



Matheny

Matters

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From left, WCBS-TV sports anchor, John Discepolo; 16-year-old student, Yasin Reddick; speech-language pathologist, Mary Heavey of Hackettstown; and OT, Jackie Henning of Bridgewater.



Adult patient, Rasheedah Mahali, with her mother, Geri, left, of Somerset; and her sister, Raanee, of Franklin Township.



16-year-old student, Natalie Tomastyk, with RVCC nursing students, Brandy Seal, left, of Milford; and Eileen Abate of Belle Mead.

Photo by Tizazu Alamreew

Miles of Smiles!

The skies may have been overcast, but the mood was definitely sunny, as a crowd of 2,000 participants, volunteers and well-wishers converged on Peapack for the 11th annual Miles for Matheny, held Sunday, April 20. The annual fundraiser and community event included five cycling routes, a 5K run and a kids fun run, but, as always, the signature event was the Lu Huggins Wheelchair Walk, which seems to grow larger every year. In addition to individual walking partners, the 150 children and adults in wheelchairs

were joined in their 1.5-mile walk by people from every corner of the community – high school athletic teams, school groups, extended families and special “teams” assembled by parents of the some of the students and patients.

Funds raised, from registration fees, pledges and sponsorships, totaled \$200,00, which helps support Matheny’s outpatient clinic, providing medical, dental and therapy care to people with disabilities in 12 New Jersey counties.

(More on Miles for Matheny, pages 4-5, 10-12)



16-year-old student, Bryan Desatnick, with his mother, Edana; service dog, Ben; and father, Lloyd of Basking Ridge.



Adult patient, Mark Cornely, with Kristen Tauber of Hopatcong.



Adult patient, Chris Saglimbene, with Matheny School administrative assistant, Sherri Lardieri of Long Valley.

Photo by Tizazu Alamreew

Some Friends Reminisce About 25 Years of Service

Karen Thompson remembers when The Friends of Matheny raised money to help the Matheny School and Hospital pay its bills. It was in the late 1980s, and, says the Gladstone resident, “We just gave Matheny a check at the end of each year. We didn’t designate how it was to be used.”

The Friends of Matheny, an auxiliary group that raises money for Matheny, was founded in 1983 with the objective of hosting an annual fundraising cocktail party. The organization celebrated its 25th anniversary April 5 with an Iris Ball held at the Bridgewater Marriott (see facing page).

Thompson had moved to the Somerset Hills in 1986 and was contacted by a neighbor, Judy Burgess, who was president of The Friends. “She called and said they needed volunteers to work at the thrift shop, which at that time was located in a classroom at St. Brigid’s Church in Peapack (The Second Chance Shop is now located in the basement of the United Methodist Church in Gladstone). At that time, we had maybe 15 volunteers, and we were thrilled if we made \$50 a day (In the 2006-2007 selling season, the shop, co-

Jean Wadsworth and Karen Thompson stand in front of “Iris” a painting given to the Friends by Matheny patient, James Lane. Lane is one of the artists in Matheny’s Arts Access Program, which makes it possible for people with disabilities to create fine art, assisted by professional artist-facilitators.



managed by Pat Albertini of Mendham and Linda Horton of Peapack, raised more than \$100,000.”

Jean Wadsworth, a resident of Basking Ridge, was invited to join The Friends of Matheny in 1985 by the thrift shop’s founder, Ginny Estabrook. She remembers attending “a small afternoon gathering in a member’s home; it was really nice.” Thompson and Wadsworth were hooked. They both served as presidents of The Friends – Wadsworth from 1994-96 and Thompson from 1998-2000 – and both continue to serve on the Board.

As Matheny’s financial condition stabilized, Thompson remembers that Robert Schonhorn, who became president in 1989, “suggested that we start to investigate the specific needs at Matheny, and we developed a wish list.” Every year, the various program directors at Matheny submit their respective wish lists, and an allocations committee selects how they want to spend the money the organization has raised. From its beginning, The Friends has raised more than \$2 million for Matheny, with funding for such things as therapeutic and recreation equipment, wheelchair-accessible vans and a computer lab. In 1992, The Friends gave the first part of a \$150,000 pledge to rebuild the trustees’ board room and have also funded a renovation of Matheny’s main lobby and the lobby in the Robert Schonhorn Arts Center.

