



## Message from Executive Director Patricia Carlesimo

Inspired by the beautiful transformation that comes with Spring, we take an opportunity to measure how far we have progressed and what we aspire to accomplish in the future. Our residents are delighted with the completed refurbishment project at Operation LIFE. We are proud of our student artists who were awarded the “Innovations in Special Education Award”. We also reflect on the wonderful support we received from our community of caring individuals, families and friends. This support sustained us through the progression of our Agency-wide expansion, continued economic challenges and a particularly harsh winter. Through it all, with gratitude to our community supporters, we have successfully preserved the vital programs and services that are transforming lives everyday. Thank you for your unwavering support.

## “Awarding” Art

Schroth School students studied Expressionist Art and used modified tools to create their own works of art. For their efforts they received an “Innovations in Special Education Award” given by the NJ School Boards Association and the Association of Schools and Agencies for the Handicapped (ASAH).



*Alex and Art Teacher Kat Heitman at the May 17th awards ceremony.*

## At Op LIFE... It Takes a Community

Over its history, LADACIN Network has responded to the needs of people with disabilities of all ages. When the need arose in the late 1970’s for housing for adults with disabilities, the Agency began the development of fully accessible housing facilities for our clients aged 21 years and older. One of the seven residences LADACIN operates is Operation LIFE (Living Independently for Everyone), an independent apartment complex which opened in 1983 in Long Branch.

The 26 residents direct their care and the activities of their daily lives. Clients attend day programs, vocational training or college and some are employed. A community room at Operation LIFE provides residents with a place to watch TV, share meals, conduct meetings and socialize. It also serves as a polling place on Election Day. For more than a decade, a rewarding relationship has grown between residents of Operation LIFE and families from St. Jerome’s Church, West Long Branch. They regularly share visits and holiday celebrations in the community room.

Shortfalls in funding for our adult programs over time have made it difficult to keep up with some facility repairs. The community room was in need of a fresh look. When funding was not available for the refurbishment, LADACIN turned to long-standing supporters from the community for help.

TD Charitable Foundation, The Monmouth Ocean Development Council (MODC) and New Jersey Natural Gas lent their support to brighten the lives of our clients. TD Charitable Foundation, the charitable arm of TD Bank, awarded the Agency a \$7,500 grant to replace cabinets and flooring. MODC, through its Project Connection initiative for nonprofits, matched LADACIN with an energetic volunteer group from New Jersey Natural Gas. They shared their time and skill to paint the kitchen and community room. “Everyone involved did an excellent job! The clients use



the room more. They have a greater opportunity to socialize... there’s more smiling here now,” said Keysha Carpenter, Residential Manager.

Kathy, who resides at Operation LIFE, was very happy with the updated appearance of the room, “It’s much nicer than before and I get a lot of use out of it”.

Our community collaborations strengthen our Agency and enhance the quality of life for the people we serve. Denise, another resident, expressed gratitude on behalf of her fellow residents, “All of us at Op LIFE want to thank everybody for volunteering their time and hard work. When we use our community room for holidays and special engagements, we will think of everybody who helped”.

# Answering needs...

As our fiscal year closes, we look back on all the wonderful support LADACIN Network has received. With the help of our dynamic and enthusiastic supporters, the Agency had a lively special event schedule this year. Whether it is the financial commitment of our corporate sponsors, a grant from an agency, a gift basket for an event, or volunteers sharing their time and talents, we are grateful to each and every one of you. From a 26.2-mile run in 90 degree weather to a plunge in the icy waters of the Atlantic, the spirit of giving is strong... and inspiring. It is that generous giving that helps LADACIN Network provide the needed facilities, equipment and services to those who need them most. Thank you for helping to make our work successful.

## Rosebud Gala Lights Up the Night

This year's Rosebud Gala was a huge success, despite an epic storm and loss of electricity. The generous spirit and compassion was "power" enough among the 275 guests, who helped the Agency raise over \$149,000. The gala is the Agency's premier annual fundraising event featuring dinner and dancing, an awards ceremony, gift auction, and raffles. The money raised benefits the 2,800 infants, children and adults with cerebral palsy and physical disabilities served by LADACIN. Doug Sjonvall, Greater Media NJ - 95.9 WRAT and Magic 100.1, and Marlene Bell, friend and supporter of the Agency, co-chaired the event. This year, 22 florists from Monmouth and Ocean Counties showcased their talents by participating in the floral centerpiece contest. Flowers by Rhonda, Brielle, took first place honors. Buck Garden Design, Howell, placed second and Flower Power Florist & Gifts, Belford, placed third. Many thanks to all those who contributed to the event's success, including LADACIN's Corporate Sponsors (listed on page 3).



Rosebud Honorees Kirk Ruoff, Owner, The Turning Point Restaurants, Humanitarian Honoree; Peter Lombardo, President and CEO, Robertet, Inc., Corporate Honoree; Joseph J. Russell, Jr., Esq., Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, Eatontown, Humanitarian Honoree; and Jean Pierre Tetrault, Robertet, Inc.

## Running Hot...

The weather may not have cooperated, but cooperation was certainly in the air at this year's NJ Marathon. Joseph Walker coordinated a fundraising effort through the Marathon for LADACIN Network called "Team LADACIN 2010 - Every Step Counts". On May 2nd, Joseph was joined by 71 LADACIN runners who braved the heat and humidity on a course that wound through Long Branch and Oceanport. Together they raised over \$50,000 through pledges and sponsorships. Joseph said, "I decided to walk the last six miles with my family, as a team, and we crossed the finish line together...this was one of the proudest moments of my life".



