

# QCP REPORTER

NEWS AND EVENTS OF QUEENS CENTERS FOR PROGRESS

VOLUME #1 - ISSUE 1

WINTER 2010

## SPOTLIGHT NEWS . . .

### Upcoming Events:

Evening of Fine Food -

February 8, 2011

6:30 P.M.

Terrace on the Park,

Flushing Meadows, Corona Park

Honoring Daniel Leone, QPTV

Walter Sanchez, Queens Ledger Newspaper

Annual Phil Olin Dinner

May 17, 2011

Terrace on the Park,

Flushing Meadows, Corona Park

Fifteenth Annual

QCP/Home Depot Golf Outing

September 15, 2011

North Hills Country Club

Manhasset, NY

## QCP PROVIDES NEW BEGINNINGS FOR CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



**Wynter** and **Adrian** are two examples of how QCP provides new beginnings for children with developmental disabilities.

Wynter is a delightful 3.8 year old identical twin who has a diagnosis of arthrogryposis, a rare congenital disorder. This musculoskeletal disorder causes limited movement in various joints of the body. In Wynter's case, her hips, knees, and ankles lack normal range of motion. Wynter started receiving educational and therapeutic services with QCP through our Early Intervention Home Program in the fall of 2007, when she was ten months old. She made the transition to our preschool in September 2009, and has been attending a special education class since then. Her teacher reports that Wynter works hard to accomplish any task presented to her. She loves music and is always singing and dancing during any music activity. She is a friendly youngster who enjoys interacting with her peers, and especially loves playing with trains!

Wynter has developed good sitting balance, crawls on her hands and knees, and is now independent in maneuvering her wheelchair around school. While she used to be frightened of movement, she now loves slides, swings, and playing with balls in the gym. Wynter will be having surgery to straighten out her knees, at which point her physical therapist will be able to introduce supported standing as well!

Wynter's occupational therapist says that Wynter can now assist with getting in and out of her wheelchair; she loves to scoot around on the floor to play with toys. She continues to work in therapy on strengthening exercises. Her fine motor skills have improved as she now can string beads and lace lacing boards. She can hold a pencil and is imitating drawing lines, and she proudly completes 9-10 piece puzzles!

*continued on page 15*

**REMEMBERING FORMER BOARD PRESIDENT ANTHONY J. FASULO**



Anthony J. Fasulo (Tony) was devoted to the mission of Queens Centers for Progress and spent much time and effort in helping developmentally disabled children and adults. Tony was a member of QCP's Board of Directors, and President of the Board from 2005-2007.

Tony had a very impressive career. A former Marine, he began working for the City of New York's Department of Marine and Aviation at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal. He eventually worked for the Department of Transportation as a roller operator. He then became a Borough Supervisor followed by an Administrative Supervisor for Highway Operations until he worked himself up to First Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Transportation.

Tony's main concern was the welfare and well-being of others. Tony went out of his way to help anyone in any way he could.

A man with his qualities and dedication to others comes along once in a lifetime. His legacy of kindness will live on in the hearts of all those he touched.

**NEW YORK City COMPTROLLER, JOHN LIU VISITS QCP CHILDREN'S CENTER**

Queens Centers for Progress had the honor of having Comptroller John Liu visit their Children's Center. He toured the Center with Charles Houston, Executive Director, Nancy Glass, Director of the



*New York City Comptroller John Liu visiting the Children's Center with Board Member James Kilkenny, Children's Center Director, Nancy Glass and Executive Director Charles Houston.*



*New York City Comptroller John Liu during a visit with the Children's Center.*

Children's Center, James Kilkenny a member of the Board of Directors and Maryann McAleer, Director of Development.

The children loved Comptroller Liu, he talked to them, shook hands with him and posed for pictures with him. The children didn't want John to leave, they asked if he could stay to listen to the entire story their teacher was reading them.

John C. Liu serves as the 43rd Comptroller of the City of New York, independently elected and sworn into office on January 1, 2010 to protect and enhance the fiscal health of New York City.

