

Matheny Matters

Spring/Summer 2009 • www.matheny.org • 908-234-0011

Miles for Matheny

Title Sponsor: **sanofi aventis** (Because health matters)

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The goal of Miles for Matheny, Matheny's annual fundraiser and community event, has always been to forge a special relationship between Matheny's patients and students and the community. That community spirit was never greater than this year as more than 2,000 people – cyclists, runners, wheelchair participants, walkers, well-wishers and volunteers converged on downtown Peapack to support Matheny and its mission of providing exceptional medical care, education and a better quality of life for children and adults with medically complex developmental disabilities.



Photo by Tizazu Alamreew

Above: Bernards High students led off the 5K.



Matheny student, James Wild, with, from left: Friends of Matheny president Pam Cembrook, her daughters Jacqueline and Samantha, Clay Schuler, James' sister, Renee, David Burnett, Charlotte McCoy and James' mother, Cathy.



WCBS-TV news anchor, Don Dahler, in the Lu Huggins Wheelchair Walk, with his wife, Katie, daughter Callie, and son, Jack.

(More on Miles for Matheny, pages 2, 7, 10-12)



Wheelchair Walk founder Lu Huggins being pushed by Harrison Lynch and accompanied by Alan Greener, left, and her brother Leon Martel.

Miles of Community Spirit

Miles for Matheny netted \$140,000 from sponsorships, fees for registration and pledges, money that will help support the Matheny Center of Medicine and Dentistry, which provides specialized medical, dental and therapy care to Matheny's residents and people with disabilities in the community. The title sponsor for the fourth consecutive year was sanofi-aventis, one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies, with U.S. headquarters in Bridgewater. 

(More on Miles for Matheny sponsors, pages 10-11)



Peapack-Gladstone Bank's David Bakker, preparing to cycle 50 miles.



Adult patient, Gerald Tavares, with volunteer, Shannon Holt, and the New Jersey Devils mascot.



Porzio, Bromberg & Newman's Tuyett Dorr with her son, Jack, following the kids fun run.



Chipotle Mexican Grill dished out tacos at the picnic.



WCBS Newsradio 880's Wayne Cabot.

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Sanofi-aventis volunteers, from left: Molly and Amy DuPuis, Vanessa Vito, Lisa Fritschie and Morgan and Howard Hessel.



Volunteer Jackie Haut with adult patient, Rasheedah Mahali, and Somerset Patriots mascot, Sparkee.

'He's Doing Things We Didn't Know He Could Understand'

Five-year-old Aidan McNamara has been a day student at the Matheny School since September 2008, and, according to his mother, Dorothy McNamara, "he is doing some things we never thought we would see him do. He's recognizing letters and colors – things we didn't know he could understand."

When Aidan was only five weeks old, he had a choking incident, and since he was also having trouble with feeding, his parents decided to have a genetic evaluation done. The initial diagnosis was Prader-Willie syndrome, a rare genetic disorder characterized in infancy by low muscle tone, weak cry and a poor sucking reflex. However, later retesting revealed that Aidan had a different rare disorder, Angelman syndrome, which causes developmental delays and neurological problems.

"He really seems happy."

At Matheny, the teachers work with Aidan on making choices in addition to learning letters and colors. "We use a program called 'handwriting without tears'," says his teacher, Christine Cupo. "We started with a couple of letters, S and P, and he was able to pretty consistently identify those letters on demand." Aidan, she points out, has become "more visually attending, turning his head when we call his name. And he's more receptive to hand over hand to help him with letters."

While his teacher and speech-language pathologists work on these

cognitive skills, physical therapists are working to make him more independent physically. Aidan uses a walker, and the primary goal, explains JoAnna Skripak, DPT, is to "increase his endurance so that he can learn how he can utilize the walker independently, particularly in activities with his family. If he becomes more independent," Skripak says, "his parents won't have to carry him or put him in a wheelchair at home or in the community."

"The communications at Matheny," says Dorothy McNamara, a resident of Frenchtown, "have really been good with the teachers and with the therapists. Aidan is more interactive. He really seems happy."

Physical therapist JoAnna Skripak checks out Aidan's walker before his mother, Dorothy McNamara, takes him for a stroll.



Aidan practices stirring under the watchful eyes of his teacher, Christine Cupo, center, and speech-language pathologist, Christine Mayercik.

Bedwell, Millington Students Compete In Adapted Sports with Matheny



8-year-old Bedwell student, Kathryn Haas of Peapack, navigated a power wheelchair through an obstacle course.

Matheny brought its adapted physical education program to third graders at the Bedwell Elementary School, located in Bernardsville and fourth graders at the Millington School in Long Hill Township.

