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- October 3, 2009 Wine Tasting
  - August 10, 2009 Give Through Golf Outing
  - July 24, 2009 Summer Rock Concert
  - June 7, 2009 Fun Fest
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**RICHMOND COMMUNITY SERVICES** provides family-like support to children and adults with significant intellectual and physical disabilities and their families. Call *Paula Barbag at 914.471.4131* to talk about making a financial gift or a gift of your volunteer time.

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**RICHMOND COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
272 North Bedford Road  
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# Richmond Spotlight



**Message from Edward Spauster, Ph.D.**  
President & CEO

## Good News Continues with New Gifts, Infrastructure Changes

The beat goes on and it is making for a spring newsletter rich in positive news.

Spurred by the formation of a separate Foundation Board to focus on fundraising while the Community Services Board attends to managerial and administrative issues, we're seeing new directors coming on board, new grants coming in and exciting events attracting new friends and donations.

I invite you to read about our first million dollar donor, new sources of support and recent events that enhanced Richmond's ability to fulfill its mission PLUS provide attendees with good fun, fellowship, food and feelings of accomplishment.

I'd also like to use this space to thank our amazing Richmond staff for making my initial three years with the organization so successful and emotionally rewarding. Your commitment to family-like support continues to make this a distinguishing characteristic of Richmond and is a critical factor in the ongoing success of our mission. What a joy it is to see the difference we are making in the lives of children and adults with significant intellectual and physical disabilities – and in those of their families.

Thanks are also extended to David Brenner for his enthusiastic willingness to chair both boards and to Eugene Buccini, who has stepped down as Community Services Board chair after more than 25 years of outstanding leadership, but who is – to our delight – remaining on the board. Dr. Buccini's creativity and energy have helped the organization respond to the increasing need for its services, and positions us well for continued growth. And we look forward to benefiting from David's managerial skills and the marketing expertise he brings to both boards. That, plus his dedication to Richmond and grasp of our issues based on his own experience as parent of a child with a developmental disability who had lived at Richmond, makes him the ideal person to spearhead our work going forward.

## Grant from Carvel – Our First Million Dollar Donor – To Launch *Wheels on Wheels* Clinic

Imagine the difference between being home-bound for a month while waiting for a malfunctioning wheelchair to be fixed – and having the same chair repaired and made better than new within days.

Wheelchair users throughout the area will be enjoying the latter experience thanks to a recent grant of \$110,000 from the Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation that will help launch Richmond's *Wheels on Wheels* clinic this spring.

The gift, which brings to more than \$1 million the amount the Yonkers-based Foundation has generously given to Richmond since 1998, will make positive and lasting differences in the lives of children and adults throughout the area by enabling the organization to rapidly repair and customize wheelchairs.

“The Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation has been an amazing friend of Richmond over the years,” said Paula Barbag, Director of Marketing and Development. “Not only has it enriched the lives of the people we serve, its generosity and responsiveness are positive examples for other foundations. We're extremely grateful.”

But wait; there's more good news.

*(continued on next page)*



## Nick Spano, Rick Beckerman and Gerard Bernacchia Join Richmond Boards

Two strong Richmond boards just got stronger.

Former New York State Senator Nick Spano, Richard Beckerman, New York Manager for Stephen Gould Corporation, and Gerard Bernacchia, founder and chairman of Mercator Companies, have been elected to boards of Richmond Community Services, it was announced by Chairman David Brenner. Spano will serve on the Richmond Community Services Board, while Beckerman and Bernacchia will sit on the Richmond Community Services Foundation Board.

Senator Spano was a popular member of the New York State Senate from 1986 to 2006 and a vigorous advocate for persons with disabilities and healthcare workers. A supporter of Richmond – he chaired the Richmond Challenge and FunFest – for many years, Spano is now working in the private sector and serving on the board of Westchester School for Exceptional Children. During his tenure as a State Senator, Spano chaired Com-

mittees on Investigations, Taxation and Government Operations; Labor; Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities.

