

Ride On! Cariola students cycle through R Community Bikes



Above: Almost finished! Joseph sprays oil on the pedal to assure a smooth ride.

Right: Joseph and Jake wrap up a Monday session with teacher aide Joel Guerry (center).



Every Monday, a group of Mary Cariola students is rolling up their sleeves and applying a little elbow grease as they learn about bicycle repair and giving back to the community at R Community Bikes.

The local not-for-profit distributes safe and usable bicycles to needy children and adults in the Rochester area. Bikes are solicited from the community, inspected, repaired and distributed. The organization has refurbished 5,000 bicycles since 2001. All work is performed on a volunteer basis.

Bicycle repair was not part of Cariola's Transition Program until Teacher Marie Greer read about Community Bikes. Greer is always looking for new opportunities that will get students out of the classroom, into the community, meeting new people and learning new routines.

"I read an article about the bike project and thought that would be something different for our kids to do," said Greer. "We are always looking for new projects that will provide new skills and work experiences for our students." We started out repairing tire tubes in the Transition Program. After we mastered that, we realized we could do more."

Since January, Cariola students have been volunteering at the R Community Bikes' warehouse performing a variety of tasks to prepare a bike for its next ride.

"We love having the Cariola kids
continued on page 3

Henry Martin is the Comeback Kid

Mary Cariola student Henry Martin already had a “lifetime of surgeries” before turning 12 in March, says his dad, Kurt. Born with a very rare genetic chromosomal syndrome and various physical challenges, Henry weighs just 50 pounds.

In November, Henry suffered a devastating spinal cord injury. The lengthy recovery left his family and friends in awe of his special spirit.

Henry spent five weeks in the hospital’s pediatric intensive care unit after . . .

- being heavily sedated for four days to immobilize him before surgery
- undergoing major spinal cord surgery
- having a halo installed to immobilize his head
- having an emergency tracheotomy
- experiencing partial, temporary paralysis
- losing six pounds

“The surgeons were amazed that the fall didn’t kill him or result in complete paralysis,” says Kurt. “The fact that it happened while we were at the hospital for a test was a miracle, particularly since he stopped breathing for five minutes.”

Kurt’s sister, Jenna, says she has a new appreciation for her nephew. “He was in isolation at the hospital



Henry Martin shares a laugh with his aunt and uncle, Jeff Renelt & Jenna Martin.

because of H1N1 so he could only have a few visitors. But he had an incredible spirit. He didn’t even flinch for his shots.

“He’s incredibly gregarious and funny. He craves being with people. His sense of humor is cutting edge,” says Jenna. “He’s just this tiny kid with a big attitude,” adds his mother, Kathleen Buckley.

Henry’s “lovability” became even

more apparent after his return to Mary Cariola in January. Everyone cheered when he came off the bus the first day, and his class made a book called “Henry Martin May Look Different, But He’s Still Henry Martin.”

While Henry is back home with his dog Angel and brothers, Patrick and Christopher, his parents are reflecting on their youngest son.

“If you sum him up, he exudes more love than a normal person. He allows other people to bring forth the love for him,” says Kurt.

“It seems like there’s always someone to bring him to the next point, whether it’s the doctors at the hospital or the teachers at Cariola. You have all these gifts along the way to help push Henry along,” says Kathleen.

They both agree that Mary Cariola is one of these gifts.

“People who aren’t personally touched by Mary Cariola just can’t understand how phenomenal this Agency is,” says Kurt. “There’s nothing like it. It just continues to be fantastic in every aspect. I’m amazed at what the Agency does.”

“Henry doesn’t know life without Mary Cariola,” adds his Aunt Jenna. “It’s one of the best parts of his world.” •

Henry’s relatives make tax-wise gift

Henry’s aunt and uncle, Jenna Martin and Jeffrey Renelt, have been so impressed with Mary Cariola that they recently made a gift of stock.

“We are very happy to have been able to make our contribution, but the real credit goes to the organization and the staff,” said Jeff. “They have taken such a personal interest in Henry and all of the children for whom they make such a difference.”

