

Agency Welcomes Special Friends

For the first time in its 59-year history, Mary Cariola welcomed typically-developing children. The Special Friends Nursery School opened in September at the Elmwood Campus.

Dana Bennett has joined the staff and will teach the new class which can accommodate up to 12 children. She earned a Masters Degree in Special Education at Columbia and taught in a similar setting at the UCLA Early Intervention Program in California. The experience was so positive that she looked for such an opportunity for her own children after moving to Rochester.

A major advantage of enrolling in the new program is the Agency's substantial expertise in child development. While the nursery school will have its own classroom and curriculum, there will be many opportunities for staff and all students to collaborate on various projects and activities.

"I just want typically developing kids to embrace people who are different and appreciate how unique people can be," Dana explained. "When children with and without disabilities play together both groups learn lessons that even the best trained instructors can't teach," she said.

Jodie Gardner, whose son Tyler attends Mary Cariola, has enrolled her daughter in the program. "I think it

will be great for Emmalee to realize there are other kids like her brother," she said. "I want her to be somewhere where there are a lot of different kids."

Mary Cariola administrators have been working for two years to start a nursery school class.

"We need to have typically developing children around," said Day Program Director Denise O'Brien Miller. "They'll initiate play and communication. Our children will start learning by seeing other kids doing things."

Jodie knows that first hand.

"When Emmalee started to sit up on her own, Tyler looked at her like, 'Oh, I didn't know you could do that.' When she talks to him, he learns new words. He has picked up crawling from her and is now pulling up on the furniture after watching his sister," she explained.

Emmalee has also picked up a thing or two from Tyler.

"Tyler has taught his sister about compassion and loving each other,"

Jodie said. •

Siblings Emmalee and Tyler Gardner will learn from each other at Mary Cariola and the Special Friends Nursery School.



Cards, Roses, HOGS and Golf

Summer events benefit Agency



200 Motorcycle enthusiasts revved it up for the Cariola kids at the 2nd annual Ride for the Children.

Four major fundraising events in three months kept the Agency Advancement Department busy this summer.

In August, the 30th Anniversary of the Mary Cariola Women's Classic Golf Tournament netted \$62,000. Eagle Vale Golf Club treated the field to a picture perfect day on the links. Dinner was followed by the famous silent auction. Radio station WFKL



(Fickle 93.3) on air personality Marty Casper (shown reviewing winning scores with Agency President Paul Scott) emceed the event.

Nearly 200 friends revved up their engines for the second annual Ride for the Children. The HOGS 'N' ROSES Motorcycle riders enjoyed a 70-mile journey through Monroe and Livingston counties. The event raised \$3,300 and was organized by the Rochester Chapter of HOGS (Harley Owners Group) and sponsored by TOPS Friendly Markets, Cycle Stop, WCMF and Bath-tub Billy's Restaurant and Sports Bar.

On the same day, the Gardens of Distinction Lake Ontario Tour welcomed 200 guests to six residential gardens from Irondequoit Bay to Charlotte. Agency friends were treated to wildflowers, Asian themed gardens, panoramic views of Lake Ontario, waterfalls, perennials, tea houses and rock formations. RG&E, Frontier, Morgan Stanley/Thomas R. Wahl and Country Way Garden Center were major sponsors of the event which raised \$4,500. Many thanks go to Medical Motor Service who coordinated shuttle service and employees of Macy's who served as volunteers at each garden.

The Rose Perlich Card Party raised over \$3,000 to benefit Camp Cariola. The annual event attracted 150 card players at Midvale Golf Club. Rose Perlich now lives in Alabama but her longtime friend and Agency supporter Marie Graham served as hostess. The Card Party continues to be sponsored by Rose Perlich and her son, Tom.

Thanks to our major sponsors of the Mary Cariola Women's Classic



Don and Regina Becker's terraced gardens were in full bloom during the Lake Ontario Garden tour.



The winning foursome of Andy Coulter, Janine LeFrois, Sharon Dorschel and Julie Odenbach take a break at the turn.

For the love of the game... and the kids

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

Most people take years to find their one passion in life. But Agency friend Mike Osborne has been lucky enough to find two in his lifetime—baseball and Mary Cariola Children's Center. And ironically they fit together like hand in (baseball) glove.