Beckerman joined the Stephen Gould Corporation as a sales representative in 1965 and was named to his current position in 2000 after heading the firm's office in Deerfield Beach, Florida. Bernacchia, who also serves as chairman of Liberty Lines Transit, Inc., is a former U.S. Navy pilot and commercial pilot. His community activities include board positions with the Westchester County Medical Center and Hudson River Museum.

"We are tremendously excited," said Brenner. "It is a privilege to have someone with Nick Spano's commitment to people with disabilities on the Richmond Community Services board. Additionally, Rick Beckerman and Gerard Bernacchia are terrific guys whose business skills, enthusiasm for what Richmond is doing and contacts in the area's business community will be valuable additions to the Foundation Board."

## Grants *(continued from front page.)*

- The Mark Dolinsky Memorial Foundation presented Richmond with a \$2,250 grant to fund music therapy for adolescents. The gift was put to use at the 919 N. Broadway residence in Yonkers. The Foundation was formed in 1981 in honor of Mark Brent Dolinsky, who was fatally struck by a speeding car at age 15. It has since awarded more than \$275,000 to individuals and organizations that serve young people.
- A chance encounter between Phil and Arline Diamond and Richmond Day Program participants at Target resulted in a gift of \$6,000 for an adapted pinball machine that will be used by the residents at 919 N. Broadway. The Diamonds were so impressed by what they initially saw while shopping at Target, and then during a subsequent visit to the Day Program at 272 North Bedford Road, they volunteered to underwrite the purchase of the adapted machine that will be especially designed to enable people with severe disabilities to use their bodies and intellectual capacity to experience the fun and challenge of mastering a machine game.
- The Hackett Foundation recently gave Richmond a \$5,000 gift to support its assistive technology program. The grant will provide the necessary funds to purchase a Dynavox M3 voice output communications device that generates speech for individuals with limited verbal skills so they can express their needs and feelings. Richmond extends its appreciation to board member Steve Mazur for identifying The Hackett Foundation as a potential supporter.

For additional information about making contributions to Richmond, contact Paula Barbag, director of marketing and development, at 914.471.4131 or pbarbag@richmondcommserv.org.

## Richmond Appoints Paul Adler Medical Director

The appointment of Paul Adler, D.O., MBA, F.A.C.E.P., as medical director of Richmond Community Services was announced by President and CEO Edward Spauster, Ph.D.

Dr. Adler, who most recently served as medical director of health and hospitals for Rockland County Department of Hospitals as well as medical director of Summit Park Hospital in Rockland, will oversee the quality of care all Richmond residents receive at its outpatient programs, residences throughout Westchester and, if necessary, area hospitals and clinics.



*Adam Miles is a happy user of a new adapted pinball machine, which was generously purchased by Arlene and Phil Diamond (first and fourth from left). Also in the photo are Carin Horowitz, Paca Lipovac and Jawana Price.*

## August Storm Fails to Mar Success of Golf Tournament

It wasn't there all day, but when the sun came out during the August 11 Golf Tournament it shown brightly on the Richmond Community Services Foundation and many of the people who contribute to the organization's successes.

According to Carol Baron, who recently "semi-retired" from her fundraising activities at Richmond but who still coordinated this year's tournament, a serious storm earlier in the day failed to dampen participants' enthusiasm or generosity. The event grossed approximately \$147,000 as almost all of the 125 people who signed up to play in the tournament braved the torrential weather to demonstrate their support of Richmond.

"We're especially grateful to Stu Goldman and John Cory for co-chairing the event, and Sue Goldman for helping to attract such a large crowd," said Baron.



*John Cory, Stu Goldman, Sue Goldman and David Brenner at last year's successful Richmond Golf Tournament, which grossed close to \$150,000 despite a serious rainstorm.*

## Enthusiastic Crowd at October Wine Tasting Party Doubles Money Raised at Previous Year's Event

The phrase "a good time was had by all" took on new meaning when more than 100 friends of Richmond participated in a wine tasting party at the agency's Mount Kisco headquarters. Equally important, scores of children and adults will be the beneficiaries of the event's fundraising success.

