

## Volunteers Bring Fun And Games To Children Of Bellevue



*Bank of New York Mellon volunteers (l-r) Lisa Press, Dina Fontanetta, Pam Sewell, and Te-Hsing Niu joined the kids in the inpatient pediatric unit for an evening of T-shirt decorating and snacks.*



*For Halloween, volunteers threw a pumpkin painting party for the children and teenagers in the 21st floor psychiatric unit. Colorfully decorated pumpkins and Halloween snacks made for a festive time.*



*Cyndi Paciullo and other volunteers from The Lanier Law Firm spent an afternoon making puppets and playing air hockey with the children in Bellevue inpatient pediatric unit.*

*Children of Bellevue volunteers devote a lot of time to Bellevue patients during the holiday season. From posing as Santa's elves on North Pole calls, to gift wrapping, to making gingerbread houses with the kids in the adolescent psychiatry unit (pictured), Children of Bellevue and our supporters work hard to bring joy to children in the hospital during the holidays.*



## News & Views

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## Inside This Issue

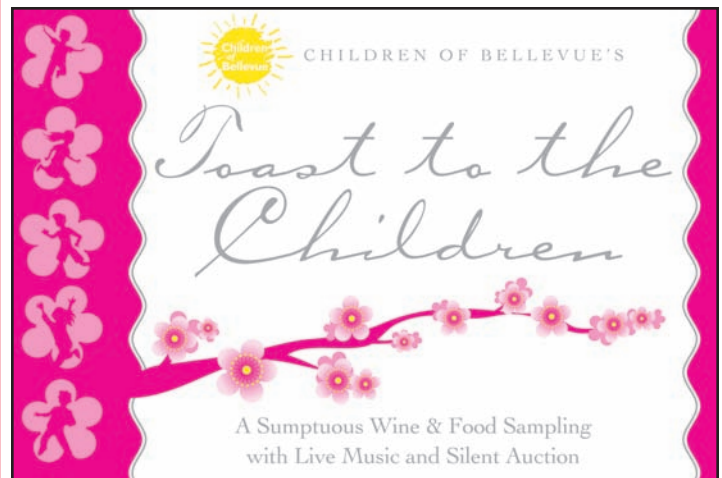
**Read inside to learn more about Children of Bellevue events, volunteer activities and what's new with our programs.**



## Save The Date!

**12th Annual Toast To The Children!**

**May 27, 2008**



**Call the Children of Bellevue office (212.562.4130)  
for more information**



# News & Views

Bellevue Hospital Center

Spring 2008

**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.**

## Learning And Growing: The Early Learning Group

Children of Bellevue programs focus on all aspects of children's health and well being, including their developmental health and school readiness. Doctors and staff who notice developmental delays or challenges with the children they see for their medical care can refer these children and their families to one of Children of Bellevue's Child Life and Development programs, like the Early Learning playgroup. For decades, the staff in the Early Learning

Group has been committed to providing a supportive and educational environment for children and their families who are coping with development delays and disorders.

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*As their children play and interact with others in the playroom, parents take time to talk to Child Life specialists about their concerns and questions.*

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## Children Of Bellevue Puts TLC Into Fashion

The art that children create in the hospital usually reflects their feelings about their illness or the environment around them. But this holiday season, children in Bellevue Hospital Center created artwork that both made a fashion statement and contributed to the programs that serve them.

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*Each TLC tie was designed by a child served by Bellevue Hospital and was marked with a sun bearing the artist's name on the back.*

# 12th Annual Toast To The Children

**Save The Date!**  
**May 27, 2008**



*Karen Peetz, honorary chair of Toast to the Children.*

Every spring Children of Bellevue teams up with some of New York City's best restaurants and the world's finest vineyards to host a wine and food tasting like no other. In the twelve years since its inception, Toast to the Children has become Children of Bellevue's largest event, raising much need funding for all of our programs.

Karen Peetz, Chief Executive Officer, The Bank of New York Mellon Corporate Trust, will serve as this year's honoree. Ms. Peetz oversees Bank of New York Mellon's Corporate Trust business and has business management responsibility for over 3,600 corporate trust sales, relationship management, analytics and operations professional in 54 locations worldwide.

In addition to her Corporate Trust work at Bank of New York Mellon, Ms. Peetz is a member of the Company's Executive Committee, the organization's most senior management body, which oversees day-to-day operations. She was a founding member of the Bank of New York's Women's Initiatives Network (WIN) affinity group and is also a board member for the Brooklyn Academy of Music and is a Steering Committee co-chair for Women United in Philanthropy for United Way of New York City.

This year's event will feature chefs from craft, per se, Public, Jean Georges, A Voce and more. The event, which also features an extensive silent auction and vineyards from around the world, will be held at the Mandarin Oriental ballroom at Columbus Circle.

