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## UPCOMING EVENTS



### 7th Annual Breakfast Challenge

Wednesday, Sept. 21  
The Circle Diner  
Fairfield, CT

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### Four Seasons Ball

Saturday, October 29  
Patterson Country Club  
Fairfield, CT

BENEFITING RESIDENTIAL  
SERVICES

### COMING IN SEPTEMBER

### The Launch of the New Kennedy Center Website

SPONSORED BY  
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## Celebrating Sixty Years THE KENNEDY CENTER ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER



David Kmetz with co-chairs Mary Brown and Rachelle Mitchell.



Marty Schwartz presents Dottie Larson with the 2011 Vision Award.



Past Chair, Gil Kellersman passes the gavel to new Chair Peter Foley.



Dottie Kellersman is presented the Silver Bowl Award by Marty Schwartz.



Marty with Quality Inn Mgr. Heather Camacho, Joan Nassef & George Sarantis.



Juergen Link of Teavana accepts the Industry of the Year from Bill Gill.



Marty with Volunteer of the Year, Toni Wedge and David Kmetz.



Past Chairs of The Kennedy Center Board of Directors join Marty Schwartz, President & CEO, in celebrating the 60th Anniversary. From l to r: Barbara Green, David Kmetz, Gil Kellersman, Dottie Larson, Peter Foley (new Chair), Isobel Broadhurst, Doug Brown, Herb Moorin & David Calliari.



Stephanie Knight presents Jeffrey Prushko with Employee of the Year.



Lee Forshaw presents Peter Bradeen with Employee of the Year.



Supported Employee of the Year, Calvin Clark with Marty & Sean Mayne



Kathie Cepetelli & Gil Kellersman present Michael Donahue the James Rebeta Award.

The Kennedy Center's 60th Awards Dinner and Annual Meeting held on April 28 at the Bridgeport Holiday Inn featured eleven outstanding individuals and companies who were named recipients of community, consumer and employer awards.

As part of the evening's festivities, motivational speaker **Jason Crigler** and his sister **Marjorie** of New York City recounted their amazing story. Jason, a young guitarist in New York City, overcame the physical and emotional trauma of recovering from a stroke. Over 200 guests were in attendance to celebrate this nationally accredited rehabilitation organization's 60th anniversary.

The top honor of the event was awarded to **Dorothy Bannow Larson** of Easton, Lifetime Director of The Kennedy Center Board of Directors, who was recognized as the 2011 winner of **The Kennedy Center Vision Award**.

As Martin D. Schwartz, President and CEO of The Kennedy Center

noted, "For over 50 years, Dorothy Bannow Larson has been a great supporter and friend of The Kennedy Center. In addition, she has helped make the Greater Bridgeport area a better place for people from all backgrounds, abilities, and needs. Her philanthropy and leadership roles are legendary."

Other award recipients included **Calvary Evangelical Free Church** of Trumbull, who was singled out for the **Community Service Award**; **Teavana** with a store in Trumbull and a warehouse in Stratford, was named **Industry of the Year**; the **Quality Inn of Milford** received the **Competitive Employer of the Year Award**; **Michael Hoffman** received the **Media Award**; **Supported Employee of the Year** was awarded to **Calvin Clark** of Derby; recipient of the **James Rebeta Award** was **Michael Donahue** of Trumbull; recognized as **Volunteer of the Year** was **Toni Wedge** of Stratford; two individuals received the **Competitive Employee of**

**the Year**: **Peter Bradeen** of Westport and **Jeffrey Prushko** of Shelton; and the **Silver Bowl Presentation**, an award originated by the Kennedy Center's late founder Evelyn Kennedy, was given to **Dottie Kellersman** of Huntington/ Shelton, a most devoted and committed volunteer.

To celebrate the 60th Anniversary, several informative breakout sessions were presented to families and the public before the dinner. **John Kramer, Ph. D., Chair of the Siblings Leadership Network** made a presentation on Siblings of Siblings with Special Needs and **Dr. Gerard Kerins, FACP, Section Chief of Geriatrics at the Hospital of St. Raphael in New Haven** spoke to families about the concerns of Alzheimer's and Down syndrome. The highlight of the evening was a tribute video that was presented about our founder, Evelyn Kennedy, who passed away this last December, who was a true visionary and pioneer in the world of disabilities.

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



# PARTNERS PROGRAM

## HELPING TEENS PREPARE FOR THE ADULT WORLD

Today more than ever, it is extremely difficult to land an entry-level job right out of high school, especially with the current economic climate. However, imagine if you have a disability: the job search for a new graduate could even be more complicated. Any of our lives could change in an instant; it could happen to any of us at any time or moment.

