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## A TRIBUTE TO CHARLES HOUSTON, UPON HIS RETIREMENT

After 36 years of extraordinary service to Queens Centers for Progress, Executive Director Charles Houston has retired. The indelible trail that Charlie leaves will always be remembered.

Thank you, Charlie, for your dedication to the mission of QCP. Your respect for the people we serve has taught us to work with compassion, hopefulness, and a great deal of heart. You have been a consistent leader who inspires all around you to do their best. You showed by example how passionate advocacy on behalf of the lives of people with developmental disabilities can make a huge difference. On State and National levels, you were a voice for change and successfully led our agency in advocating for the people we serve. Your impact on the lives of thousands will be felt every day.

With gratitude and thanks, we wish you the very best going forward.



*Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



QUEENS CENTERS FOR PROGRESS is committed to providing person-centered services and supports to children and adults who have developmental disabilities. The goal of these services and supports is to promote independence, community involvement, and quality of life.

## FOOTSTEPS FOR PROGRESS

The 44th Annual Community Walk, Footsteps for Progress, brought 250 walkers and 50 runners to the finish line on April 1, 2017. A 5K run was combined with the event, held in collaboration with St. John's University. This annual tradition, much supported in the community, raised \$33,000 to help QCP support children and adults with developmental disabilities.



## TEAM QCP RUNS TO RAISE FUNDS

A team of fifteen runners are committed to getting in shape and raising funds for QCP. Runners are training for the TCS New York City Marathon and the 42nd Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, DC! Over \$125,000 has been raised since TEAM QCP was created in 2011, thanks to the dedicated runners.

Interested in joining the team? Contact Wendy Phaff at 718-380-3000, ext. 325, or via email at [WPhaff@queenscp.org](mailto:WPhaff@queenscp.org).



## ON A MISSION: NEW HORIZONS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

A group that started last summer has taken flight to become a dynamic force with a mission. The QCP New Horizons Young Professionals Group, whose members are ages 25 to 40, have become ambassadors for the agency. QCP thanks the members for volunteering their time, talents, and energy to furthering the agency's mission. For information how you can become a part of this special group contact Jasmine Short, [jshort@queenscp.org](mailto:jshort@queenscp.org) 718-380-3000 Ext. 297.



## DAY HAB INDIVIDUALS TRAIN WITH ATHLETES

It was a winning combination from the start. St. John's University Women's Track & Field Team partnered with QCP and Achilles International Queens Chapter to lend their athletic prowess for a new purpose. The team trained 25 individuals from QCP's Bellerose and Jamaica Day Hab programs over six weeks. As Day Hab individuals worked out with Achilles and St. John's athletes, they developed new skills and a profound sense of accomplishment. The program will start up again in the fall and expand to include more athletes.



## QCP GOLF OUTING A HOLE-IN-ONE

On September 7, 2017, QCP held its 21st Annual Golf Outing, generously sponsored by The Home Depot and its vendors for the 21st consecutive year.

This year's event was QCP's highest grossing to date, raising more than \$1 million to enhance the nonprofit's programs and services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Approximately 130 sponsors contributed to the fun-filled event, while 450 golfers swung for a wonderful cause.

During the evening reception, QCP honored longtime supporter Marty Gallagher as the agency's "Man of the Year," recognizing his community spirit and a shared commitment to help individuals in need. Marty has worked for The Home Depot since 1991, joining the company as an Associate Merchant before working his way up to several leadership positions. In 2011, he was appointed to his current position, Merchandising Vice President of Lumber.

Marty remains committed to supporting QCP's mission of exemplary care and recently visited our Children's Center, where he toured the facility and made several new friends!



## FAMILY ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES TEN INDIVIDUALS WITH CHAMPION AWARDS

Accolades were well deserved on May 11 during the Second Annual QCP Champions Awards presented by Margaret MacPherson, President of the Family Association. Ten individuals were honored for noteworthy accomplishments in their programs, home and residential settings, and in the community. Congratulations to our 2017 Champions!



## “EVENING OF FINE FOOD” WITH CELEBRITY TASTE MAKERS ATTRACTED HUGE TURNOUT

More than 350 supporters attended an “Evening of Fine Food” on February 28. Celebrity Taste Makers served as co-host for the benefit at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park that raised over \$50,000. Lisa Mateo, anchor of PIX-11 News and Host of Celebrity Taste Makers, was a special guest at the festivities. The fundraiser honored Brian Rooney, Regional Vice President of Mutual of America, also an event sponsor; and, Monsignor Jamie J. Gigantiello, Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and chef and host of “Breaking Bread.” QCP is grateful to everyone who contributed to the memorable evening.



## CELEBRATING COMMUNITY PRE-VOC

Thanks and gratitude were in abundance on June 2 as QCP held a Community Pre-Voc Recognition Luncheon. More than 100 people attended in honor of the volunteer work sites that give individuals an opportunity to gain valuable work experiences. Community Pre-Voc provides organizations with reliable applicants who volunteer at their sites and develop employment readiness skills.