Another long-time Friends board member, Nancy Hojnacki, who is a

Bernardsville resident, became involved in the late ‘80s after moving to the area from Long Island. “I went to our first gala, a cocktail party, and I noticed they were giving things away instead of having an auction. I’ve been on that committee ever since,” she says.

Thompson believes she’s “grown as a person enormously through the work I’ve done at Matheny. I’ve been given challenges that I never thought I could accomplish. I’ve met wonderful people – volunteers, staff and patients. It’s broadened my life tremendously. I’ve taken away much more from this experience than I’ve given.”

And, she adds, “The Friends are truly Matheny’s ambassadors in the community. We’re the people who are out there and very often are asked, ‘What is Matheny? What happens there?’ And we’re able to tell them.”

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Iris Ball Celebrates Friends of Matheny 25th Anniversary

Jim Entwistle issued a challenge to everyone at the Friends of Matheny Iris Ball on April 5. The Tewksbury resident and honoree for the evening asked the 200 guests at the Bridgewater Marriott to “join me on April 20 at the finish line at Miles for Matheny.” He was referring to the Lu Huggins Wheelchair Walk at Matheny’s annual fundraiser and community event in which more than 100 participants in wheelchairs, with walking partners, travel 1.5 miles around downtown Peapack.

Entwistle, president of Village Office Supply in Somerset, has been a long-time supporter of Matheny. The Friends of Matheny, an auxiliary group, has raised \$2 million over the past 25 years, money that has funded gifts for Matheny patients such as therapeutic and recreation equipment, wheelchair-accessible vans and a computer lab. The Friends honored Entwistle to celebrate the group’s 25th anniversary, and a crowd of 200 turned out in support.

Honorary chair for the evening was retired New Jersey Devil and hockey legend, Scott Stevens, who talked of his family’s recent tour of Matheny, singling out its Arts Access Program, dental clinic and seating and mobility clinic as highlights of what he said was a very memorable day. Helped by a silent auction made possible by many generous donations, the evening raised more than \$112,000 to help the Friends do even more for Matheny.



The Entwistle family: Cindy and Jim with son, Conner and daughter, Samantha.



Michelle Russo of Hackettstown, director of adult services, with PCA Tinashe Maphosa of Peapack and Chuck Matheny, son of Matheny’s founders.



Linda and Bill Horton of Peapack and Phil Dordai and Pat Tiné of Maplewood. Linda Horton is co-manager of the Second Chance Shop, a Friends thrift shop that raised more than \$100,000 last year. Bill Horton is mayor of Peapack-Gladstone.



Scott and Donna Stevens of Essex Fells.



Junior Friends of Matheny (all Bernards High School students), from left: Samantha Cembrook of Bernardsville, Renee Wild of Bedminster, Nicole Piedra of Gladstone, Lindsay King and Matt Sisto of Bernardsville, Louis Chai of Bedminster and Charlotte McCoy and Jacqueline Cembrook of Bernardsville



Friends of Matheny president, Catherine Bergh, and her husband, Dr. Paul Bergh, both of Bernardsville.

Medical & Lifestyle Issues Combine to Make ‘World of Difference’ for Matheny Student

When Mason Walsh was four months old, his grandmother noticed he wasn't holding his head up. "We kind of blew it off," his mother, Jeanne May, recalls, "but, at six months, we went to a different pediatrician, and he sent us straight to a neurologist. They did all kinds of neurological tests, and then we went to a geneticist, who picked up on his chromosome deletion." Mason has Phelan-McDermid Syndrome, also known as 22q13 Deletion Syndrome. It occurs when genes are missing from the tip of the 22nd chromosome. Patients with Phelan-McDermid have low muscle tone and are often unable to speak.

Mason, who lives in Bridgewater with his family, became a day student at the Matheny School four years ago when he was 12. The move, says his mother, has made, "a world of difference. He's very happy at Matheny. He loves all the extra things they bring into the school – the Arts Access Program, music therapy, going out into the community."