Over the last 17 years, Mike has donated thousands of dollars to fund the annual Cariola Prom. It's a magical evening when Cariola students enjoy a night of fun, dressing up and dancing with their friends. And despite the span of time, corporate retirement, and re-location, Mike has delivered on his wish that the Mary Cariola Prom will happen every spring.



Mike Osborne is ready to greet the crowds at Hi Corbett Field.

"Once you've toured the Agency, it gets in your blood . . . it's like eating potato chips . . . you can't stop," Mike said. "I'd encourage everyone to visit Mary Cariola and see the dedicated staff, see the kids and see how good the staff is with these kids. If that doesn't grab you, I'd have to check your pulse. It's an amazing place . . . thank God we have it."

Here's where the baseball fits in. The Kodak retiree and transplanted Arizonian prides himself on having a job that "every 12-year-old in the world would love to do." For six weeks starting every February, Mike is the afternoon supervisor at Hi Corbett Field in Tucson, Arizona—the spring training home for Major League Baseball's Colorado Rockies.

He admits to having a great job. He loves meeting the fans, future Hall of Famers and always tries to seek out former Rochester Red Wings who move up to the big leagues. (Mike worked on the grounds crew at Frontier Field from 1997-2003.)

"When I moved here, I had to do something and I told the Rockies, 'I love baseball: I'm available 24/7; please hire me.'"

He had the same perseverance

when he funded and attended the very first Mary Cariola Prom in 1991.

"I saw the look on the kid's faces and how terrific they looked in their gowns and tuxedos . . . it was such a big deal to them and their parents that I said, 'We must make sure this Prom continues every year.'"

Mike did just that . . . and still does.

Every spring, Mike sends a check for the prom. And since moving to Arizona in 2004, Mike takes his paycheck from the Colorado Rockies and sends it to the Agency to sponsor the Prom. Mike rarely gets back to attend the magical evening but he feels like he's there every year.

"I always get information from the committee on the prom theme and I love receiving photos of the evening." Mike said. "That makes me feel like I'm part of it every step of the way." •

D'Anza joins Board of Directors

James D'Anza, an attorney with Underberg and Kessler LLP, has been elected to the MCCC Board of Directors. Jim toured Mary Cariola last year and was overwhelmed with the facility and the people. He began volunteering as a member of the Agency Advancement Committee. A Penfield resident, Jim and his wife Catherine have three daughters. Jim's term will run through 2014. •



Remembering Friends

Our thoughts go out to the families of two former employees and one of our students. They all touched the Agency in their own special way and will be remembered with fondness.

Roberta B. Leek was a caring person who had many good friends and a wonderful sense of humor. Roberta worked as a bookkeeper in the Administrative Services office now known as the Business Office.

Ruth Downey worked in the early days of Mary Cariola Children's Center. She started as a volunteer then worked as a teacher's aide, and coordinator of transportation.

Jazmine Grant was a child full of life and love. She always had



a joke to tell or a song to sing. Jazmine loved her family and was a loyal friend. She danced through

her days with an incredible spirit, and touched the lives of those who were lucky enough to know her. Jazmine will always be dearly missed and fondly remembered at Mary Cariola Children's Center.

Mary Cariola Moments



1



2

THIS PAGE:

1,2 Jay Berdych and Erika Sonricker wait for a downpour during Camp Cariola at the Rotary Sunshine Camp while Matthew Davison enjoys a leisurely soaking at the Splash pad.

3 Jose Valle points to the topping he wants during an ice cream social sponsored by the residents of St. John's Meadows.

FACING PAGE:

4 Several kinds of new swinging apparatus are in frequent use by the nine students at the Kreg Road Residence. The swings are part of a new playground installed this summer. The new equipment combines fun and many therapeutic benefits. Funding was provided by the Fred and Floy Willmott Foundation, the Rochester Female Charitable Society, Assunta Debole and the Klainer Playground Fund.

5 Latosha Bunton makes a stop on the red carpet to pose for pictures during this year's Hollywood themed prom appropriately called The Red Carpet Affair.



