



Special Times

News from A Very Special Place, Inc.

Volume 15, Number 1

Spring 2012

AVSP HELD ITS 22ND ANNUAL SPECIAL STROKES FOR SPECIAL FOLKS GOLF OUTING

On July 19, 2011, A Very Special Place held its 22nd Annual Special Strokes for Special Folks Golf Outing. It was a great day for over 220 golfers that played. The outing's success was a result of the generosity and dedication of our many sponsors, golf committee members, golfers, dinner guests, volunteers, and in-kind donors. Our thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, American Golf Corporation and Dinner Sponsor, Diffendale & Kubec Architects, as well as those that donated toward the event, for their support.

AVSP is thankful for the friends that have been supporting the work that we do to create an environment that empowers people with developmental disabilities on Staten Island. The Special Strokes for Special Folks Golf Outing is our major



Laura Delin, Director of Development, presents a #10 commemorative flag to Eugene Woods of Lexus.

fundraising event. Through the efforts of all our 2011 Golf Outing participants, we were able to raise over \$130,000. The outing was a full day of activity with the first round of golf in the morning starting with breakfast. Both the morning and afternoon golfers enjoyed a great lunch on the patio, served as the morning golfers wrapped up their round and the afternoon golfers geared up for theirs. Later in the evening, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served on the patio. At the cocktail hour there was a live auction of the Lexus Champions for Charity National Championship. The dinner included a silent auction and the announcement of the winners for golfers' raffles, event and 1 in 100 raffles, and golfers' prizes.

Our thanks to the dedicated efforts of the golf committee: Kevin Hunt (Committee Chairman), Tom Blancero, Steven Callan, Marty and Barbara Casey, Gus Di Leo, Michael Gutierrez, Damien Kane, Allan Katz, Phil Maguire, Ted Maloy, Steve Marini, Tom McCauley, Terry McCormick, Clare Rich, Helen Sangiorgio, Sam and Arlene Scollar, Marion Tasso, Gary Timblin, Richard Travers, Dan and Maryann Weibel, Dan Wheeler, and Ginger Yannotta.

Thank you to all who supported this event. It is through your efforts that we are able to continue to provide a wider range of programs and services.

We are looking forward to our 23rd Annual Special Strokes for Special Folks Golf Outing, which will be held on August 21, 2012!

We hope that you will be able to join us.



Wally Kubec accepts the #3 flag from Genevieve Benoit, Executive Director.

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Steve Marini accepts the #22 flag for American Golf Corporation.

MILTON AVENUE DAY HABILITATION ENJOYS MANY ACTIVITIES!

Participants in the Milton Avenue Day Habilitation Program have been creating a monthly newsletter entitled "The Milton Monthly Message" that highlights birthdays, special holidays, movie openings, and all of their main activities for that month.

There are a variety of groups that partake in various activities each month and members of the program can select the groups they would like to be in that match their interests. Some of the popular choices are the Library Group, Birthday Club, and the Recycling Group.

The Bowling Group goes once a week to Rab's Country Lanes. The Walking Group walks anywhere from 1/4 to 1 mile each week at local parks and the Staten Island Mall. During inclement weather, they work out with exercise tapes indoors at the center.

All at Milton Avenue Day Habilitation enjoy all of their monthly activities, are proud of their accomplishments, and look forward to new activities each month!



A Special Thank You

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to all those who made last year's Golf Outing a great success. We ask all of our friends at A Very Special Place, Inc. to support those who have supported us:

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American Golf Corporation

DINNER

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New York Jets Foundation
New York Rangers
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Oriental Trading Company
Osaka Japanese Restaurant
Crib Outlet
Paper Mill Playhouse
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Peek-A-Boo Children's Boutique
Pennsauken Country Club
Pepper Jack Grill
Perkins Family Restaurant
Pete Milano's Discount Wine & Liquor
Phoenix Beverages
Pine Barrens Golf Club
Pittsburgh Steelers
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Posh Baby
Rab's Country Lanes
Raga Golf
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Ms. Clare Rich
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Royal Crown of Staten Island
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We invite you to come visit us at AVSP's Harvest Café. The Café is at 694 New Dorp Lane - scenically located across from Miller Field. Harvest Café is open to the public for breakfast or lunch. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.



Cesar Claro (l) Executive Director of Richmond County Savings Foundation presents a check to Jill, Victor Ramirez, Café manager and Brian. Jill and Brian are trainees.

The Café is certified as a training site for those who want to learn new skills with



Andrea Taylor (second from right) of the Polonsky Dare to Dream Fund with Genevieve Benoit, Executive Director and Diane Buglioli, Deputy Executive Director at the unveiling of the van for the Café.

first-hand experience in the food service industry in a distinctive environment. Under the guidance of our staff, trainees participate in activities at the Café that help them to achieve the goals that are important to them. With the support of trained AVSP professionals, the trainees will enhance their skills and prospects for their futures.

The Café is grateful for the support of the Richmond County Savings Foundation and the Polonsky Dare to Dream Fund.