Jeff is a Vice President and Wealth Management Advisor at Merrill Lynch in Pittsford. After he completed his corporate matching gifts form, Merrill Lynch generously doubled the gift.

Shares of stock make an ideal charitable gift, since donors do not have to pay the capital gains tax on the appreciation if the stock has grown in value over time. Donors also get a charitable tax deduction so the true “cost” of the gift is lower than giving cash directly.

“Our main motivation for making the gift was to support an incredible agency,” said Jenna. “Mary Cariola is so nurturing and nourishing.”

“We are continually impressed with every facet of Mary Cariola, so making the gift was an easy decision for us,” said Jeff. •

Community Bikes, *cont'd. from page 1*

here," explained Dan Lill, director of R Community Bikes. "They are hard workers and great volunteers," said Lill. "The kids get a chance to interact with other adults and see what community service is all about. We hope to teach them that volunteering is a life long opportunity."

The Cariola students enjoy learning new skills and appreciate the opportunity to give back.

"I've learned a lot," said Joseph who admits that he has repaired quite a few flat tires over the last few months. "It's cool that someone will get a bicycle that I helped fix."

Jake says that his favorite job is cleaning the bikes, and he can't wait to learn more. "I want to take a bike apart and see how everything works," he said.

Greer added that the students are learning that volunteering also has a benefit. After working 20 hours at R Community Bikes, the Cariola volunteers can take a bike home.

According to Joseph and Jake, that's something that they are excited about but certainly did not expect.



Jake removes a tire tube as he begins work on another bike.

Joseph hopes to find a tournament or mountain bike while Jake, (who already has a bike) thinks he'll clean up his new bike and give it away.

With that gesture, you realize that for a group of hard working volunteers at R Community Bikes, some of the most important things in life *are* learned outside the classroom. •

Cariola speakers enlighten future educators



Heather LeFrois and Paris Leibenguth

Successful strategies utilized in Cariola classrooms every day are being shared with college and graduate students and professionals.

During the past few months, Senior Speech Pathologist Paris Leibenguth and Senior Occupational Therapist Heather LeFrois have been popular presenters at numerous seminars at area colleges including a two-day

workshop at SUNY Geneseo.

One of the sessions, "Moving Kids to Communicate: Using Sensory Motor Strategies to Improve Functional Communication Skills," was so popular that it was offered at three different times to accommodate the demand. This presentation was part of the Continuing Education Workshop at Nazareth College.

Other programs have included "Sensational Kids: Helping Kids Get in Synch by Incorporating Sensory Based Activities into Music Therapy."

"These sessions are important because they get our name out there, enhance our reputation and leave students and professors with a clear sense that we are on the cutting edge with a unique population," said Agency President Paul Scott. •

PALS in Transition

Cariola students have been long time partners with many local organizations since the inception of the Practical Assistance for Lifetime Skills (PALS) program. In addition to R Community Bikes, Cariola students currently volunteer in various capacities at the Asbury Dining Center, Meals on Wheels, Foodlink, Cameron Community Center and the Episcopal Church Home.

The new Transition Building houses many activities that prepare a student for adult life. The PALS Program provides a variety of specific activities (cooking, collating documents, greeting card production) that involve many students at all three campus locations and within the community.

"We stress to our students that it's easy to get into a routine but we reinforce that they have to be prepared for change," said Greer. "When they leave Cariola the expectations will be different and, in many cases, higher. By exposing them now, with our support, the students can learn to be more accepting of new situations." •

Agency friends respond to Give Five

The 2009-2010 Give Five Campaign is drawing to a close and there's still time to help the Agency reach its \$105,000 goal.



To date, 750 donors have donated \$99,500 to this year's campaign.

"Despite these uncertain economic times our many friends have continued to support us," said Agency President Paul Scott. "We are pleased with this year's response and hope that in the final weeks we can reach our goal."

Give Five Donations can be made online at www.marycariola.org. •

Mary Cariola Moments

1 Look for East Henrietta student Giuliano Mazzola in the 2010 Rochester Red Wings Yearbook. Mary Cariola and the Red Wings have continued their strong partnership this season with special school events and player appearances planned. Also on tap is an August 14th Mary Cariola night at Frontier Field.