And, thanks to an adjustment in his dietary regimen, Mason is now able to keep food down, something he had previously had difficulty doing. Speech-language pathologist, Christine Mayercik, MS, CCC-SLP, ATP, remembers when Mason first arrived at Matheny. "He wasn't generating saliva. He needed extra moisture in his food, which made it easier for him to swallow." Adds his mother: "If he was eating anything bready or dry, it always came back out. The therapists at Matheny would add apple sauce or mayonnaise, anything to moisten the sandwich, or

whatever it was that he was eating. They know what they're doing because they've been doing it for so long."

Mason has also been benefiting from Matheny's orthotics outpatient clinic. Because he was having trouble

For the third straight year, Mason's family has created a "Team Mason" page on the Miles for Matheny website to raise money for the annual fundraiser and community event, which was held Sunday, April 20. Family and friends, all



Photo by Tizazu Alamreew

Team Mason at this year's Miles for Matheny. Mason Walsh is in the wheelchair, 3rd from left. His mother, Jeanne May, is behind him, slightly to the right (in sunglasses).



Mason Walsh and his mother, Jeanne May.

with his knees, his mother took him to see Sara Osman, MD, a staff physiatrist who specializes in treating patients with developmental disabilities. Dr. Osman diagnosed Mason's problem as instability in his right patella, also known as patella subluxation. She also fitted him with two braces – one for his back and another to help him when he's walking with a gate trainer. The latter brace, she explains, "helps his legs align. Without it, his legs were scissoring." Mason is scheduled for spinal fusion surgery this summer to correct scoliosis. Dr. Osman, says May, is special. "She's very thorough. She definitely gives us the time we need and explains everything. She's wonderful."

wearing "Team Mason" t-shirts, walked together in the Lu Huggins Wheelchair Walk, and this year they raised more than \$3,000. What's particularly significant is that funds raised at Miles help support the Matheny Center of Medicine and Dentistry, which provides outpatient services to people with disabilities in 12 New Jersey counties. And now Mason is benefiting from the treatment there.

Five-Year-Old with Chromosomal Deletion Defies Predictions, Prospers at Matheny

Shortly before their son, Ryan, reached the age of 18 months, Debbie and John O'Connor of Annandale were given some sobering news. "We were told," recalls Debbie O'Connor, "that he would never walk, would never talk and that he probably wouldn't live very long."

Now five years old, Ryan, "is walking holding our hand; he can choose between objects; and he can point to things that start with a certain letter. He's socially adaptable to any situation. He's loving, caring; it's just been wonderful."

When Ryan was 1 ½ years old, he was diagnosed with a chromosomal deletion, a condition that results from loss of chromosomes. It is a syndrome that is rarely detected prenatally. "Ryan was born eight weeks early," O'Connor says, "so he had a lot of physical issues at first. He has been in early intervention since he was five months old because he hadn't met any of his milestones; and he had a lot of kidney issues and a series of surgeries." When Ryan reached the age of three, therapists at the Hunterdon Medical Center, located in Flemington, recommended Matheny for school, and adds O'Connor, "the Clinton Township School District, after evaluating him, agreed that this (Matheny) is where he should be." Over the past six months, Ryan's attention span has increased from 30 seconds to about five minutes,

according to Allison Wawrin, his teacher at the Matheny School. "He's starting to follow directions and look at objects



Top: Debbie O'Connor, with her two-year-old daughter, Kayla, visits Ryan in his classroom. **Bottom:** The O'Connors reached out to family and friends and outfitted everyone in 'O'Connor Clan' t-shirts at Miles for Matheny. The O'Connor Clan raised more than \$5,000.

more closely," she says, pointing out that he can recognize his name and make choices by pointing at objects or pictures.

One example is the weather. Wawrin holds up a picture of clouds and another picture of the sun, and Ryan selects one, based on the weather that day. She will also hold up pictures of four different toys, and he will choose which one he wants to play with.