Companies interested in participating in the Community Pre-Voc program may find more information at <http://www.queenscp.org/what-we-do/adult-vocational-services/#pre-vocational-work>.





## BELLEROSE DAY HAB ENJOYS BBQ WITH JAMAICA ROTARY CLUB

The Jamaica Rotary Club held a scrumptious barbecue for Bellerose Day Habilitation and Residential Program participants on June 7. The culinary pleasures were cooked by New York City Police officers from Queens South. Adding poignancy to the day, trees were planted on the Bellerose campus to honor Jamaica Rotary Club members who have passed away.

## REMEMBERING Helen M. Marshall



(1929 - 2017) QCP mourns the loss of Helen M. Marshall, who passed away on March 4, 2017, at age 87. Marshall, an avid supporter and friend of QCP, served three terms as borough president starting in 2001. Marshall will be remembered as a champion of many great causes and for her heartfelt concern for the individuals and families served by QCP.

## PAINT NIGHT BRINGS A BURST OF SPRINGTIME FLOWERS

Flowers blossomed in the form of paintings as "Paint Night" unfolded for 55 individuals on April 28. Darrel Vaughn served as paint instructor for the collaborative event between QCP and Services Now for Adult Person (SNAP). Lygia Forrest's rhythm and blues brought melodic tones to the evening. Light food and beverages were served. By evening's end, a gorgeous array of painted flowers filled the room.

## A NEW CHALLENGE FOLLOWS #BFAIR2DIRECTCARE

QCP recently won an important battle for higher wages on behalf of Direct Care Workers as it played an active role in the #bFair2DirectCare campaign. Thanks to everyone who supported the effort to convince legislators and government to add money to the budget for direct care workers.

Now looming is the possibility of Medicaid cuts that could affect millions of people across the country.

In May, a bill was passed in the U.S. House of Representatives that would cut Medicaid by more than \$800 billion in the next 10 years and harm people with disabilities disproportionately. The Senate is considering passing a similar bill. If a final version of the bill becomes legislation, millions will lose Medicaid and other health insurance coverage. This would drastically affect many of the programs, supports, and services for people with disabilities.

To fight this challenge, QCP urges individuals to call or email U.S. Senators and Members of Congress. If you are active on social media, use @SpecificLegislators, using hashtags such as #SaveMedicaid and/or #AHCA. Speaking up at Town Hall gatherings is another way to create awareness, as is submitting Letters to the Editor.

Many thanks to all who get involved in this new and important challenge.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO NANCY GLASS

Director of Children's Services, Nancy Glass, is a proud recipient of Star Network's 2017 Queens Power Women in Business Award. Nancy was recognized at a ceremony held at Terrace on the Park in Corona, New York on Thursday, May 18, 2017. The distinguished award recognizes women business leaders for their outstanding professional achievements and impact on the community.



## QCP'S 67TH ANNUAL GALA WAS MEMORABLE FOR MANY REASONS.

Not only did the event at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadows Corona Park raise approximately \$73,000, but it honored three local business leaders for their loyalty to the QCP mission and was an opportunity to thank Charles Houston for his 36 years of service to the nonprofit.

With Narmeen Choudhury, reporter, PIX11 News, as the Gala emcee, 175 guests enjoyed music, dining, and networking. The funds they raised will help support the 1,200-plus individuals with developmental disabilities whom the agency serves by enabling them to purchase adaptive equipment not covered by government funding.

Vincenzo Armano, Project Manager, AMR Electric, received the 2017 Man of the Year award; James H. Rowland, Esq., Partner, Zetlin & De Chiara LLP, was given the 2017 Business Leadership award; and Michael Tashjian, President, Formula Motorsports, was named the 2017 Entrepreneur of the Year.



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT QCP: BE PART OF SOMETHING MEANINGFUL

Employees of QCP immerse themselves in meaningful work every day, promoting the independence and community integration of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Our employment opportunities include Direct Support Assistants, Client Coordinators, Residential Supervisor, Direct Support Specialist, Medicaid Service Supervisor, Q.A. Assistant, LPN, RN, and Maintenance & Adaptive Equipment Carpenter.

Employees receive an excellent benefits package: 23 vacation days, 12 paid holidays, 12 sick/personal leave, floating holidays, full medical and dental, pension plan, Flexible Spending Account, TDA, life insurance, disability, and tuition reimbursement for undergrad and graduate level programs.

For job listings and information, please visit <http://www.queenscp.org/employment-opportunities/>.



## QCP APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As of July 1, 2017 QCP has officially named Terri Ross as Executive Director!

With over 40+ years of experience, QCP welcomed Ross in 1989 as a Quality Assurance Coordinator. In 1997, she was promoted to Director of Adult Services. We are honored to have her leading our agency.

*"As Executive Director, I look forward to helping us move forward as an agency, to being involved in the political system as it affects QCP, and to building on our many successes."*

- Terri Ross, Executive Director