Joseph, Conor and Denise Walker and Nicola White at the finish line (Photo courtesy of brightroom.com).

## ...and soon, on Motorcycles

This year LADACIN and Gregory's Seafood Restaurant will host their first motorcycle run. The run will be held on September 11th and will begin at Schroth School in Wanamassa and end at Gregory's in Manchester. All proceeds will benefit LADACIN Network in memory of Christine Montalto, former Lehmann Center staff member. For more information, contact Community Relations at 732-493-5900.

## ...and Cold

Joseph J. Russell, Jr., of Manasquan, joined by 150 brave supporters, took the plunge into the frigid waters of the Atlantic on January 16th at Manasquan's Main Beach to raise awareness and funds for LADACIN Network. Over \$80,000 was raised to benefit LADACIN's programs and services. Joseph coordinated the Polar Bear Plunge to support the J. Michael Hartnett Memorial Fund, which benefits the Agency and honors the memory of his late uncle. Joseph was also inspired by his admiration for his cousin, Elizabeth "Liz" Hartnett, a client of LADACIN Network. Liz served as Grand Marshal and led the procession of plungers to the beach, accompanied by the US Marine Color Guard and the Jersey Shore Bagpipers, Belmar.



Liz leads the parade to the beach.



Plungers get ready to take a dip.

# Advancing potential...

## Many Thanks...

### LADACIN Network Corporate Sponsors

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For more information on Corporate  
Sponsorships, contact the Director of  
Development at 732.493.5900 or email  
[directorofdevelopment@ladacin.org](mailto:directorofdevelopment@ladacin.org).

## BJs Awards \$10K Grant

LADACIN received a generous  
\$10,000 grant award from BJ's  
Charitable Foundation to fund our vital  
Specialized Clinic Services.

## Nordstroms Donates \$3,000

Nordstroms awarded LADACIN  
\$3,000 to purchase new computers  
for our Residential Managers.

## Hitting the Jackpot at Casino Night



LADACIN's 4th Annual Casino Night  
was held on June 4th at Eagle Oaks  
Golf and Country Club in Farmingdale.  
The event included dinner, gambling and  
gift auction and raised over \$29,000 for  
the Agency under the direction of co-  
chairs Marlene Bell and Bonnie Hogan.

## Beacon Street Grille Hosts Wine Tasting

Beacon Street Grille in Neptune hosted  
a wine tasting event on December  
16th. The event raised over \$1,100 for  
LADACIN.



John Slipek and Gil Benjamin, owners of  
Beacon Street Grille, present a donation  
to LADACIN Executive Director Patricia  
Carlesimo. They are joined by Bonnie,  
Taryn, and Nicole.

## Wegmans Donates Flowers and Supplies for Rosebud Gala



Margaret Holliday, Floral Manager for  
Wegmans, Ocean Township, and her  
Assistant, Sam, work with Irie, Schroth  
School, to create several centerpieces.



The Turning Point Restaurants of  
Long Branch, Little Silver, Holmdel  
and Manalapan hosted their 4th annual  
weekend fundraiser, *Eat, Drink & Be  
Caring*, on January 30 and 31 to benefit  
LADACIN. The warmth and enthusiasm  
of the staff truly made for a fun and  
successful event, which raised \$8,753.

## Giving Back

Schroth students collected and  
donated crutches, wheelchairs and  
walkers for the Haiti Amputee Relief  
Drive, Physicians for Peace "Walking  
Free" program. The initiative was led  
by students Jessica and Richie, and  
supervised by Mr. Sullivan, their social  
worker.



Jessica and Richie present their  
donations to the Haiti Amputee Relief  
Drive.

## Ways To Give

- ♥ Remember a loved one with a memorial or tribute in memory of that special person.
- ♥ Consider donations or bequests to LADACIN Network when planning your finances or will.
- ♥ Make a donation in lieu of favors for a special event.
- ♥ Host a fundraiser to benefit LADACIN Network, such as a car wash, garage sale, or walk-a-thon.
- ♥ Participate in a corporate matching program. Some companies will double or triple employee donations.

**For more information, call the  
Director of Development at  
732.493.5900, or email:  
[directorofdevelopment@ladacin.org](mailto:directorofdevelopment@ladacin.org).**





Lehmann students attended a BlueClaws baseball game. Pictured above is Kaitlyn with Matthew Way of the Lakewood BlueClaws.



Students at Lehmann celebrated St. Patrick's Day together.



NJ Natural Gas Company employees volunteered their time to paint the community room at Operation Life.



Pablo celebrates his graduation from Schroth Pre-School with Miss Janet, his teacher.

## Save the Date...

*Motorcycle Run*  
in memory of Christine Montalto  
**Saturday, September 11, 2010**

Wanamassa to Manchester

THE RYAN BELL MEMORIAL  
**Walk and Wheel-A-Thon**  
**Sunday, September 19, 2010**  
Brookdale Community College, Lincroft

**Rat Rock Open Charity**  
**Golf Classic**

**Monday, October 4, 2010**  
Eagle Ridge Golf Club, Lakewood

**Polar Bear Plunge 2011**

in support of the J. Michael Hartnett Memorial Fund  
**Saturday, January 15, 2011**  
Leggett's Sand Bar & Restaurant, Manasquan

*Rosebud Gala Dinner Dance*

**Saturday, March 12, 2011**  
Sheraton Eatontown Hotel

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