



Matheny Matters

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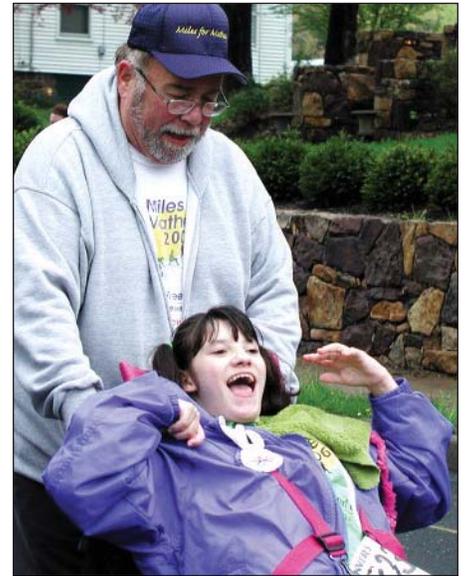
Miles Rolls On!



Start of the 23-mile cycle ride.

The ninth annual Miles for Matheny, refusing to bow to the weather, carried on triumphantly on Sunday, April 23, in Peapack. More than a fundraiser, Miles has evolved into a total community event, embracing everyone, from young schoolchildren to senior citizens. A combination of sponsorships, pledges and registration fees raised more than \$275,000 that will support the Matheny Center of Medicine and Dentistry, which provides outpatient medical, dental and therapy services to more than 1,000 individuals with disabilities.

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



14-year-old Natalie Vogel and Tom Kimpland of Wharton.



New Jersey Devils alum, Rob Skrlac, with adult patient, Mark Cornely during the Lu Huggins Wheelchair Walk.



Adult patient, Dion Alston, with Ronald McDonald and adult services instructor, Jackie



Start of the 5K run.



Adult patient, Annie Paloff, with her twin sister, Rebecca Paloff of West Medford, MA.



6-8-year-old fun run.

Linda O'Connell Named New Director of Nursing

Linda O'Connell, RN, MS, has been named director of nursing services at Matheny, succeeding Sally Colatarci, RN, who retired. Colatarci had joined Matheny in 1984 as a staff RN. She was promoted to assistant director in 1990 and became director in 1993. She and her husband have moved to South Carolina.

O'Connell, who had been assistant director of nursing services, began working at Matheny as a part-time night nurse in 1994. "I was raising a family," she recalls, "but as my children grew, I gradually added more hours. Who would have imagined when I started out as a per diem nurse a couple of nights a month that I would someday become director of nursing services?" But Matheny, she confesses, "does grab you. I am so inspired by our patients and

all they have to overcome."

Eventually becoming a full-time nurse in Matheny's adult services division, O'Connell, a resident of Califon, was named assistant director in 2004.

C.W. Post College-Long Island University and a BS in Nursing from Boston College. She also received the Lillian Molander Davis Scholarship for "the person most likely to succeed in nursing" from St. John's Episcopal Hospital School of Nursing in Brooklyn, from which she graduated in 1970.

Before joining the staff of Bonnie Brae, Luby was a nursing instructor at Microtech Training Center in Jersey City. She has also been a registered nurse at several New Jersey hospitals including St. Joseph's Medical Center in Paterson, Overlook Hospital in Summit and Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside. Prior to beginning her nursing career in 1996, she was in the financial services industry, serving in such positions as a profit analyst for

Irving Bank Corp. in New York, assistant treasurer at Bankers Trust Co. in New York and senior accountant at Arthur Young & Company in New York. She has a BS in nursing from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Hackensack and an MBA and BBA in accounting from Pace University in New York.



Linda O'Connell, third from left, new Matheny director of nursing services, with members of her staff and Matheny patients. **From left:** Arlene Carron, RN; adult patient, Charles Fieramosca; O'Connell; Maribel Escobedo, RN; adult patient, David Miller; and Imelda Arma, RN.

She has been succeeded as assistant director of nursing services by Melissa Luby, RN. Luby, a resident of Scotch Plains, had been a registered nurse at Bonnie Brae, a residential treatment facility in Liberty Corner for emotionally disturbed adolescent boys.

Prior to coming to Matheny, O'Connell served as risk manager/supervisor at Union Hospital in the Bronx, director of the School of Nursing at Misericordia Hospital Medical Center in the Bronx and clinical instructor at the School of Nursing at Cornell University-New York Hospital in Manhattan. She has also served on the nursing staffs at Long Island Jewish Hospital in New Hyde Park, NY, and Glen Cove Community Hospital in Glen Cove, NY.

