

## Founder's Message

Dear Flawless Friends,

**I** was going to send one of my usual celebratory holiday emails exclaiming how flat-out grateful I am for you and your contributions to Flawless (which is true, I am!), but first I wanted to address this time of year that we call the holiday season.

Between families, shopping and feasting, there are bound to be some moments of fatigue and stress. Some studies even assert that there is a national increase in depression this time of year. Over here at the Flawless Foundation's headquarters, we're seeing something altogether different, and quite frankly, it is breathtaking to me. The holiday spirit, it seems, is coming back to its roots.

What is this spirit and what forms does it take? It's the spirit I found in coming home from a long trip to the east coast and seeing hot pink notices announcing the last day to contribute to the Flawless food drive on the walls of the garage in our building.

The spirit of Tonya, the building's manager, inquiring about pulling together a last-minute Christmas Tree sale to benefit Flawless in our parking lot. The spirit of the children at Pioneer School receiving a last-minute donation of an extra turkey (with whoops and laughter!) amidst the challenging circumstance of celebrating Thanksgiving at school, which for many was their only celebration or hot meal. The spirit of the child who asked me to adopt him as he waits for his new family in his foster care placement.

The spirit of business owners calling to contribute a portion of their proceeds to Flawless. The spirit of our experts in mental health who have stepped forward with their gifts to aid Flawless' mission to see, discover and nurture the perfection in every child. The spirit of our individual and corporate donors giving what they can, monetary gifts of spirit. The spirit of the woman with no connection to children's mental health who spontaneously joined our Professional Training Conference with Dr. Stuart Ablon in New York because she resonated with the message of "seeing the perfection in every child."

While all this is very inspiring, there is still so much work to do. It seems like more than ever before our world is ready to shift its perception of children living with behavioral challenges (due to the ways in which their brains are wired) to seeing them as flawless—just like me, just like you. The Flawless Foundation has something in the works that's HUGE. We just may have the possibility of making a serious global impact—that is, with your help.

In the true spirit of this holiday season, we ask for your support, for you to share your spirit with us. The spirit that celebrates what we already have: Gratitude. The spirit that paves the way for the future: Hope. And the spirit of giving and receiving: Generosity.

At times our journey can be bittersweet, but the power of even the smallest things always helps us to taste and feel the sweetness! Thank you for being on our team. Your ongoing support means so much and your holiday gift this year will go toward making the loving mission of Flawless truly global. Please consider making a gift to the Flawless Foundation today.

*Here's wishing you, and all the people you love, a Flawless Holiday!*

With Gratitude,  
Janine Francolini  
Founder and Board Chair



*Janine Francolini with the award from the National Association of Special Education Teachers*

## Top 10 Reasons to Celebrate Flawless in 2010!

1. Awarded 2010 Excellence in Special Education Award, NASET's (National Association of Special Education Teachers) highest organizational honor.
2. Trained thousands of Mental Health Professionals at our Professional Development Conferences.
3. More than 5,500 people viewed our video interview with Dr. Stuart Ablon of Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital.
4. Gave the healing gift of yoga to 75 children a week for 42 weeks, reaching an annual total of 3,150 children, and also provided weekly yoga classes for their caregivers, too.
5. Increased our therapeutic gardening programs for at-risk youth. A special thanks to our corporate sponsor Alice McCarney of Alice Hair (alicehair.com) for sponsoring this program in honor of her brother, Seanog.
6. Funded a drumming residency by Obo Addy and his troupe, Homowo, at Pioneer Special School, as well as a music grant benefitting ChristieCare (christiecare.org) for their Native American Drumming program.
7. We had the incredible opportunity to meet with top activists in the field of mental health, including Glenn Close, Dr. Thomas R. Insel, Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison and Garen and Shari Staglin.
8. We went viral, receiving lots of press on the radio and in various blogs, newspapers and online magazines, inspiring many people across the country that we didn't even know to donate or reach out to us through Facebook, eBay and other social media.
9. Announced that Congressman Patrick Kennedy will be the Honorary Chair of our 2011 Perfection Party, with Lisa Bloom moderating our panel discussion with honorees: Stuart Ablon, Phd, Harold S. Koplewicz M.D., Shonda Schilling and the Staglins.
10. And our most important accomplishment was when a woman with no connection to children's mental health attended our two-day conference with Dr. Ablon in NY, and told us that she came because she saw our tagline, "Seeing the perfection in every child," and wanted to learn how to see the perfection in herself.



*Janine Francolini with Dr. Thomas R. Insel (center, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health) and Garen and Shari Staglin (Founders of the International Mental Health Research Organization and co-founders of both BringChange2Mind and The Next Frontier of the Brain Campaign)*

## Flawless Biz Angels

**I**n addition to our incredibly generous corporate sponsors, we have a new group of small and large businesses who have formed our Flawless Biz Angels. The Flawless Biz Angels are a collective of businesses committed to corporate responsibility and have chosen Flawless as their cause of choice, donating portions of their proceeds on an ongoing basis.