During the visits, Matheny students demonstrated adapted sports such as soccer, bowling, hockey and baseball. There were also power and manual wheelchair races. Goal of the program is

to promote interaction between both groups of students and enable them to compete as peers.

“Activities like this bring out the best in our kids,” said Phil Wilkinson, a phys ed instructor at Bedwell. “It opens their eyes. There was an initial period of apprehension, but that lasted a very short period of time.” Added Joseph Ciulla, assistant principal: “Matheny is a special place. We hope to build upon the relationship our schools have established.”



9-year-old Millington student, Elizabeth Ant of Gillette, raced in a manual wheelchair, assisted by a friendly push from 11-year-old Matheny student, Daeon Troutman.

According to Jennifer Dawson, principal of the Millington School, “Our students spoke about their experience for most of the day. I enjoyed watching the transformation from apprehension to total inclusion.”

After the Matheny students had left, Millington fourth graders wrote letters about the experience. “Today was one of my favorite gym classes,” wrote Elizabeth Ant. “I found out that riding in a wheelchair is not as easy as it looks. I hope my class and I can do it again!”



9-year-old Bedwell student, Jordan McGinley of Bernardsville, enjoyed adapted soccer.



9-year-old Zachary Londono of Stirling tested his skill in adapted hockey.

Dawson pointed out that all of the Millington students, “had so much fun learning new games and making new friends. I enjoyed watching the interaction and know that our students truly benefited from such a wonderful experience.” 

Matheny Students Receive ‘Hoops For Heart’ Assist from Mo-Beard Basketball Players

This past February, several of Morristown-Beard’s middle school basketball players helped Matheny School students hone their basketball skills as part of various activities that raised more than \$1,000 for the American Heart Association. The basketball activity was part of Hoops For Heart, designed by the AHA as a way to bring students together for a good cause. Matheny students also participated in Jump Rope For Heart. Both activities are part of Matheny’s adapted physical education program.

On the same day, all Matheny employees were encouraged to wear red and donate \$5 in order to help the AHA raise women’s awareness about cardiovascular disease and empower women to reduce their risks.

Under the direction of Morristown-Beard science teacher, William Lamson, the MBS Volunteer Program has been bringing student volunteers to the Matheny campus steadily every Monday afternoon for the past eight years. Participation in Hoops for Hearts was organized by John Sheppard, the Morristown-Beard middle school athletic director, and coordinated with Sean Bielefeldt, Matheny director of recreation therapy, and Jim Hintenach, Matheny adapted physical education instructor. More information about AHA fundraising programs can be obtained by logging onto the following websites:

www.americanheart.org,
www.aahperd.org/jointprojects.html
 and www.goredforwomen.org.



AHA representative, Lori Bertoline, 2nd from right, thanked Matheny students and staff for their efforts. From left: Sheryl Gavaras, Matheny School principal; Sean Bielefeldt; 16-year-old student, Catherine Aragona; Elizabeth Andolino, manager of the Center of Medicine and Dentistry and AHA liaison; 15-year-old student, James Wild; Bertoline; and Jim Hintenach. Aragona and Wild raised the most money among Matheny students.



17-year-old Matheny student, Yasin Reddick, scored, to the delight of his teacher, Collette Duprex, and MBS students Micaela Reilly of Morristown and Nicolas Saldivar of West Orange.



MBS student, Gina Finelli of Whippany, helped 16-year-old Matheny student, Mason Walsh, get ready to shoot.

Swing Shift

Students and patients at Matheny recently enjoyed a special jazz concert performed by a William Paterson University 'concept' quintet, focusing on the music and the musical concepts of the two-tenor sax ensemble once led by Al Cohn and Zoot Sims. The Jazz Studies Program at WPU in Wayne, NJ, is one of the few jazz programs throughout the country with emphasis on small group playing, improvisation and a commitment to the jazz tradition. 



The student musicians, from left, were: drummer Dan Traglia, Rockaway, NJ; tenor saxophonist Nathan Giroux, Burnt Hills, NY; tenor saxophonist Alex Chilowicz, Wayne, NJ; bassist Leo Sherman, Columbia, MD; and pianist Jordan Piper, Bellingham, WA. Among the Matheny students and patients most inspired by the concert were, from left, 17-year-old Bianca Mathis, six-year-old Ari Golub and adult Dion Alston.

Matheny Provides Special Training to UMDNJ Physical Therapy Students

Several University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) physical therapy students recently completed a PT rotation session at Matheny. While experiencing what it is like to sit in a wheelchair, Robert Anderson III discussed seating and mobility issues with John Reck, Matheny director of assistive technology. Matheny, a teaching hospital for students at UMDNJ, recognizes the need to ensure that future healthcare professionals understand how to care for and treat persons with disabilities. As a result, Matheny has established internship and training programs with close to 100 colleges and universities.



