



Seamen's Society
for children and Families



Charting the Course

Building from a legacy of 175 years of care, we invite you to join us in supporting children and strengthening families in our community.

You Can Continue a Legacy of Lives Transformed

At Seamen's Society for Children and Families, *care is defined by lives transformed.* Together with friends and donors like you, we go beyond simply finding ways to help children and families survive — we secure opportunities for them to thrive and build shared experiences that make life vibrant, healthy, and safe.

Founded in 1846 to care for the abandoned children of sailors from the Port of New York, Seamen's Society was one of the first organizations in the country to offer a home-based, safe refuge for children. Since our beginnings, the heart of our mission has been the well-being of our community's most vulnerable children. This commitment expanded over time to encompass the strengthening and preservation of entire families — ensuring children grow in safe environments that provide the greatest opportunity for success and happiness.


Paying attention to the holistic well-being of every child means Seamen's Society is a uniquely impactful resource in our community. We provide comprehensive programs and support to children and caregivers, from the cradle into adulthood.



Our programs include:

- **Foster Care & Adoption Services,** focusing on kinship placement with family or friends to minimize disruption for the child.
- **Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence Support & Intervention,** including our Safe Passage program for survivor counseling and services, and support for children exposed to domestic/intimate partner violence.
- **Family Support Services,** including counseling for challenges like substance abuse, case management, referrals, and advocacy for public benefits.
- **Youth Enrichment & Educational Opportunities,** like scholarships, mentoring, organized experiences, events, and trips.





Every step of the way, we apply knowledge and solutions developed over 175 years to find the best path to serve a child or family in need — whether providing a safe home for a child in the midst of a family crisis, or connecting survivors of intimate partner violence to resources and opportunities that allow them to move forward with safety and confidence.

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Seamen’s Society is different from other groups in part because they are one of the longest running agencies in the city – this helps them be more effective, because they can lead the way through self-reflection and problem solving.”

- Jeanne Raleigh, Board Member



Marking 175 Years by Charting the Course for Future Impact

Seamen's Society is privileged to serve, on any given day, over 1,250 children and over 500 families in New York City. The individuals and families we support are our neighbors.

As we move forward, we want to remain a beacon of hope for children and families navigating stormy waters. We want to continue providing support and comfort to children who have dreams — like one of our past scholarship students who wants to become President of the United States. We want to instill the confidence that they need to grow independently, knowing that there are resources to help them.

While we work with individual children and families, our mission is rooted in community. We can provide the tools and resources, but family, neighbors, and friends help lift up our children and families so they can thrive. Most important, this commitment to those in need lets children and families know the community is standing with them, ready to help.

That's why Seamen's Society invites you to *make an impact* by investing in our work with children and families.

We are committed to a belief that children and families should be free to boldly imagine a future without limits, and together, we can ensure that they are supported, nurtured and empowered to realize their greatest hopes and fullest potential.

To mark 175 years of community impact, we are launching our **Charting the Course** campaign. Through this campaign, we aim to set our Seamen's Society compass towards the future by:

- Building our support base to expand programming and enrichment opportunities that fall outside of restrictive government support, always in a diverse, culturally-competent and trauma-sensitive manner.
- Extending our reach and awareness in the community, including efforts to deepen understanding of the valuable role of social support services.
- Laying the groundwork to grow Seamen's Society's impact beyond Staten Island and Brooklyn — bringing the same drive to building vibrant, healthy futures for children and families to other boroughs.

As a centerpiece of the campaign, we are also thrilled to announce the establishment of the **Robert and Barbara Fitzsimmons Children and Family Fund at Seamen's Society.**

Robert and Barbara Fitzsimmons were both incredibly involved with Seamen's Society — with Barbara serving on the Board of Directors and Advisory Board through the 1980s and 90s. The fund is established in their memory by their children, Laura Volsario, current Board Chair, and Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr. It will fund experiential opportunities for children and families, including cultural, educational, and recreational activities. As Laura shared, her parents "had a passion for helping people and supporting the community" — and we are honored to continue their legacy long into the future.

By **Charting the Course** for the future of Seamen's Society, you can support this newly-established fund, our scholarship program, and other critical services that ensure continued impact for the next generation of vulnerable New Yorkers.

Our **Charting the Course** campaign goal is to raise **\$175,000** in support of children and families in need in our community, and we hope that you will consider joining us.

Giving Level	Gift Amount	Gifts Needed
Community Circle	\$17,500	1
Family Circle	\$10,000	3
Children's Circle	\$5,000	8
Navigator	\$2,500	12
Partner	\$1,000	25
Mentor	\$500	35
Ally	\$250	40
Friend	\$100	50

It will be our honor to celebrate and recognize your generosity with a range of unique benefits — including in-person and virtual program spotlights, Achieving the Mission roundtable and personal impact calls with our CEO, and tailored donor impact reports. You can learn more by visiting www.seamenssociety.org or by contacting Andrew Miller, Senior Director of Development.

By taking this critical step as part of the **Charting the Course** campaign, you can achieve impact through lives transformed. The following Impact Summary illustrates, in a concrete way, what it means to enrich and strengthen our entire community.



At Seamen's Society, we are committed to measuring our IMPACT.

In 2020 alone:

1,100 children and 560 families empowered through our Family Support Services Program.

483 children cared for through our Foster Care Program.

1,320 food cards distributed to families in care.

\$30,000 in scholarships awarded to help young adults pursue a college or vocational degree.

2,641 sessions held with domestic/intimate partner violence clients.

1,502 clients supported through our Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence Program.





Seamen's Society has multiple programs that tackle many different challenges and issues in our community. They recognize that no one answer or solution will work for everyone – they tailor solutions for each individual or family."

- Suzanne Stirn Ainslie, Board Member



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Seamen's Society is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Tax ID: 13-5563010.

To ensure the privacy of children and families accessing Seamen's Society services, we have utilized stock photography throughout this booklet for illustrative purposes.

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