



# Matheny *Matters*

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# Miles for Matheny 2014



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# Matheny President and CEO Steven Proctor to Retire

**S**teven Proctor, who has been president and CEO of Matheny for almost 16 years, will retire at the end of 2014.

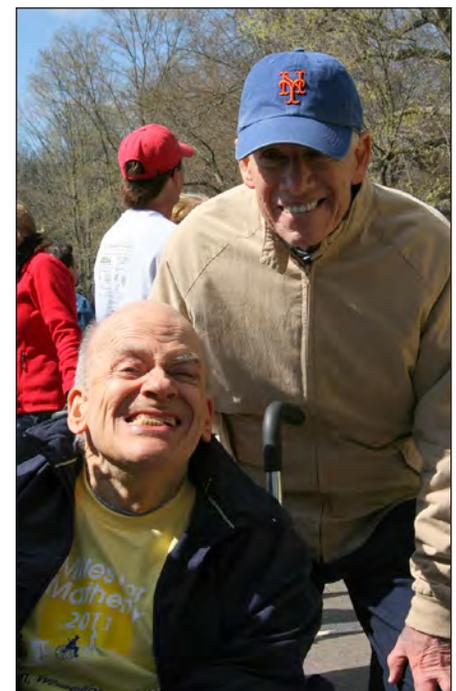
As CEO, Proctor has made significant contributions to Matheny. These include: improving care and services for Matheny's patients with the most complex medical needs; establishing the Matheny Center of Medicine and Dentistry in order to provide continuing medical and dental care to inpatients and people with disabilities from the community in a more modern and welcoming atmosphere; strengthening Matheny's affiliations with universities and medical schools throughout the United States in order to enhance the knowledge and improve the care of people with developmental and intellectual disabilities; expanding Matheny's unique Arts Access Program -- nationally recognized for enabling people with disabilities to creatively express themselves through the fine arts -- to other facilities serving people with disabilities.



Prior to coming to Matheny, Proctor served for 23 years as executive director of Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey, an agency providing special education, medical and therapeutic services to children and adults with developmental disabilities. He has a long history of professional affiliations. He was a founding member of the Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities and chairman of the board of the Northern New Jersey Maternal Child Health Consortium. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Somerset County Business Partnership and of Dental Lifeline Network.

"Steve has built a solid foundation for Matheny's future," said Daniel F. McLaughlin, chair of the Matheny Board of Trustees, "and we are truly grateful for his many years of distinguished service. The Board will miss his leadership and is committed to maintaining his vision as we seek a successor."

The Board has retained the services of executive search firm, Spencer Stuart, to help find Proctor's successor. 



Steve Proctor with Chuck Matheny at Miles for Matheny in 2011.

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# Matheny School Provides 'Typical High School Experience'

If there's one message Maryanne Tortorello of Randolph, NJ, would like to deliver to parents of children with disabilities, it is, "Don't judge a book by its cover." Tortorello's daughter, Mary Rita, was born three months premature in 1995. When she was almost two months old, Mary Rita experienced bleeding in her brain, which developed into cerebral palsy. After three years of early intervention, she attended the P.G. Chambers School in Cedar Knolls, NJ, graduating from eighth grade in 2011. The Tortorello family visited The Matheny School as a possible option for high school, but the transition from the ambiance of an

changing classrooms. It's a very challenging curriculum. The problem in other high schools we tried is that she wasn't being challenged. They, honestly, are amazing here."

Working with her teacher and assistive technology, Mary Rita was able to write an article for her school newspaper. "They're also writing a children's book," Tortorello says, "and they have an adaptable art program." To make it easier for Mary Rita to participate in art, her occupational therapist Dominique Scacciaferro made a special brace for her hand with an opening for a paintbrush. "It's a functional hand splint," explains Scacciaferro, "that was made out of splinting material designed specifically for Mary Rita's hand. It has a piece of foam tubing, which allows for different objects to be positioned in it, like a paintbrush or an angled spoon for eating."

**"She is so happy.  
She loves to  
go to school."**



From left, Maryanne Tortorello, Tiffany Fritz and Mary Rita Tortorello.

elementary school to that of a school located in a hospital setting with adult patients, was somewhat disconcerting.

