



# Centerpoint

A Newsletter for Friends of Mary Cariola Children's Center

WINTER 2009-2010



Dick Hoyt signs autographs for Missy Witte and Diane Harris.

## Anniversary Gala dazzles crowd

Mary Cariola Children's Center's 60th Anniversary Gala was a dazzling evening with a lively crowd of 450 party-goers. They enjoyed the auctions, live music and hearing the inspiring words of featured guests Team Hoyt, as well as former Board Chair Mary Hannick, now 100 years young.



Gala Co-Chairs Jeanne Rafferty and Mari O'Sullivan, along with their committee, attended to every detail to ensure an enjoyable evening. The event took two years to plan, and by the time the exact anniversary date of October 10th rolled around, everything was in place.

The Gala's "Journey" theme was evident from the dozens of hot-air balloons in the Hyatt Regency ballroom. A VIP reception and silent auction preceded the dinner. The silent auction alone netted \$27,000 and the paddle and live auctions raising another \$27,000. The event grossed \$130,000.

Team Hoyt gave a poignant presentation of their inspiring journey. They have competed in over 1,000 races, including many marathons, triathlons and Ironman competitions. Dick pushes his son, who has Cerebral Palsy. The Hoyts described how their early efforts to participate in races were discouraged, and Dick shared how he and his wife were advised to institutionalize Rick

*continued on page 2*

Brian & Bonnie Venton and Tony & Kim Infantino were among the 450 guests at the Gala.



Rosemary Sherman talks to Rick Hoyt about seeing him compete in the Boston Marathon.



Special thanks to Diamond Sponsor Time Warner Cable for their generous donation, gifts of publicity, production talent, silent auction items and employee volunteer involvement.

# Recipe for success: New program cooking up a storm

If the aromas don't invite you in, the students will! East Henrietta's new Cooking Program is well underway with a kitchen full of new appliances, a well-stocked pantry and all the recipes needed for success.

Funded by a grant from the B. Thomas Golisano Foundation, the Mary Cariola Cooking Program teaches everything from choosing recipes to cleaning up. The major focus is to develop skills that students will need when they transition to an adult placement.

Many basic skills that students learn include chopping with a knife, developing a grocery list, shopping and comparing prices, organizing items on shelves and learning to use a microwave as well as the importance of a potholder! For the first time ever (thanks to double ovens) students are preparing food for others, including classmates. They also buy items in bulk to repackage into snack packs

used in Cariola classrooms.

Trying different types of foods, like eggplant, has expanded the students' palates and encourages them to add variety to their diet. Zucchini pie also turned out to be a surprising favorite. Some students did not expect to see that vegetables that came straight from the farm actually had dirt on them! Cooking instructor Molly Iten has worked to make recipes healthier with substitutions.

Staff members have seen how competence and confidence go hand in hand. Students have impressed staff with their, "You sit down and I will make it" attitude. Recipes are adapted for ability levels and proper etiquette is part of the program. Waiting patiently to be served is a huge accomplishment for some students.

There has already been a party. Three students did everything from menu planning to shopping and cook-



*Mike Thornton assembles his Hawaiian calzone while Jakequan Lake makes a chicken wing pizza.*

ing. It was a huge success. They served pizza, vegetable trays with taco dip and nachos to 25 students, friends and staff. And they even enjoyed the clean up! More parties and new recipes are in the works as the Cariola cooks have all the necessary ingredients for meeting the future head on. •

## Anniversary Gala, cont'd.

shortly after his birth. Their determination overcame these obstacles and today they tell others "Yes, you can . . . you can accomplish anything you set out to do." Rick is a college graduate and used a speech-generating laptop to give his speech.



