



BAYLEY'S BULLETIN

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

The News Magazine of the St. Elizabeth Seton Children's Foundation



John A. Coleman School

Elizabeth Seton PEDIATRIC CENTER



Children's Rehabilitation Center

Providing over 5,000 children with the critical medical, educational and therapeutic services they need across our Continuum of Care



St. Elizabeth Seton Legacy Award recipient Shannon O'Neill Gallagher (right) with her father and Foundation Board Member Richard O'Neill, CEO Pat Tursi (left) and Sandra Arena.

SPRING LUNCHEON BENEFITS THE FOUNDATION

The St. Elizabeth Seton Children's Foundation hosted its second Cherish the Child Event, "Let's Do Lunch!" on May 5th at the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, raising more than \$60,000 in support of the children who receive services across our Continuum of Care at the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, John A. Coleman School and Children's Rehabilitation Center.

The event was sold-out and attended by more than 160 guests. The day began with a tour of our Yonkers home, which includes the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center and the Yonkers campus of the John A. Coleman School. Attendees had the opportunity to meet our medically complex children and employees of the Pediatric Center and learn why the care we provide at

our pediatric long-term care facility is unparalleled.

After reconvening for the start of the program, MaryLou Pagano, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, began by thanking all those who made the day possible, including chef Raffaele Ronca of Rafele Ristorante in New York City, a dear friend of the Foundation, who catered the luncheon. Raffaele recently won on Food Network's hit show, "Chopped," in January and donated his \$10,000 winnings to the Foundation. On the menu was seafood salad, cavolfiore, rollatini, polpettine, braised meat lasagna with béchamel pesto, ravioli with butter and spinach and the chef's famous cheesecake bites, perfectly prepared by the chef himself and his team and served by Christa

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

PRINCESS FOR A DAY

"I want to go to Disney!"

This wish is expressed by countless children throughout the world each and every day. It is also shared by 10-year-old Chelsea Lopez, a resident of the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center.

Chelsea had the opportunity to experience a taste of Disney when she attended "Disney Live! Mickey & Minnie's Doorway to Magic" on April 9th at the Westchester County Center in White Plains, along with three of her caregivers: Natalie Feil, a nurse, Sevdiana Dzaferovic, a respiratory therapist and Diana Rotundo, a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Take a Peek:

Greenburgh PBA
PAGE 2

Pool Renovations
PAGE 7

Guatemala Mission
PAGE 6

LETTER FROM PAT TURSI

Dear Friends,

Spring is a time of renewal and summer is a time of growth. We are revitalized by these seasons as we reflect on what's taken place since we heralded in 2016 and what this year promises for those entrusted to our care at the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, the John A. Coleman School and the Children's Rehabilitation Center.

And this year promises to be a transformative one.

In this issue of *Bayley's Bulletin*, you'll learn about how we're working to make a difference at home ("Therapeutic Aquatic Center Reopens" and "Princess for a Day") and abroad ("Pediatric Center Nurses Serve in Guatemala") and who's helping us make this difference ("Spotlight on Mariel Maffetone" and "We ❤️ Nurses!").

As you know, we rely heavily on the support and generosity of those in the community who have a special place in their hearts for our medically complex children and who are committed to helping us better their lives ("Spring Luncheon Benefits the Foundation" and "Greenburgh PBA Lends Support to Students"). This dedication and tenderness is inspiring, which is why you, my friends, are part of this exciting time, as well.

I hope you enjoy the stories this issue and I thank you for your continued support of our efforts.

Sincerely,



Pat Tursi

CEO of the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center



Pat Tursi (right) with Shannon O'Neill Gallagher.

Bayley's Bulletin gives the St. Elizabeth Seton Children's Foundation the opportunity to communicate news and events from across the organizations that comprise our Continuum of Care – the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, the John A. Coleman School and the Children's Rehabilitation Center.

If you know someone who would like to be on our mailing list, or if you have ideas for future issues, please let us know.

Contact Sarra Young at (914) 226-3004 or SYoung@setonchildrensfoundation.org.

EDITOR

Sarra Young,

St. Elizabeth Seton Children's Foundation

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Karen Moya,

Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Sarra Young,

St. Elizabeth Seton Children's Foundation

Chris Marksbury,

CM Photos

Elena Miranda,

Sisters of Charity of New York

Anthony Mairo,

Healthcare News

Danielle Veli,

Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center

Melissa Minutaglio,

Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center

Articles without attribution are written by the editor.