2 The Mary Cariola Melody Makers Tone Chime Choir perform at their debut concert at Nazareth College Arts Center. The Melody Makers, Andrew Wheelock, Michael Berry, Kaitlind Klump, Vanessa Martin, Tyrone Clarke, Travis Garner and Robert O'Brien were the hit of the evening and received a standing ovation. The Melody Makers, will be appearing in several spring concerts on the East Henrietta and Elmwood campuses.

3 The Rochester City Ballet made a special visit to the East Henrietta campus and performed their rendition of Peter and the Wolf. Over 60 students were introduced to story-telling through music and dance.

4 Teacher Laura Wink celebrates with her class (left to right) Aliena Sutton, Robert LeBerth, Samantha DiRoma, and Melody Kostarellis at the closing ceremony of the East Henrietta Olympics. Her class represented Haiti and all received medals for participating in Olympic themed athletic competitions.



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5 Andrew Wheelock and Joseph Parker make their own pizzas after touring Cam's Pizzeria. Manager Lindsay Marcellus explained restaurant operations and gave the cooking class a behind the scenes tour of the Irondequoit eatery.



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6 DeYonte Dukes Snead creates a masterpiece with ice cube painting as classroom aide Jeannine Amico assists. The art therapy introduces new textures and utilizes choice making, color identification skills and provides visual stimulation. And the final product is colorful and unique!



7

7 Cariola student Tommy Tobin (along with sister Mackenzie and parents Joe and Amy) strike a pose for the 2010 United Way Campaign. The Tobin Family was featured in the Live United newsletter explaining how United Way agencies like Mary Cariola have benefited their family. (Photo courtesy John Smillie/United Way)

8 Teacher Ruth Loucks is thrilled that Alexis Frederick's specially designed bags are a perfect fit for a feeding pump. Alexis designed, sewed and donated a dozen bags that could be attached to walkers and wheelchairs as part of her Junior Girl Scout Bronze Award Project.



8

9 Reggie Thomas enjoys a sudsy sensory activity on a new hydraulic table donated by Joe and Amy Tobin. The table is wide enough to accommodate any wheelchair and adapts to the height of the child allowing everyone to participate in classroom activities.



9

More than Band Aids and boo boos . . .

When you stop in to visit one of the seven school nurses at Mary Cariola Children's Center, it only takes a minute to realize that you're not visiting your average school nurse's office.

With the special population served at Cariola, the Nursing Department has to be prepared for anything and a quick look around gives you that reassurance. The amount of equipment is impressive . . . oxygen, suction units, nebulizers, pulse oximeters and EpiPens. There are daily medicines to administer that control conditions from seizures to impulsive behavior. An office computer can conduct a doctor's visit over the internet through the Telemedicine Program. And, of course, there are plenty of band aids and fruit juice to provide a little TLC.

Each of the three Cariola campus locations has its own nursing office to care for the 450 students who attend program daily.

"We know that 25% of our student population receives nursing service every day," explained Lead Nurse Anne Pawlowski. "That may involve administering daily meds or dealing with a feeding tube. One student could require multiple visits."

The nursing staff is constantly on the go, in the classrooms, responding to medical situations on a moment's notice, staffing the nurses office for walk-in-traffic, accompanying classrooms on field trips and completing necessary paperwork and follow up that comes with the job.

Even though each office has the same equipment, each office is a little different.

For younger students at the Elmwood campus, nurses deal with a learning curve as students may develop symptoms or outgrow them. They work on understanding each student and how to provide care. Administering medicine is offered in a variety of modes depending on the child.

At the East Henrietta campus, they also take nursing to the next level by educating older students about their



"The staff and students make every day fun," explains Nurse Carol Malone, helping Spirit Johnson during a classroom visit. "Every day is different. Even though the schedule is the same, you never know who is going to need you the next minute or what staff member or child is going to walk through the door with a need. That's what I like—not the same-old, same-old."

own medical needs.

"We provide very individualized work with our students," Pawlowski said. "We work with our older students to become more independent with their medical care. If a student uses an inhaler, we provide education to help them identify when it is needed and how to respond."

