

New York Business & Labor Community Comes Through for Saint Dominic's Home

Saint Dominic's Home is grateful to the Friends of Saint Dominic's and to John T. White and his miraculous Dinner Committee for a spectacular and successful 28th Annual Friends of Saint Dominic's Business & Labor Awards Dinner.

Even in these tough economic times, New York area businesses and the labor/trade construction industry came through for Saint Dominic's Home by raising more than \$1.1 million for the agency.

More than 1,200 people gathered January 27 in the grand ballroom of the Waldorf=Astoria to help Saint Dominic's Home continue its 131-year-old mission of bettering the lives of those less fortunate and most in need, especially children.

Special awards were presented to Peter Thomassen, President, New York District Council of Carpenters, who was the recipient of the Francis J. P. McHale Memorial Award, and Louis Milo, President, Milrose

Consultants, Inc., who received the Saint Dominic's Home Victory Award.



(L-R front row) Ronald J. Sylvestri, SVP, Hudson Valley Bank; Judith D. Kydon, Executive Director, Saint Dominic's Home; Sr. Joseph Mary Mahoney, O.P., President, Friends of Saint Dominic's, and Victory Award winner Louis Milo, President, Milrose Consultants, Inc. (L-R back row) Francis J. P. McHale Memorial Award recipient Peter Thomassen, President, New York District Council of Carpenters; John T. White, Partner, Structure Tone, Inc., and the Dinner Committee Chairman; David T. Meberg, President, Consolidated Carpet; Jeffrey Lazar, Vice President, Lehr Construction Corp., and Dinner Emcee Rosanna Scotto, Co-host, Fox 5 "Good Day New York."

Private Grants Help Enhance Education Programs & Services

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The Hackett Foundation has awarded a \$293,275 grant to Saint Dominic's Home to make vast program and service improvements for 76 students attending our 853 School. The grant is funding a new Early Childhood Room/Sensory Integration Center and a Life Skills Training Program and is providing enhancements and improvements to the school's library, music program, playground and gymnasium/multipurpose center.

The New Jersey-based Hackett Foundation, Inc., founded in 1975 by William J. Hackett, is an independent private foundation that provides grants primarily for supplies and equipment to organizations located in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Its primary focus is to promote the health, welfare, education and independence of individuals.

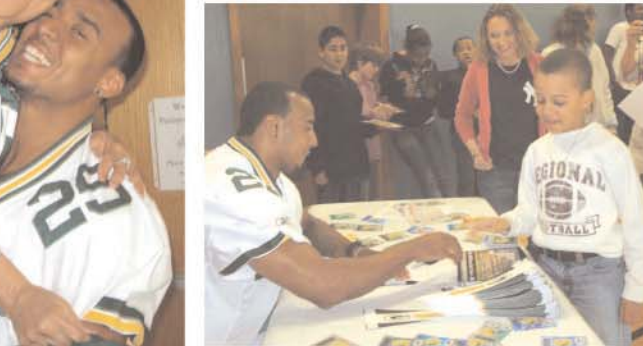


NFL Star Ryan Grant 'Packs' Them In for Kickoff of 'Spirit Week' at Saint Dominic's School

Seventy-five students and more than 25 staff at Saint Dominic's School packed the school's multipurpose room Monday, May 18, for a special visit by NFL star Ryan Grant of the Green Bay Packers. Thanks to long-time school nurse Patricia Gallwey, seen in the arms of her grandson Ryan in the accompanying photo, Grant made the special visit and gave an inspirational talk to the students, answered a bevy of questions from students and staff and much to the delight of all signed autographs.



Monday's event was "Sports Day" to kick off a week-long of activities for "Spirit Week" at the school. One fun highlight of Grant's visit was a hula hoop contest that pitted Grant against a



Saint Dominic's student. The Blauvelt, N.Y. school serves children in grades kindergarten - eighth who have social/emotional challenges, and is operated by Saint Dominic's Home.



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Saint Dominic's Home
Bettering Lives Since 1878

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Community Based Services • TORCH • Developmental Disabilities • Foster Boarding Home • Mental Health • 853 School

VOICES

Saint Dominic's Home Newsletter

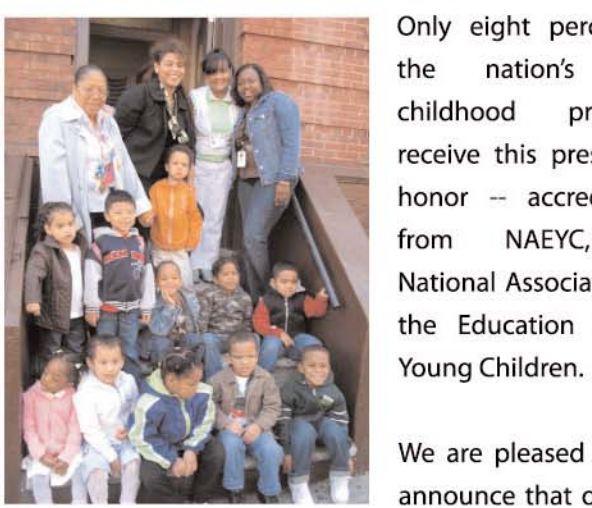
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Save the Dates