3



Kristina Meyer is surrounded by her proud parents, Alice and David, on graduation night.

Pomp and Circumstance x 25!

Mary Cariola graduated its largest class ever in June. Twenty five students were recognized for their hard work and accomplishments during their school career.

Agency President Paul Scott shared stories of each graduate before a packed audience of family, friends and staff.

"We all rose to the occasion," explained Scott. "Since there were so many graduates and so much to say, it was an emotional evening . . . I'm glad that we all made it through. So many of our graduates have been with us since they were infants or toddlers and to send them off to new programs is always difficult. We've had some amazing journeys with these kids and their families."

Thanks to various local agencies and a new collaboration with the ARC of Monroe all of the graduates have been placed in adult programs. The Class of 2008 is now setting new goals and will celebrate new accomplishments at Lifetime Assistance, Finger Lakes DDSO (Developmental Disabilities Services Offices) day programs, CDS (Continuing Developmental Services) and various ARC programs in Monroe, Ontario, Livingston and Wyoming Counties. •

THIS PAGE:

6 Elmwood classroom 18 took a field trip to Strong National Museum of Play. (left to right) Ryan Schubert, Todd Quist, Deashaney Holloway, Jaycob Otero, Jonah Hayes and Sean Flanagan enjoy the butterfly garden.

7 Marissa Jessick shows off her newly designed photo frame to Ryan Bradley of Johnson and Johnson Ortho Clinical Diagnostics. Ryan was one of 15 J&J employees who hosted a picnic at Mendon Ponds for the residential program.

Weight, Walks and ...Watermelons?



Alana Smigelskis (l) and Karena Mitchell (r) check out the fresh produce at the Fruit and Vegetable stand.

Mary Cariola's Wellness program continues to make giant leaps in promoting a healthier workforce.

Employees have benefited from a number of creative and fun incentive programs that have challenged them to implement a healthier lifestyle.

The Mary Cariola's 12-week weight

loss challenge saw remarkable results. Over 1,730 pounds were lost from 131 employees who attended nutritional sessions, recreational walks and supported each other to lose weight.

Elmwood Teacher Assistants Tami Secol and Nicole Boothby discovered that walking and eating lunch together was just the incentive they needed.

"It was fun to have everyone in the classroom involved and encourage each other," Secol said. "I started to drink more water and eat more fruits and vegetables as well as reduce the size of my meals. I have more energy because I'm walking three times a week and as a result I have dropped two sizes."

Nicole Boothby lost 28 pounds since the weight loss challenge began.

"I wanted to lose what I gained during my last pregnancy and I never thought I could lose weight, she said. "I switched from soda to water and replaced Pop-Tarts with Special K bars." I'm not perfect, but I do read food labels now and exercise when I have time."

Following the weight loss challenge,

the Fitness Walk was launched in May. Over 200 employees representing 40 teams walked the equivalent of 40,000 miles during the four week program. The winning team of Christine Moore, Scott Stewart Tyriss Gordon, Lisa Martinez and Wanna Berry each won a pair of cross training shoes.

Also, the Thursday afternoon fruit and vegetable stand debuted in July. Cariola staff has been purchasing ten cases of fresh produce each week. The advantage of having freshly picked corn or a sweet watermelon for dinner saves staff precious time and encourages wellness habits at home.

"Healthy employees are happy employees," said Mary Cariola President Paul Scott. "We'll look at all aspects of health to make sure that our wellness program continues to be a win win for everyone."

In addition to the daily morning stretch, other programs currently offered through Mary Cariola's wellness programs include free 10 minute massages and free dance classes with Garth Fagan School of Dance teacher Roger Smith. •

Olympic spirit shines at East Henrietta Campus

This year's Olympic spirit is alive and well at Mary Cariola.

The Agency's first Special Olympics basketball team took the floor in the Spring, thanks to the hard work of teacher Claudine Chartier and other staff members. The staff was instrumental in shaping and molding 14 students from the East Henrietta campus into a cohesive unit, a team that came in first place, but, more importantly, enjoyed themselves and displayed outstanding teamwork.