O'Connell has an MS in Education from



Melissa Luby, new assistant director of nursing services, with Matheny patient, Bianca Mathis.

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Gotta Dance!

Volunteers from three Monmouth County high schools -- Colts Neck, Rumson-Fair Haven and Christian Brothers Academy -- were dancing partners for about 70 Matheny students and patients at the annual Matheny Prom held at The Skylands in Randolph. Music was provided by the incomparable Holiday Express, the all-volunteer band that performs at Matheny every year during the holiday season. The high school students had also collected dresses, blazers and tuxedos to create a prom shop for Matheny prom-goers. And volunteers from Holiday Express visited Matheny during the afternoon of the prom to help with hair styling and other preparations.



LEFT: Adult patient, Ara Shamamian, dancing with Colts Neck High School student, Jennifer Marcucci.



RIGHT: Ruby and Jim Yedloutschnig of Cedar Grove with their 20-year-old daughter, Alicia, a Matheny student.



Adult patient, Mark Riddle, dancing with Rumson-Fair Haven High School student, Michele Leiro.



Teacher, Adrianna Peel, with 17-year-old student, Richard Kelly.



Holiday Express, led by founder, Tim McLoone.

Resourcefulness Pays Off for Matheny's Educator of the Year

Jim Hintenach believes in a creative approach to learning. So, a couple of years ago, he agreed to spend an entire day in a wheelchair in order to motivate his students at the Matheny School to work harder at mathematics.

"The students I had at the time did not really like mathematics," he recalls. "One of them said, 'You don't know how hard it is to be in a wheelchair and then have to do math.' I asked them

math a half hour each day for a week. If I can't complete the day in the wheelchair, then you will have math off for an entire week.'" Hintenach won the bet, acknowledging that, "it was probably one of the hardest things I've ever done in my life. But I gained some added respect from the students, and the math became a little easier throughout the rest of the year."

It is this unorthodox approach that

New Jersey.

Hintenach, who received his BS in elementary education, with a minor in special education, from York College in York, PA, began working at Matheny six years ago as a substitute teacher and then as an activities instructor in adult services. Once he had received his special education certification four years ago, he launched his teaching career in Matheny's transition class.

"My job," he explains, "is to teach and try to provide the best opportunities for my students. We're learning math and responsibility and budgeting. We use technology within the classroom, and we try to find job opportunities for those students who are capable of pursuing them. If we feel a student has the potential, we use the Arc of New Jersey Project HIRE employment placement and training program." Through this route, one of Hintenach's students, 20-year-old sports fan Chris Saglimbene, was hired as a vendor by the Somerset Patriots minor league baseball team.

Hintenach will follow up on creating his schedule and working out the transportation. And, he adds, "we're going to go with the other students to a game and actually see Chris working at the job. Maybe that might stimulate someone else."

The Phillipsburg resident is known around Matheny for his positive approach to his work. Ask Jim Hintenach for something, administrators say, and his response is: "OK, just tell me when you need it."



Hintenach, right, helped 20-year-old Matheny student, Chris Saglimbene, apply for a job as a vendor for the Somerset Patriots.

how I could level the playing field, and their response was that I should have to spend a day in a wheelchair. So, I said: 'Here's the deal. If I can go from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in a wheelchair and continue to do all the things I need to do during the day, you will have to do

has won Hintenach the admiration of, not only his students, but colleagues and administration as well. As a result, he has become a finalist in the annual Educator of the Year competition sponsored by ASAH, the association for the private special education community in

Speech-Language Pathologist Helps Preschool Students Improve their Comprehension Skills

Benemolina is a young cat who decides one day to wear a pot on her head. Because of this, she has trouble understanding her mother and proceeds to get her instructions all mixed up. Benemolina, of course, is a fictional character in the book, "The Cat Who Wore a Pot on Her Head," by Jan Slepian and Dr. Ann Seidler (Scholastic, 1980), but Matheny speech-language pathologist, Christine Mayercik, MS, CCC-SLP, uses the cat's misadventures to help preschool students at the Matheny School work on simple comprehension.

Mayercik reads a line from the story and then asks her students, "What's going on?" Eliciting an answer, however, isn't that simple. For example, with one student, who has low vision, in addition to his primary diagnosis of cerebral palsy,

Mayercik uses a symbol he can feel. For another student who has a hearing



Speech-language pathologist, Christine Mayercik, uses sign language to improve comprehension skills of seven-year-old Gabriella Brancifort.

impairment, she employs sign language.