**WINTER APPEAL 2010-2011**

- Yes, I am happy to help make a difference.
- Enclosed is my gift of \_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ Other

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

(THIS CONTRIBUTION MAY BE DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW)

A copy of our last financial statement may be obtained by writing us at: QCP - 81-15 164 St., Jamaica, NY 11432 or The N.Y.S. Office of Charities Registration, Albany, NY 11231

**Please mail your donation to: QCP - 81-15 164 St., Jamaica, NY 11432  
Or donate online at [www.queenscp.org](http://www.queenscp.org)**



*from the Executive Director....*

## EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Employment plays an important role in the lives of many adults. It is no different for people with developmental disabilities. QCP provides a range of employment services to people who have work as one of their goals:

- vocational evaluation to explore interests and abilities,
- pre-vocational services provided at our Adult Center where people learn general skills that can apply to any work situation,
- supported employment where people are placed on employers' sites in the community and learn on-the-job with assistance from QCP staff Job Coaches.

QCP's services have evolved over the years in many ways, one of which is that more services are delivered in the community, as opposed to taking place in one of our buildings. This move into the community is consistent with one of our major objectives: to have people with developmental disabilities participate in the lives of their communities to as great an extent possible, consistent with their individual wishes and goals.

The number of people with disabilities employed in the community remains frustratingly low, and those numbers have not improved in the past 10-15 years. The employment rate of people with disabilities aged 16-64 is 38.7% nationally and 35.5% in New York. ([www.disabilitystatistics.org](http://www.disabilitystatistics.org)). Part of the reason for the lack of improvement is certainly the lingering recession that has limited employment for the population at large.

There are groups around the country, as well as locally, who say their goal is to increase the number of people with disabilities employed in the community. This is a goal which we strongly support.

One of the tactics of many of these groups, however, is to limit the availability of facility-based vocational programs, like our pre-vocational program, as a means of "incentivizing" people to move into community employment. In other words, if facility-based services were not available, or were available on a time-limited basis, many of the people currently receiving such services would move into employment in the community.

This notion rests on a couple of assumptions, which deserve examination:

1. That there are sufficient employment opportunities in the community to absorb these people moving from facility-based programs, and

2. That the individuals would prefer to be in community employment, rather than in their current facility-based setting.

On the first issue, in addition to the unemployment rate cited earlier, findings from a recent survey done by the Harris Organization in conjunction with the Kessler Foundation and the National Organization on Disabilities concludes that "...few employers are making a real effort to recruit, train, and retain people with disabilities." So, while there should be increased efforts to place people with disabilities in community employment, the general economy and priorities of employers do not indicate there will be major increases in the short term.

As to the issue of where people with disabilities want to be, these decisions are made on an individual basis, and involve factors such as other means of financial support, whether the community employment is full or part-time, how much of the person's social life may be centered around a community rehabilitation agency, etc. We feel it is important to encourage people to explore all employment options, but want to honor an informed choice made by the individual, including the choice to be in a facility-based setting like our pre-vocational program.

At QCP we believe people should participate in community life as much as possible in the areas of work, education, living arrangements, socialization, and recreation. Part of our role is to help people explore opportunities that they may not have experienced. In the area of work, this may mean learning more about community employment opportunities and perhaps trying them out when possible. We have many stories of people who thought they weren't able to work in community employment, but gave it a try, found that they could, and felt justifiably proud in their achievement.

What we don't believe in, however, is a one-size-fits-all approach to services. We believe in presenting options, and, with the knowledge that change is sometime difficult, encouraging the options that offer the greatest amount of independence. We feel strongly that removing service options is not the way to go. Therefore while we will continue to try to increase the numbers of people we serve who are working in the community from the present 135, we do not want to see the option to spend time in our facility-based pre-vocational program limited.

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION PRESENTS NURSING OFFICE WITH VITALLY NEEDED EQUIPMENT

Margaret MacPherson, President of QCP's Parent Association and a QCP Board Member and Pat Coulaz, member of QCP's Board of Directors presented funds to Queens Centers for Progress' Clinic. The Clinic purchased a high quality blood pressure machine and a skin magnifier with the monies raised from Parent Association dues.



Staff Rehana Jaggernaut, R.N and Warren Stanton, M.D., Parent Association President and Board Member Margaret MacPherson, Board Member Pat Coulaz, and Clinic Director Marisa Fojas pose with their new equipment.