Other highlights included the live auction led by auctioneer Brett Wilcox, Spanky Haschmann's 17-piece Swing Orchestra, and the emceeing of Time Warner Cable's Mike O'Brian. Tony Infantino of WARM 101.3 even joined Spanky onstage for some spontaneous lead vocals! Live auction items included a Super Bowl package, Florida

condo rentals and an autographed Mickey Mantle baseball. "The Chairs and the committee did a great job organizing the event," said Agency President Paul Scott. "The entire Gala is a credit to them and their hard work." •



*A little line dancing is always a hit at a gala celebration.*



*Gala Co-Chair Jeanne Rafferty and her Dad, George Erkmann, talk running with Dick Hoyt.*



*Jackie Moffit checks out a wine gift basket and wonders if her bid will be enough to take it home.*

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***Volunteers aren't paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless ..."***

A N O N Y M O U S

***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 decided to give back.***

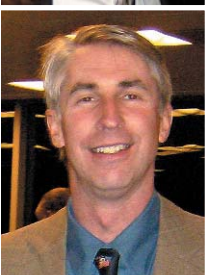


**T**hey couldn't sing but they knew a good band . . . they couldn't decorate a silent auction gift but they knew how to secure it . . . they weren't a designer but they knew someone who was . . . they didn't attend the event yet they donated all the wine . . . they didn't own the Yankees but knew how to get tickets to a Yankee-Red Sox series . . .

"They" are the hundreds of volun-

teers who worked for the past two years to create a successful and enjoyable 60th Anniversary Gala. They designed and printed materials, created public service announcements and slide presentations, assembled silent auction items, created paddles and envelopes for the auction, solicited sponsorships and hundreds of silent auction items, underwrote the cost of decorations, transported items to the Hyatt Regency, set up the auction tables, provided security, managed the check-out process and attended many meetings.

Our spotlight shines on the Gala Committee and special volunteers—each worked to make the 60th Gala Anniversary an evening to remember!



# Mary Cariola Moments

**1** Teacher Kathy Lee and George Keller make a great team creating gifts for two local organizations. George powers the sewing machine with a switch while Kathy keeps the needle straight. George displays the quilt squares that will be made into a Quilt of Valor to be given to a returning injured soldier. Kathy sews the side of a gift bag that will be given to children at shelters for Alternatives for Battered Women. The bags will be filled with crafts and coloring books.

1



2

**2** David Hamilton is sits proudly in his new candy apple red trimmed wheelchair donated by the Make a Wish Foundation. Monroe Wheelchair's Cory Finzer makes the adjustments to make the wheelchair a perfect fit.



3

**3** Social Worker Sue Sharp (in blue) teaches the sign for 'potato' to Donna Kennedy, Hank Doe and their daughter, Corrina. Over 50 Cariola families and staff members signed up to attend the six-week Sign Language Training session.

4

**4** Tom Clancy and Dakota Traia drum up business at a recent arts and crafts sale on the East Henrietta Campus. Two classrooms were raising funds for future field trips.



**5** Cariola staffers and their families proudly present the flag during the national anthem at Mary Cariola Night at Frontier Field.

5





6

6 Rochester Red Wings Pitcher Rob Delaney with Elmwood student Sean Flanagan. Sean threw out the first pitch at Mary Cariola Night at Frontier Field.



7

7 Campers Hannah Bernard and Brandon West check out a turtle they spotted during a paddle boat ride at Camp Cariola. It was the 13th year for the Camp program. Sixty Cariola students and residents enjoyed five days at the Rotary Sunshine Camp in Rush.



8

8 Dave, Sally, Bob and Todd Quist answer questions after the recent Rochester premiere of Welcome to Holland—a documentary that follows the Quist family and their journey of living with the joy and challenges of caring for a child with special needs. The event, held at St. John Fisher College, attracted over 100 Agency friends. For information on the film, go to [www.welcometohollandfilm.com](http://www.welcometohollandfilm.com). The award winning documentary was directed by York University film student Lizz Hodgson.



9

9 Jocelyn Danieluk assists Chris Lockwood and Tommy Tobin with their choice of toppings as Nancy Petrich suggests the gummy bears. Last month, the residents of St. John's Meadows sponsored and hosted their second annual ice cream social for the Elmwood campus.



10

10 Cedric Burton counts and sorts Box Tops for Education—one of the many jobs performed in the Transition Program. The Agency recently received their first check for \$300—that's a lot of counting and sorting! Keep those Box Tops coming! Mail to Mary Cariola Children's Center, ATTN: Box Tops Program, 1000 Elmwood Ave., Suite 100, Rochester, NY 14620



## Remembering Man's Best Friends

The Agency lost two of its best friends in the last month. Therapy Dog,



**Jenny**



**Maggie**

Jenny, came to Mary Cariola 13½ years ago when she was seven weeks old. She stayed in a crate in the Presidents' office to get used to the sounds, smells and activity level of the Day Program. Once she had acclimated to the surroundings, Jenny had a regular job and an office on the East Henrietta campus. Therapy Dog, Maggie, had worked at the Agency for 14 years. She started as a puppy and worked with the older students on the East Henrietta campus. Both Jenny and Maggie had very happy and useful lives surrounded by kids and staff that walked them, petted them, sweet talked them and game them treats. They had the best jobs anyone could ever have and they loved every minute of it.