Nurse's Wish List

The Nursing Staff wants to maintain their high level of care and a safe school environment. They have a wish list for the following new items:

- 2 AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator) units for the East Henrietta campus
- Portable oxygen delivery system
- Suction Units
- Portable pulse oximeter units

If you can help out, please contact Anne Pawlowski at apawlowski@marycariola.org.

Pawlowski, along with a multi-discipline team, also established the "We CAN!" (Ways to Encourage Cariola's Activity and Nutrition) Program which has helped promote a healthy and active school campus.

Pawlowski attributes the success of the department to a variety of reasons. "Communication and teamwork are key," she said. "We work very well as a team and are considerate of each other. We are all very active in team meetings and we are always looking to improve the level of care we provide."

Such improvements like walkie talkie communication and merging two nursing offices into one on the Elmwood Campus improve communication. Reducing paperwork by implementing computerized programs improve efficiencies. Tracking medical trends helps prevent the spread of illness and alerts all nurses' offices to what may be going around.

And if something is going around, you can bet the Mary Cariola nursing staff will be prepared. •

Those who supported Mary Cariola Children's Center's Give Five Campaign or designated their United Way gift to Mary Cariola are included in this report. This list acknowledges gifts received from July 1, 2008 thru June 30, 2009. Honorary gifts, gifts in kind, memorial gifts, and other donations have been recognized in the *Centerpoint* newsletter.

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Mission: Mary Cariola Children's Center provides the highest quality individualized services for children with developmental delays and especially for those with complex or multiple disabilities. The Center is dedicated to excellence in family-centered educational, residential, therapeutic and community support services and to developing program initiatives for emerging populations of children with special needs.

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 Mr. Joseph C. Mikiewicz
 Ms. Julia C. Miles
 Mr. & Mrs. Dana Miller
 Mrs. Elizabeth O. Miller
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerald R. Miller
 Mr. & Mrs. Greg Miller

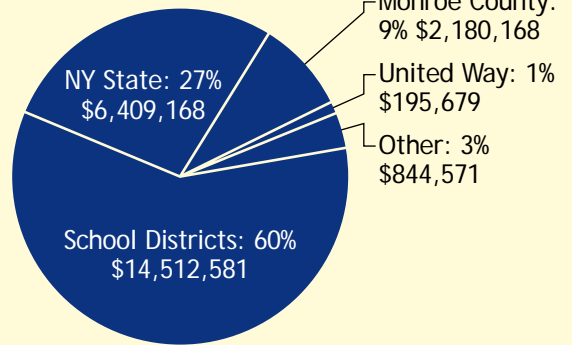
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 Ms. Judith O. Miller
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 Mrs. Caroline Pluta
 Mr. Vladimir Polonsky
 Mr. Ben Popick
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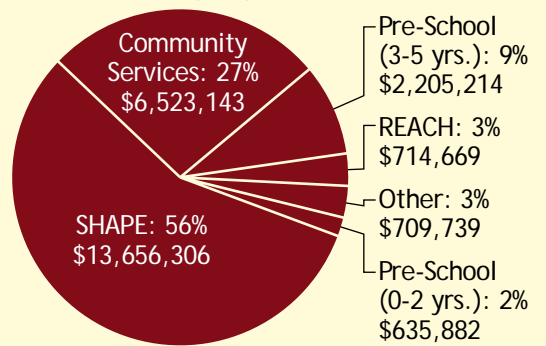
FUNDING SOURCES

TOTAL: \$24,142,388



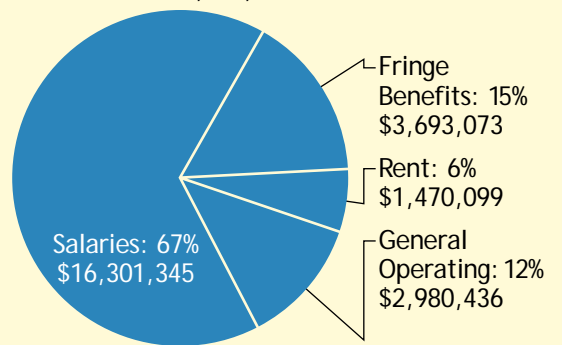
FUNDING BY PROGRAM

TOTAL: \$24,444,953



TOTAL AGENCY EXPENSES

TOTAL: \$24,444,953



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Colorful “Cracked Pots” take pride in giving back

This is another in a series on friends of Mary Cariola Children’s Center—how they make a difference in the lives of our children and why they decided to give back.