That is why the **Partners Program** was created by The Kennedy Center. This program's purpose is to help special needs students up to age 21 prepare for the adult world and gain independence. Students who have autism, emotional disturbances, significant learning disabilities, physical challenges or social challenges, are taught life and vocational skills they need to be prepared for in the real world.

**"The Kennedy Center has a track record of success and has worked with over 35 school systems throughout the state, including those in Fairfield, New Haven, Middlesex and Litchfield Counties,"** said Sara Purdy, Intake & Transition Services Manager at The Kennedy Center. "We assist students of all ages in a variety of capacities, so they function as contributing adults within the community."

This program works as an extension of the classroom. By partnering with our local schools, **The Kennedy Center is able to offer many services that will allow students to go beyond the traditional development and venture into a world of success by offering person-centered planning customized to each student's needs.**

**As an example, The Kennedy Center offers a monthly Social Club for students enrolled in the Partners Program.** "By nature, a person with a disability is sometimes socially isolated and needs to develop more social skills," noted Purdy. "Our program encourages the participants to attend activities such as bowling parties, movie nights and other celebrations. The results have been amazing!"

Since the program's inception, hundreds of children have successfully participated. The Kennedy Center works together to build a strong partnership between family, school and community. **The agency provides alternative resources through natural experiences and rediscoveries for students.**

**The following services are offered:** work skills development, vocational skills evaluation, career planning and placement, job training and coaching, community independence training, independent living skills training, supported employment training services, service coordination/case management services, social/leisure planning and support, travel training, behavioral services, and community experience and inclusion.

*The Kennedy Center is currently receiving referrals for the Partners Program for students age 16 to 21. Please call Sara Purdy, Intake & Transition Services Manager at The Kennedy Center, Inc., 203-365-8522, ext. 248, for information.*

# OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED

## CAMP TEPEE



Camp is usually the highlight of the summer for most children. For Jessica of Stratford, it holds special meaning for this 10-year-old as well as The Kennedy Center staff, and Kennedy Center volunteers who make Camp Tepee in Monroe so enjoyable.



"Jessica absolutely loves Camp Tepee and thrives in this outstanding summer program," said her mom Debi Wills. "We have tried other camps with my daughter and Camp Tepee has the best staff and activities in the region. Jessica's favorite activity is swimming. **Our family appreciates the constant care from the staff and volunteer aides from The Kennedy Center.**"

**For over 15 years, The Kennedy Center and Camp Tepee have made camp extra special for a total of over 400 area children with disabilities. Through The Kennedy Center's Opportunities Unlimited Program, a child with disabilities is paired one-on-one with a trained volunteer.** This summer nearly 40 teenagers will be volunteering in Opportunities Unlimited at Camp Tepee. The YMCA accommodates as many children with special needs as possible. The Kennedy Center works closely with Camp Tepee to conduct thorough intake assessments.

"I am thrilled my daughter Sophie has attended Camp Tepee and continues in our family tradition," said Jaime Polatsek of Trumbull. "I went to Camp Tepee as a child and am delighted she can attend this fantastic program, too. **There are not many options in the area for camps that offer social interaction with typical peers,**" noted Polatsek. "Our daughter thrives in this summer program."



**On an annual basis, The Kennedy Center's Opportunities Unlimited offers 300 area children with special needs an opportunity to participate in recreational, educational and social activities alongside children without disabilities.** This unique program targets children with special needs ranging from age 3 to 21. Participants are encouraged to develop friendships and learn how to have a greater awareness and understanding of people with disabilities. Children are supported out in the community in the activity of their choice. After school or summer activities include swimming, dance, soccer, cycling and of course, summer camp.

"This is one of my favorite programs," said Emma Genster, Youth Inclusion Coordinator. "Camp Tepee has been extremely generous to campers with special needs. **It is one of the only camps in the area that does not charge extra for campers with disabilities.**"

*For information on Opportunities Unlimited, contact Karen Cubbellotti, Children's Services Director at 203.332.4535, ext. 337 or [kcubbellotti@kennedyctr.org](mailto:kcubbellotti@kennedyctr.org)*

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### REGIONAL MOBILITY MANAGEMENT PROJECT



### MOBILITY SERVICES PROGRAM

The Kennedy Center, Inc. joins a national movement in improving transportation options for seniors, people with disabilities, and veterans with the addition of a Regional Mobility Manager to its existing Mobility Services Program.