Please visit the Children of Bellevue website ([www.childrenofbellevue.org](http://www.childrenofbellevue.org)) for ticket purchasing information, or contact the Children of Bellevue office at 212.562.4130.

## TLC... continued from page 1

With partners MMG and Macy's Department stores, Children of Bellevue produced a line of ties colorfully decorated with the art of children in Bellevue. Children from our inpatient units and outpatient clinics created designs on paper, which were then converted by MMG's tie designers to a selection of silk ties in a variety of colors. With designs ranging from animals to houses to stripes and solids, there was a Children of Bellevue tie to match everyone's style aesthetic.

Children of Bellevue TLC ties were sold throughout the holiday season at Macy's department stores around the city and surrounding areas, as well as at Macys.com and in the Children of Bellevue office at Bellevue Hospital. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of each tie came back to Children of Bellevue and directly to the programs that serve thousands of New York City's children.

For more information on Children of Bellevue TLC ties, or to get one of your very own, go to [Macys.com](http://Macys.com) or call the Children of Bellevue office at 212.562.4130.



*Ties came in a variety of colors and designs, like rainbows, animals, and Christmas themes for the holiday season.*



*Portions of proceeds from every tie sold at Macy's, Macys.com, and through Children of Bellevue came back to the programs that serve each tie's artists and the thousands of other children affected by Children of Bellevue's programs.*



*Children socialize, improve language skills and participate in activities that better prepare them for school.*



*Parents participate in projects during the weekly group and share their experiences with Child Life staff and other parents.*

### **Learning And Growing... continued from page 1**

Children of Bellevue's Early Learning Group serves children from infancy to three years of age. Children and their parents meet in weekly sessions to play, socialize, stimulate language and share their experiences with Child Life specialists. The interactions between the children, parents and the development specialists help to forge positive relationships and help children and their families prepare for the years of learning and development ahead of them.

Children that already come to Bellevue Hospital's outpatient clinic for their regular check-up appointments and doctor's visits are referred to the Early Learning Group by doctors or Child Life staff members who, after interacting with the family, believe they would benefit from the socialization and support offered by the group. Parents also request information on the group, because they recognize the importance of getting their children involved with other children in their age group and they realize that other playgroups tend to come with a large price tag, making them inaccessible for lower income families.

Activities in the group depend on the age level of the participants. Currently there are three different weekly groups that focus on activities geared towards varying age groups and

the stages of their development. Younger children are encouraged to play with age appropriate toys and games and parents learn from Child Life specialists about what they can expect as their development progresses. Older children participate in more structured activities, like art projects, to help them prepare for their upcoming transition into school.

While the Early Learning Group is geared towards helping the children that participate, the parents are also positively influenced by attending the group. Often isolated by language barriers or lack of support, parents are able to connect with other parents of children of a similar age and forge friendships that carry on outside of the group meetings.

One outcome of the connections between families and the trust they develop with the Child Life Specialists is that families stay with the group with long-term consistency. Many families remain until their children are ready to enter school and "graduates" of the program regularly check in and participate in group activities.

The Early Learning Group at Bellevue Hospital is just one of many program supported by Children of Bellevue. We are committed to providing opportunities for healthy growth and development for children and families of every income and background.

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## Children Of Bellevue's Junior Committee Hosts Cheers For Children

Children of Bellevue's Junior Committee hosted Cheers to the Children at the Pink Elephant on November 14th, 2007. A new version of our Junior Committee's previous fall fundraiser, A November Nightcap, Cheers to the Children brought together new and longtime supporters to celebrate and raise money for pediatric programs at Bellevue Hospital Center.

This year's event featured a bartender's drink mixing competition featuring our event sponsor TYKU, a sake-based liqueur, as well as music, dancing and light fare. Most importantly, the event provided an opportunity to showcase the work of Children of Bellevue and highlight the valuable work our Junior Committee does to raise awareness and funding for the programs Children of Bellevue supports.

Children of Bellevue would like to thank event sponsors Wally Findlay Galleries International, Genco Shipping and Trading, TYKU and the Pink Elephant, as well as our event committee and volunteers for making Cheers to the Children such a success!

To get involved with the Children of Bellevue Junior Committee and help plan fundraisers and volunteer events to benefit the children of Bellevue Hospital, please contact Stephen Gnojewski at 212.562.4130 or by email, Stephen.Gnojewski@bellevue.nychhc.org.



*"Art of the Drink" author and honorary Cheers for Children emcee Anthony Caporale presents the event's winning bartender first prize in the evening's TYKU drink competition.*



*Event co-chair Samantha Mather welcomes guests and shares her experiences as a volunteer with Children of Bellevue.*

*Board president Jeffrey Meckler and Board member Judy Keating enjoy the festivities at the Pink Elephant.*

