



As part of National Social Work Month, **one of NAC's very own social workers, Muriel Vancol, LSW**, was recognized for her outstanding service in helping NAC kids and families! We are so honored that NAC, along with Muriel Vancol, LSW, were featured on FOX 5's *Good Day New York* as part of National Social Worker Month.

Muriel goes above and beyond for our kids each and every day. Her amazing efforts in finding homes for medically challenged children in foster care only go to show why she is so deserving of this recognition.

Thank you, Muriel, and all of our Social Worker for your incredible dedication to NAC's children, families and mission.

SUMMER IN THE CITY: NAC KIDS HAD A BLAST

With COVID-19 still a concern, **NAC has remained committed** to offering a variety of engaging activities for our kids over the summer. From virtual arts and crafts to roller skating, and even participating in our very first ever #WalkforNACKids it was a **summer filled with fun and smiles.**

First up, arts & crafts: NAC children ages 5-10 had the opportunity to participate in this 5-week long virtual program, giving them a **sense of achievement** and allowing them to build confidence and take pride in their work.

Our amazing volunteers from UBS made sure to spend some time with NAC kids this summer, putting together an incredible virtual hour filled with fun stories, reading aloud and lots of laughter. **Thank you UBS!**

Our Peer Project group continued to meet safely outdoors throughout the summer. These activities helped keep them engaged and not only provided the opportunity to connect with their peers for **some much-needed in-person time but also to engage in vital discussions surrounding their lives and current events.**

Skating anyone? NAC teens had the chance to safely gather with NAC staff and volunteers for an **afternoon of skating and showing off their moves** at the Brooklyn Bridge Park Roller Skating Rink. This fun-filled day included members from our Peer Project group as well as volunteers from the NAC Junior Board.



Thank you to all of our amazing donors, volunteers, and staff for making it a summer to remember for NAC children and families.

NAC'S JUNIOR BOARD: ALWAYS COMING THROUGH FOR OUR KIDS

Walk for NAC KIDS

\$26,639.61 of \$20,000.00

133%

Our **very first #WalkforNACKids started off the summer with a bang** and was a resounding success. This “virtual” walk, organized by NAC’s Junior Board took place over a full week and **raised nearly \$27,000** for NAC children and families. Participants were able to walk on their own schedule, at their own pace, and safely support NAC from wherever they were located.

Even our NAC staff and teens got in on the action, taking the opportunity to be together safely outdoors, stay healthy and active, all while **raising awareness about the important work we do for children with disabilities and chronic illnesses.**

As part of the fundraiser, NAC partnered with numerous bars and restaurants across NYC, who offered all who completed the walk free drinks. And Tao Group donated \$1 from all desserts ordered in the month of June as well as encouraged patrons to round up their bill to support NAC kids. **As a result the Tao Group donated nearly \$5,000 to NAC!**

Thank you to all of our Walk for NAC Kids restaurant partners: **The Tao Group, The Flatiron Room, Fine & Rare, Sweet & Vicious, 1803, Jin Ramen and Ellington in the Park**

NAC TEENS ARE COLLEGE BOUND

The arrival of fall and the beginning of the school year is an exciting time for all kids and NAC kids are no exception. We are so proud to announce that **fourteen NAC teens started college this fall**, majoring in a diverse group of subjects ranging from nursing to law. As part of **NAC's College Bound Program** our Education Specialists provided **one on one support**, advocacy, and resources to ensure that students were prepared and ready to achieve their dreams!



Meet Daniella, one of our NAC teens enrolled in college this fall. Daniella is a staunch advocate for Autism Awareness and just began her freshman year at Hunter College! She is interested in studying behavior and mental health and plans to major in psychology. We spoke with her about some of the challenges she faced in applying to college during the pandemic and how NAC was able to help her overcome them.

NAC: What were some of the challenges you faced when deciding to apply for college?

Daniella: There is the idea out there that people with Autism can not go to or do well in college. **I was even told by a staff member at my school that I would never get into college.**

Thankfully, when I told my NAC Therapist and Education Specialist about this they reassured me that someone else's opinion doesn't define my own self worth. **And guess what, I did get into college!** So if anyone tells you that you can't do it, don't listen to them, keep going, because if that's what you want to do, go for it and don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

NAC: How have you been affected by COVID in the last year?

