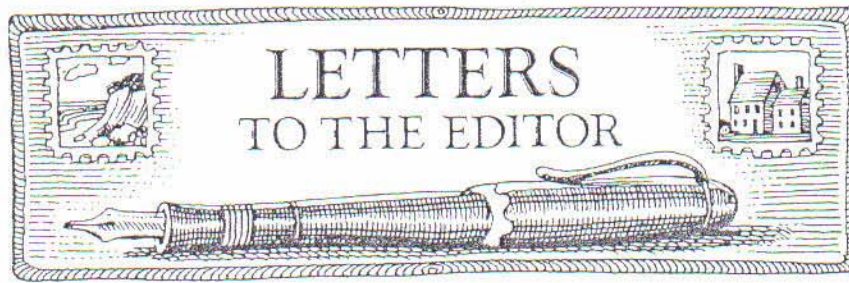


# THE EAST HAMPTON STAR

SHINES FOR ALL



## Help Change

East Hampton  
October 28, 2006

Dear Editor:

One of many reasons The Star is an excellent newspaper is because it often gives us a story like the one in this week's issue about foster care children.

We who live privileged lives, and as a bonus own homes in the Hamptons, should be constantly mindful of the huge gap — chasms really, between the way we live and the way most others in our country and the world exist. If we want our lives to be meaningful and all must reach out and help those who struggle each day to survive.

Men and women like Paul Pitcoff and Betsy Krebs of the Youth Advocacy Center who spend energy and time working in the nonprofit field are admirable examples to keep in mind and try to emulate by contributing our time, our money, or our ideas to help change a society that allows deep poverty to destroy lives — especially those of children.

Thanks to Helen and David Rattray for bringing this issue before us, the public, an issue that now only gets media attention when a foster care child is battered, abused, or slain.

In order to understand and have a clearer picture of foster care, one can read the Youth Advocacy Center's newly released book, "Getting Beyond the System," which describes the many problems in the current foster care system. It is told to the reader in the teenagers' own voices while explaining why the new creative system that Y.A.C. has developed over the past 15 years has been proven successful wherever it has been duplicated. The book is available in bookstores or from the publisher, Rutgers University Press.

Sincerely,  
CLAIRE REED

## Deserve Applause

East Hampton  
October 27, 2006

Dear Editor:

Paul Pitcoff and Betsy Krebs of the Youth Advocacy Center, a nonprofit agency in New York City, deserve applause for focusing attention on the foster care system and attempting to improve it in order to help teens face a future with goals and hope.

We who are more fortunate should keep ourselves informed and aware of those who are in need of assistance and put time and effort into trying to support them in any way we can. In doing something for others, we do much for ourselves.

Sincerely,  
LINDA STEIN