



PHOTO: JIM PRISICHING

Allison Swingruber and Cindy Galley are co-chairs for the April BYFS fundraiser.

## Helping Community Members in Need Benefits Us All

WE INVITE YOU TO SUPPORT BYFS AT ITS APRIL FUNDRAISER

WE ARE EXCITED TO INVITE YOU to our Barrington Youth & Family Services Virtual Fundraiser on April 17, 2021, featuring a Silent Auction open a few days before the event, and a Live Auction on the day of. We are grateful to our many sponsors, including Brian Long of Long & Co. Jewelers, for their support and recognition of this important service in our community.

As parents of school-age children, we know that children growing up today have a much higher level of stress on them, and we see it compounding. Expectations are higher on student's academic performances and activity levels. It

is quite different than when we grew up during simpler times. We believe that helping our community where help is needed benefits all of us. For that reason, we are reaching out to you.

Barrington Youth & Family Services saw a significant increase in clients due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As is no surprise, the pandemic worsened existing mental health problems and led to more cases of anxiety and depression among children and adolescents because of the unique combination of the public health crisis, lack of school, missed milestones, social isolation and loneliness, and economic recession. Parents, too, are struggling with issues exacerbated by the pandemic.

This, all ongoing at a time when BYFS is seeing more patients and increasing its scholarships to families that were affected financially by the pandemic. We do not expect this to subside in 2021.

At BYFS, we are committed to serving the Barrington community for people ages 5 and up during these trying times. It is our goal to never have to turn people away due to their ability to pay. More than 75% of the clients we see receive some form of financial subsidy from us. For example, we provided \$28,000 in financial aid in 2020 to families needing mental health services that we provide.

We encourage you to join us for our April fundraiser. Thank you for your consideration. U

Cindy Galley and Allison Swingruber are the co-chairs for Barrington Youth & Family Services' upcoming fundraisers in April and October. Cindy Galley may be reached at [cfgalley@yahoo.com](mailto:cfgalley@yahoo.com). Allison Swingruber may be reached at [alliconnor@gmail.com](mailto:alliconnor@gmail.com). Visit [barringtonbyfs.org](http://barringtonbyfs.org), or call 847-381-0345. A Bilingual Therapist is on staff to better serve all members of the community.