### QCP STAFF SADDENED BY THE SUDDEN DEATH OF CO-WORKER ROBERT G. BORCHERS



Robert (Bob) Borchers was struck by an automobile on August 6, 2010 at 6:30 A.M. on Queens Boulevard as he was on his

way to work at QCP. Bob passed away on the way to the hospital.

Bob was employed at QCP for twenty two years, he was part of the maintenance crew, and his main function was driving the QCP van performing all of the tasks involved in picking up and delivering for all departments at Queens Centers for Progress.

Bob was a big teddy bear type guy, if you didn't know him he might appear unapproachable, but once you talked to Bob he stole your heart. He knew everyone personally in the Agency and everyone loved him.

Memories of Bob linger throughout QCP. Rarely a day goes by that Bob is not sorely missed.



James Dean poses with Director of Adult Services, Terri Ross at this year's Staff Recognition celebration.

## QCP RECOGNIZES STAFF FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

On Thursday, October 7, 2010, QCP recognized sixty-two staff members for reaching a milestone in their years of service within the past year.

QCP is proud to have a total of two hundred staff members who have been with the agency ten years or more, and seventy-five who have been with the agency more than twenty years.

The theme this year was TO ALL THE STARS—YOU ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD! The QCP Parents' Association provided a delicious hors d'oeuvres spread served by Margaret MacPherson, President of the Parents' Association.

Each staff member who was recognized received a Years of Service pin and a gift based on their length of service to QCP. Some of the extended years of service included:

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 35 Years of Service | Chartarra McGriff      |
| 30 Years of Service | Fred Nelson            |
| 25 Years of Service | Sharon Criscione       |
| 25 Years of Service | Barbara Shay           |
| 25 Years of Service | Victoria Ogata-Rubio   |
| 25 Years of Service | Linda Brown            |
| 25 Years of Service | Harriet L. Perry       |
| 25 Years of Service | Melanie Ameres         |
| 20 Years of Service | Lela Washington        |
| 20 Years of Service | Regla (Maria) Cespedes |
| 20 Years of Service | Joan Harley            |
| 20 Years of Service | Terri Ross             |
| 20 Years of Service | Andrea Quintela-Rivera |
| 20 Years of Service | Eddie Mendez           |
| 20 Years of Service | Josie Davide           |
| 20 Years of Service | Sundae Mack            |
| 20 Years of Service | Norma Sailsman         |

## 2010 Annual New York State Association of Day Service Providers Leadership Awards



Jill Gentile, Associate Commissioner at the New York State OPWDD, poses with Award Recipients Michelle Jardine and Jeff Howard at the Leadership Awards Ceremony. Also pictured: Josie Davide and Kevin Kenney.

The New York City Chapter of the New York State Association of Day Service Providers (ADSP) presented their Annual Leadership Awards Ceremony at the Lifespire John Cook Center in Richmond Hill, NY. The guest speaker at the event was Jill Gentile, Associate Commissioner at the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. Remarks were also made by the Director of the NYC Chapter, Michael Kaplan.

On an annual basis, the NYC Chapter asks each provider to nominate a direct line staff as well as a supervisor to receive recognition and honors in the form of a certificate from the Association of Day Service Provider's President for their hard work and dedication.

Two staff from Queens Centers for Progress (QCP) were nominated and received award certificates at the ceremony. Michelle Jardine, Day Services Supervisor, and Jeffrey Howard, Day Services Assistant, were nominated by Josie Davide, QCP Assistant Director of Day Services.

Ms. Jardine was awarded for serving as an exceptional role model for her staff. She has been a supervisor for seven years and she has demonstrated the ability to work cooperatively with her staff and colleagues. Ms. Jardine is very innovative in her programming techniques. She has an impressive ability to plan and teach activities that are interesting and creative. Ms. Jardine demonstrates leadership in all aspects of her job.

Mr. Howard received his award because he is a dedicated, resourceful and very imaginative employee of the Queens Centers for Progress Day Habilitation Program. He motivates the individuals in the day program through his creative approach to community programming. Mr. Howard has created a unique programming concept by teaching art, photography and videotaping while guiding his groups through many historical, interesting and off-beat New York City locations.