Daniella: Being stuck inside for such long periods of time, it just became harder and harder to concentrate. I was doing everything from home. Not just my schoolwork but my therapy, and even my own advocacy work. Some days when my work was due I would have to stay up very late, sometimes until 1:00 a.m. to complete it on time. I was also in the process of applying to schools and requesting financial aid. **It really made everything much more difficult.** At Hunter, I'm taking in-person classes and I couldn't be happier.

NAC: How has NAC helped you face some of those challenges?

Daniella: Right away I reached out to the Education Department at NAC for information on how the application process works, assistance with financial aid and any other questions I had. **Whenever I needed help I would just reach out to Shelanthia in the Education Department and she would set up a Zoom meeting for us.** NAC was such a big help throughout the entire process.

NAC: What do you hope to achieve in the future?

Daniella: Once I receive my Bachelors in Psychology I plan on going to Grad school to **become an art therapist** and outside of college I'd like to continue making in impact with my Autism advocacy efforts.

Congratulations Daniella! We are so proud of you and wish you nothing but the best!

EDUCATION AT NAC: BACK TO SCHOOL

As the 2021-22 school year begins, **many parents are struggling with anxiety about sending their medically complex children back to school.** NAC is supporting parents and children alike, helping them work through these concerns, initiating open communication between them and the school, and thinking about alternative options when appropriate.

Our Education Team has been busy all summer **working closely with over 450 children,** advocating for different services, applying to pre-k, kindergarten, middle school, high school, college and post-secondary programs. 18 young adults were supported with their post-secondary dreams, including internships, college, work through applications, financial aid guidance, and more.

In addition, they arranged for the delivery of over 100 computers and 150 WiFi sources to NAC kids, allowing them to keep up with homework, tutoring, mental health, and other NAC services.

In August our Education Department carried out NAC's annual Back to School events. Our community partners came through big once again, **donating nearly 1,000 backpacks filled with school supplies!** These important items ensured that NAC kids were ready for school on day one! In addition, we partnered with the Brooklyn Public Library to deliver dynamic, interactive, virtual programs for children and families in celebration of the start of the school year.



We thank all of the companies who donated backpacks and school supplies for NAC kids: Bank of America (ECom), BBR Partners Inc., Brixmor Property Group, Comfort Cases, Evercore Partners, Facebook, High Water Women, NAC's Junior Board, North Broward Preparatory School, RAND Engineering & Architecture, Target (Upper West Side & Herald Square locations) and UBS

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our kids.

FUNDERS SPOTLIGHT: CVS HEALTH FOUNDATION

We are pleased to report that in June 2021, the **CVS Health Foundation** generously awarded **NAC** a multi-year grant of **\$500,000** to support NAC's Healthy@Home program.

Healthy@Home serves NAC children with the **most complex needs, who are at the highest risk of long-term hospitalization or institutionalization.**

Through Healthy@Home, we provide these children with the intensive care coordination they require, and enable them to transition to family-based care in safe and loving homes.

CVS also went above and beyond, donating over \$10,000 worth of basic necessities including 250 cases of soap, toothpaste, deodorant, diapers and more. This critical donation allowed our families to stay home and stay safe during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Thank you CVS for your generous commitment to the future of NAC children and families.

HONOREE

Frank Baker

*Co-Founder & Managing Partner,
Siris Capital*

DINNER CHAIRS

Dan Clivner

*Global Co-Head of Mergers & Acquisitions/
Private Equity, Sidley Austin, LLP*

José E. Feliciano

*Co-Founder & Managing Partner,
Clearlake Capital Group, L.P.*



WEDNESDAY
OCT. 20, 2021

COCKTAILS & DINNER STARTING AT 6:00 PM

PIER SIXTY 23rd Street & the West Side Highway, NYC

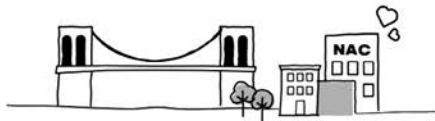
EMCEE Craig Melvin, News Anchor "TODAY", Co-Host of 3rd Hour, TODAY and Anchor on MSNBC Live

LIVE OR VIRTUAL | CDC GUIDELINES

In-Person and Virtual viewing options will be available. The NAC Kids Can Gala and Pier Sixty adhere to all CDC guidelines and NYC indoor dining mandates. Guests attending the event in-person are required to show proof of vaccination at the door.

BUSINESS OR COCKTAIL ATTIRE

Registration at door. Valet Parking at Pier Sixty (enter from the West Side Highway between 22nd and 23rd Streets in Manhattan). Shuttle Bus Available.



To purchase tickets, make a donation or to learn more please [click here](#)