They may have a funny name but they are dead serious about giving back to their community.

“The Cracked Pots Home Bureau” is a local organization of 12 energetic women who stay connected by helping those in need.

This fun loving and lively bunch have sewn an estimated 1,000 shirt savers for Mary Cariola over the last 10 years. A shirt saver is a protective bib that protects a student’s shirt during lunch and saves the shirt from stains and spills. They don’t exactly remember what drew them to Mary Cariola but they are happy to provide their talents to make the always-in-demand shirt savers.

“When word gets out that the Cracked Pots have made a delivery, the classroom staff can’t get them fast enough,” said Agency President Paul Scott. “The Cracked Pots have been so generous to us over the years . . . their shirt savers are beautifully sewn, come in all colors and sizes and they are used by hundreds of our students. Their gift of material, time and talent are most appreciated.”

All of the women are from western Monroe County and converge in Parma to create, design and sew. Despite the work at hand, there is plenty of comical banter that makes the time fly by.

This group of “Cracked Pots” is not sure how their colorful name originated. They joke that it’s because they are all half-cracked. Another theory is that the pot holding the centerpiece when they first met years ago had a crack. What’s the age range of members? “Thirty-nine to 40,” they quip.

The organization is one of five Monroe County chapters of the Home Bureau, a national network formed in 1915. Its purpose was to help farmers



Above: The Cracked Pots (left to right): Elaine Quetschenbach, Donna Crowley, Loretta Martin, Pauline Ryan, Kay Curtis, Hilda Schmidt and Shirley Wilson model the finished product. They can sew volumes of shirt savers in a day thanks to a well planned and organized process.

Inset: Loretta Martin demonstrates the art of sewing a shirt saver.

and their wives improve conditions on farms and in marketing farm products.

Other local organizations benefit from the efforts of the Cracked Pots. They make baby clothes for newborns, caps for premature babies, quilts for the Linus project (handmade blankets

and afghans for children who are in need, traumatized or seriously ill), hats and pillows for cancer patients, helmet liners for servicemen, and teddy bears that are distributed by local police departments. They also sponsor three scholarships at area colleges. •

Remembering Friends

The Agency was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our dear friend, Orlando “Skip” Leonardo.



Skip was like family to our staff and students. For the past 16 years, Skip has been a regular visitor to the Agency bringing cookies, candies, toys, snacks and refreshments for our children. His sweet treats would be distributed to classrooms for snack time and special occasions.

Skip’s generosity went beyond food. Many years ago, on a routine delivery, he helped get the snacks sorted and stored. A staff member was concerned that donuts would go stale since there was no where to store them. The next day, Skip arrived with a stand up freezer that is still in use in our Kids’ Kitchen. Years later, the freezer is still humming along, a constant reminder of Skip’s love for our Cariola students.

Our thoughts are with his wife Antoinette, his children and grandchildren. We will miss him. •

Agency Announces 2010 Events

Mark your calendars and plan on attending some or all of the many exciting 2010 Agency events.

Sunday, June 6: Flower Power!



Kick off your summer with a visit to the Gardens of Distinction featuring homes in Pittsford, Mendon and Honeoye Falls. You'll return home with colorful memories of breathtaking gardens. Talk to the gardeners themselves to learn how you can transform your backyard into a garden of distinction!

Monday, June 7: It's the Real Deal!



All hands on deck as the annual Card Party sets up at Monroe Golf Club. Whether its bridge, euchre, hearts or pinochle it's not so much about the game, than it is the company. Enjoy a day of card playing and a fabulous lunch with friends.

Sunday, July 18: Born to be Wild



If you're an Easy Rider, you won't want to miss the 4th Annual HOGS 'N' Roses Motorcycle Rally. Head out on the highway for a 60 mile scenic tour of Monroe and surrounding counties and then kick back and enjoy free food and music at the Rush Creekside Inn.