"We more than doubled the amount raised at the First Annual Wine Tasting Party," said Paula Barbag, director of marketing and development. "Between the registration fee, program booklet, auctions, donations from wine sales and the dine-around-town program, we netted more than \$20,000, which has been put to use in support of our programs."

The party featured elegant hors d'ouvres from "The Dinner Guy," wines provided by Wines and Spirits at Cheers of Scarsdale and an auction of one-of-a-kind objects and attractions. Additionally, a donation of \$10 a person was made to Richmond on behalf of each wine tasting event participant who dined at one of the following eight restaurants later that evening: Brio, Café Love, Eduardo's and Lexington Square Café in Mount Kisco; Crabtree's Kittle House Restaurant & Inn and Quaker Hill Tavern in Chappaqua; Caffè Strega in Pleasantville and Bungalow in Croton Falls.



*Joe Pagni, Elyse Allbee, Anne Giordano and John Pappa are all smiles at the Wine Tasting event because: a) they're having a good time and b) they and other attendees know their support of the party will be funding valued Richmond programs.*

## Richmond Teens and Adults Enjoy Camping In the Catskills and the Berkshires

"People without disabilities can enjoy a change in their routine via a summer vacation, why not provide people who live in our residences with the same opportunity for pleasant diversions?" asked Paca Lipovac, Richmond's vice president for clinical supports.

Why not, indeed! So Lipovac arranged for 20 adults aged 20-30 with a developmental disability to spend close to a week at Camp Jened in the Catskills. Moreover, a \$1,000 grant from the East Yonkers Rotary Club enabled Richmond to send three people, ranging in age from late teens to early twenties, to spend two weeks at Camp Anne in the Berkshires.

These experiences gave the Richmond campers opportunities to engage in horseback riding, miniature golf, team sports, aqua therapy, overnight camping and arts & crafts.

"They reacted the way I expected them to react; happily and with enthusiasm," Lipovac noted.

## Teen Volunteer Helps Fortfield Resident Develop Computer Skills for Job Hunting

In a textbook example of intergenerational teamwork and an older adult learning from a teen, an adult resident at Richmond's Fortfield home in Yonkers is improving his employment prospects through mastery of computers.

According to Elyse Allbee, manager of recreation and volunteers, Thomas, a Fortfield resident for the past three years, received computer training in July and August from Micah-David Saunders, a Yonkers High School senior. This enabled him to respond quickly and effectively to on-line job ads. He has since had interviews with a local movie theater and Home Depot.

Saunders came to Richmond as a volunteer after seeing a FunFest ad and spent most of the summer working 12 hours a week (two of which were devoted to one-on-one sessions with Thomas) at Fortfield Road and 919 North Broadway.

## November Cocktail/Entertainment Evening a 'Huge Success' Event Honors Michael Berr, Grosses \$56,000

"We enjoyed the company of friends, laughed a lot, raised needed dollars for underfunded programs and honored a man who has been a good friend of the organization for many years," said President Edward Spauster, in explaining why Richmond's Nov. 3 Cocktail Party and Entertainment Evening was "a huge success."

All told the event grossed \$56,000 which will be put to immediate and effective use, according to Carol Baron, who planned the evening. Held at The Harmonie Club in New York City and featuring a "Live, Laugh and Love the Music, Fun and Food" theme, the event included a live auction and performance by comedian Brad Zimmerman and singers Larry Stevens and Tom D'Angelo.

"Having Michael Berr as the evening's honoree was a big reason for the event's success," noted Baron. "Michael has been a valued friend of Richmond who has worked hard to get others to want to be a part of what we accomplish. The large crowd and generous contributions that we attracted were true indications of the respect and admiration people have for Michael."