- 853 School - 8th Grade Graduation Thursday, June 18
- TORCH (To Reach Children) Graduation Wednesday, June 24
- 17th Annual Friends Golf Tourney Monday, August 3 Edgewood Country Club River Vale, New Jersey

TORCH Preschool Receives Top Accreditation



Only eight percent of the nation's early childhood programs receive this prestigious honor -- accreditation from NAEYC, the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

We are pleased to announce that our New York State approved TORCH (To Reach Children) bilingual preschool in the Bronx has once again achieved this honor from NAEYC, the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals.

Under the direction of Ethel Rosally, TORCH provides a full range of educational and clinical services to special education and non-disabled children, ages 2.7 to 5.0. TORCH provides a variety of services based on the individual needs of the child: full day sessions; integrated classes with non-disabled children; related services, including speech, counseling and occupational therapy; six-week summer program; transportation for eligible children; breakfast, lunch and parent workshops.

It is a pleasure to introduce you to our Saint Dominic's Home newsletter "Voices."

A Message from Judy Kydon



Our goal is to publish "Voices" on a quarterly basis and share some insights into how we are carrying out our social welfare mission to help people who are most vulnerable and those in need, especially children.

In this edition you will also learn what's new at Saint Dominic's Home, including recent accreditations, grants, special events and improvements on behalf of our consumers and employees.

I invite you to contact me to let me know what you think about "Voices" and share your ideas for stories and topics to cover.

Respectfully,
Judith D. Kydon
Executive Director

Private Grants Help Enhance Education Programs & Services



Saint Dominic's Home relies on public and private grants to help supplement and enhance programs and services for the people we serve.

Two grants received recently have been designated to our education programs for preschool students in our TORCH (To Reach Children) therapeutic school in the Bronx and K-8th graders attending our 853 school for children with social/emotional challenges in Blauvelt, N.Y.

The Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation awarded a \$35,000 grant to TORCH, the nationally accredited bilingual preschool program that provides a full range of educational and clinical services to special education and non-disabled children.

Founded by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman in 1946 to honor the memory of Alfred Emanuel Smith, New York's renowned Governor and patron of the "Little People," the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation supports and aids the poor, sick, and underprivileged of the Archdiocese of New York, regardless of race, creed, religion or color.

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Employees Contribute to Prestigious Accreditation & 'Exceptional' Rating

Compassionate professional care and a high level of quality service has long been a hallmark of Saint Dominic's Home since our inception in 1878.

Our 800 dedicated staff members who work in more than 40 different programs and services can take special pride in knowing that they have contributed to Saint Dominic's Home receiving one of the highest honors in the social services industry. This is "National Accreditation" by The Council on Accreditation, the premier social services standards setting organization in the U.S. and internationally.

The COA accreditation is a long and difficult process of determining that the agency is performing at the highest possible levels. The independent COA in-depth evaluation also stated that the quality of service Saint Dominic's Home provides to consumers was rated "exceptional."



Four-Year Strategic Plan Positions Agency for Sound Performance

Hope



For more than 131 years, Saint Dominic's Home has been able to carry out our social welfare mission of helping those who are less fortunate and most vulnerable in our society.

To ensure that we continue this mission and operate fiscally sound and provide highest levels of quality service for which we are known, Saint Dominic's Home has just completed the process of creating a comprehensive Strategic Plan for 2009 – 2012.

The Strategic Plan was a collaborative process involving candid input and constructive discussions among Saint Dominic's Home executive team, senior management, staff, families, consumers and the Board of Directors.

Research was conducted to assess current operations, changes and opportunities in our field as well as a critical examination of the current and future economic situation.

The Strategic Plan includes desired outcomes and actions for every Saint Dominic's Home department, program and services area. It addresses key challenges and issues facing our organization with recommendations to meet them with the best results.

Part of the Strategic Plan includes marketing/communications for Saint Dominic's Home, both internally and externally, and utilizing the new tag line "Bettering Lives Since 1878."



Social Welfare Then & Now

Long before social welfare was part of the vernacular, Mother Mary Ann Sammon and the Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt were ahead of their time in social welfare by operating a home for immigrant children abandoned on the streets of New York City.

Today, while Saint Dominic's Home no longer operates as a home or orphanage, we continue providing social welfare for those most in need to better their lives.

Every day, Saint Dominic's Home provides professional care and compassion to a diverse population of more than 2,300 children, adolescents, adults and families in need throughout the Bronx and the lower Hudson Valley, regardless of race, religion or ethnicity.

This ranges from children with special needs born into families shattered by violence, neglect and abandonment, and the devastating effects of poverty to children and adults with a broad spectrum of developmental disabilities and adolescents at risk as well as children with severe emotional disabilities to adults with mental illness and preschoolers living in impoverished areas.

