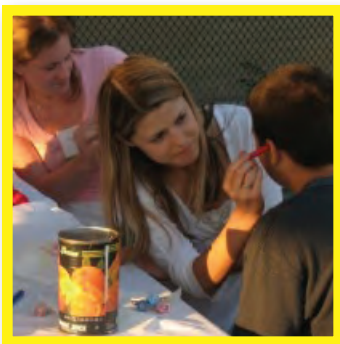


Summer At Children Of Bellevue



Children of Bellevue hosted a carnival night for volunteers and the children in Bellevue's inpatient child psychiatry unit. Face painting, games, and snacks made it a perfect summer celebration.

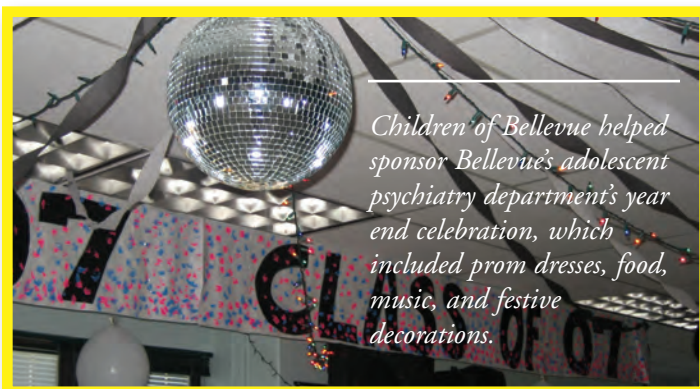


In addition to a duck pond, ball toss, and cake walk, the kids participated in a spirited hula hoop contest, which awarded a prize to the longest hula hooper of the night.

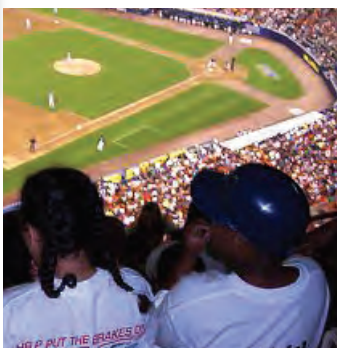
After the contests and games ended, the kids enjoyed classic carnival snacks like cupcakes and popcorn.



Students, staff, and friends joined in on the fun with a conga line through the Rose Room at Bellevue.



Children of Bellevue helped sponsor Bellevue's adolescent psychiatry department's year end celebration, which included prom dresses, food, music, and festive decorations.



Children of Bellevue provides funding for trips for our inpatient child and adolescent psychiatry units. This August, kids from one of our units went to Shea Stadium to watch the Mets play the Atlanta Braves.

Year round trips provide new experiences

Many schools trips are remembered fondly. The day at the museum, the spring outing to the park, or the special end of the year trip to the beach were perfect escapes from the classroom and a chance to go somewhere that you may have never been before.

For the kids on the 21st floor (inpatient adolescent and child psychiatry) these trips can be an even greater reward. Spending much of their time on the unit, the children crave time outdoors and outside the walls of the hospital. With funding from Children of Bellevue, the staff from these units are able to take the kids on trips around the city, from museums, to baseball games, to small outings to local restaurants.

This summer the children were treated to trips to Orchard Beach, Bear Mountain Park, the Museum of Natural History,

and baseball and basketball games. For many of the kids we see at Bellevue, these trips will mark the first time they have been to a museum or to see a baseball game played live. Normative experiences, like these trips, provide positive feelings that will hopefully carry over into their lives after they leave Bellevue.

These trips are also used as rewards for good behavior and a commitment to their treatment plan. Our kids cherish these rewards and they provide a sense of self-esteem and accomplishment for their hard work in school and on the unit.



News & Views

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Inside This Issue

**Read inside to learn more about
Children of Bellevue events, volunteers
and our summer activities.**



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News & Views

Bellevue Hospital Center

Fall 2007

Children of Bellevue, Inc. is a nonprofit organization founded in 1949 to initiate, develop, and fund special programs and to act as an advocate for children and their families within Bellevue Hospital Center.