As a result, the Tortorellos tried two other school programs before finally returning to Matheny. "The physical appearance at Matheny," says Tortorello, "wasn't warm and fuzzy, but now that Mary Rita's here, I realize that the classroom teachers are warm and fuzzy." The staff at Matheny, she adds, "was so thorough when we came here. They spent a lot of time with me. They explained a lot to me, and I explained a lot to them about Mary Rita." Tortorello believes her daughter is now getting "a typical high school experience. She's

independent. "Assistive technology aids in making her more independent, and she gets a lot of help from the speech-language pathologists, physical therapists and occupational therapists." Fritz makes sure she keeps Maryanne Tortorello informed about everything that goes on in the classroom – "the books we read, the activities we're involved with. This way, she can talk about school with Mary Rita when she gets home."

Mary Rita is now 18 years old, and Tortorello says, "she is so happy. She loves to go to school. That makes me very, very happy. The teachers and the therapists are awesome. I can't say enough good things about The Matheny School." 

# Miles of Love and Community Spirit



The scene at 23 Mendham Road. From left, Laura and Leah Simpson, Morgan and Debbie Infusino and Spencer Sorge.



WCBS news anchor Wayne Cabot and WCBS-TV meteorologist Elise Finch.



Community resident Ed Iannone with Our Lady of Perpetual Church volunteers Emilia Scalaro, left, and Emma Holmes.



Somerset County Chosen Freeholders Director Patrick Scaglione with his wife Kimberly and daughter Isabella.

**"Finally, it's not pouring rain or 51 degrees. You earned this."** With those words, Wayne Cabot, news anchor for WCBS Newsradio 880, sent the 5K runners on their way during the 17th annual Miles for Matheny, which might have been the best yet. The weather, as Cabot indicated, was perfect. But so was the atmosphere and overall sense of community spirit, highlighted by the festivities at 23 Mendham Road, located along the route of the Lu Huggins Wheelchair Walk in Peapack-Gladstone. Spearheaded by Heather Santoro, who lives there with her family, that stop, just before the home stretch of the 1.5-mile journey, served as an incredible rallying point for the

wheelchair participants, their friends, families and caregivers when they saw signs that read, "We Love Matheny" and "Roll On Matheny", and heard the enthusiastic cheering and noisemaking.

The day, which included five cycling routes and a kids fun run, attracted an outpouring of supporters from several communities. And all the running, walking and cycling, as Cabot and WCBS-TV meteorologist Elise Finch reminded everyone, was being done for one reason: to help support the Matheny Center of Medicine and Dentistry where more than 800 of New Jersey's children, teens and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities have access to the best possible medical, dental and therapy care. [More](#)



50-mile cyclers take off



Start of the 5K.



Community resident Chet Cheesman and his sister, Amber.



Kids Fun Run.



Friends of Matheny "Breakfast of Champions". From left, Friends president Liz Geraghty and Junior Friend Sarah Desatnick.

## There Is Still Time To Donate

Thank you to all who participated or donated to the 17th Annual Miles for Matheny! If you missed this year's event, there is still time to donate to the Miles campaign or, to your favorite Miles team. Go to [www.MilesforMatheny.org](http://www.MilesforMatheny.org) and click the **Donate Now** button on the right hand side of the page. Or, click the **Search for a Participant** bar near the top of the page and find the person or team you want to support with your donation. If you would like to donate by mail or have any questions contact Janice Kriegman at 909-234-0011 ext. 315.

For a list of all sponsors, see pages 10-11

ON THE COVER: Chuck Matheny leads the Lu Huggins Wheelchair Walk down Main Street.

# Matheny Preschool Provides 'Peace of Mind' In Caring, Professional Learning Environment

The caring and professional learning environment in The Matheny School preschool program enables children to grow towards independence while always supporting and including families. The school serves students with multiple disabilities and provides them with an opportunity to achieve their highest potential.

The preschool program integrates nursing and intensive individualized physical, occupational and speech therapies into the classroom. The goal is to enhance the emerging skills of each child while fostering

a fun, exciting learning and social environment. The program is somewhat unique in that it's a school setting within a hospital and has a registered nurse assigned as an essential part of the preschool class. "We decided," says Sean Murphy, principal, "that parents and families need that extra peace of mind when sending their preschooler into school. This is often the parents' first time away their children."