## QCP ARTISTS DISPLAY WORK AT MANHATTAN GALLERY 307



Artist, Michael Kelly, proudly poses with Jeff Howard, photography club organizer, Josie Davide and Michelle Jardine at Gallery 307.



Artist, Ira Rosenthal, with Photography Club organizer, Myrna Lopez, at Gallery 307 in Manhattan

Twenty artists from Queens Centers for Progress, United Cerebral Palsy of New York City and the Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State combined their photographic work for display at Gallery 307 in Manhattan. The gallery exhibit featured photographs taken by adults with disabilities who receive services from the three agencies.

'Photographs from the Outside' is the third collaborative art exhibit by the three agencies. Previous art exhibits were held in 2009 at the Port Authority Bus Terminal and at the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association. They included exhibits of paintings, ceramics, sculpture and photography.

Seven QCP photographers, who attend the Community Connections Center for Seniors and the 164th Street Day Habilitation Program, exhibited their work. All of the photographs were taken while the photography clubs were visiting various locations in the city. Some of the outdoor scenes include Kissena Park, South Street Seaport, Queens Botanical Gardens, Chinatown, and the Empire State building.

The QCP photography clubs are organized and managed by Day Service staff Myrna Lopez and Jeffrey Howard. Myrna teaches photography to the Community Connection Center senior population while Jeff instructs in the Day Habilitation Program. The photography clubs are very popular in both programs. The club members enjoy visiting the various locations in NYC, learning new skills and expressing themselves creatively.

## QCP DAY SERVICES DEPARTMENT THEATER PROGRAM

The QCP Day Services Department Theater Program produced a Talent and Fashion Show starring Day Habilitation program participants.

The show was created by QCP Day Habilitation staff and individuals who attend the program. The show included singing and dance performances to the songs “Thriller” and “Put a Ring on It.” In addition to performing, the Day Hab entertainers helped create the backdrops, designed the costumes and shopped for them. The Fashion Show included Sports, Evening, and Red Carpet categories. All participants looked very glamorous and professional.



*Participants perform to Michael Jackson's "Thriller".*



*Fabulous fashions were modeled by the participants..*

## QCP PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS HOST LATIN PERFORMANCE

On June 25, 2010 the QCP Community Connections Center, a program for older adults, hosted a Latin Performance. The show included cultural dances from Colombia, Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Puerto Rico under the direction of Luis Batista, Day Services Assistant. Everybody in the program helped make the colorful backdrops. The costumes were hand sewn by our talented Habilitation Assistant, Meenadai Surajpal. The fiesta was enjoyed by all.



*Day Habilitation program participants perform a Caribbean number for the excited crowd!*

## QCP PRE-KINDERGARTEN KIDS VISIT THE HOME DEPOT

On April 15th a very excited class of four year olds, from QCP's Universal Prekindergarten Program, boarded a school bus and headed to The Home Depot store in Jamaica. Their mission: to “build, learn, create” at the Kids’ Workshop. Upon arrival they were warmly welcomed by a Home Depot representative and a support staff of eight employees. Everyone was ready to start building a butterfly house, a perpetual calendar, and a “carry caddy.” The best part was being able to use a real hammer and screwdriver!

At the end of the day, each child went home with one or two completed projects, a certificate, a pen, a Home Depot apron, and a big smile! The words printed on the apron “Build - Learn - Create” described the experience perfectly. Thank you Home Depot for an unforgettably fun time.



*Children from the Apple Tree, Universal Pre-Kingergarten program enjoy an educational trip to The Home Depot.*

## D.A. RICHARD BROWN, DEPUTY CHIEF MICHAEL BLAKE, LIU TEE SHU AND JOSEPHINE AND JOEL MIELE, SR. HONORED AT QCP ANNUAL DINNER

The Dinner Committee, QCP Board of Directors and staff extend their congratulations and thanks to all honored guests and friends who supported this year's Phil Olin Dinner.

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown was presented with the QCP Governmental Leadership Award for his service to Queens for the past 25 years. QCP Board member, Raymond Irrera was proud to present this award to DA Brown and thanked him for all that he has done for Queens County over the years.

