

The Partnership's Own—Town Councilwoman!!! Congratulations, Kitty!!!



MARIA-CHRISTINA P.
COUNCIL DISTRICT

On April 17 the Town of North Hempstead appointed Partnership chair Kitty Poons to fill the vacancy on the Town Council created when Wayne Wink was elected to the Nassau County Legislature. Kitty worked in the Great Neck School District for 33 years and has been a bilingual education consultant in several North Hempstead school districts. She is the founder of the Hispanic Community of Great Neck and has served on many community boards including New York State Safe Kids Coalition, the Manhasset/Great Neck EOC, the Great Neck Senior Center, the Great Neck Student Aid Fund, the Educational Assistance Corporation (EAC), and the Great Neck/New Hyde Park North Community Fund.

Most of all, we are eternally grateful to Kitty for her 16 years of service to our board and her leadership these past seven years as chair. We wish her the very best in her new position and are delighted that she will be continuing as chair of the Great Neck/Manhasset Community Child Care Partnership. ■

Our Appreciation...

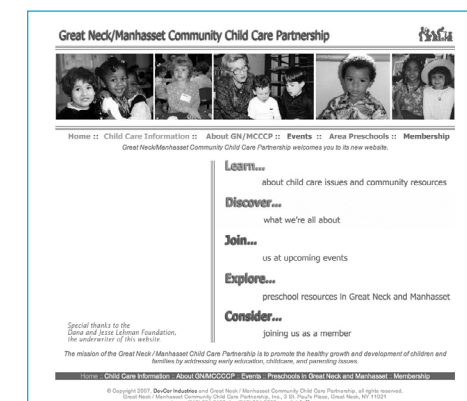
To those who have provided significant support for the Partnership

- The Annette and Anthony Albanese Foundation*
- Marilyn and Russell Albanese*
- The Sandra Atlas Bass/Edythe & Sol G. Atlas Fund*
- Elayne Bernstein*
- Ellen and Marc Blumencranz*
- Judi and Jay Bosworth*
- Dee and Kevin Conway*
- The Educational Legacy Fund*
- The Horace and Amy Hagedorn Long Island Fund*
- Jennifer Leeds*
- Lilo and Gerard Leeds*
- Maria and Greg Jobin-Leeds*
- The Enfranchisement Foundation*
- The Dana and Jesse Lehman Foundation*
- Andi Levine*
- Nancy Marks*
- The NSUH Foundation*
- Jeffrey Phillips of Café Rustica*
- The Tilles Family Foundation*
- One Anonymous Donor*

Visit the Partnership's new website at www.GNMCCCP.com

There you will find articles of interest about parenting and early childhood education, a calendar of events for the Partnership and our member organizations, our Board of Directors, and our Great Neck and Manhasset Preschool Guides.

With links to other organizations who share our mission and goals, the Partnership website is another way we network and educate about the importance of early childhood education and family support. ■



THE GREAT NECK/MANHASSET COMMUNITY CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP, INC.

Board of Directors 2006-2007

OFFICERS

Chairperson
Kitty Poons
Vice Chairpersons
Debbie Klein
Maxine Wolper
Corresponding Secretary
Ruddy-Ann Friedman
Recording Secretary
Debbie Shichtman
Treasurer
Deedee Friedman

DIRECTORS

Jodi Adler
June Anderman
Deborah Arkus
Judi Bosworth
Stephanie Chenault
Mary Costagliola
Maria Cuadra
Rosemarie Ennis
Winnie Fant
Lilo Leeds

Dana Lehman
Andi Levine
Richard Locks
Patricia Roos
Randy Rothstein-Weinstein
Debbie Shalom
Reverend Mauricio Wilson

MISSION

The Great Neck/Manhasset Community Child Care Partnership, Inc. is a nonprofit networking organization. Our mission is to promote the healthy growth and development of children and families by addressing early education, child care, and parenting issues.



The Great Neck/Manhasset Community Child Care Partnership, Inc.
3 St. Paul's Place
Great Neck, NY 11021
(516) 504-0150
gnmcccp21@aol.com
www.GNMCCCP.com

CO-EDITORS
Ruddy-Ann Friedman
Debbie Naclerio
Debbie Shichtman

Invest in Children and Families — Join Us

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- Yes, I would like to assure the availability of quality child care and family support programs by contributing to the efforts of the Great Neck/Manhasset Community Child Care Partnership, Inc. Enclosed is my tax deductible membership contribution.
- Friend.....\$25
- Supporter.....\$50
- Business.....\$50
- I would like to make an additional contribution \$ _____
- Sponsor.....\$100 - \$499
- Benefactor.....\$500 - \$999
- Patron.....\$1000 or more

Name _____

Title/Organization or Business _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Make check payable to GN/MCCCP, Inc. — 3 St. Paul's Place, Great Neck, NY 11021



Vol. 10

PARTNERS NEWSLETTER

June 2007

THE GREAT NECK/MANHASSET COMMUNITY CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP, INC.