The Flawless Biz Angels includes these generous socially responsible entrepreneurs: Tara Dixon of Gratitude Designs (gratitudedesigns.com), Jocelyn Chia of Moms Love It (momsloveit.com), Lauren Harkness (LaurenHarkness.com) and Bob Lynde of Fat Barrel Wines (fatbarrel.com).



*Janine Francolini with Flawless Biz Angels Tara Dixon, Lauren Harkness and corporate sponsor Alice McCarney*

## Shop Flawless

**W**e love it when people celebrate their holidays with a cause. As the holiday season is upon us, we wanted to share some exciting, creative and fun ways to join us in creating miracles for the children we serve. Last



*Board Members wearing scarves for sale that were donated by Indigo Handloom (indigohandloom.com)*

year, some families decided to donate to Flawless in lieu of giving gifts to each other. People have told us heartwarming stories about directing some of their gifts to programs about which the gift recipient is passionate, making those gifts so much more meaningful.

We are so excited that our Flawless store (www.flawlessfoundation.org/store) is up and running. You can purchase many items, with most of the proceeds going to Flawless.

Other fun ideas include featuring Flawless at your holiday parties (a special thanks to Melba Nagy and Tara Dixon for hosting parties on both coasts), or including information about us in your holiday cards. Donating on someone's behalf is always a great way to acknowledge friends or family members who might be difficult to shop for because they have everything. The staff at Flawless can send you materials and information, if you would like to join our holiday giving campaign this season.

A special thank you to Anne Nicholas for donating the Flawless necklaces.



## Friends of Flawless



Board Members Amy Aho, Alice McCarney  
and Tara Dixon at our annual  
Halloween Party in NYC

**T**hey say it takes a village to raise a child and in a similar way, it took the Friends of Flawless Committee, and their unending support, to help this Flawless Organization blossom to what it has become during the last two years. The Flawless Foundation started off as a vision—the simple dream of one woman.

Now, we stand here, representing an organization that is reaching out nationally to children who are bravely facing the challenges of everyday life. Of course, the growth of an organization and the establishment of its programs are dependent upon a dedicated group of individuals—a vital fundraising arm—which is where our Friends of Flawless Committee plays a huge role.

Our Friends Committee has hosted many events across the country, spreading the word about our important work. For Halloween, they hosted the “Trick or Treat for Flawless” party in NYC that turned out to be an incredible success. In addition, they held a yoga class benefit and are hosting two upcoming holiday parties and sales. The funds raised at these fun events have helped sustain our ongoing programs. We are so appreciative of the countless hours dedicated and the creative, fun ways that this incredible group of volunteers continues to



(From left) Amy Aho, with our Chief Operating Officer,  
Mark Dahm, his wife Kathleen Frazier and Alice McCarney

give to help us realize our mission. For more information about joining this amazing group, please email us at [info@flawlessfoundation.org](mailto:info@flawlessfoundation.org).

Thank you to board members Tara Dixon and Alice McCarney for their leadership on this committee.

[www.flawlessfoundation.org](http://www.flawlessfoundation.org)



PO Box 5183  
Portland Oregon 97208

The Flawless Foundation & Congressman Patrick Kennedy  
invite you to join us in honoring

**Stuart Ablon, Ph.D**

**Harold S. Koplewicz, M.D.**

**Shonda Schilling**

**Shari & Garen Staglin**

**at our annual Perfection Party**

*Co - Chaired by*

*Jim and Lauren Watkins and Josie Wechsler*

**April 9th, 2011**

Otto Kahn & James Burden Mansions  
1-7 East 91st Street at Fifth Avenue



[www.flawlessfoundation.org](http://www.flawlessfoundation.org)

Gratitude to Dara Cole of [sacredbrooklyn.com](http://sacredbrooklyn.com)  
for her annual gift to this newsletter.

### Board of Directors

Janine Francolini, MA  
*Founder and Board Chair*  
Amy Aho, MBA, *Secretary*  
Tara Dixon  
Thomas Lawwill, *Treasurer*  
Alice Mc Carney  
Melba Nagy, MD  
Geetha Neelakantiah, MBA, MA  
Lori Sutherland

### Advisory Board

Barbara Bellafiore  
Betsy Blankenbaker  
Jon D. Kaplon, Esq  
Robert H. Klonoff, Esq  
Lavinia Lorch, PhD  
Lisa Sharkey  
Jon Snyder, EdD  
Sybilla Sorondo  
Liz Stern  
David Streicher, Esq  
Amanda Weil  
Magnes Welsh

### Scientific Advisory Board

J. Stuart Ablon, PhD  
Sigurd Ackerman, MD  
Michael A. Jenike, MD  
Ajit Jetmalani, MD  
Owen Lewis, MD

The Flawless Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charity.  
Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.