Through a competitive process, The Kennedy Center was awarded a two-year \$200,000 Federal New Freedoms Initiative grant to hire and oversee the work of the new Regional Mobility Manager. **The Kennedy Center's Regional Mobility Manager will serve as a resource for all forms of transportation that benefit seniors, people with disabilities, and veterans residing in the Bridgeport/Stamford Urbanized Zone.**

The Mobility Services Program of The Kennedy Center, which is headquartered in Trumbull and has satellite offices throughout the

state, has a long history of helping people with disabilities and senior citizens access public transportation. **Travel training, which The Kennedy Center has offered since 1991, teaches people with disabilities and seniors the skills necessary to safely and independently utilize regular bus and train services throughout Connecticut.** Since 1991, The Kennedy Center has instructed over 3,500 individuals to access various forms of transportation for work, school, worship and leisure activities.

According to Martin D. Schwartz, President and CEO of The Kennedy Center, "I am very proud of the accomplishments our talented Mobility Services staff has achieved over the past 20 years as statewide leaders in this field. At the same time, we are honored to receive national recognition and funding for this important regional project that will ultimately improve transportation options for seniors, people with disabilities, and veterans in Southwestern Connecticut."

**The creation of the Regional Mobility Manager position is the result of years of planning conducted by The Bridgeport/Stamford Urbanized Area's Locally Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan Committee, "LOCHSTP" for short.** The LOCHSTP committee consists of representatives from area planning agencies (South Western Regional Planning Agency, Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency, Valley Council of Governments), municipal social service officials, transit districts, and area senior and human service providers. **Based on a federal mandate to improve transportation coordination for seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals, the committee was formed in 2006 and charged with developing programming for the region's allocated funding made available through the Federal Transit Administration's New Freedom Program.** The project is also supported by the Connecticut Department of Transportation, which generously provided matching funds.



*Karin Christley, the new Regional Mobility Manager for The Kennedy Center.*

In the early years of the LOCHSTP planning process, gaps were discovered in existing transportation services that did not meet the needs of seniors and people with disabilities. Some new bus services were added as a result of this early research, but most were subsequently stopped due to low ridership. **The new Regional Mobility Manager will be responsible for conducting research studies to gain greater insight into service gaps.**

Existing transportation services will be evaluated and new destinations currently not accessible for people with disabilities and seniors will be determined.

In addition to researching gaps and potential solutions, the Regional Mobility Manager will publicize existing transportation services to seniors, people with disabilities, and veterans in Southwest Connecticut through seminars, workshops, and other public outreach events. **The creation of a web site and the use of social media are planned to disseminate transit information and keep interested stakeholders updated about the progress of the Regional Mobility Management Project.**

*For more information, contact Karin Christley at 203.365.8522, ext. 263 or by email [kchristley@kennedyctr.org](mailto:kchristley@kennedyctr.org). You can also follow the program on Facebook at Know How to Go! Southwest Connecticut*

**Good News!**

Find out more about the AARP Auto Insurance Program from The Hartford!

Eileen Rappa  
Merit Insurance, Inc.  
Call 1-800-762-8358





*Congratulations to*  
Cabaret Alum & friend  
**Javier Colon**  
2011 winner of  
"The Voice"

from **All of us at**  
**The Kennedy Center**

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## THE KENNEDY CENTER AUXILIARY

TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE



From l-r: Dottie Kellersman, Barbara-Ann Cavanaugh, Hector Bravo, Carol Karpovich, Carol Quinn and Shirley Piccirillo.

Formally established in October of 1979 as a service group, the Auxiliary of The Kennedy Center is an independent 501 (c) (3), non-profit organization that has been a major long-term supporter of the agency. The Auxiliary sponsors annual Kennedy Center events such as the Halloween Dance, the Summer Bash, the Bowling Banquet and the Valentines Dance, as well as providing necessary funds for many of The Kennedy Center programs and services. **Consisting solely of volunteers, the Auxiliary has been improving the quality of life of Kennedy Center consumers for over 30 years.**

To meet this goal, the Auxiliary operates the New and Nearly New Shop, located at 2323 Barnum Avenue, in Stratford. "I have 27 volunteers working at the shop," says Carol Karpovich, Volunteer Manager of the thrift shop. "A majority of them are original shop volunteers, who have been here since the beginning and did not have any connection to The Kennedy Center."