Reach Out And Read Volunteers Honored

On May 10th, 2007, Children of Bellevue's Reach Out and Read program was honored by Bellevue Hospital's Volunteer Department for its commitment to volunteerism and its impact on the lives of patients that come to Bellevue Hospital. With more than 60 active volunteers logging in more than 2,000 reading hours over the year, Reach Out and Read is very dependent on the commitment of loyal and hardworking volunteers.

Many of Children of Bellevue's programs depend on the dedication and hard work of volunteers, but none more so than Reach Out and Read. Volunteers play a critical role in introducing families to the love of books and reading. Comfortable blue mats are scattered in the waiting area of the clinic so children can gather around each volunteer reader and his or her bag full of books. Some children find a book to read quietly on their own or with their parent, while others listen intently to the volunteer reading aloud. These informal reading groups not only provide a perfect distraction to an otherwise boring or stressful wait to see



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Communicating Without Speaking



For the teenagers who attend Bellevue's Adolescent Day Hospital, expression and communication do not come easily. These young psychiatric patients come every day to the day treatment program that combines academic work with emotional and therapeutic support. Many of them have struggled with behavioral and psychological issues that often leave them feeling ashamed, angry, or isolated. With the help of art therapists and Children of Bellevue's activities therapy program, the teens of the Adolescent Day Hospital have learned how to use their artistic abilities and to speak through art.

continued on page 3

11th Annual Toast To The Children

Children of Bellevue's 11th annual Toast to the Children benefit was held on April 24th, at the Mandarin Oriental New York. The yearly food and wine tasting, which features some of New York City's finest restaurants and an international array of vineyards, brought nearly 500 donors, friends, staff members, and corporate partners together to celebrate Children of Bellevue and the programs we support.

Restaurants like A Voce, Buddakan, craft, Landmarc, and Public prepared samples of their renowned menus and vineyards from South Africa, Austria, and Napa Valley shared glasses of their finest wines.

Toast to the Children is a fundraising event first developed by Children of Bellevue board member and Bravo's Top Chef judge, chef Tom Colicchio. For over a decade, Toast to the Children has been a unique event that not only showcases some of the finest food and wine available, but also highlights the work done everyday to help New York City's most vulnerable children.

This year's event honored Regina Calcaterra, a partner at Barrack, Rodos & Bacine. Ms. Calcaterra was in and out of New York State's foster care system until the age of 21 and rose from poverty and abuse to become a partner in one of the top securities litigation firms in the nation. These experiences gave her a special bond with the children served by Children of Bellevue.

The more than \$325,000 raised from this year's Toast will directly benefit all of Children of Bellevue's valued programs. We would like to thank our co-chairs, sponsors, patrons, volunteers, and the event planning committee for another successful year!

Event co-chair Jocelyn Morse-Farmerie (right) with friend Casey Benjamin.

Co-chair Judy Keating and shares the event with friend David Gaudette.



Bellevue Hospital Activities Therapy staff members, Cara Gallo, Pamela Schindler-Thomsen and Milica Ramirez, joined other volunteers to make sure the event ran smoothly.

Zyr Vodka offered an alternative to the wine tasting by mixing up Zyr martinis.



The audience was captivated by Honoree Regina Calcaterra's speech and by a video presentation of the Children of Bellevue programs.



Barbara Kratus, event co-chair Sara Story, and Todd Joyce take time to bid on silent auction items ranging from 'Colbert Report' tickets to an exclusive 'Top Chef' package.





Children of Bellevue board member Nicole Shearman is joined by her husband Nick Fluehr to celebrate Toast.



Toast Honoree Regina Calcaterra is presented with a gift by Martha MacCallum, Fox News anchor and Toast Master of Ceremonies.

Staff from craft restaurant (including event founder Tom Colicchio, far right, and chef Damon Wise, second from the right) prepared samples from their menu, including a roasted beef sirloin and a homemade donut with ice cream.