© 2016 St. Elizabeth Seton Children's Foundation

Articles or material may be reproduced with permission only.

The organizations within our Continuum of Care are sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of New York.

GREENBURGH PBA LENDS SUPPORT TO STUDENTS

On February 26th, the John A. Coleman School in White Plains hosted a day of appreciation for the Greenburgh Police Benevolent Association (PBA) who generously donated state-of-the-art sensory tables and art easels for each of the

12 classrooms in the school for the benefit of all 145 children served by the Coleman School.

The sensory tables and art easels were on display during this very special day, alongside baked

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



John A. Coleman School

Elizabeth Seton 
PEDIATRIC CENTER

Children's 
Rehabilitation Center

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

goods, courtesy of the Coleman School staff, and thank-you cards crafted by the students.

“The members of the Greenburgh PBA always ask the question, ‘How can we help?’” said Brian Harrington, Senior Vice President of Institutional Advancement. “For just about 30 years now, the Greenburgh PBA has been helping the John A. Coleman School in various ways, whether it’s bringing their annual circus to our students, supporting our annual Fall Festival or funding generous gifts such as iPads or integral pieces of equipment like these sensory tables and art easels,” Brian said.

According to Jennifer Geskie, Assistant Principal of the John A. Coleman School in White Plains, these gifts are great assets to the students’ educational and social growth and development. “These pieces of equipment give our young children with disabilities the opportunity to learn by exploring materials that promote an understanding of science, math and language and vocabulary concepts,” Jennifer said. “They also allow our students to express themselves through art and build their confidence through play,” she added.

For more pictures from our day of appreciation for the Greenburgh PBA, please visit facebook.com/jacschool.



Aaron, a student at the Coleman School, proudly sports his Greenburgh PBA T-shirt.

SPRING LUNCHEON BENEFITS THE FOUNDATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tomasulo-Maldonado and her staff from enVious Events, LLC.

After lunch, Pat Tursi, CEO of the Pediatric Center, presented Shannon O’Neill Gallagher, Esq., with the St. Elizabeth Seton Legacy Award, which is given annually to honor a person or a community organization

that has made a significant contribution to the Foundation’s Continuum of Care through his or her time, actions, talent and dedication. Shannon graciously accepted the award and shared her passion for the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center and its devotion to those she called “God’s most fragile beings.” “The heroic is the everyday here,” she said. Shannon described a music therapy session

that she observed while visiting the Pediatric Center. “There was a young boy who was lying on an acoustical bed. He was being cradled by one of the therapists on his upper body and another therapist was strumming, ever so gently, with a paddle on the side of the bed,” she said. “Both of these women were tuned into every physical and verbal cue of this child, literally nurturing his dignity

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



From left to right: Diane Kenney, Kim Nicastrì, Erin Gilligan, Lisa Sanchez and Colleen Cleary.

We Nurses!

The nurses across the St. Elizabeth Seton Children's Foundation's Continuum of Care work tirelessly to deliver exceptional care that is tender and dignified.

We are thrilled to highlight four individuals who have recently been recognized for their excellence in nursing care.



Bijo Thomas, R.N.

On May 11th, during National Nurses Week 2016, Bijo Thomas, R.N., received the third annual St. Elizabeth Seton Children's Foundation Nursing Mission Award in Honor of Sr. Miriam Kevin Phillips, S.C., during a ceremony held at the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center.

This award is given annually to an R.N. or L.P.N. who embodies the mission of St. Elizabeth Seton through the commitment and service he or she provides to the residents of the Pediatric Center and their families.

Bijo has worked as a nurse at the Pediatric Center since July 2013. "I cannot think of another person who is more deserving of a nursing excellence award because, simply put, Bijo is not only an exemplary employee, but he is the nurse you want to take care of your own child," said Aileen Gallivan, a nurse manager at the Pediatric Center.

"This award shines a spotlight on the meaningful work that our nurses are doing here at the Pediatric Center," said Lisa Poskanzer, the Pediatric Center's Vice President of Operations. "I commend Bijo as this year's honoree. It is clear that his expertise, professionalism and compassion are making a profound difference in the lives of the children and the families we serve and we are thankful for his talents," said Lisa.