Monday, August 2: 'Fore' the Kids



The Coed Cariola Classic moves to Irondequoit Country Club and welcomes male, female and coed foursomes. Enjoy a great day at beautiful ICC as the event raises funds to support the Agency.

Sunday, September 26: Fun in the Sun



Plug in your iPod and slip on your Reeboks 'cause you will be Walking on Sunshine at Lake Ontario. Enjoy a late summer breeze and the camaraderie of old and new friends while supporting a great cause. On line registration will be available in June. Go to www.marycariola.org to register your team.

For more information about these events, click on the "News & Events" tab at www.marycariola.org!



Cariola students, siblings and their families enjoy the limbo at the Mary Cariola Proud Parent Beach Party.

Bravo ...for Mary Cariola Proud Parent Group

Don't forget the parents!" That was a frequent reminder from founder Mary Cariola to staff members during her decades at the Agency. She knew that caring for a child with special needs could be a challenging journey.

Last year, interested parents Jane Bernard, Joanne Fisher and Sally Quist collaborated to form the Proud Parent Group to provide a social outlet and important connections for parents. The organization now has more than 50 members. The goals are to foster communication and awareness, support each other and the Cariola staff and to have fun. Parents are enthusiastic.

"Bravo!" said parent Debbie Vanderpool. "There has been a need for this kind of an organization for a long time."

The organization's first major event, a Beach Party in February, drew 170 attendees and left everyone eager for future get-togethers.

Programs have been held on special needs trusts by a local attorney, recreational opportunities and Medicaid Services Coordination. Monthly meetings provide an opportunity to stay connected and organize upcoming special presentations and events. All parents and guardians are welcome to join; for information, contact Jane Bernard at bbernard6@rochester.rr.com. •

The following friends of the children at Mary Cariola Children's Center . . .

The following friends of Mary Cariola Children's Center have made donations to the Agency between October, 29 2009 and April 6, 2010. It may have been a contribution in memory of a loved one, in honor of a friend or family member or a monetary gift from the heart. These gifts help us provide quality services and programs to the many children at MCCC. Thank you for your friendship.

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The Empire United Girls Soccer Team shows off some of the donations from their "Kick In a Coat for Cariola" coat drive. More than 75 coats and cold weather apparel were collected and distributed to Cariola students and families.



Ricki Bovee, Shuvojeet Paul, Kristofer Bourdeau, Emily Xu, Jayme Menachof and Judy Wegman (top right) present a check to Agency Advancement Coordinator Joanne Fisher. Second graders from Brighton Council Rock School collected, cut and sorted over 7,000 Box Tops for Education and donated the proceeds to Mary Cariola.

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The following individuals & organizations participated in our Holiday Helpers program by sponsoring a Mary Cariola family. Their generosity ensured a happy holiday season for our students & their families. We are grateful for their support.

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Please contact Nicole Dragonetti with your changes:
ndragonetti@marycariola.org
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Thank you.

BECOME A FAN! FIND US ON  facebook.

Mobile Learning System unveiled

Mary Cariola Children Center recently installed a Satalight Learning System (SLS) at the East Henrietta campus. It is believed to be the first of its kind in the Rochester area.

The SLS is a mobile SMARTboard. Even though SMARTboard technology is not new, the ability to make it mobile is a welcome benefit to children with ambulatory or sensory challenges. (A SMARTboard combines a whiteboard and the power of a computer and has replaced chalk boards in many school based classrooms).

Cariola students will benefit from the versatility of the system. It can be moved up, down or angled and can accommodate multiple users.

"Many of our students have sensory needs so being able to stand or move around while learning becomes more conducive for some students' learning styles," said Senior Speech Language Pathologist Paris Leibenguth.

Staff will learn the uses of the



SMARTboard system through professional development training offered by Tequipment, a vendor specializing in educationally-based technologies.

This assistive technology purchase was made possible through the generosity of close friends of the Agency.

*Top: Tyronne Henry demonstrates the touch screen feature.
Above: Paul Scott gets ready to cut the ribbon at the unveiling.*