Charles Houston, Executive Director of QCP presented an award to Michael A. Blake, Deputy Chief of the New York City Police Department for his continuing interest in QCP and his kindness to QCP program participants.

Raymond Chan member of the QCP Board of Directors, presented the Woman of the Year Award to charming, philanthropic, Liu Tee Shu. Mrs. Shu is the chairperson of Shu Enterprise Group. New York City Comptroller John Liu spoke about how Mrs. Shu struggled for many years to obtain her current accomplishments.

Anthony Cosentino, QCP Board Member presented the Annual Marvin Wiener Award to his very good friends Josephine and Hon. Joel A. Miele, Sr. for their unwavering support of QCP's mission. Marvin Wiener was a longtime member of the QCP Board of Directors and was very dedicated to the success of the Annual Dinner.

Therefore, each year we remember the memory of Marvin Wiener by presenting an award in his name.

The highlight of the evening was the Tribute to the Life of Hon. Anthony J. Fasulo, former President of the QCP Board of Directors and longtime Board Member who passed away in March, 2010. His very dear friends James Kilkenny and Comptroller John Liu shared his legacy of accomplishments and kindness. Tony lives on in the hearts of the many people he touched during his lifetime.



Board Member Raymond Irrera, QCP Founder, Natalie K. Rogers, Blaise Parascandola, and honorees Josephine and the Hon. Joel Miele.



QCP Woman of the Year, Liu Tee Shu with board member Raymond Chan.



Josephine and Hon. Joel A. Miele pose with board member Anthony S. Cosentino.



Executive Director Charles Houston, Director of Development Maryann McAleer, Board Member James Kilkenny, Marvin Wiener Humanitarian Award recipient Hon. Joel Miele with Governmental Leadership Award recipient Queens District Attorney Richard Brown.

# 14TH ANNUAL QCP GOLF OUTING A RECORD- 2010 HONOREE PETE CAPEL, VICE PRESIDENT OF MERCHANDISING, NORTHE



Honoree Pete Capel and Aaron Flowe of The Home Depot enjoy a short break with a QCP volunteer.

Golf attendees capture a moment on the green.



Aaron Flowe, Home Depot Regional Vice President presents Regional Merchandising Manager Richard Gess the Anthony J. Fasulo Special Recognition Award. Also pictured: Charles Houston.



Joe McFarland, Home Depot's President of the Western Division presents the Honoree Award to Pete Capel, Vice President Merchandising of the Northern Division of The Home Depot. Also Pictured: Charles Houston.



QCP Director of Development, Maryann McAleer presents Honoree Pete Capel with a special painting created by the children.



Winning foursome pose with Executive Director Charles Houston and Golf Committee Chair Rick Addamo.

# BREAKING SUCCESS!

## NORTHERN DIVISION, THE HOME DEPOT

On September 16th, over 200 golfers converged on the North Hills Country Club in what turned out to be the most successful outing in the fourteen year partnership between The Home Depot and Queens Centers for Progress.

The Home Depot and their suppliers joined forces and opened their hearts to the Queens Centers for Progress Children's Center for yet another year. An astounding \$250,000 of corporate sponsorships put this year's event over the top. The proceeds of over a quarter million dollars of support for children with disabilities is used to provide early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families; offering a variety of developmentally appropriate services. The shower of support also makes it possible to purchase equipment and help defray the costs of educational and therapeutic services to aid the children in QCP's preschool program.

In his honorary speech, Pete Capel, Vice President of Merchandising for the Northern Division of The Home Depot praised the efforts of the directors and staff at QCP for providing children with disabilities a nurturing environment; one where the children are able to flourish.

Moved by a visit to the Center back in June of this year, Pete was proud to be the honoree and urged the audience of 300 at the gala dinner to come visit the Children's Center guaranteeing a life-changing experience.

It was an exciting day that began with brunch, followed by 18 holes of golf at North Hills and Brookville Country Clubs. Golfers enjoyed great weather all day and were fortunate to be tucked inside by the time foul weather struck the Queens and Long Island areas. Capping off the day a fantastic dinner was enjoyed by all with live auctions, silent auctions, lucky box drawings and raffles! All proceeds going to a great cause!