Contact the Café for more information and weekly specials at (347) 857-6888. Call us with your e-mail address to be on the mailing list for special events and weekly specials. Our Chef and his staff share their expertise and knowledge with

the trainees, and the result is: *"Great Food With a Mission..."*

AVSP's Annual Sports Awards Dinner



It was a wonderful evening of excitement and good cheer, as athletic achievement, individual and team efforts, as well as sportsmanship were celebrated. Athletes, their families and friends, and AVSP staff enjoyed an evening of award presentations, excellent food, and great company.

Awards were received for basketball, softball, volleyball, flag football, team sports, fitness and weight training, floor hockey, swimming, summer and winter aerobics, karate, and bowling. Members of the Community



Center actively planned the Awards Dinner and participated as speakers and masters of ceremonies. The Community Center is AVSP's resource for therapeutic and recreational activities on weekday evenings and Saturday mornings for people aged 18 and over. Many sports are offered on a seasonal basis, while others are offered upon request of the individual participants. The Awards Dinner was a great chance for everybody to socialize and support one another. Coaches and families were also honored at this event, for all of their encouragement throughout the year. Congratulations to all AVSP Sports participants! Your hard work and dedication have truly paid off. The evening was a success, and it was a great year for all the athletes.



Thanks to the Elks Lodge #841

Richard Ryan and Sandra Lotz from the Staten Island Elks Lodge #841 presented a generous gift to support A Very Special Place, Inc.

Thank you for your support!

Important Updates!

A reminder that AVSP's Executive Office
is now located at
49 Cedar Grove Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10306

Visit our new website
www.avspny.org

If you contact the agency by email please
note that email extensions will now be
@avspny.org



Thank you for updating your records!

PROGRAM AND SERVICES DIRECTORY

New Dorp Lane Habilitation Services	634 New Dorp Lane
Milton Avenue Habilitation Services	(718) 351-6129
AVSP Executive Offices	49 Cedar Grove Avenue
Family Reimbursement	(718) 987-1234
Residential Services	
Employment Training Alternatives	55 Quintard Street
Recreation and Respite Services	(718) 979-4744
Residential Habilitation	
Service Coordination	
Senior Services	
Harvest Café	694 New Dorp Lane
	(347)857-6888

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Special Holidays 2011

This past holiday season was a special time for the participants at A Very Special Place, Inc., their friends, families, and AVSP staff. We celebrated the joys of family, the importance of giving, the support offered by friendships, and the continuing dedication of our employees.

There were several celebrations throughout this holiday season. Our thanks to the Staten Island Lions Club who celebrated with the members of the Glenwood Residence, by spending time with the residents and staff, and distributing presents and sharing holiday cheer. The Staten Island Biker's Association, the St. George Theatre, Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament, and Gray Line New York were also generous supporters of AVSP during the holiday season.

Thank you to all who made this season brighter!

Visit with SI Lions Club

Members of the Staten Island Lions Club continued their generous tradition of celebrating the holiday season at one of our AVSP residences, this year celebrating with the residents at Glenwood. On December 17th, they brought gifts and good cheer with them. All those who attended enjoyed good food and great company. It was a great chance for members of the Lions Club to get to know both the residents and AVSP staff.



In addition to the Lions Club visit, residents at Glenwood also got a chance to celebrate the holiday season on December 15th. They had a great time, had a delicious dinner, and enjoyed the company of their loved ones.



The staff at the Residential Habilitation program coordinated the delivery of toys that were donated this year by the Staten Island Biker's Association. Each year, an assortment of toys are distributed to the children in the Residential Habilitation, Creative Arts Network, and After School programs.



On December 19th, the Community Center program participants celebrated the holiday season with their annual party at The Staaten on Forest Avenue. Everybody looked fabulous in their holiday best as they enjoyed the food and good friends, but especially the dancing afterwards!



A Season of Giving

Holiday Happenings..... at Supportive Apartments



at Benton



at Hylan



at Amboy



at Jefferson



Helping to spread holiday cheer, the participants of AVSP's Employment Training Alternatives program volunteered to wrap gifts at Barnes and Noble this holiday season. For four weeks, volunteers traveled to the bookstore on Richmond Avenue and helped the shoppers out by wrapping their gifts for them in festive paper and bows. The volunteers enjoyed seeing all the shoppers and even got to see a few people they knew. It was a great way to share their cheer this holiday season.



Harvest Café had a special visitor this holiday season. Santa stopped by for brunch on December 11th, bringing treats for everyone! The kids were very excited to tell him exactly what they wanted for Christmas. Magic Mike put on a wonderful show by amazing everyone with his magic tricks. It was a merry day as everyone enjoyed the wonderful food and company.



Thanks to the generosity of Gray Line New York and their ticket donation, a group from the Hylan Residence and staff were able to enjoy a night in Manhattan viewing the beautiful holiday lights. The All Loops Tour took them to uptown and downtown where they got to see the spectacular light displays in all their glitz and glamour, getting everyone in the holiday spirit.



On December 16th, the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Council (SIDDC) held their annual Celebrating Achievement ceremony. Among their honorees were several AVSP program participants. The honorees gave a presentation on their team work and how they learned to give back to the community, specifically about their Thanksgiving dinner that they made and donated to Project Hospitality.