*"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole."* — Roger Caras

### Star canine joins staff

Mary Cariola's new therapy dog, Trixie, rose rapidly through the ranks of puppy school and Canine Good Citizenship classes. She aced the difficult Therapy Dog Test on the first try. The pure-bred golden retriever was chosen from her litter for her calm and friendly personality, with the hopes that one day she would be trained as a therapy dog.

Trixie broke the all-time class record for the "down/stay" command in puppy school after remaining in the same spot for more than seven minutes, despite balls and treats that were thrown her way as distracters. She excelled at all tasks in her classes.

Now that she has her official certi-



**Trixie**

# Agency's first employee looks back

As the first employee of the Day Care Training Center for Handicapped Children (now Mary Cariola Children's Center), Don Karal remembers clearly the exhausting work 60 years later.

"Some nights after work I was too tired to even eat. I would just go straight to bed," he says. Don was responsible for teaching both the morning and afternoon sessions, which together had 14 students. One of the



**Don Karal**

afternoon students was Butchie, Mary Cariola's nephew, and the inspiration for the new agency.

"Butchie was blind and had multiple disabilities," said Don. "Mary was very devoted to him and you could see that the two of them had a very special relationship."

Don was hired by Mary in 1950, joining her and Gerry Werner at the Center. Mary and Gerry both worked for nothing. With such a small group, Don found himself taking on many roles, including giving presentations around the community about the fledgling agency. "We depended on donations to keep the place running, so I had to get out there and sing for my supper," he recalls. "Lucky for me, I had taken

a public speaking class in college at Holy Cross."

Don also acted as a therapist, devising ways to assist children with their various needs. He remembers his mother helping him to find a way to help them swallow, which he recalls being a major challenge for many of the students.

"Together, we invented what I call a gum gauze bag. We took cheesecloth with a drawstring and tied it to make a small bag. We put a piece of Chiclet gum inside the bag so the kids would chew the gum while I held the string. By chewing they made saliva, which made it much easier for them to swallow."

Don tried everything he could to help the students develop their senses more fully. One of the pieces of equipment he used was a group hearing aid called a Chromovox, which visualized breath, voice and nasal sounds to blue, red and brown colored lights. Don had such great success with the Chromovox that he left the Agency for a job to sell it across the country.

He still remembers telling Mary that he was leaving. "She tried to get me to stay but I was young and wanted to see the country," he said. "But I've never forgotten what a great experience it was. And I'll never forget the kids. They had very serious challenges and I felt good about helping them." •

***"I've never forgotten what a great experience it was. And I'll never forget the kids. They had very serious challenges and I felt good about helping them."***

fication, she is on the job with students at the East Henrietta Campus and loves it. Her owner, Teacher Rachel Mueller, says Trixie is eager to

get going each morning and races into the school building when they arrive. Trixie joins long time employee, Katie, in the Pet Therapy Program. •



## Guys and Gals go golfing

The Mary Cariola Golf Classic continued its tradition of raising money "fore" the kids. Corporate sponsor Canandaigua National Bank and its team of Chris Keyes, Karen Serenis, Lisa Blakesley and Board Member Jim Blatt enjoyed a beautiful day on the links at EagleVale Golf Club. The tournament netted \$30,000 for the Agency.