PARTNERS

The following organizations support the goals of the GN/MCCCP, Inc.

- Adventures in Learning
- All Saint's Episcopal Church
- Alliance for Excellent Education
- Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel
- Astoria Federal Savings Bank
- Child Care Council of Nassau, Inc.
- CLASP Children's Center
- Community National Bank
- COPAY, Inc.
- County Legislator Lisanne Altman
- Day Nursery School of the Congregational Church
- The Honorable Thomas DiNapoli
- Early Childhood Development Group, Inc.
- ECELL-Early Childhood Education Long Island
- First Class Child Care, Inc.
- Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition
- Great Neck Community School
- Great Neck News
- Great Neck Preschool
- Great Neck Public Library
- Great Neck Public Schools
- Great Neck Record
- Harbor Child Care
- Hispanic Community of Great Neck, Inc.
- Institute for Student Achievement
- League of Women Voters
- Manhasset Mentoring Program
- Manhasset Press
- Manhasset Public Library
- Manhasset Public Schools
- Manhasset School Community Association
- Manhasset/Great Neck EOC
- Manhasset/Great Neck Head Start
- Nassau BOCES Parent-Child Home Program
- Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi
- National Council of Jewish Women
- North Shore Nursery School
- North Shore/LIJ Health System
- Open Door Parent-Child Caring Center
- Parkville School Early Childhood Center
- Public Access TV
- Romper Room Nursery School
- State Senator Craig Johnson
- Supervisor Jon Kaiman, Town of North Hempstead
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock
- United Community Fund of Great Neck
- United Parent-Teacher Council-Great Neck
- Womenspace in Great Neck

Underwritten by the Dana and Jesse Lehman Foundation

NEW DIRECTORS CIRCLE Focusing on Child Care Provider Education and Networking

Believing that preschool directors need a place to come together to share wisdom and experience, to network, and to be educated in current issues of importance to early childhood education and the management of a quality preschool, the Partnership instituted its new Directors Circle.

Our first meeting, attended by over 20 area preschool directors, was in July 2006 and included a lovely lunch at the Manhasset Bay Yacht Club in Port Washington. The theme of this first meeting was quality training for early childhood professionals. The featured speaker, Teresa Pirillo of the Early Childhood Development Group, discussed how preschools can provide the New York State-required continuing education for their teachers and aides as well as the New York State accreditation process for preschools. Ms. Pirillo offered to meet with any interested director to discuss how the Early Childhood Development Group can provide this ongoing education and guidance and is now working with Manhasset/Great Neck Head Start to train its staff.

In addition, Rosemarie Ennis, Associate Director of the North Shore/LIJ Health System's

Department of Professional and Public Health Education, introduced the directors to hospital training programs, such as CPR and first aid, that are suitable for child care workers and parents.

Because the directors had indicated an interest in visiting other preschool sites, the second meeting of the Directors Circle took place at the Our Lady of Grace Center in Manhasset in February of 2007 and included a high tea and a tour of the facilities of the Our Lady of Grace Montessori School. The program "Women and Heart Health: It's All about You," was presented by Rosemarie Ennis in honor of the February month-long "Go Red for Women's Heart Health" campaign.

These professional development programs are designed to upgrade the skills of participants and enable them to better provide quality care and education to our community preschoolers. All attendees receive continuing education credits.

The directors agreed that meeting several times a year would benefit all of them and indicated an interest in such future topics as shared services, bulk buying, health insurance options, and advocacy. ■

LETTER from the CHAIR

By Kitty Poons

This year has been a gratifying one for our Partnership. Even more scholarships were provided so that families could afford quality child care. Our Preschool Showcases and Guides helped parents in Great Neck and Manhasset learn about available quality programs for their young children. Our Education Committee, chaired by Rosemarie Ennis of the North Shore/LIJ Health System's Department of Professional and Public Health Education, offered a very well-received "Educational Evening," where nearly 200 child care workers were able to earn required continuing education credits at no cost to them or their agencies. In addition, the Partnership provided an unrestricted educational grant to support a series of workshops, "Helping Children Succeed," for parents and child care professionals this spring at North Shore/LIJ.

New this year is a preschool Directors Circle, where local preschool directors meet to share wisdom and experience and to be educated in current issues of importance to early childhood education and the management of a quality preschool. Our commitment to address early education, child care, and parent-

Legislative Report—Universal Pre-K

by Senator Craig M. Johnson



The earlier that children begin their education, the better chance they have to succeed. This is why a solid and adequately funded Universal Pre-Kindergarten program is so important to the children of our state. Study after study has shown that quality early education is a proven strategy for closing the achievement gap and better preparing all children for the academic challenges that lay ahead. Children who attend Pre-K programs show advanced language development and math skills that lead to increased academic success and lower levels of grade repetition.