The comprehension, Mayercik

says, includes "object identification and attending skills - paying attention. And we're exposing them to literature in order to tell them what's going on. The goal, she says, is to help the children accomplish these objectives, "using at least two senses."

Mayercik conducts a preschool group session such as this once a week, but she is in the classroom three times everyday performing speech therapy for individual students. Her role is but one example of Matheny's integrated, collaborative approach to the education of its students. In addition to speech-language pathologists such as Mayercik, occupational, physical, music and recreation therapists go into the classroom regularly and work together with the teachers.



Claire O'Keefe is a "STAR" Volunteer

Claire O'Keefe was selected as a STAR volunteer this year by the United Way of Somerset County. The Bridgewater resident began volunteering at Matheny in August, 2004, working with 3-5-year-olds in the preschool class. "Claire just gets it," says Allison Irland, the preschool teacher. "She picks up on the kids' different needs and adjusts what she's doing to their unique situations. I don't have to explain what a student needs or what to do next. Claire just does it without being asked."

O'Keefe devotes an additional day each week to volunteering in Matheny's adult serv-



ices program. She serves as a mentor, role model and friend to many of Matheny's developmentally disabled adults. The young men and women eagerly await her arrival each Thursday. They will repeatedly say to their instructor, "Claire's coming today, right?" As one young man explains, "I like it when Claire comes. She's cool."

O'Keefe's efforts at Matheny also include assisting with Full Circle, an event showcasing the talents of the disabled artists who participate in the Arts Access Program, and helping to coordinate the Lu Huggins Wheelchair Walk at Miles for Matheny.



Peter Longa Receives Governor's Nursing Merit Award

Peter Longa, RN, has been selected to receive the 2006 Governor's Nursing Merit Award in the Registered Nurse Post Acute Care Category.

The award is given by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Nursing Merit Award Advisory

Committee and was presented to all 2006 Governor's Award recipients at a dinner June 7 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Princeton.

Longa, who was forced by civil war to leave his native country of Sudan in 1991, joined Matheny in the fall of 1994 as a personal care assistant. He was the first Matheny employee to receive a Matheny Nursing Scholarship Award, which enabled him to enroll in the nursing program at Raritan Valley Community College in North Branch. Not only did he graduate with a nursing certificate, but he was awarded the Joanne Nitchecky Sergeant Award for excellence in clinical nursing. This past fall, he entered the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) Graduate School of Nursing where he is

pursuing his master's degree.

He was nominated for the Governor's Award by Linda O'Connell, RN, MS, Matheny director of nursing services, who describes him as "an enthusiastic nursing role model. He has a pleasant and willing attitude toward the patients and staff, and, as a nurse on the evening shift, he mentors new employees and is responsible for the continuity of patient care. His concern for the individual patient," she continues, "is apparent. He willingly assists with patient care, no matter what needs to be done. There is no doubt that whatever nursing endeavor he pursues, Peter will be an extraordinary nurse."

Longa feels Matheny offers, "a special kind of nursing. When you get to know the patients, you begin to see they are no different from us."



Peter Longa, left, with adult patient, Kevin White

Keith Garletts' Realism: Bringing Arts Access Creations to Life

Keith Garletts' specialty is bringing fantasy to life through art. He creates art for video games, and he has worked for the Spiderweb Artgallery, a website that, in its words, "whisks you away to worlds that exist only in your dreams." Originally from West Virginia, Garletts moved to New Jersey to attend the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art in Dover, a school run by a comic book legend who created the fictitious World War II hero, Sergeant Rock.

Three years ago, the Stanhope resident also began working in Matheny's Arts Access Program, which utilizes professional artists to act as facilitators for children and adults with developmental disabilities.



Keith Garletts, right, facilitating for Arts Access artist, T.J. Christian

Garletts points out that his personal art and the art of Matheny's patients have nothing in common. And that's fine with him.

Facilitators simply follow the instructions of the disabled artists through a very detailed series of "yes" and "no" questions such as, "Which paintbrush do you want to use?" "Which color?" "Where do you want to put the first circle?"

Paintings may take months to create, and artists work with several different facilitators over that period of time. But the process is mutually satisfying for both the disabled artist and the facilitator. "While I'm working with them," says Garletts, "you can see that what's happening on the canvas is exactly what they want. The reaction you get from them - that's what I enjoy most about facilitating here."