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## Agency Welcomes New Board Members

*The beginning of a new school year also means a new class of Board Members. The Agency is pleased to welcome members with a variety of talent and background to the Board. We welcome Trevor Harrison of HBT Architects, Manufacturing Consultant Bob Haag, Mark Armbruster of Armbruster Capital Management, and Rochester Clinical Research CEO Pat Larrabee.*



## Cyclists rev it up for Cariola kids



*The 3rd Annual Hogs 'n' Roses Motorcycle Ride promised a scenic journey through two counties and it delivered. Over 170 motorcycle enthusiasts headed for the highway on a perfect summer day. Thanks to event sponsors Bob Duckett, Kantor & Godwin, and the Rochester Chapter of the Harley Owners Group over \$8,700 was raised. Event Sponsor Bob Duckett has a front row seat in a military humvee as the Army National Guard escorted the motorcyclists during the 60 mile ride.*



*It was blue as far as the eye could see as young and old raised funds for the Agency.*



*Volunteer Sam Dattilo and Mariah Kappen share a laugh after the walk.*



*It was a family affair as Robert O'Donnell, Nathan Seefried, Kendra, Kenzie, Kylie, Kaylin, Susan, and Derek O'Donnell all walked for the cause.*

# Walking on Sunshine

Between the blue sky, the blue water and the blue shirts, it was literally a sea of blue on Sunday, September 20th. More than 600 staff and Agency friends enjoyed an early autumn walk along picture perfect Lake Ontario to raise funds for Mary Cariola.

"Walking on Sunshine" raised more than \$28,000 for the Agency. Board Member and Walk Chairman Jim D'Anza, was pleased with the day.

"The setting was absolutely gorgeous, the weather was perfect and everyone enjoyed themselves. We were walking on sunshine," he said. "Thanks to our committee and the City of Rochester, it was a very successful event."

Rochester Mayor Robert Duffy kicked off the walk after praising the Agency for its contributions to the community. There was entertainment at every turn from musician Jim Lane; Roscoe the Clown; Marabeth Nally, The Story

Lady; cheerleaders from Churchville Chili and Hilton High Schools; and Spikes from the Rochester Red Wings.

Many thanks to Jim D'Anza and the Walk Committee for organizing the event, the many volunteers who made the day run smoothly and our corporate event sponsors: Canandaigua National Bank & Trust, Cobblestone Capital Advisors, Constellation Energy—R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant, Financial Architects, Flower City Glass, Staples, Upstate Systems, Inc., and Wendy's. •

# "Give Five" Campaign kicks off on a high note

Mary Cariola's "Give Five" Campaign returns this fall, with TV commercials featuring a fun loving, 11-year-old piano player. And the Agency is hopeful that many gifts will be music to everyone's ears. Last year's inaugural Give Five campaign raised a record amount of \$100,000.

"The goal of Give Five is to encourage gifts to Mary Cariola regardless of their size," said Rod Christian, Director of Agency Advancement. "Collectively, gifts of five dollars make a big difference to our Agency and the kids we support."

We had more than 350 first time donors to last year's campaign which was double the number from the previous year. That is unprecedented in a

weakened economy."

This year's campaign goal is \$105,000. Donations can be made online at [www.marycariola.org](http://www.marycariola.org). Commercials promoting the campaign can be seen on Time Warner Cable. A letter will be sent to all donors featuring student Spenser Dingle, whose musical talent was discovered at Mary Cariola. Spenser's parents, Shawnette and Ezell Dingle of Fairport, attribute the Cariola staff for their son's accomplishments.

"The staff has been the key to Spenser's growth. They are truly amazing," explained Shawnette Dingle. "They have come up with so many ideas over the years to help him grow and be the best person he can be. They see all of the strengths, gifts



*Spenser Dingle focuses on his finger placement as Music Therapist April Westover-Mounts reviews the notes.*

and blessings a child has and they bring that out in them."

Donations can be made online at [www.marycariola.org](http://www.marycariola.org).

Many thanks to John Nugent, Wahl Media and Time Warner Cable for their generous underwriting support. •

# 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 June 5, 2009 and October, 28 2009. 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 Corporate Giving Committee at Lewis Tree Service selected Mary Cariola to receive a donation as part of their 2009 community giving initiatives. Ashley Mittiga presents the check to Agency Advancement Director Rod Christian.*



*Lindsay Marcellus and Jackie Price take a break during a pizza party sponsored by Cam's Pizzeria. Cam's donated two parties that were held at Elmwood and East Henrietta. Spikes, the Rochester Red Wings Mascot, entertained the students. The Red Wings and Cam's Pizzeria were proud supporters of the Agency's 60th Anniversary celebration.*