Auxiliary members remain vigilant as they anticipate the future. "You have to realize that we are working for all our children. But we are getting older, we would love to have younger parents and other community-minded individuals that recognize the value in what we provide to come and volunteer" explains Dottie Kellersman, Auxiliary President. The Auxiliary also acknowledges the critical importance of supporting The Kennedy Center's quality staff. Kellersman reports, "We donated money for the last staff training day when we were informed that the event might be cancelled due to insufficient funding."



Inside the New & Nearly New Shop.



All have fun at the Annual Bowling Banquet sponsored by the Auxiliary.

Thus, in appreciation and support of our wonderful Auxiliary, The Kennedy Center is making a special request to parents, local area students, as well as other community-minded individuals who want to help make a difference. If you are interested in becoming a member/volunteer of the Auxiliary, please contact Auxiliary President, Dottie Kellersman at 203.944.9720 or Carol Karpovich, New and Nearly New Shop Volunteer Manager at 203.377.5669.

## FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



The Kennedy Center was awarded a \$15,000 grant from The Fairfield County Community Foundation to support the Center's work in The Lighthouse Summer Programs in Bridgeport. In order to ensure that all families in need of summer childcare can participate in The Lighthouse Program, The Kennedy Center provides experts, child support associates and trained interns, who understand the unique needs of children with physical and behavioral disabilities. This grant will allow The Kennedy Center to provide specialized supports for children with special needs, age 5 to 13, so they can participate in summer programs at three Bridgeport school sites.

## JOHN H. & ETHEL G. NOBEL CHARITABLE TRUST



The Kennedy Center was awarded a grant in the amount of \$40,000 from the John H. & Ethel G. Nobel Charitable Trust in support of The Kennedy Center's Norma F. Pfriem Foundation Alzheimer's Center at Faust Hall in Bridgeport. The program allows individuals with Down syndrome and early onset Alzheimer's disease to remain in their community for as long as possible. Additionally, it provides an integrated support system for the family members who are dealing with their loved one.

## AGAPE SOCIETY/Cindy & Robert Citrone



Cindy Citrone presents a \$5,000 check to l to r: Sharon Nzekwu, Faust staff Fayonne Johnson, Faust Manager and Kathie Cepetelli, Therapeutic Rec. Mgr.

The Sixth Annual "Night With the Stars" was a huge birthday celebration for 180 clients of The Kennedy Center and the Disability Resource Network, Inc. Held at the Easton Community Center, this year's theme was "Every Day Is Like My Birthday" and was held in honor of the late Shaun Brennan, a former client of The Kennedy Center, who always loved birthday parties.



Mary Ellen Brennan-Connelly receives a memorial plaque for her brother Shaun from Cindy Citrone.

This free event was sponsored by the AGAPE Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of special needs individuals. In honor of Shaun Brennan, Cindy Citrone and her husband Robert, close friends of the Brennan's, donated \$5,000 to The Kennedy Center's Norma F. Pfriem Foundation Alzheimer's Center at Faust Hall in Bridgeport. Cindy is also a member of the AGAPE Society.

## RECOGNITIONS

### THE KENNEDY CENTER achieves perfect CARF survey



The Kennedy Center, Inc. has received a three-year accreditation from CARF, the Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission. In addition to once again earning the highest level of national accreditation possible, the organization also distinguished itself for meeting every one of the nearly 600 standards. This is third time The Kennedy Center has achieved a perfect survey. Less than 1% of organizations internationally have attained this top level of accreditation.

According to Brian J. Boon, Ph.D., President and CEO of CARF, "Our surveyors made no recommendations for The Kennedy Center, which signifies that they did not identify any areas of nonconformance to the standards. This is an extraordinary accomplishment, as only 3% of CARF surveys result in no recommendations. Everyone involved in your organization should take pride in achieving this high level of accreditation. Programs, services and administration are of the highest professional caliber."

This achievement marks the tenth consecutive three-year accreditation awarded to The Kennedy Center by CARF, the nation's accreditation authority in the fields of medical rehabilitation, behavioral health, and employment and community support services.

"I congratulate the entire Kennedy Center team for contributing to such an outstanding accreditation report," said Martin D. Schwartz, President and CEO of The Kennedy Center. "The survey commended our professional and competent staff as well as our many caring, committed volunteers, board members and managers. The high accreditation we earned demonstrates how we all work together to produce such exceptional results."

The CARF survey recognized The Kennedy Center for "program services, business operations, management, and administration of The Kennedy Center that are very well executed by a most competent, caring, committed, and enthusiastic management staff of professional persons, which has resulted in a most effective, well-run service organization. Longevity is a hallmark of the executive and management teams."