Rosa Sutera, R.N. and Yael Francois-Cadichon, R.N.

Both Rosa Sutera, R.N., a nurse at the Yonkers campus of the John A. Coleman School and Yael Francois-Cadichon, R.N., a nurse at the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, were recently selected as recipients of the 2016 East Yonkers Kiwanis Club Nurse Recognition Award. This award is given yearly to nurses who demonstrate exceptional clinical knowledge and skills, take an active role in professional development, seek opportunities to learn new skills, deliver excellent care and interact with children, families and co-workers with respect, compassion and friendliness.



Virginia Kelty with Hamid, a resident of the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center.

Virginia Kelty, L.P.N.

Virginia Kelty, L.P.N., was recently selected as a LeadingAge New York 2016 Employee of Distinction, making her the seventh employee from the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center to receive this honor.

Virginia has worked at the Pediatric Center since 1979 – long before it existed in its present capacity and back when it was known as the New York Foundling Hospital's Health Related Facility. Her commitment to providing expert care that is delivered with love is known by our families and her peers. "Virginia understands the unique personality traits and medical needs of each child," said Gordon Hutcheon, M.D., the Pediatric Center's Chief Medical Officer. "She is dedicated and tireless and she is an inspiration to all of us," he added.

"It's clear that Virginia's devotion extends well beyond the work day," said Lisa. "Virginia will also often visit with our residents during their acute care hospital stays to bring them the joy of a familiar face and make certain that they are being cared for to the same standards to which she holds herself," she said. "Our children are always foremost on her mind."

PRINCESS FOR A DAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to Diana, the rainy and dreary weather the day of the show did not put a damper on Chelsea's excitement. "Nothing was going to dull this afternoon for her. When she came out of her room, she looked so beautiful dressed up as Princess Jasmine. She even had on some make-up! She just kept shouting, 'I'm going to Disney!'"

Chelsea was completely engulfed in the show and its characters. "She couldn't take her eyes off the stage!" Diana laughed. During the show's intermission, Chelsea received a very special surprise from a father and his daughter, who were also in the audience. "They walked over to us and handed Chelsea a princess crown they

bought for her. She was so thankful and she didn't let it out of her hands for the rest of the show," Diana said. "It was a beautiful moment and it was incredible to see such compassion and tenderness from total strangers."

"The children we care for have so many limitations because of their medical complexities, but outings like this should never be one of them," Diana said. "I think it's just as important for our residents to be in the community, as it is for members of the community to meet our children. It was a truly special experience for Chelsea, for us as her caregivers and, genuinely, for everyone who was lucky enough to meet her."

SPOTLIGHT ON MARIEL MAFFETONE

For Mariel Maffetone, a Child Life Specialist at the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, caring for children with complex medical diagnoses and supporting families through their child's arduous medical journey hits very close to home. That's because Mariel knows firsthand the pain, fear and strife that chronic illness can inflict.

Mariel was diagnosed with stage IIE Hodgkin lymphoma when she was a 9-year-old girl. She was cared for at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset for seven months before she was considered to be in remission. "I remember constantly being in and out of the hospital. I was receiving chemotherapy and undergoing surgeries. I experienced hair loss, frailty, neuropathy, insomnia and so much more," she recalled. "My perspective totally changed. I had to be brave and do things that I didn't want to do, which was scary for both me and my family."

To help cope, Mariel relied on the humor and fun times she experienced with her caregivers. "Once, when I was too weak to walk, one of the physicians pushed me down the hallway on my IV pole," she laughed. "In that moment, I felt like a kid again. It is so important for children – no matter how sick they are – to feel like children and that's always in the

forefront of my mind as a Child Life Specialist."

Mariel was inspired to enter into the Child Life profession after her mother attended a fundraiser for the Cancer Center for Kids at Winthrop-University Hospital. "She came home and told me about this job that was all about helping kids in need in a medical setting, using play and showing them that they can be strong," Mariel said. "I was given a second chance at life and I knew then that I needed to do something that was purposeful."

With a bachelor's degree in public relations from Hofstra University already under her belt, Mariel completed her Master of Science in Child Life from Bank Street College of Education in May 2011. During her time at Bank Street, she interned at the Pediatric Center. She accepted a permanent position in August 2011. "Even on



Mariel Maffetone with Anna, a resident of the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center.

my first day here, I knew this was a special place. These children, because they are so medically comprised, need the highest degree of advocacy," she said.