Matheny has training programs with close to 100 colleges and universities.

Matheny's seating and mobility clinic is a highly professional service. The clinic strives to meet the needs of each patient by developing the perfect match of assistive technology services and products to provide individuals with their highest level of health, function and quality of life.

SCREEN SAVERS



Matheny President on CBS 2 Saturday Morning News

WCBS-TV news anchor **Mary Calvi**, asked Steve Proctor, Matheny president, what Miles for Matheny means to Matheny patients. His answer: "It means they're getting into the community and seeing neighbors and people they could not normally see." As for the Lu Huggins Wheelchair Walk: "Lu Huggins understands the need for the community to reach out to our people and for our people to be part of the community."



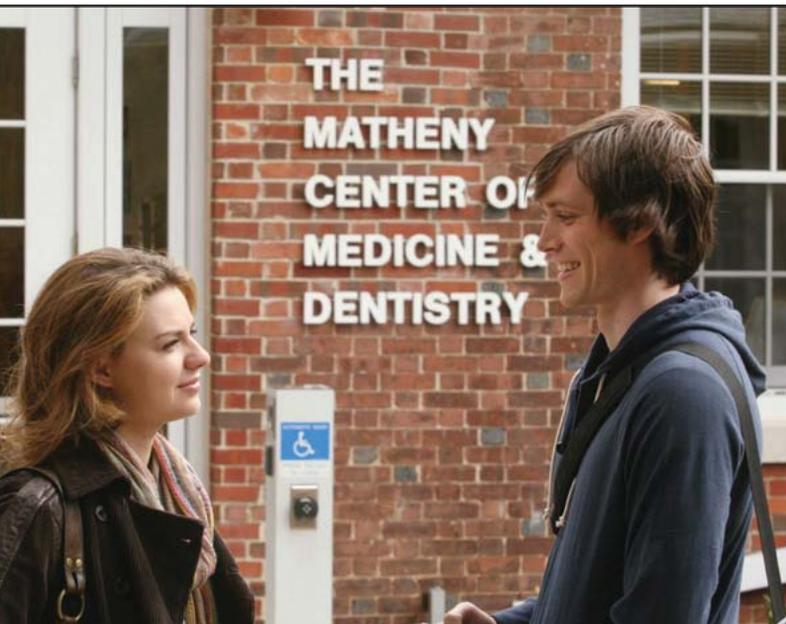
Matheny Mom on 'Eye on New York'

"What sets Matheny apart from other facilities for the disabled?"

That question was posed to Debbie O'Connor, mother of Matheny student, Ryan O'Connor, by WCBS-TV news anchor Don Dahler on 'Eye on New York', which aired Sunday morning, April 19. "Every person involved there chooses everyday to be part of our children's lives," O'Connor said. "They teach them, they love them, they care for them. These children thrive because of the remarkable people at this school."

Photographer/editor, John Capirotti, left, and correspondent/producer/writer John Bathke

accepted a 2009 New York Emmy Award for "On the Scene: The Art of Possibility", a feature on News 12 New Jersey, describing Matheny's Arts Access Program. The feature focused on Arts Access artist, Ellen Kane, and facilitator, Scott Beil.



'Guiding Light' shoots episode at Matheny

The CBS daytime drama, "**The Guiding Light**" shot a segment at Matheny on Friday, February 27. Actress Bonnie Dennison (Daisy) and Zack Conroy (James) portrayed prep school students in the episode, which aired on April 8. "**The Guiding Light**" regularly shoots on location in Peapack-Gladstone.



'Art of Possibility' wins New York Emmy Award

Philanthropy Notes

Dear Friends,

What a marvelous day we all had on Sunday, April 19th at our annual event, Miles for Matheny. After months of preparation, and with the assistance of sunny skies, the event went off smoothly and was enjoyed by a record number of event registrants. There were smiling faces everywhere but the biggest smiles of all came from Matheny's residents and students who truly enjoyed the excitement, entertainment and camaraderie that make Miles for Matheny a truly special event.



Kudos go to all the members of our event committee who donate their time and talent to ensure Miles is an enjoyable, safe and successful event for all participants. Their dedication to this event is unparalleled and

is one of the reasons why Miles for Matheny continues to grow in popularity.

Then there are our wonderful event sponsors who go beyond just providing monetary support but also stand behind the event by encouraging employee participation. Our title sponsor sanofi-aventis, and our other major sponsors such as Pfizer, Peapack-Gladstone Bank, Porzio, Bromberg & Newman, Affinity Federal Credit Union, Fiji Water, and WCBS-TV Channel 2 and WCBS Newsradio 880 are all exemplary models of corporate community involvement.

