

***NASW-NYS 2010 Social Worker of the Year
Nicole S. MacFarland, LCSW-R, CASAC, ACSW***



Nicole S. MacFarland, LCSW-R, CASAC, ACSW, is the Clinical Director of Senior Hope Counseling Inc., the only free-standing OASAS licensed Outpatient Clinic in Upstate NY catering to individuals 50 and older who struggle with addictions. Ms. MacFarland has authored a chapter in the book Days in the Lives of Gerontological Social Workers: 44 Professionals Tell Stories from "Real-Life" Social Work Practice with Older Adults. Her chapter is entitled *A Social Work Perspective on Geriatric Addictions*. Ms. MacFarland has developed an online continuing education course "Recovery in the Golden Years: A Social Work Perspective" which is available on the NASW-NYS website. She has lectured locally and nationally over the past several years. The Institute for Professional Development in the Addictions recently honored MacFarland as an *Individual of Distinction in Addictions Education and Training*.

Nicole has a Bachelors of Arts from Skidmore College and Masters of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently a Ph.D. student at the University at Albany's School of Social Welfare, and is a Pre-Dissertation award recipient of a John A. Hartford Doctoral Fellowship.

2010 Lifetime Achievement Award Marilyn V. Sharron, LCSW-R



For the past 22 years I have been a Social Worker at SUNY Upstate Medical Center Hospital in Syracuse, NY. Currently I work in the Regional Perinatal Center with women with high risk pregnancies and the Neurology Clinic. I also provide Social Work coverage for the Emergency Room and the entire hospital during the day, on alternating weekends. I have previously worked with AIDS, kidney transplant, rehab, and neurology patients at the hospital.

In addition to my work at Upstate Medical, I have coordinated a peer counseling program for senior adults thru the Syracuse OASIS Center. OASIS is a unique educational program sponsored by the Upstate Medical University for mature adults who want to continue to grow, learn and be productive. Since 1990 I have had a small private practice, Alliance for Personal Growth.

I received my BS in Business Administration from Bowling Green State University in Ohio in 1963 and my MSW from SUNY at Albany in 1968.

Prior to my work at the hospital, I worked in a variety of capacities including as a PA caseworker in Pennsylvania, a case aide for Albany Medical Center, an intake worker for St Anne's Institute in Albany, a counselor for Family Service of Philadelphia and a child therapist for Jewish Family Service in Pittsburgh. In 1975 I came to Syracuse and worked for Onondaga Pastoral Counseling Center and also the Spina Bifida Clinic at Crouse Irving Memorial Hospital.

An area of interest is addressing the needs of persons with disabilities and I have served on the boards of community agencies such as the Association for Retarded Citizens, the AIDS Task Force and Onondaga Community Living. I am an active member of the steering committee for the NASW-NYS Central Division and completed two elected terms as the Central Division Representative to the NASW-NYS Chapter's Committee on Nominations & Leadership Identification.

I am currently a licensed chalice bearer, Altar Guild member and Vestry person for St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Syracuse. I am also a member of the Faculty Student Association for Diversity at University Hospital.

I support health care reform with universal coverage for all, the opportunity for creative aging and the right for women to exercise reproductive choice. I view my professional life as the way I channel my personal and ethical beliefs into lifelong ministry.

2010 Agency of the Year

Education Research Advocacy Support to *Eliminate* Racism

ERASE Racism was launched in June 2001 as a special initiative of the Long Island Community Foundation (LICF), the then 24 year old division of the New York Community Trust, one of the largest community foundations in the country. The LICF board and staff had long recognized racism as a critical issue affecting Long Island. Nevertheless, there were few funding requests from organizations seeking to directly address this issue. In 1999, LICF began convening a diverse group of individuals interested in racism, social equity, human rights and related categories to listen to invited speakers and share their ideas, experiences, and concerns. In March 2001, Elaine Gross (a former program officer with a national funder based on Long Island) was invited to attend one of the forums. Her comments following the meeting challenged the LICF to move beyond discussion into action. Subsequently, Ms. Gross was hired as a consultant to help determine what action might be undertaken. Her recommendation was to focus LICF's work on identifying and addressing institutional and structural racism rather than on eliminating individual prejudice. The donors, the LICF board and staff all agreed. With funding from participants in the donor forums, LICF board members and others who shared an interest, in June 2001, the ERASE Racism initiative was launched.



