Haven also administers the Long Island Resource Center for individuals living with traumatic brain injury (TBI), and offers assistance to limited-income families and the elderly in need of housing, as well as education/employment skills training to the mentally ill and frail elderly.