The report also noted "throughout the organization, from line staff to the President/CEO, morale is high. This is fostered by clear communication of the mission and values of The Kennedy Center throughout the organization and its high degree of commitment to meet the individual needs of persons with disabilities."

In addition, "employers have expressed high satisfaction with services provided through The Kennedy Center. They reported that clients referred have been well matched to their job skills and job coaches have provided excellent and attentive coaching and follow-through, frequently going the extra mile."

### KENNEDY CENTER ARTISTS



Four Kennedy Center artists were accepted into the Third Annual Connecticut Senior Juried Art Show held at Pomerag Woods in Southbury CT: Fred Elander, Teddy Sutton, Patricia Della Rocco and Elizabeth Holdsworth. The panel of four judges for the over 200 entries from 20 towns in Connecticut choose Elizabeth's drawing "Pink Flowers" as the second place winner!

### MARTY SCHWARTZ / CCPA Lifetime Achievement Award



Marty Schwartz, President and CEO of The Kennedy Center for over 30 years was presented with the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA). He is pictured with from l to r: Peter Carbine, V. P. of Kennedy Center Residential Services, his wife Elaine Schwartz, Matthew Reyher, President & CEO of ARI in Stamford, and Valerie Reyher, V.P. of Kennedy Center Rehabilitation Services.

### CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER



The Kennedy Center of Trumbull was recognized nationally with a 2010 National Family Caregiving Award. The Kennedy Center was the sole agency in Connecticut to receive this prestigious honor. The awards ceremony was sponsored by the National Alliance for Caregiving and the MetLife Foundation. The agency was awarded \$20,000 to continue and enhance their support for caregivers. Peter Carbine, V.P. of Residential Services accepted the award for the Caregivers Program.

### DRAGEN LESKO / OUTSTANDING PERSON



*Dragen is pictured with Laura Veneri, Opportunities Unlimited coordinator, who describes Dragen as "an inspiration to all who work with him."*

Dragen Lesko of Fairfield, an 18-year-old young man with Down syndrome, was recognized as the Outstanding Person with Down syndrome in Connecticut during the 25th Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress Convention. He is the son of Tom and Diane Quaranta of Fairfield and is a graduate of the class of 2010 at Fairfield Ward High School. Dragen persevered two kidney transplants and through it all has stayed strong. Dragen is currently transitioning into the world of work.

# 46th Annual Four Seasons Ball

Over 200 supporters attended The Kennedy Center's 46th Annual Four Seasons Ball honoring outstanding volunteers **Donna and Dimitri Alatakis**, co-owners of the Circle Diner in Fairfield and the Sherwood Diner in Westport.

This fun night featured sumptuous cuisine, dancing to the lively band Cracked Ice, and two interactive games, "Heads or Tails" and "Let's Make a Deal."

The Four Seasons Ball was co-chaired by Fairfield residents **Anne Foley and her husband Peter** and raised over **\$102,000** for The Kennedy Center's Residential Services. The couple was lauded for their genuine enthusiasm, dedication and endless energy in making the Four Seasons Ball such a success.

Major ball sponsors at the Sapphire level included: **Beltone Hearing Centers of NY & CT**,

**GE Capital Media, Communications & Entertainment; People's United Bank, and Van Wagner Communications, LLC.**

In addition, TD Bank was the Emerald sponsor, while at the Ruby level were: Bigelow Tea, BlumShapiro, Insurance Exchange, Inc., Merit Insurance, Mina Foods Inc., Patriot National Bank, Pullman & Comley LLC, and Silverstone Electric Company.



First Row from l to r: Rob Reuter, Sandy & Kevin Walsh, Michelle & John Bisack. Back Row: Diane Reuter, Kevin & Michele Brown, Laura & Joe Pehota.



Bob & Barbara Scinto with Tom O'Hara and his wife Cindi Bigelow



Tribute Honorees Dimitri and Donna Alatakis (center) are welcomed by Co-chairs, Anne and Peter Foley.



Marty Schwartz, President & CEO, presents the Alatakis's with the Tribute Journal.



Ken & Kathleen Kearns with Bonnie Britz-Thurnauer & Art Thurnauer



Betsy & Ed Ryan



Front Row from l to r: Stephanie Scheetz, Kathy LaSota, Melissa Finzi, Rosemary Pomer. Back Row: Bob Scheetz, Steve LaSota, Michel Finzi, and Frank Pomer.



The Cabaret Cast wows the crowd again with another spectacular performance

## THE CABARET CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Nearly 400 guests were transformed to another time and era during The Kennedy Center's 20th anniversary Auction/Cabaret. The grand ballroom of the Trumbull Marriott resembled a speakeasy cafe reminiscent of the Roaring 20s.