ERASE Racism was designed to foster public discourse about the need to dismantle institutional and structural racism in Nassau and Suffolk Counties and to implement activities to advance this mission. Institutional and structural racism results in persistent, significant inequity between people who are white and people of African descent in particular and sometimes other people of color. Historically, this embedded racism is frequently caused by both illegal activities but also by unintentional, unnoticed policies and practices of large and small, public and private institutions and broader systems, which provide advantages or privileges to whites, while at the same time, discriminate against and put people of color at a disadvantage. In keeping with LICF's initial intent, in 2004 ERASE Racism separated from LICF, incorporated, obtained IRS tax-exempt status and began functioning as an independent not-for-profit organization.

MISSION

ERASE Racism is a regional organization that leads public policy advocacy campaigns and related programmatic initiatives to promote racial equity in housing, public school education and healthcare. It engages in a variety of research, education and consulting activities to identify and address institutional and structural racism primarily on Long Island.

STRATEGIES:

- To identify and address institutional and structural racism in government and civil society and promote racial equity.
- To build the capacity of organizations to identify and address institutional racism within their own organization and to promote racial equity in issue areas within their purview.
- To build a growing constituency and set of interagency relationships to advance the work.

- To deliver seminars/trainings, staff development and organizational assessments to help people individually and collectively to increase racial equity in their daily lives.

ERASE Racism Board of Directors and Staff

V. Elaine Gross, MSW, President



V. Elaine Gross, MSW, is the President of ERASE Racism. Ms. Gross has extensive experience in research, program development and evaluation at public and private agencies in Boston and New York. She earned her MSW from Boston University, with a focus on policy, planning and non-profit management. Throughout her career, Ms. Gross has focused on exploring the systemic causes of social, political, and economic inequities and finding ways to counteract those inequities.

Ms. Gross was hired by the Long Island Community Foundation to launch the ERASE Racism Initiative in June 2001. In 2004, ERASE Racism became an independent New York State not-for-profit corporation. Ms. Gross has successfully led ERASE Racism, bringing together a cross section of Long Island leaders to discuss and formulate remedies to persistent regional inequities, resulting from imbedded institutional and structural racism in health, education and housing. Under Ms. Gross' leadership, ERASE Racism has been recognized locally and nationally for its cutting edge work addressing institutional and structural racism, especially in the area of housing and community development.



Rosemarie Walker
Project Manager



Charisse Wheby
Health Intern



Arthur Gianelli
President & CEO
NuHealth System



Phyllis E. Rice
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Christina Vargas Law
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& Affirmative Action
Stony Brook University



Suzy D. Sonenberg
Former Executive
Director
Long Island Community
Foundation



William Jennings II
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Deborah Post
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Scott Williams
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Aldustus E. Jordan III
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Stony Brook University
School of Medicine



Marge Rogatz
President
Community Advocates,
Inc.



**Frederick K.
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2010 Public Citizen of the Year ***Gwen O'Shea***



Gwen is the President/CEO of the Health & Welfare Council of Long Island. The Health and Welfare Council of Long Island is a private, not for profit, health and human services planning, research/public education and advocacy organization that serves as the umbrella for public and voluntary agencies serving Long Island's poor and vulnerable individuals and families.

In 2007 Gwen was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Governor's Children's Cabinet. She is a member of the steering committee for Medicaid Matters NY and a Board Member of the Long Island Federally Qualified Health Clinic.

Gwen is also an adjunct professor at Long Island University- C.W. Post Campus in the departments of Social Work and Health Care and Administration.

She received her Master's from New School University's Milano School for Management and Urban Policy. She is a graduate of the Columbia's Non-profit Management programs; leadership and middle management and is a member of the Energeia's class of 2007.