Chance Encounters

More than 100 people braved inclement weather in late March to attend a Casino Night sponsored by the Long Valley Junior Women's Club to benefit Matheny's recreation therapy program. Held at the Panther Valley Golf & Country Club in Allamuchy, the special evening featured a silent auction in addition to several gaming tables.



variety of activities varying from participation in sports such as Special Olympics and adaptive karate to visits to local shopping centers, restaurants and sporting events. The program encourages development of hobbies, leisure skills, social skills and community awareness skills.

The event raised \$8,000 to help support recreation therapy at Matheny which provides patients with a wide

Matheny's adaptive karate program is provided by teachers and students at Quest Karate in Long Valley. Many of the Quest students are sons and daughters of LVJWC members.



From left, Brian and Victoria Finley, Chip and Christine Cochran and Annie Barron, all of Long Valley



Matheny adult patient, Jessica Evans, who was an official greeter, visits with Denise Fox of Flanders



Long Valley residents, Brian Tanner, his wife, Sera, center, and Michelle Balken



From left, Leo and Lorraine Baron of Gales Ferry, CT, with their son, Bill Baron of Long Valley

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 family of the deceased receives a personal letter acknowledging your gift. The amount is never mentioned. You, as the donor, receive an official receipt for your tax deductible contribution. For

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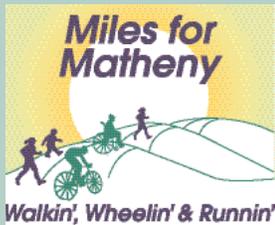
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"The things being achieved by the students and staff at Matheny Medical and Educational Center are truly inspirational. As the sponsor for the cycling segment of Miles for Matheny, Peapack-Gladstone Bank is proud to help the students in a small way."

- Bob Rogers
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"The Hartford has a long tradition of supporting the communities where we live and work. We recognize the value contributed by all members of our local communities, and are pleased to be involved with support for the Matheny Medical and Educational Center."

- Mitch Collins
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Lu Huggins Wheelchair Walk Sponsor



"Neither the light rain nor cool spring weather could dampen the high spirits."

- Barry Smith
Senior Vice President

Public Safety Sponsor

Peter A. Lusk

(in honor of his granddaughters Millicent and Audrey Brady)

"I am thrilled, and very touched emotionally, to see how the local children turn out by the many dozens to push their 'adopted Matheny student' through the one mile oval in the center of town."

- Peter A. Lusk

Celebration Picnic Sponsor



"What makes the Miles for Matheny Celebration Picnic so great – in addition to the awesome food – is it brings people together to celebrate Matheny's residents. We're thrilled to have a role in the event."

- Steve Latus
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Kids Fun Run Sponsor



"The Kids Fun Run is a great opportunity to attract families to participate in Miles for Matheny. Kids helping kids. We are delighted to support such a meaningful event."

- William Kraiss
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Lu Huggins Named Outstanding Philanthropist

Lucile “Lu” Huggins, a trustee emeritus of Matheny and one of the founders of Miles for Matheny, received one of two Outstanding Philanthropist awards presented at the Association of Fundraising Professionals-New Jersey Chapter annual awards dinner, held April 24 at the Crystal Plaza in Livingston. Active at Matheny since the 1970s, Huggins has been a volunteer, trustee for more than 20 years, generous annual donor and a significant supporter of two major capital campaigns. She has always been a champion for integrating Matheny’s patients into the community, and nowhere has that objective been better met than by her “brainchild,” Miles for Matheny, which she helped found eight years ago with former Peapack

resident, Tim Fraser, and Steve French of Far Hills.

The Basking Ridge resident has often commented that she, “never thought it [Miles for Matheny] would grow as large as it has.” And, “what is really great,” she often says, is the picnic because, “the kids get to mingle with other people,” a goal she has had since those early days more than 30 years ago when she and her husband, Bob, would host semiannual parties for some of the Matheny patients. She was concerned that the patients “had no idea what life was like in the real world. No one in the community ever saw them.” Huggins’ accomplishments are all the more extraordinary in light of her own progressive illness that requires her to depend on a wheelchair and significantly impairs her vision and speech.



(Above) Lu, celebrating at Miles for Matheny 2006



(Left) Lu receiving her AFP award, surrounded by, from left: Steve Proctor, Matheny president; Louise Kenny, development associate; and Fay Mackey, director of development.



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