## CEREBRAL PALSY ASSOCIATIONS OF NEW YORK STATE "CELEBRATE STAFF" AWARDS

Three of QCP's staff members were recognized at CP of NYS's Annual Conference at The Desmond Hotel in Albany on October 25, 2010.

Dawn Artwell is a Coordinator at the Bellerose Day Habilitation Program. She is a "hands on" supervisor who develops unique and creative programming and advocates for the consumers she serves.

Shira Safran is an Educational Evaluator and Special Education Teacher at QCP's Children's Center. Shira has strong teaching skills and an expansive knowledge of childhood development. She makes effective and productive decisions for students' programming.

Deborah Wilcox is a Job Coach in QCP's Supported Employment Program. She balances consumer advocacy, employer relations and all other requirements of her position with great skill and is seen as a team leader by her co-workers.

QCP is very fortunate to have such talented and dedicated staff on board and we were very proud to recognize them.



## THE HOME DEPOT STAFF AND VENDORS TOUR QCP CHILDREN'S CENTER



*Children's Center Director Nancy Glass and QCP's Director of Development Maryann McAleer, pictured with Home Depot executives Ronald Oddo, District Manager, Pete Capel, Vice President of Merchandising, Northern Division and Aaron Flowe, Regional Vice President.*

Queens Centers for Progress was delighted to welcome The Home Depot Regional VP of the New York Metro Region Aaron Flowe, his staff, and The Home Depot vendors for a tour of QCP's Children's Center followed by lunch.

Pete Capel, Vice President of Merchandising, Northern Region of The Home Depot, the 2010 Golf Outing Honoree, was the guest of honor. Pete was amazed and very touched by the wonderful work being done at QCP.



*Representatives of The Home Depot gather in the entrance of the Children's Center.*



*Children's Center Director Nancy Glass pictured with Home Depot executives Ronald Oddo, District Manager and Pete Capel, Vice President of Merchandising, Northern Division pose with one of the older children.*



*Home Depot's Cathy Reilly pictured with QCP's Director of Development Maryann McAleer.*

## EARTH DAY AT BELLEROSE DAY HABILITATION PROGRAM

A series of activities took place to celebrate Earth Day. Bellerose Day Habilitation program participants went to Hicks Nursery in Westbury to purchase plants. The staff and consumers enjoyed selecting the plants but had even more fun planting them under the gazebo upon their return.

Program participants decorated a wall with a big painting of the earth, which an entire group participated in creating. A variety of plants, twigs and leaves were collected from outside and were used to make a collage that was hung up on the wall alongside the painting.

A recycle bin was made out of a recycled carton which was colored green and had a recycle sign drawn on it. Cans and plastic bottles were collected from people all over the building, which were later taken back to the freshly painted bin and efficiently recycled.

Though Earth Day has come and gone, consumers maintain their garden by identifying, watering and pruning their plants so they continue to grow and be a gift for all to see.

## JAMAICA ROTARY CLUB SPONSORS SEVENTH ANNUAL QCP BARBEQUE

Queens Centers for Progress' Bellerose Day Services and Residential Program participants have come to look forward to an annual barbeque held in June sponsored by the Jamaica Rotary Club.

For the past seven years, members of the Jamaica Rotary Club together with police officers from Queens South, 102, 103, 113 and Highway Divisions of the NYC Police Department join together to provide all of the makings for a delicious barbeque and a terrific day for people who attend QCP Day and Residential Programs at the Bellerose Campus.

Program participants proudly presented Joe Iaboni, President of the Jamaica Rotary Club with a beautiful art memento made by the Day Services Program.

The Jamaica Rotary Club is made up of very special people, they are very anxious to provide a lovely day for QCP program participants and they succeed. QCP consumers have a wonderful time eating and being entertained by New York's Finest. Everyone involved deserves a very special THANK YOU.