"It was a great day," said Terri Chapin, education supervisor. "I was so impressed by their teamwork and cooperation, and also their interpersonal skills. They even made sure that one of the under-sized teams had a

chance to shoot against them."

The students, ranging in age from 14 to 19, had a dozen practices to develop their passing, dribbling, shooting and rebounding skills with the help of three certified coaches.

Many of the kids still wear their uniforms with pride, said Chapin. Claudine, however, has more than a uniform to remember the day. She went into labor two hours before the team's first game, delivering a baby girl, Adriana.

And not to be outdone by the Beijing Olympics, students at the East Henrietta campus created their own Summer games. After a colorful opening ceremony (complete with a replica of an Olympic torch), students were



Cedric Hurell (l) and Ja'Ben Clemons (r) celebrate after winning two games during the Special Olympics basketball tournament.

divided into countries and participated in a variety of athletic competitions. Medals were awarded to each Olympian at the closing ceremony. •

Annual Dinner recognizes contributions to Agency



Terence Rafferty, president of Time Warner Cable, displays his photo collage of the children who inspire him so much. Time Warner received the Community Partner Award for their many contributions to the Agency, including their effort to increase Mary Cariola's visibility in the community.



Mary Beth LaDuca accepted The Youth Volunteer Award for St. John School of Rochester. For more than a decade the children at the school held an annual mission day carnival and designated a large share of the proceeds to children at Mary Cariola. To let the children know how much their hard work and generosity were appreciated, Mary Cariola hosted an ice cream social for all of St. John's students before the school closed in June.



Lou and Debbie Iovoli organize a holiday party each December to help the kids at Cariola. Attendees bring toys, books and other items that the children enjoy all year long. The Iovolis received the Special Friend of the Children Award for their thoughtful generosity and work as ambassadors of the Agency.



Catherine Overton, a much loved, long-time employee received the Employee of the Year Award, the Agency's highest internal recognition. Catherine, known for her kindness, generosity and love of the students, retired at the end of the school year after 22 years.

It was a festive evening at a new location on May 15th as Mary Cariola celebrated its 59th Annual Dinner at Eagle Vale Golf Club. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of awards honoring exceptional contributions to the Agency.

Award Winning Efforts

Mary Cariola Children's Center's Wellness Program and Annual Giving campaign were recently honored with community awards.

The 2008 **Wealth of Health Award** was awarded to the Human Resources



Department by the Rochester Business Journal and Excellus Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The award was given to organizations that improve workplace wellness and improve the bottom line as well as the overall health in the community.



The Agency Advancement Department won the 2008 **PRISM Award** from the Rochester Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. This year's Color the World of a Child Annual Giving campaign won the not for profit category for Direct Mail Response.

"We've often been thought of as a model for our work with children and the creative approaches that we take in the classroom," said Paul Scott. "It's always a real boost for us to be recognized in other areas such as Public Relations and Health and Wellness."

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

have made donations to the Agency between March 1 and August 25, 2008. 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 very much for your friendship.

In Memory of . . .

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Paul Scott receives a check from Frontier's Angela Christian. Frontier was a major sponsor for the 2008 Lake Ontario Garden Tour.



Organizer John Nolan (second from left) and friends at St. John's Meadows hosted a summer ice cream social for the Elmwood Campus. In addition to ice cream, the residents sponsored a magician and distributed novelty bubble bottles to the children.

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Time Warner Cable employee Cheri Grey helps Taylor Simmons (l) and Joey Mancuso (r) create personal note cards. Twenty nine children of Time Warner employees designed and sold cards to friends and family to benefit the Agency. Over \$1,600 was raised for the purchase of a new lift system.

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Debra Knickerbocker

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We extend our sincere thanks to Pace Windows & Doors for underwriting this colorful edition of the *Centerpoint*. As always, we'd love to hear your comments about this issue. E-mail your thoughts to info@marycariola.org.

Bus Loop Buddies



Left: After a scenic bus ride from Penn Yan, Luke Fordon meets his new teacher Kathy Anderson.



Above: Cassandra Rice welcomes back Sage Williams on the first day of school.



Left: Miles Seaborn is eager to see his new classroom with teacher Fred Henry.