The Right Start

The New York State Board of Regents recognized in its January policy statement that the earlier achievement gaps are closed among children, the better are future educational outcomes. Economic research conducted all over the country has shown that investment in high quality preschool programs saves millions of dollars because there is a reduced need for remedial programs, reduced grade repetition, and better future outcomes. This leads to welfare reduction, less crime, and increased graduation rates with a return for taxpayers of \$7 for every \$1 invested. On March 13, 2007, the New York State Assembly recommended an additional \$100 million in new money to fund the 1997 New York State legislation that called for phased-in financing of \$500 million to establish universal Pre-K for all four-year-olds. This law specifies a four-year goal of enrolling all four-year-olds in at least a half-day program and many in all-day programs. Never fully funded, today the program serves only a quarter of all four-year-olds.

Governor Spitzer, who campaigned on this issue, proposed an additional \$142.6 million in this year's budget, which the legislature passed this spring. The money will be allocated to the school districts to enroll children in quality community-based programs. (Editorial, *The New York Times*, March 2007 by Richard Riley, Secretary of Education 1993-2001). ■

ing issues requires a total community effort. Schools, businesses, government, community organizations, providers—all have a stake in assuring safe, developmentally appropriate child care. We are grateful for all your financial and material support. Working together, we will continue to promote the healthy

I'm proud to have voted for this year's budget, which included a dramatic increase in funding for our schools that – for the first time – will make Universal Pre-K truly universal in New York State.

The 2007-2008 budget includes \$438 million for Universal Pre-K funding – a \$142.6 million increase from last year. Schools within the 7th Senate District received a \$1.6 million increase—an additional 53 percent in program funding. This increase will allow every school in the state to have at least one Pre-K class next year. Despite the program's name, this has not been possible in previous years.

I hope to see the program further expand in future years, ensuring that all children will be given that running start that will make them able to reach for the stars. It is a down payment on their future. . . and on our own. ■

development of children and families. From board members to community volunteers to our donors, I thank all of you for your interest in and dedication to the community. Together we can and will make a difference! ■

Editorial Scholarship \$\$\$ Go a Long Way



By Debbie Shichtman

Scholarships that help families provide quality early education (daycare) actually help the parents earn a living, the child to experience a safe and stimulating environment, the provider agency to be able to continue to give services, and the economy to grow.

Scholarships help parents.

With the cost of living rising, both parents of many families have to work to support themselves and their children. Unfortunately, families, especially low- and middle-income families, are increasingly unable to pay the full costs of quality early childhood education. Scholarships fill the gap. In a low-income, single-parent family, the need may be even greater. A scholarship is a requirement for many parents to be able to work.

Scholarships help children.

Young children need a safe, supportive, stimulating environment in order to be ready to learn in school and to thrive as adults. Research has proven that quality care and early education nurture brain development, increase school readiness, reduce the need for special education services and remedial programs, narrow the achievement gap, and reduce teenage crime. Partnership scholarships allow children whose parents work to attend approved early childhood centers to get that quality environment.

Scholarships help child care centers and preschools

According to New York State guidelines, approved child care centers and preschools

must maintain high standards and strict teacher/child ratios. The younger the child, the more teachers and aides are required. The costs for these mandates, plus spiraling costs in general, have resulted in fewer families being able to afford child care, and thus, in many cases, providers have gone out of business – just when demand for their services are growing. Partnership scholarships allow more families to be able to afford child care and thus allow quality providers to continue.

Scholarships boost the economy

When parents work, they pay taxes, provide needed labor to business, and buy more consumer goods. When parents can make use of child care centers and preschools, providers can stay in business – one of the biggest business categories on Long Island. When children receive quality early childhood education, they more often succeed in school without costly remedial services and become productive adults and contributors to the economy. ■

Invest in the future! Give to the Partnership Scholarship Fund today!

Business Supports Universal Pre-K in Oklahoma

Almost a decade ago Oklahoma State legislators, business executives, and educators agreed to work together to develop voluntary Universal Pre-K for four-year-olds. As a result, 70 percent of all Oklahoma four-year-olds are attending quality public preschools, where head teachers must have a bachelor's degree and the teacher-pupil ratio is at least one to every ten students. Believing that quality preschool pays for itself, the State pays about \$4000 per child, enough for at least a half-day program in a local elementary school. Funding for expanded programs is provided by private and business philanthropy. Business executives see preschool as a way to build a better workforce. Other states interested in expanding Pre-K are Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, New Mexico, Virginia, and our own New York State. Universal Pre-K for all four-year-olds makes economic sense! ■

(Summarized from the Business Section, *New York Times*; reported by David Leonhardt, *Economist*)

Partnership Scholarships Help Children and Families Thrive

Last year the Partnership awarded scholarships to 17 families, making it possible for their children to enroll in quality early childhood programs and preschools. These scholarships were funded by the Dana and Jesse Lehman Foundation and Lilo Leeds and by targeted contributions from our members in support at our annual luncheon.