In addition, recognition is due all the corporations and businesses that provided delicious food and beverages for our Post-event Celebration this year such as Chipotle Mexican Grill, Olive Garden, Friendly's and Dewy Meadow Foods among many others.

And lastly but not least in importance, a very special thank you to all the Matheny families and staff, event volunteers, the members of the Friends of Matheny, schools, civic organizations, the local business community, the Town of Peapack-Gladstone, event participants and individual donors who supported the event. This year, all of you together with our major corporate sponsors, provided Matheny's Center of Medicine and Dentistry with approximately \$140,000 to continue providing children and adults with development disabilities access to much needed medical and dental care.

In closing, I feel the words of Mother Teresa of Calcutta best describe my own feelings about what took place at Miles this year. Mother Teresa said, "What I do, you cannot do; but what you do, I cannot do. The needs are great, and none of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful." This past April 19th there were approximately 2,000 people doing small things with great love and together that resulted in a wonderful day for our special children and adults.

With sincere gratitude,



Robert B. Budelman, III
Director of Philanthropy

Matheny Golf & Tennis Classic: 09.29.09

Please be sure to join us this coming September 29th for a wonderful day of golf or tennis at the renowned Somerset Hills Country Club to benefit the Matheny Center of Medicine and Dentistry. This ninth annual event has become a "can't miss" event. Last year Matheny was honored to have the participation of stars from the television show Guiding Light, retired NJ Devil Scott Stevens, NY Jets placekicker Jay Feely, numerous retired pro football greats, and legendary high school basketball coach Bob Hurley. So come out and enjoy Somerset Hills Country Club's top ranked golf course or unique grass tennis courts and support Matheny's special children and adults.

For more information about this year's event or to be placed on our Golf & Tennis Classic mailing list, please contact Patricia Cats at (908) 234-0011, ext. 260 or pcats@matheny.org.



From left, retired NJ Devil Scott Stevens; Matheny student, Shane Szott; and golfer Fred Frisco of Hillsborough.

Ways to Give

CHECKS

Please make checks payable to Matheny Medical and Educational Center and mail to:
Matheny Medical and Educational Center
P.O. Box 339
Peapack, NJ 07977

For your convenience, a self-addressed envelope has been provided in this newsletter.

CREDIT CARD

Please see the enclosed envelope or call (908) 234-0011 ext. 260 to use your credit card to make a gift. We accept Amex, Mastercard and Visa.

APPRECIATED SECURITIES

Gifts such as stocks or bonds may offer substantial tax advantages.

BEQUESTS

By remembering Matheny Medical and Educational Center in your will, you can significantly impact the lives of Matheny's patients, students and families.

LIFE INSURANCE & RETIREMENT PLANS

You may choose to remember Matheny Medical and Educational Center by naming the organization as the beneficiary of your Retirement Plan or Insurance Policy.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

Gifts to Matheny Medical and Educational Center provide a wonderful opportunity to honor the memory of a family member, friend or colleague, or to recognize an individual or a life occasion.

MATCHING GIFTS

Your company may have a matching gifts program. Matching gifts can double or even triple your contribution. Please contact your company's Human Resources Department to see if you are eligible.

CORPORATE GIVING

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

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 more information, call Robert B. Budelman, III at 908-234-0011, ext. 744.

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Miles for Matheny 2009

Walking', Wheelin', Runnin'



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Thank you to everyone for your hard work in securing donations.
Our top 6 fundraisers for Miles 2009 are:

The Bedwell Friends
Cranford Bike Team/CTS
Team Desatnick

Morristown Beard School
O'Connor Clan
Team Travers

We hope to see you again next year for **Miles for Matheny 2010!**

Upcoming Events!

Matheny Golf & Tennis Classic

Tuesday, September 29th • Somerset Hills Country Club, Bernardsville, NJ

Full Circle 2009: Voice and Vision

Saturday, November 14th • Robert Schonhorn Art Center



Matheny *Matters*

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Bedwell Friends



Joseph Ciulla with his son, Vincent, right, and friend, Owen Doran.



Bedwell teachers, from left: Jen Tack, Emma Davis, Dawn King, Jamie Reeves and Darcey Brooten.

Teachers and administrators from the Bedwell Elementary School in Bernardsville formed a team, Bedwell Friends, ran in the 5K at Miles for Matheny and raised nearly \$1,200. “I am so proud of the Bedwell teachers, students, parents and community members, who are joining us in this worthwhile event,” said Joseph Ciulla, assistant principal. “Miles for Matheny is a great day of brotherhood spirit.”