This major fundraiser for The Kennedy Center Children's Services Program totaled a net **\$64,000**. This annual event has benefited thousands of children in Connecticut with and without disabilities to achieve their dreams and to triumph.

The chairman of this event was Christine Donahue Brown of Fairfield. As part of the evening's festivities, two Kennedy Center Cabaret Clocks were presented to two outstanding individuals. **Kristen Carley of Trumbull** was recognized for being a dedicated member of the cast for over 10 years, while **Christine Brown** was feted for being the inspirational founder of the Auction/Cabaret.

"The Kennedy Center is extremely indebted to the energetic and amazingly talented Christine Donahue Brown, who developed this fundraiser idea over 20 years ago," said Martin D. Schwartz, President and CEO of The Kennedy Center. "Thanks to Christine and the dedicated cast of volunteers she recruits, the auction/cabaret has raised close to one million dollars for our Children's Services Programs."

The generous top sponsors of the Cabaret at the Silver level were **Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder, PC and Merit Insurance**. Bronze sponsors included **Donahue & Brown, LLC, TD Bank and HSBC**. In addition, the following sponsors contributed at the Signature level: **Barnum Financial Group/Foundation for Life, G. Pic & Sons Construction Company and Purdue Pharma.**



From l to r: Kathy Reynolds, Phil Kuchma, Steve & Moreen Donahue, Marty Schwartz, President & CEO, and Christine Brown, Chair of the event.



Representing the HSBC sponsorship are from l to r: Senior VP Kevin & Ann Marie Fitze, State Rep. Tony Hwang, VP Chad & Donna Stewart and Rochelle & Thomas Powell.



Dressing the part are l to r: Janet DeBenedetto, Liz Pouyat and Christine Vagnone



Having a great time are Peter & Sondra Kennedy with Debbie & Bob Jones.



A special performance was made by the 2011 winner of "The Voice" Javier Colon and '92 Cabaret Alum Lauren Kerstetter.

EVENTS 2010-11

# 5 YEARS OF MAGIC MOMENTS



To date, over \$600,000 has been raised since the inception of Magic Moments and more than 400 families have accessed services provided through The Kennedy Center's Autism Project.

Over 250 area residents lent their support and brought a little magic to the lives of children with autism by attending The Fifth Annual Magic Moments fundraiser. **The event raised over \$131,000 for The Kennedy Center's Autism Project.**

The night was full of fun surprises: a fabulous silent auction, music by the Merwin Mountain Band, performances by magician Bill Herz and the mentalist Jon Stetson, and great hors d'oeuvres prepared by Celebrations by Carlson.

Prior to the main event, connoisseurs enjoyed a VIP winetasting reception. Exquisite food and a high-end selection of wines and champagnes from **Moët-Hennessey**

**USA were presented by wine experts from Harry's Wine & Liquor Market of Fairfield.**

Magic Moments was cochaired and founded by Dr. Pietro Andres and Kristine George Andres of Fairfield. "All the programs we offer the community through the Autism Project would not exist without the dedication and combined efforts of Co-Chairs Kristine and Pietro Andres, the Magic Moments Honorary and Planning Committees, volunteers, contributors and friends of The Kennedy Center," said Martin D. Schwartz, President and CEO of The Kennedy Center. "Since there are no state funding sources available for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their

families, The Kennedy Center is financially dependent on this annual event to underwrite our autism programs for the entire year."

Many sponsors contributed to the success of Magic Moments. Top sponsors included: the **Morello Family** of Wilton, **Jeff and Cindy Dworken** of Easton, **Autism Speaks**, **Susan and Frank Carroll** of Wilton, **Paul and Joy Horton** of Fairfield, **Lazard Capital Markets**, **Bank of Fairfield**, **Diana Paulin and her husband Michael Lynch** of Stratford; **Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes**, and **Pediatric Healthcare Associates**. Media sponsors were Patriot National Bank, WEBE 108 and WICC, and Morris Media Group.

The Autism Project offers specially designed programs, opportunities for inclusion, information and referral, support groups, workshops and trainings and new services for unaddressed needs. Some of the unique programs include: 11 Social Activity Groups, two Respite Groups and one Sibling Group.

For further information on the Autism Project, please contact, **Rose Abreu-Sanchez** at 203.332.4535, ext. 247 or email her at [rsanchez@kennedyctr.org](mailto:rsanchez@kennedyctr.org).