The nurse, Joseph Larena, RN, says that being an in-class nurse who continuously interacts with the children and participates in daily

classwork, "provides me with the unique opportunity to truly know each child. This allows me

**"The staff is truly passionate about making a difference in the children's lives."**

to instantly identify and respond to issues that may arise and prevent certain complications from occurring." Emphasis in the classroom, according to Dawn Williams, who is Matheny's preschool teacher, is placed on learning basic skills such as playing and exploring. "Students need a lot of stimulation," she explains. "They're reacting to sensory movements and noises."

Before coming to Matheny, in August 2011, Larena had worked in home care. There, he says, "there was no contact between the home and school." The culture at Matheny, he says, "is unlike anything I have experienced at other schools. The staff is truly passionate about making a difference in the children's lives."

Matheny's preschool is available as a full school day or in variations based on the specific student's individual education plan (IEP). For more information, call (908) 234-0011, ext 237. 

Joseph Larena with preschool student Joshua Rincon. Joshua is using the KidWalk, a mobility system that allows children to independently explore their environment. It was a gift to The Matheny School from The Friends of Matheny.



# Volunteering in High School Motivated P-G Resident to Pursue Speech Therapy Career

When Emily Teed was a freshman at Bernards High School in Bernardsville, NJ, in 2001-2002, she needed to complete a 10-hour community service requirement. “My mom grew up in Peapack-Gladstone,” she recalls, “and she remembered supporting and visiting Matheny when she was a child. So, she suggested I volunteer at Matheny, too.”

Teed began coming to the Matheny School and Hospital (now the Matheny Medical and Educational Center) on Saturday mornings, working with the recreation therapy department from 10 a.m.-noon.

“I really enjoyed it,” she says, “so it wasn’t just the 10 hours. I came every Saturday for awhile and every other Saturday if I couldn’t make it every week. Volunteering at Matheny made me realize I wanted to work with children with special needs.”

Teed majored in special education at Seton Hall University, and went on to earn her MS in speech-language pathology. She was able to do one of her clinical internships at Matheny in January 2010, and a couple of weeks before graduation in 2011, she learned of an opening in Matheny’s speech therapy department. Now a resident of Bedminster, NJ, Teed has been at Matheny since August 2011.

Working with children who have medically complex developmental disabilities is, she acknowledges, “challenging, but I like a challenge. I like to be creative.” For example, many of the Matheny students are non-verbal, and when they’re swimming in Matheny’s outdoor pool, there’s no way to communicate with them because their communications devices are either battery-operated or electronic. So, Teed came up with a floating communications board. “Stuff like

that gets me excited,” she says. “Even just a small milestone makes you feel so good. I’m working in the preschool with an occupational and physical therapist. One of the parents recently wrote a beautiful letter to us about how much her son’s changed since he started here in July, how he’s saying ‘Mom’ now and communicating and rolling over, reaching for a toy. It’s really nice to hear that.”

Speech-language pathologists at Matheny remain in the school classrooms as much as possible, rather than pulling students out for separate sessions. “We try to

have them participate,” Teed explains,

“by having them answer questions, interacting with a SMART Board, using their devices, really trying to make it a social situation as well as an academic one. I try to make speech fun, but I also have to make it curriculum-based, incorporating it with whatever academics they’re learning.”

Teed’s creativity resulted in her being

named The Matheny School’s Related Services Provider of the Year for the 2012-2013

school year. But she credits the Matheny students and patients with helping her be successful in her job. “This is such a special population,” she says. “They’re fun to work with.”

Her connection with Matheny, she points out, has deep roots. “My mom’s side of the family has been in Peapack-Gladstone for over 100 years. My father grew up in Pottersville, and we lived in my great-grandparents’ house on Holland Avenue. My grandfather still lives on Pottersville Road. My parents knew a lot of people on Highland Avenue when there were only about six houses on the road.” 



Emily Teed helps student Patrick Conmy use an iPad and wireless switch to tell her whether he wants to eat or drink.

