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**Fall 2009 Bulletin**

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## Bowl-A-Thon Fun in Orange County

More than 70 bowlers joined us Saturday night, October 10<sup>th</sup> for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Orange County Bowl-A-Thon for Epilepsy held at Colonial Lanes in Chester, New York. The “fun-raiser”, now in its second year, was a memorial event in honor of Chester Village Clerk, Rebecca Rivera’s daughter, Kirstylee Maria Rivera. A Gran Mal seizure ended Kirstylee’s life in Spring of 2007. But Rebecca and her family turned their grief into a motivating force, helping to organize and promote this event which in turn increases public awareness of epilepsy and our agency and services.

Promoted by the Figueroa-Rivera family and attended and endorsed by Village of Chester Mayor, Phil Valastro, Orange County Sheriff, Carl DuBois, and many other prominent business members of Chester, community support was strong. Pizza, soft drinks and comradery abounded for consumers and supporters alike, while raffles, prizes and friendly competition added to the dynamics of the evening.

Many thanks to everyone who participated, especially the Figueroa-Rivera family, for sharing their memories of Kirstylee with us all.

Stay tuned for details of our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Rockland County Bowl-A-Thon in the spring!



## New Job Club gets off to a great start

Started back in April by our Vocational Department, our **Job Club** meets every other Wednesday to assist our consumers with finding employment.

Joann M. is one such job candidate. She recently attended a meeting where Sr. Employment Specialists Myrna Genauer, and Herb Freeland provided one-on-one, as well as collaborative guidance and support. The meeting’s agenda covered such subjects as being prepared to answer interview questions, what to expect on a second interview, and creating resumes and cover letters.

The pair also worked on helping Joann set goals. Joann explained that she has secretarial skills and experience in medical and legal offices. She currently helps out with a family construction business, but Joann’s goal is to obtain outside employment in a role where she can help disabled persons.

If you would like to participate, call 845-627-0627 ext 150.



## Thomas Clifford Martial Arts Adds Muscle To Our Fundraising Efforts!

Our friends at **Thomas Clifford's Martial Arts** spent the month of September at the Palisades Center in Nyack raising funds for our agency. Each donation bought a "spin" on a "prize wheel" which rewarded the donor with free trials and discounts to the martial arts studio. We thank Scott and Irene for their creativity on this one.

# Spotlight on our Education Dept.

For the last three years, Community Educator, Susanne Finn, has been running our **Education Department** and keeping the **Janice W. Gay Library** stocked with plenty of multi-media resources on epilepsy, seizure disorders and disability services.

Susanne's outreach includes participating in a host of health fairs, business fairs and job fairs on a regular basis and attending events like one recently on autism awareness (as seizure is not an uncommon occurrence in autism sufferers). Additionally, Susanne teaches about epilepsy and hosts a support group monthly, at the Palisades Center Mall in West Nyack, for adults and parents of children with epilepsy. Participants are encouraged to share their experiences.

In fact, education at schools is a regular part of Susanne's repertoire. She provides training to staff, teachers, teacher's aids, bus drivers, school nurses and even the PTA. Besides training on epilepsy and first aid for seizures, she also teaches disability etiquette, rights according to the ADA, and other topics.

Susanne is quite creative in her approach to these training sessions. Brian and Joann, a set of large marionette puppets, deliver her important message in a fun and entertaining format. The Kids on the Block™, as they are known, take an interactive approach to teaching children about seizures, about understanding differences, and about being a good friend.

Suzanne is always looking to extend her outreach to the community. If you are interested in volunteering, or would like more information about any of the groups and education offered, please contact Susanne Finn directly at [sfynn@essny.com](mailto:sfynn@essny.com) or (845) 627-0627 ext. 148.

# Fall Festival!

Our **Fall Festival** was held on Saturday, September 26th. And like the baskets of McIntosh apples adorning each table, the day was perfectly bright and crisp. About 50 in all - consumers, family and staff - came to join in our festivities which included face-painting, volleyball, badminton, and karaoke among others.

In addition to the standard barbeque fare was a veritable banquet of dishes. Herb-roasted potatoes and fall-off-the-bone-tender marinated chicken were among the highlights. Cookies and an ice cream bar complete with all the fixings competed with the draw of mass acts of line-dancing which spontaneously erupted to such favorites as YMCA and the Electric Slide. It was hard to tell who enjoyed the festivities more – consumers or staff.

Our grateful thanks to the McCarthy Family for making this celebration possible. We know that Chris was smiling down on our day.



## Rockland Adult Support Group

continues at the Palisades Center the third Monday of each month from 7:00 - 9:00 PM in the Community Rooms. This central Nyack location is easily accessible via public transportation.

Contact [education3@essny.com](mailto:education3@essny.com) for more information.

## CPI Structured Day Program for TBI Waiver Participants Activity Schedule – November 2009

Our Structured Day Program promotes community and social interaction of our participants. See what they will be doing this month!

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2 Group Activities: Group Uno Nintendo Wii  Community Trip to Palisades Mall: Movie Day – "This is It!"	3	4 Individual Sessions: -Literacy -Computer Skills  Group Planning session for rest of November	5	6 Current Events and Discussion: -Newspaper Individual Session: -Team Meeting Group Activity: Planning session for 11/13	7
8	9 Group Activities: Group Uno Nintendo Wii  Community Trip: Farmers Market in Nanuet	10	11 <b>SDP CLOSED:</b> <b>VETERANS DAY</b> 	12	13 Current Events and Discussion: -Newspaper  Group Activities: -Sign Language -Pool Game Planning Session for December	14
15	16 Menu Planning and Cooking: Learn to bake Pies!  -Blueberry Pie -Cherry Pie -Apple Pie -Peach Pie	17	18 Group activities with Melissa from Neurobehavioral Research Project: Effective communication in a group setting	19	20 <b>SDP CLOSED</b>	21
22	23 Menu Planning and Cooking: Cooking with Myrna Learn to cook Chicken Soup from Scratch Individual Sessions: -Computer Skills and Training	24	25 Current Events and Discussion: -Newspaper  Group Activity: Planning Session for December -Group Uno -Nintendo Wii	26	27 <b>SDP CLOSED:</b> <b>THANKSGIVING</b> 	28
29	30 Group Activities: Group Uno Nintendo Wii  Group Activity: Planning Session for December					

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