*Executive Director Charlie Houston and Day Hab participant Shakkrit present NYPD Officer Secreto with a special art memento created by participants in the Day Services Program.*



*Rotary President Joe Iaboni with Police Officer Secreto.*

## BELLEROSE DAY HABILITATION PROGRAM INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY

International Dance Day was introduced in 1982 by the International Dance Committee of UNESCO International Theater Institute. One of the main goals of the dance day is to increase the awareness of the importance of dance among the general public as well as to persuade governments all over the world to provide a proper place for dance in all systems of education, from primary to higher.

Consumers from the Day Hab Program handed out information and performed dance routines that were rehearsed for weeks leading up to the celebration of International Dance Day. The music that was selected came from a collection of the group's favorite songs and dances that included Reggae, African, Indian and Spanish music. The occupants of the group rooms were asked to join in the dancing. It was an educational experience. In addition to learning about International Dance Day, participants picked up a few new dance moves as well!

The celebration ended on a high note as staff members played traditional Nigerian drums, called "the talking drum" while everyone in the program danced the afternoon away in observation of this beautiful day!

## BELLEROSE DAY SERVICES - SPORTS DAY 2010

On Thursday, September 23, 2010, the Bellerose Day Services Program enjoyed SPORTS DAY. With a sunny day overhead, the staff and consumers competed in a variety of sports activities with the opportunity to win ribbons for first, second and third places. There were contests in hoola-hooping, basketball throwing, running relay races and wheelchair races. Everything was geared to the capabilities of the individuals involved. There were also some interesting staff competitions going on with one-legged races and various relay races. Each classroom made beautiful banners that they paraded around the field. After the exciting events, staff and consumers enjoyed a delicious luncheon. A fun time was had by all. What a great day!



*Good sportsmanship is exemplified in one of the team's banners.*



*Excited participants getting ready for Sports Day parade.*



*A young lady enjoys a field hockey competition at Bellerose Sports Day '10.*



*Creative and uniquely decorated pumpkin!*

*The Bellerose Day Program enjoyed their  
5th Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest  
on October 28th, 2010.*

*The theme this year was  
"Glitz and Glamour."*

## CHILDREN'S CENTER RECEIVES GENEROUS DONATIONS

The Children's Center was the recipient this past year of much welcomed grants and donations.

The **Verizon Foundation** awarded the Children's Center a \$7,500 grant to help support literacy development for children with disabilities. With these funds, the staff were able to purchase equipment and materials, including computers and talking books, to enhance the students' comprehension of language and encourage their interest in reading and the spoken word. Each classroom received items appropriate for the developmental levels of the students.

**Colgate-Palmolive** donated a mobile entertainment system, which incorporates a flat panel television screen, DVD player and Nintendo Wii, all in one unit, which can be rolled from one room to another. The system, which is pre-loaded with games and movies, is a big hit with the children, and with the occupational therapists and teachers who use the system to work on attention span, focusing and eye-hand coordination skills.

The **Michael Gordon Foundation** once again supported the need for new equipment at the Children's Center, with its donation this year of more than \$16,000. These funds were used to purchase new classroom furniture for the children, including tables and chairs, as well as colorful, playful rugs for each classroom.

The **Walter Kaner Foundation** awarded the Children's Center with \$2,000 for the purchase of five touch screen monitors and adaptive "mice" for the students at our school. These purchases enabled our children with physical disabilities to participate more fully from instruction in our computer room.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE HOME DEPOT & THEIR VENDORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SPONSORSHIPS!

3M	Makita USA Inc.	Spectrum Brands
ICS Service Company	Bonnie Plants	Fresh To You Café
Abco Facility Maintenance	Mobile Food Vendors	Stanley Black & Decker / Dewalt
Invemed Associates LLC	Clinton Nurseries	Glidden Paint
American Carpet South	Mutual of America	Techtronic Industries North America
Ivy Acres	Coca-Cola Enterprises	HGA-Quest, Inc.
American Retail Services, Inc.	Procter and Gamble	The Scotts Company
Iron Bridge Tools, Inc.	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Hilti Inc.
Ardell Sales and Consulting	RJB Contracting- Certa Pro Painters	United States Gypsum
Jeffrey Court Tile	Crown Bolt	Hopewell Nursery Inc.
Behr Paint Corporation	S.C. Johnson and Son, Inc.	US Installation Group, Inc.
Kurt Weiss Greenhouses, Inc.	Dalton Enterprises, Inc.	Stinchcomb Nursery Service
Bell Nursery	Sakrete- Oldcastle Retail Group	Van Zyverden
Lexus Construction	Distinctive Window Treatments	Zep Commercial
Blaster Corporation		

## QCP CHILDREN HAVE FUN AT FESTIVAL

Queens Centers for Progress Children's Center held a carnival for students attending the summer program.