# Smooth Transition in Wound Care Nursing

In January 1987, Gaila Call, RN, had relocated to New Jersey from New England. “I was pregnant,” she recalls, “and I couldn’t do any lifting, so the nursing agency recommended Matheny because the personal care assistants would take care of the lifting.” Twenty-seven years later, Call is retiring as Matheny’s certified enterostomal nurse. Along the way, she received Matheny’s Employee Excellence Award (2003) and New Jersey’s Governor’s

she says. “You share a childhood with a lot of these people. You begin to realize the important part you play in their lives. And they have become very significant in my life as well.” For the past year, Call has been working closely with her successor, Carol Enos, RN, who went for four months of specialty training in wound, ostomy and continence education at Wicks Educational Associates in Mechanicsburg, PA. “Our specialties,”

Enos, a resident of Bridgewater, NJ, was a late convert to nursing. She received a Bachelor’s Degree in medical technology from Douglass College (now part of the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences). “I really

**“The Matheny Mission – what they do and how they do it – really pulled at my heartstrings.”**



Carol Enos, left, and Gaila Call.

Nursing Merit Award for Excellence in the RN Post-Acute category (2005).

Call, a resident of Blairstown, NJ, remained at Matheny for the rest of her career for several reasons, but a primary motivation was the personal connections she was able to forge with the patients. “This is an exciting place without the kind of excitement you experience in an acute-care hospital,”

Call explains, are “wounds, ostomy (any procedure requiring an artificial opening in an organ), incontinence and bowel management. But, at Matheny, the emphasis is on wound prevention. We’re a support group for the nurses. It’s very critical here because so many of our patients are prone to wounds, especially since they’re in wheelchairs all day.”

love science,” she says. “I did blood banking, and I worked for Johnson & Johnson’s Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, making diagnostic products. But I wanted the patient contact.” So, she went back to college, receiving her nursing degree from Raritan Valley Community College and doing her nursing clinicals at Matheny. “The Matheny mission – what they do and how they do it – really pulled at my heartstrings,” she says. Enos joined the nursing staff 5½ years ago and decided to apply for the enterostomal nursing job because, “from the day I met Gaila, I just always admired the job that she did.”

Before coming to Matheny, Call worked at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in Hartford and the Tufts Northeast Medical Center in Boston. She received her nursing degree from Alfred University in Alfred, NY.



# Rutgers Physical Therapy Majors Receive Special Training at Matheny

Recognizing that it can't provide healthcare for everyone with a disability, Matheny has taken on the responsibility of trying to ensure that future healthcare professionals understand how to care for and treat people with disabilities.

**"It was so cool to see all the collaboration!"**

With that in mind, a group of physical therapy students from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School visit Matheny every year to learn about the needs and equipment required by persons with developmental disabilities. During this year's visit, the PT students rotated through eight stations dealing with switch access, communication devices, music therapy, pressure mapping, standing and adaptive tricycles, power and manual wheelchairs, gait trainers and recreational activities.

One of the Rutgers students visiting Matheny this year was Sarah Carothers, a resident of nearby Basking Ridge, NJ, and she remembered, as a high school student, shadowing a Matheny physical therapist. The experience, she said, was "amazing." During this year's visit, she said, "it was so cool to see all the collaboration. How empowering it is for people with disabilities!" 



Rutgers students learn about gait trainers from Matheny physical therapist Glenn Stackhouse.



Sarah Carothers learns how to navigate a manual wheelchair.



Dongmin Park drives a power wheelchair as Cindy Labar, Matheny director of physical therapy, looks on.

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## Showcasing Special Art



Artist Cindy Shanks with Morris Museum trustee Charles Pascarella and his wife Maryann.

“We couldn’t be happier to have Matheny open this exhibit,” said Geri Horn, Morris Museum trustee. “You have set the bar very high.”

The occasion was the opening reception for “Access-ABILITY”, a series of exhibitions that the museum, in Morristown, NJ, is presenting this year to showcase the expressive creativity of persons with special needs. Seven artists from Matheny’s Arts Access Program were at the reception, held in late April. Thirty pieces of visual

art were on display. In addition, those in attendance were treated to readings of original work created by Arts Access writers. Arts Access provides individuals with disabilities the freedom to create in the visual, literary and performing arts.

The Arts Access exhibit was presented from April 24-27. It will be followed by exhibits by JSDD WAE Center Artist Showcase, July 17-20; and ECLC of New Jersey & P.R.I.D.E. Artist Showcase, October 23-26. 



Artists James Lane and Jess Evans. Behind them is an untitled painting by Cindy Shanks.