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Cariola Centerpoint is the official newsletter  
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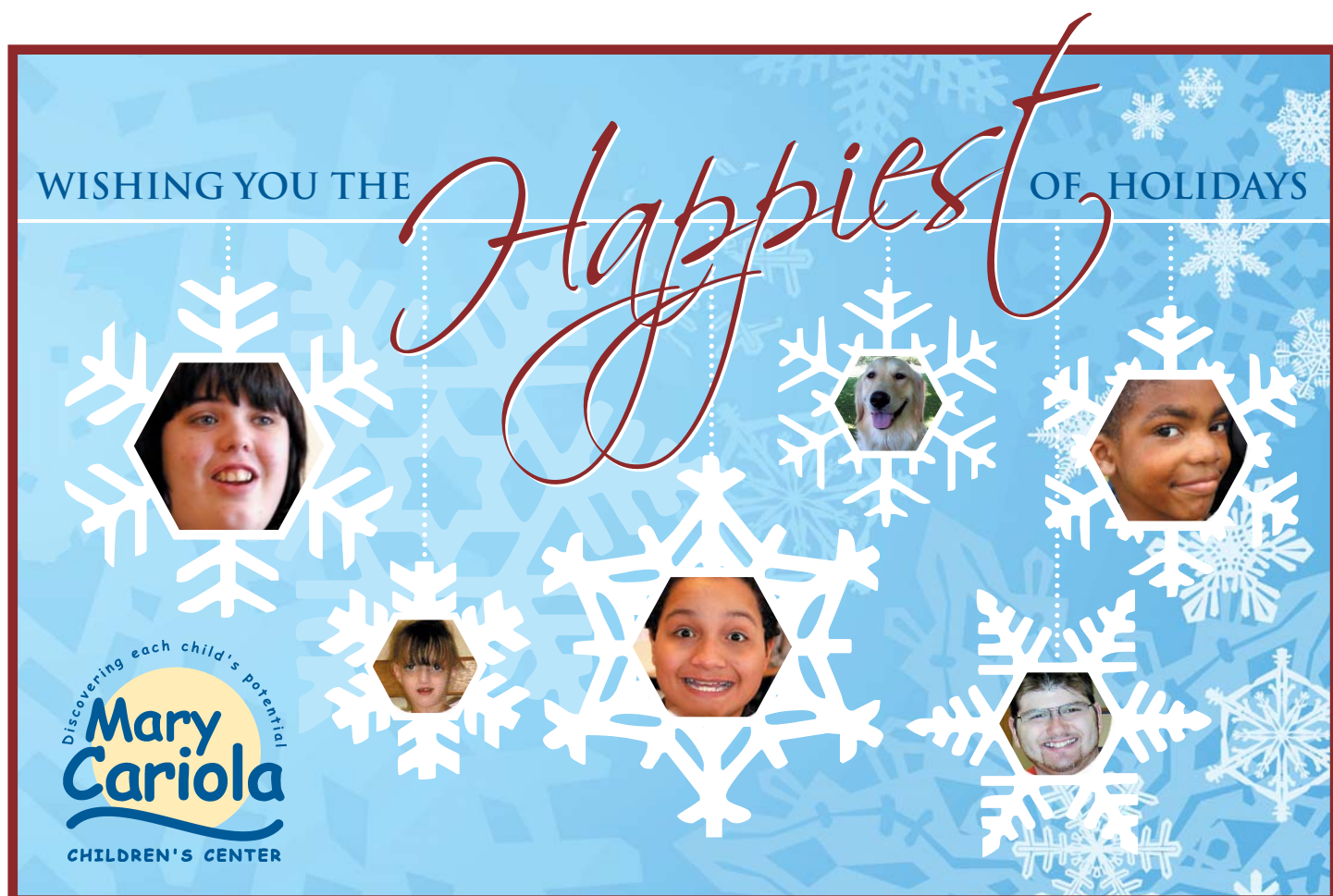
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Discovering each child's potential  
**Mary Cariola**  
CHILDREN'S CENTER

The card features a blue background with white snowflakes. Six photos are arranged in a circular pattern, each framed by a snowflake. The photos show a woman, a dog, a young girl, a young boy, a young girl, and a young boy. The word 'Happiest' is written in a large, red, cursive font across the center.