Pictured above are from l to r: Chris Morello, Co-chair Kristine Andres, Charlotte Morello and Co-chair Dr. Pietro Andres. The Morello Family were this year's Event Sponsor.



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The Dworken Family, Ben, Cindy, Jeff and Jared make it a family affair.



Chair Dr. Pietro Andres (center) greets Sponsors Joy and Paul Horton.



Representing the Bank of Fairfield sponsorship from l to r: Lucy & Pres. Frederick Reinhardt and Heather & Michael Pia.



Shawn and Monica Matthews join Dr. Howard Taubin and Nancy Samuelson.



Sponsors Diana Paulin and her husband Michael Lynch enjoy the VIP winetasting.



Michele Barnes, Charlotte Morello with Diane & Curtis Arledge.

# 2009-10 ENDOWMENT DONORS

These names represent donors from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Please notify us of any corrections and accept our apologies for any inaccuracies or omissions.

Our sincere thanks to all of you.

## ENDOWMENT 2009-10 NAMED FUNDS \$10,000 is the beginning level for a Named Fund

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## ENDOWMENT ANGELS \$5,000-\$9,999

Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Kaiser

## ENDOWMENT SPONSORS \$1,000-\$2,499

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GE Foundation Matching Gifts Program  
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Three visitors from Rotterdam, Netherlands recently toured The Kennedy Center to share ideas and learn about a similar program in the United States. For years, their non-profit agency, Pameijer in the Netherlands, had heard about the innovative and high quality programs offered by The Kennedy Center.

Celebrating the success of this international exchange were, left to right, the following administrators from The Kennedy Center: **Valerie Reyher**, VP of Rehabilitative Services; **Martin D. Schwartz**, President and CEO of The Kennedy Center; and **Lynn McCrystal**, VP of Kennedy Industries; pictured with **Richard Weingarten** of the Forward Spiral Association in New Haven, who organized the tour; **Jan Alblas** and **Wilma van Meer** from Pameijer; **Peter Carbine**, VP of Residential Services from The Kennedy Center; and **Miriam Hopmans**, President of Pameijer.

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For the past two years, **Prakriti Kumar** has donated dollars she earned as a math tutor for the Fairfield Math Club to The Kennedy Center. This year, Prakriti presented Marty Schwartz, President & CEO of The Kennedy Center, with a \$400 check. She told Marty that she had heard about the programs and services the agency provided to people with disabilities and wanted to help.

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THE NORMA F. PFRIEM  
FOUNDATION

*Paul Miller, Chair of the Norma F. Pfriem Foundation, left, and Marty Schwartz, President and CEO of The Kennedy Center, right, stand by one of the new vans.*

The Norma F. Pfriem Foundation recently donated \$310,000 to The Kennedy Center, one of the largest rehabilitation agencies in Connecticut. This generous gift has been earmarked for vital transportation services provided by The Kennedy Center as well as The Kennedy Center's Norma F. Pfriem Foundation Alzheimer's Center at Faust Hall in Bridgeport.

This major donation has been designated for the purchase of three buses and three vans totaling \$245,000, while \$45,000 has been allocated to The Kennedy Center's Norma F. Pfriem Foundation Alzheimer's Center at Faust Hall. In addition, \$10,000 will be used for down payments on two other vans. The Kennedy Center has one of the largest transportation fleets in the region and maintains over 100 vehicles for its clients.

"The Kennedy Center is extremely grateful to the Norma F. Pfriem Foundation for its continued generosity," said Martin D. Schwartz, President and CEO of The Kennedy Center. "Last year we were extremely proud to name our Alzheimer's Center in honor of Norma F. Pfriem. We want to personally thank Paul Miller of Fairfield, Chair of this Foundation, for recognizing the importance of our programs toward enhancing the lives of so many deserving citizens within our community. **The Foundation's commitment and ongoing financial support is to be commended, especially for helping us to meet our transportation needs and our Alzheimer's program, both of which are vital, yet receive minimal state funding.**"

The Alzheimer's Center is the only facility of its kind in Connecticut that serves people with disabilities. This three-year-old program has filled a huge service gap for aging adults with both an intellectual disability and Alzheimer's disease or dementia. 11

## A SUCCESS STORY

### ONE-ON-ONE



Pictured from l to r: Kathie Ceppetelli, Patricia McHugh and Denise Migliaro, an intern from Southern CT State University.

On an unseasonably warm winters day in February, Patricia McHugh had just finished her swim class at the Milford YMCA with Kathy Cepetelli, Therapeutic Recreation Manager for The Kennedy Center. Although the visual remnants of the snow that surrounded them belied the fact, it felt and sounded like summer. Seniors, children and families could be heard laughing and splashing as they enjoyed quality time together.