"Our experience at Matheny," says

O'Connor, "has been life-changing for us and for Ryan. At Matheny, he can experience things that other kids can, like horseback riding, going to the circus, going to baseball games. It's such a wonderful thing because I couldn't do that as a parent. I couldn't really expose him to what he's exposed to here. And Matheny is so family-oriented. I bring my six-year-old son, Jack, here, and because of the experience, he has no fear of children who are different."

The ultimate in a family-oriented experience, says O'Connor, is Matheny's annual fundraiser and community event, Miles for Matheny, held on Sunday, April 20 (see pages 1, 4, 10-12). The event, O'Connor says, is, "overwhelming -- to just see all the kids and all the families rallying for these kids. And there are people there in support of them who don't have children at Matheny and don't have family members at Matheny."

Every year, the O'Connors create a webpage on the Miles for Matheny website to raise money in support of the event. This year they raised more than \$5,000. "We sent it to family and friends. But my family sent it to other friends and co-workers. There were people I had never met and never spoken to who donated, and they've followed up to see how Ryan's been. They were just touched by seeing the picture of him."

Good Sports

Try as he might, Brian Junger, a physical education teacher at Far Hills Country Day School in Far Hills, could not defeat 19-year-old Matheny student, Amanda Kochell, in a wheelchair race. Therapists, teachers and students from Matheny recently visited a fourth grade class at FHCDS as part of Matheny's adaptive physical education program. The idea is to give able-bodied students the opportunity to experience what it is like to live with a disability; to break down barriers of fear and anxiety about how to relate to people with disabilities; and to replace those barriers with a sense of camaraderie, understanding and friendship. In addition to the manual wheelchairs Junger and Kochell rode, Matheny staff demonstrated power wheelchairs, adaptive tricycles, adaptive bocce and bowling.

Amanda Kochell and Brian Junger, after a wheelchair race.



From left: 10-year-old Sophia Agathis of Far Hills, 9-year-old Emma Cusano of Bedminster, 10-year-old Paul Singh of Far Hills, and 9-year-old Jordan Law of Clinton visit with 17-year-old Matheny student, Zachary Ludlow.

Schools or parents interested in more information about Matheny's adaptive phys ed program should contact Linda Frankshun, director of therapeutic services, at (908) 234-0011, ext. 226, or e-mail her at lsilvia@matheny.org.

Meeting the Artist

Noreen Connors of West Caldwell and her granddaughter, Emily Connors of Randolph, were among the playgoers who stopped in at the Renee Fosaner Art Gallery to see "The Light From Within", an exhibit by Matheny's Arts Access Program, held concurrently with the main stage production of "The Miracle Worker" at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn this past winter. The Connors also had an opportunity to meet one of the artists, Cheryl Chapin, left. Arts Access is an alternative arts program for individuals with developmental disabilities. It offers opportunities for unlimited self expression in the visual, literary and performing arts. The exhibit, held on the Paper Mill's mezzanine level, was open one hour before performances and during intermission



Technology Transports the Classroom to the Bedroom

For Suzanne Bossart's class at the Matheny School, the special spring outing to the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton was, in her words, "our biggest trip of the year." But, for one of her students who had been ill, 18-year-old Jonathan Carideo, it meant another day in bed. That's when Matheny's expertise in and commitment to technology saved the day.

Using wireless modem-equipped



Above: Jonathan's "very strong" reaction.

Left: Suzanne Bossart, communicating with Jonathan via laptop at the Grounds for Sculpture.

And he recognized the utterances of a classmate, Richard Kelly, who could see him on my computer." Jonathan broke into a huge smile, which, according to Bossart, represented, "a very strong facial expression for him."