Saint Dominic's Home's 800 dedicated staff members work in more than 40 programs including foster boarding home, adoption, special needs education, pre-school therapeutic education, community based services and community residences for adults with mental illness or developmental disabilities.

All our programs and services are professional, yet personal and person-centered, and all are approved by one or more accrediting agencies: The New York City Department of Education, New York City Children's Services, the New York City Department of Health, the New York State Department of Education, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, the New York State Department of Mental Health, the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, and the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services.

At the heart of Saint Dominic's Home's mission is the belief that the people, especially children, can best achieve their potential through individualized professional care and compassion fostered by a family-focused culture and environment.



We provide social welfare according to our core values.

Compassion:

We provide compassion to the people we serve every day and we have compassion for our employees who give so much of themselves.

Dignity:

We believe that dignity is a cherished inherent right of all individuals and we strive to see that it is a priority in all that we do.

Family:

For us, family has many meanings. We are committed to helping families stay together and providing services with a family focus approach.

Trust:

We are entrusted every day by families, parents, and our partner agencies to care for children and adults. We work hard to earn and sustain that trust.

Potential:

At the core of our mission and existence is to believe in the potential of all the children, adolescents, adults and families we serve regardless of their conditions.

Hope:

We dedicate ourselves to providing meaningful futures of hope for all of the people we serve.

A Special Blessing at Fordham Plaza



A highlight of the ceremony was the reading of a letter entitled "A Mother's Moment of Gratitude," read by Lorna Williams, Assistant Director of Waiver and Blended Case Management. In the letter a mother of four children – three adopted with a wide range of needs – expresses her heartfelt gratitude to Veronica Lendor, Intensive Case Manager, with whom she has been receiving help over the past few years. Here is an excerpt:

"...She visits and leaves and yet remains. Hers is a job of great demand, which she carries out to all avail. Special children are her aim and focus – their health and for other gains. Her heart is large and open to all; she does her best to help them all. At times we need to talk, to

cry, to see what's next and to my amazement, she listens with all her heart, encouraging us that things will get better..."



More than 50 Saint Dominic's Home personnel gathered May 1 for a special blessing of the new offices for Community Based Services at One Fordham Plaza in the Bronx. Saint Dominic's Home Executive Director Judith Kydon praised the staff for their hard work, commitment and compassion in providing social welfare to individuals, children and families in need and in crisis.

The moving ceremony included Biblical readings by Darryl Lynah, Individualized Care Coordinator, and Brunilda Robles, Intensive Case Manager. Annette Thomas, who is an ordained minister and Director of the Community Based Services Department, led the blessing both in English and Spanish and the benediction.



Saint Dominic's Home is a Catholic agency that provides social welfare regardless of race, creed, or color, and strives to be a leader in quality care and services.

We provide person-centered compassionate care for individuals with developmental disabilities so they can live their lives with hope and dignity in a family-like setting.

We prepare and support foster parents so they can give children, who often have been neglected, abused, or abandoned, a brighter future and a loving home and family.

We deliver a continuum of care to adults with mental illness and provide them the greatest level of independence.

We enable children -- kindergarten to grade 8, who have emotional challenges and educational deficiencies -- to reach their potential and be successful in a traditional academic setting.

We grow the minds of disadvantaged preschoolers (ages 3 - 5) so they are motivated and excited to excel in kindergarten and beyond.

We give children and youth with developmental disabilities and serious emotional disturbance living at home the opportunity to live in a more stable family environment.

In future issues of "Voices" we will take more in-depth examinations of social welfare provided by various Saint Dominic's Home departments and programs.



Developmental Disabilities Department: We care for 145 of the most vulnerable individuals with Developmental Disabilities in the Bronx, Rockland and Orange counties. Operates 23 residential homes and a Day Habilitation Program.

Foster Boarding Home Department: Our goal is to achieve permanency for children as quickly as possible and to provide services to children who have been abused and neglected as well as those who have physical, mental, social, developmental and emotional problems. A majority of the 645 children and families that Saint Dominic's Home serves come from the most impoverished neighborhoods of the Bronx.

Community Based Services Department: We provide preventive services and counseling for more than 1,307 at-risk children and families in the Bronx. The goal is to always strive to keep the family together. A majority of the children and families come from the most impoverished neighborhoods in the Bronx and the children are at risk of being abused, abandoned, neglected or institutionalized. Moreover, some of the children and parents have physical, mental and/or developmental deficiencies.

Education Department: We operate an 853 School in Blauvelt for 76 children in grades Kindergarten to 8th who have social/emotional challenges. In the Bronx, we operate a New York State approved special education bilingual preschool program that provides a full range of special education and therapeutic services to nearly 54 children 2.7 years to 5 years of age.

Mental Health Department: We operate group homes and apartments in Rockland County and serve 58 children and adults.