A strikingly beautiful 50-year-old woman, Patricia has an infectious smile that lights

up the room. You would never guess that she has had a learning disability since birth. **Like many people with invisible disabilities, one of Patricia's greatest challenges has been making friends and finding opportunities to socialize.**

Patricia first attended The Kennedy Center at the age of five. According to Patricia's mother Genevieve McHugh, Patricia began to speak for the first time only after a few weeks of working with the phenomenal Kennedy Center staff. While Patricia only attended The Kennedy Center for two years before the family moved away, her mother expressed genuine gratitude for all the support her daughter had received in her formative years. Patricia returned to The Kennedy Center when the family returned to the Milford community five years ago. **"The staff of The Kennedy Center are incredible,"** explains Genevieve. "They go the extra mile to ensure Patricia's days are occupied and she has a full life!"

Patricia receives individualized supports from The Kennedy Center's Life Skills program that allows her to attend the

YMCA Aquasize program three times a week. After swimming classes Kathie accompanies Patricia to Milford area restaurants, window-shopping, or goes for nice walks on The Green. Occasionally they go on special day trips or to other events with Kennedy Center staff. "I would feel bad if The Kennedy Center didn't come and get me out of the house," Patricia explained. Patricia is very proud of the fact that she has lost weight. She also expressed genuine happiness now that she gets to meet others and make friends.

In the last year, Patricia's physical strength and confidence has improved immeasurably. According to Kathie Cepetelli, Patricia also has lupus, diabetes and is a recent breast cancer survivor. **The Kennedy Center's Life Skills program has increased Patricia's stamina, range of motion and coordination that all contributes to her overall health.** "We see more rapid change towards genuine holistic health when we work one-on-one with individuals with disabilities," states Kathie. Today, Patricia has learned better health choices and is no longer isolated from her community.

## THE DiMATTEO GROUP - GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

**In honor of their recent 50th anniversary, the DiMatteo Group in Shelton has donated \$57,000 from their DiMatteo Family Foundation to The Kennedy Center.** This family-owned and operated firm specializes in insurance, employee benefits, income tax and financial services.

**The DiMatteo Family Foundation is generously funding interior and exterior renovation projects at two Kennedy Center group homes:** Probus House, 755 Palisade Avenue, Bridgeport and Old Good Hill Home in Oxford.

Twelve staff volunteers from the DiMatteo Group recently did landscaping projects at the Probus House. These dedicated volunteers trimmed hedges, weeded, spread new mulch and planted flowers. In addition, a new deck will be built and a bathroom will be totally updated and renovated. New floors have been replaced throughout the entire group home.

Work on the Old Good Hill Home in Oxford has been scheduled later this summer, when a new awning and other repair projects will be started.

Area contractors who are participating in the Probus House project by offering discounted supplies and services include: Red Barn Carpet in Newtown, Midland Development

in Shelton, Ferris Mulch in Newtown, East Haven Builders in East Haven and Gary Rebar Plumbing in Shelton.

"The Kennedy Center is truly indebted to the DiMatteo Group and their Family Foundation for coordinating this large-



Standing with staff from the Probus House and Chairman of the Board, Peter Foley & his wife, Anne are the twelve volunteers from the DiMatteo Group.

scale project with their staff and vendors. **Our entire agency is thrilled with the generous outpouring of goodwill that will make our two group homes such a special place for our clients.**" said Martin D. Schwartz, President and CEO of The Kennedy Center.

John DiMatteo, President of the DiMatteo Group in Shelton, added, "We are thankful

to all our friends, family members and customers who have so generously supported our golf tournament, which funds our Foundation. **We are fortunate to give back to the community for such a great cause as The Kennedy Center and to help people with disabilities live in such a homelike nurturing environment."**

Last year, the DiMatteo Family Charitable Foundation was honored at The Kennedy Center's Four Seasons Ball for their commitment to this large community project. They were recognized as a Residential Medallion Sponsor of the ball, which raises funds for group homes.

The DiMatteo Group has always been a supportive corporate neighbor of the community. This spirit of philanthropy resulted in the creation of the DiMatteo Family Charitable Foundation six years ago and their annual golf tournament. Their Foundation was established as a tribute to their late father who was battling cancer at the time.

"Our Family Foundation is committed to funding research, education and finding a cure for diseases that have touched the lives of our friends, families, clients and staff," said John DiMatteo. "We are proud to have raised more than \$125,000 for over 10 well-known local and national charities."