What kind of family receives these scholarships and what is the impact on their lives? Privacy issues prevent us from giving exact details of the individuals we support; however, the following composite portraits are typical of the families we serve.



Seventeen-year-old Cecelita came to the United States from Central America. Her parents had sent her here to live with relatives to avoid the serious dangers facing her at home. She felt like an outsider with her relatives and found solace with Brian, a drug-using high school

dropout. He could not meet the high expectations of his father and the spectacular success of his older sister, who had started her own consulting business while still in college. When Brian's father refused to support him, he went to live with his maternal grandmother, who had diminished capacities resulting from a stroke. Protective of Cecelita, Brian encouraged her to take English classes at the Adult Learning Center so she could look forward to doing something more than cleaning houses. Likewise, Cecelita encouraged Brian to go to a rehabilitation program and do something productive with his knack of "fixing" cars. The two got married when Cecelita became pregnant, and both lived with Brian's grandmother. Cecelita was participating in the Parent-Child Home Program, whose director referred her to the Partnership's 0-3 Committee when their baby, Carlos, was 18 months old. She was torn between needing to work and leaving the baby with his great-grandmother, who provided him with little stimulation. By this time, Brian had completed rehabilitation and was working at a gas station while studying for his GED at the Adult Learning Center. A Partnership scholarship allowed Carlos to attend CLASP, where his development thrived. It also allowed Cecelita to work and continue her English classes.



Only in the 7th grade, Anne left her abusive home, dropped out of school, and lived on the streets. Now a single mother in her late twenties with four children ranging in age from 17 months to 12 years, she is expecting another child in three months. She recently moved to this community, is living in subsidized housing, and receiving SSI for a mental illness disability. A worker from the Family Support Program referred Anne to the Partnership so that her 17-month-old could be placed in a more structured and more enriching environment. She described Anne as loving but disorganized and missing the nurturing experiences most parents rely on to bring up their own children. A Partnership scholarship allowed Adam to broaden his horizons in an organized environment by going to First Class Child Care and allowed Anne some much needed rest while her child is well taken care of. ■

North Shore/ LIJ— Education Partner

At the Partnership's first Directors Circle meeting, preschool directors discussed the need for ongoing education for their staffs, yet expressed frustration at the expense and difficulty in obtaining quality training. In response, the Partnership's Education Chair, Ro Ennis, Associate Director of North Shore/LIJ Health System's Department of Professional and Public Health Education, designed a seminar to help educate child care professionals. The Partnership invited the staffs of over 80 preschools and child care centers to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset



Rosemarie Ennis

on November 2, 2006, for an "Educational Evening for Preschool Directors and Child Care Providers." Nearly two hundred child care professionals attended three informative workshops. Dr. Victor Fornari, Acting Director of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Department of North Shore/LIJ, discussed "Behavioral Issues of the Young Child." Janice Smestad of Empathy Associates was lauded by the audience for her practical tips on "Handling Special Needs Students." Catherine Bloutiau, Health Educator, taught "Pediatric Emergency First Aid." This event was accompanied by a light meal and dessert provided by the Partnership. Participants were given certificates of attendance to document continuing education units.

Inspired by the enthusiastic response to this first event, Ms. Ennis put together another series of lectures for child care providers, parents, school personnel, social workers, psychologists, nurses, and guidance counselors. Held at the Rust Auditorium at North Shore University Hospital, "Helping Children Succeed" featured clinical psychologist Tom Phelan, author of *1-2-3 Magic: Effective Discipline for Children Ages 2 – 12* on March 6. On March 20 Barry McNamara, professor of special education at Dowling College and the author of *Keys to Dealing with Bullies*, spoke on "Lessons from Bullies and Their Victims." Finally, on April 23 "ADHD: Focus on Success" brought together three prominent doctors in the field—Thomas Power, Howard Abikoff, and Andrew Adesman—to explore strategies for homework success, solving organizational problems, and the latest advances in medication. The Partnership provided funding for these programs in the form of unrestricted educational grants used to provide partial scholarships to help cover the entrance fees for child care workers and parents of our member agencies.

The Partnership will continue to do as it has always done to promote the healthy growth and development of children and families—meet, talk, listen, exchange ideas, and do what it can to promote quality early childhood education for every child. ■

Networking Works!