The therapy rooms at the Center were decorated to look like a zoo. The decorations created a celebratory mood and the children really enjoyed the day.



*Staff welcome children to the "Zoo".*



*Riding the Zebra!*



*Children enjoy an exciting day.*



*Enjoying time in the ball pit.*

## GOV. PATTERSON OFFICIALLY CHANGES AGENCY NAME

Governor David A. Paterson signed a bill into law in July 2010 changing the name of The Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) to its new name, the **New York State Office For People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)**.

This historical legislation not only removes the words "Mental Retardation" from OMRDD, but also from State statute and regulations, excluding clinical references. The new name was chosen in March 2010 by consensus of representative stakeholders. It eliminates the stigmatizing language which was part of the agency's name and instead reflects the number one guiding principle of "Putting People First." It is consistent with the People First language law enacted in 2007 which mandates that in statutory language the emphasis is placed where it should be – on the people served, not the disability. The agency will now continue its vital mission of helping people with developmental disabilities live richer lives – going forward as **OPWDD**.

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Letters will be published at the discretion of the Editor as space permits and subject to editing and abridgement.

## 2010 QCP'S WALK WITH ME

Scores of enthusiastic Walkers gathered to participate in Queens Centers for Progress' 35th Annual Five Mile Walk. Focused on actively promoting advocacy and increased community awareness and involvement it was set in motion on Saturday, April 17, 2010.

In a resounding show of support Walkers of all abilities showed up at QCP for the early morning send off. Amongst the crowd were **Queens Park Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski**, and **Senator Frank Padavan** who got the Walk off to a great start.

Hundreds of enthusiastic people walked from the QCP Center to Kissena Park and back.

At Kissena Park, QCP provided water to rejuvenate walkers. Walkers returned to QCP excited with a sense of accomplishment and were greeted back by a savory brunch provided by the **PALACE DINER**.

The Walk has faithful participants from area high schools. This year we were delighted that the following High Schools joined the QCP Walk to raise funds for the developmentally disabled: Hillcrest HS, Francis Lewis HS, Jamaica H.S., Richmond Hill, Townsend Harris, St Mary's and RFK High School as well as Russell Sage Junior High School

Fran Schoenbrot, a former participant at QCP has shown the greatest and most consistent support. Fran, with great enthusiasm, single-handedly raised over twelve hundred dollars making this the **Thirteenth** consecutive year she has collected outstanding amounts of money. Charles Houston recognized Fran Sussman with an achievement award.

The Walk is a yearly event and we invite the community to get involved. Special thanks are extended to all who participated.



Students from Hillcrest High School show their school spirit.



Executive Director Charles Houston presents Fran Schoenbrot, the walk's top fundraiser, a special plaque for her efforts.



Maryann McAleer, Director of Development at QCP, Dorothy Lewandowski, Queens Parks Commissioner, Sen. Frank Padavan, Board Member Tom Diana and Executive Director, Charlie Houston get ready for the Walk



Staff and program participants getting ready to step out at the 2010 QCP Walk.



D.J. Greg Lomangino and Senator Frank Padavan lead the walkers from the QCP Center to Kissena Park and back.

### New Beginnings (Continued from page 1)

Wynter also receives speech and language therapy, which has focused on her using single words and short phrases to communicate. At first, Wynter was mainly silent and communicated through limited gestures such as pointing, and with facial expressions. She will now imitate words and short phrases during play.

Adrian has been attending QCP programs for the past two years, since he was three years of age. He has a diagnosis of spina bifida, and while he is unable to walk, he loves to move around especially to music. He is a happy playful boy, who loves his pre-school class; in physical therapy he is beginning to be able to take some steps with assistance. He is doing well in speech and occupational therapy.