**Communicating Without Speaking...
continued from page 1**

This May, for the first time, the students of the Day Hospital hosted an art show to display the work they completed throughout the year. The event was a festive occasion, as friends, family and staff turned out to show their appreciation for the art. The show displayed paintings, drawings, masks and murals – with every piece being an important part of the work that goes into each student’s treatment.

“It’s their voice,” says Pamela Schindler-Thomsen, Licensed Creative Arts Therapist for the Adolescent Day Hospital. “It’s their way of speaking without having to say anything.” The art therapy activities done by the students use many important skills that can be invoked in each of their daily lives, such as problem solving, being imaginative and free expression. Just the creation of each piece of art is seen as an achievement by the art therapists that work with the students. “Many of the kids are struggling with issues like ADHD, emotional, and behavioral issues, so it’s a big accomplishment for them to take the time to sit down, concentrate, and create something,” says Ms. Schindler-Thomsen. These activities also help to build self-esteem and confidence. Students encourage and compliment each other. The art show was not only an opportunity to celebrate their work, but also an opportunity for compliments from friends, family and staff.

Because of the positive impact of the event, the staff of the Adolescent Day Hospital hopes to make art shows a more regular activity for the students. “It teaches them to value and appreciate their hard work,” says Ms. Schindler-Thomsen. “And they were so excited and proud to do so.”



Children of Bellevue would like to thank the sponsors and friends for their generosity

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Children Of Bellevue Welcomes Two New Board Members

Children of Bellevue is pleased to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors, Sara Story and Jocelyn Morse-Farmerie.

Sara Story is the owner and founder of Sara Story Designs, an interior design firm. Her birth in Japan, coupled with extensive travel in the Far East, and living in Texas and California have affected her vision of design that results in a contemporary, eclectic and timeless aesthetic for interiors. Ms. Story came to Children of Bellevue as a volunteer working on Toast to the Children, of which she was a co-chair this year. She was recently named one of Domino Magazine's "Domino 10" and was named one of the "Next Garde" of designers by New York Magazine in May, 2007.

Jocelyn Morse-Farmerie is a longtime volunteer with Children of Bellevue and has been involved with Toast to the Children and the Junior Committee since 2001. Ms. Morse-Farmerie started her career in the restaurant business, and she worked at Lespinnasse, Union Square Café and as a public relations specialist at Craft Restaurants. She has since moved on towards work as a social worker, and is earning her Master's Degree at the Columbia University School of Social Work. This year, Ms. Morse-Farmerie was a co-chair of Toast to the Children, and served the role of Restaurant Chair of the event.

Children of Bellevue has been grateful for their commitment and work throughout the years and we are honored to welcome them to our Board of Directors.



Sara Story and Jocelyn Morse-Farmerie

Reach Out And Read... continued from page 1

the doctor, but they also show how accessible reading can be.

"It not only keeps children happy and calms them in the clinic," says Linda van Schaick, director of Reach Out and Read in Bellevue Hospital. "But it provides a model for their parents and guardians on how reading can be incorporated into their and their child's lives and how easy reading can be."

Volunteers make up one of the three components of the Reach Out and Read program. In addition to their work, Reach Out and Read staff and pediatricians provide books to each child between 6 months and 5 ½ years of age, and tell the parents about the importance of reading to children's early language development. Reach Out and Read literacy coordinators talk with parents about their reading and parenting practices, and help them locate libraries and apply for library cards.

Volunteers range from high school students to senior citizens and reflect a range of cultures, races, and languages. "Diversity in our volunteers has been a mandate for our program," says Ms. van Schaick. "We want families to see beyond the 'librarian' image and see themselves in the readers." Of course volunteering with Reach Out and Read also has a very positive impact on the readers themselves. "It is so rewarding to see the children's enthusiasm when they see the blue mat and the bag of books," says volunteer Nika Finelt. "Even children who can not read watch the children reading on the mat and start to mouth words. Their eagerness to learn to read and appreciate books is wonderful!"