This is but one example, says Fraumann, of how Matheny tries to utilize technology, "to enhance

not have been possible without the kind loan of the Sprint wireless cards by USA Mobility

Fraumann is part of Matheny's technology committee, chaired by Linda Frankshun, Matheny's director of therapeutic services. The committee is a multidisciplinary team that meets weekly to monitor and advocate for the



computers, Alex Fraumann, the school's technology coordinator, put one computer in Jonathan's room and connected it to Bossart's laptop via cellular modems called AirCards. Jonathan has limited vision, and Bossart says he was very subdued at first. "But I ran around the sculpture garden with the laptop, describing what we were seeing. He has good auditory skills, and, since he's been in my class for two years, he recognizes my voice.

these students' lives. It's really rewarding." The technology that

was used for the computer-to-computer videoconferencing, Fraumann points out, "is proprietary to Apple. It's called iChat." Using the AirCards, he explains, "enables us to use a computer to access the internet anywhere. There is no more looking around for a wireless hot spot." These distance learning opportunities would

incorporation of technology into Matheny's daily activities.

Jonathan's enjoyment of the Grounds of Sculpture from afar is just one example of how the use of modem-to-modem videoconferencing has improved the lives of Matheny students.

Another student who benefited from this technology was 16-year-old Jamie Formisano, who was unable to attend his regular class, due to illness.

He was particularly disappointed about missing a music therapy session. But, says Fraumann, "we put bells on his wrists, and he didn't miss a beat."

Matheny tries to utilize technology "to enhance these students' lives."

Our Special Thanks...

A tribute to recognize occasions like birthdays and anniversaries, to honor a friend, or in memory of a loved one takes on special meaning when it also helps the many children and adults at Matheny.

When you make a gift, the honored person or the

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There are many ways your corporate employer can support Matheny, including becoming a Miles for Matheny sponsor or forming a corporate team to participate in the event, supporting our annual Matheny Golf Classic or by making a corporate contribution in support of a patient or student program. Employee volunteer projects are also a way for your company to make a difference and support the important care provided by Matheny.

If you have any questions about making a gift, please contact Robert Budelman, Director of Philanthropy, at (908) 234-0011 ext. 744 or by email at: rbudelman@matheny.org

Philanthropy Notes

Dear Friends:

Since I came on board nine months ago, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of



you here at Matheny's main campus or at the numerous events hosted by Matheny's angels, The Friends of Matheny. The example of your passionate commitment to Matheny – and of course through every day contact with the

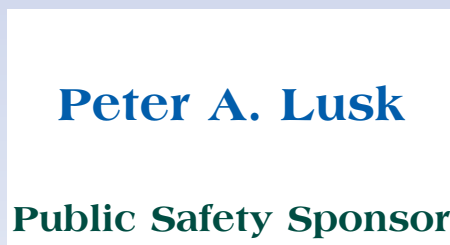
special children and adults that call Matheny home – inspires me and strengthens my resolve to see that through our development efforts our patients, students, residents and medical and educational staff receive the resources they need.

I salute my predecessor Fay Mackey for her many dedicated years of service to Matheny and thank her for making me feel so welcome upon my arrival. We have a new team in place now with Gianna Alvino, Development Associate, handling special events, and Patricia Cats, Development Coordinator, managing our database. As a team we look forward to working with you to advance the mission of Matheny.

Sincerely,
 Robert B. Budelman, III
 Director of Philanthropy



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Weiner Family
O'Connor Clan
Team Travers

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Team Mason
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Join us again next year for the
12th Annual Miles for Matheny
on Sunday April 19, 2009.
We hope to see you there!

Save the Date!
Matheny Golf Classic
October 21st
Full Circle
November 15th

Morristown-Beard Volunteers Raise \$2,613 to Support Miles for Matheny



Students and faculty from Morristown-Beard School in Morristown presented Robert Budelman, Matheny director of philanthropy, standing at far right, a check for \$2,613 at the celebration picnic following Miles for Matheny. Morristown-Beard has been sending student volunteers to Matheny for seven years under the direction of faculty member, William Lamson, fourth from right in back row. Led by two student volunteers, Reva and Menaka Dhingra, between Lamson and Budelman, the MBS students raised most of the money at a special "Dress Down Day". Then, a team of 43 volunteers – 27 students, nine faculty members and 12 family members or friends – attended Miles for Matheny, helping staff transport patients and serving as walking partners in the Lu Huggins Wheelchair Walk.

Return Service Requested

www.matheny.org
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 Peapack, NJ 07977
 65 Highland Avenue, P.O. Box 339



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