"I believe that the adversity I've faced, combined with my education and professional experiences, allow me to empathize with the children and families we serve here in a unique way," Mariel said. "If I can make a resident smile, help his or her sibling cope better or provide a voice for mom or dad, then I know I've made an important difference."



PEDIATRIC CENTER NURSES SERVE IN GUATEMALA

Most of us opt to hunker down in the wintertime – to cozy up at home and daydream about warmer days. For Melissa Minutaglio and Danielle Veli, two inspiring nurses who work at the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, hot cocoa and snow angels were trumped by their desire to make a real difference ... in Guatemala.

“I really jumped at the chance to travel to Guatemala,” said Melissa, an assistant nurse manager. “This is the fourth country I’ve been fortunate enough to volunteer in as a nurse and I just knew that I would get so much out of it,” she explained. Danielle, a clinical nurse educator, had previously never traveled internationally in her nursing role. “I felt like this trip would give me a renewed perspective on the meaning of nursing and also deepen my connection with our mission, the Sisters of Charity of

New York and the work of St. Elizabeth Seton,” she said.

Accompanied by Sr. Maria Iglesias, S.C., Pastoral Care Coordinator at the Pediatric Center, Melissa and Danielle left New York on February 6th to volunteer their time and talent at three clinics in the towns of Novillero, Ixtahuacan and Nahuala. They worked to provide prenatal care, well-baby care and general nursing care to those who were ailing. In addition, Melissa and Danielle learned about other local places and organizations that enact positive change in the community, including a preschool in Pacaxom and the Barbara Ford Peace Center.

“I think the biggest thing I took away from the trip was to try and be grateful for what you have and to not take what you have for granted,” said

Danielle. “It was so inspiring to meet these individuals who lead very difficult lives and may not have the best of things, but who still possess this genuine joy and zest for life.” Melissa agreed. “This trip was both humbling and grounding,” she affirmed. “Living and working with the local people and learning to work within an entirely different culture is challenging, but it’s gratifying. I will forever cherish the bonds I formed in Guatemala,” she added.

On February 13th, Melissa, Danielle and Sr. Maria returned home. “Although they were here just a short time,” wrote Sr. Virginia Searing, S.C., who runs the Barbara Ford Peace Center in Guatemala, “they captured the heart and soul of our mission here.” Melissa and Danielle are already planning to revisit Guatemala in 2017 with a team from the Pediatric Center.

SPRING LUNCHEON BENEFITS THE FOUNDATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

and his humanity; it was a gift to behold for this is the true essence of the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center. Every child here is esteemed and respected. They're glorified in a matter that is befitting all of God's children. And that is why I am here today."



Chef Raffaele Ronca dishes up lunch.

Following Shannon's moving speech, Brian Harrington, Senior Vice President of Institutional Advancement, expressed his gratitude for Shannon's deep-rooted, family-wide support for the Foundation. "Shannon, you grew up in a family that embraced faith and, more importantly, lived it," Brian said. "Your family legacy is 'Compassion in Action.' You, in turn, continue that legacy

and have clearly passed it on to your own children." Shannon's father, Richard O'Neill, serves as a member of the St. Elizabeth Seton Children's Foundation's Board of Directors and her son, Michael, raised nearly \$4,000 for the children of the Pediatric Center last fall.

Visit facebook.com/setonpediatric to see more pictures from our spring luncheon.



From left to right: Michele Caiola, Shannon O'Neill Gallagher, Francesca LaGumina and Catherine Franzetti, a Pediatric Center Board Member.

THERAPEUTIC AQUATIC CENTER REOPENS

On March 3rd, the Children's Rehabilitation Center held a ribbon cutting ceremony and luncheon to celebrate the grand reopening of its newly renovated Naomi and Isaac Kaplan Family Foundation Therapeutic Aquatic Center.

Aquatic therapy is a vital part of the specialized care we provide to our children who receive comprehensive medical and rehabilitative services at our clinic. According to Sue Hausch, the Children's Rehabilitation Center's Clinic Coordinator/Director of Rehabilitation, more than 400 children benefit from our therapeutic pool each year. These children range in age from approximately five months to 21 years old. "The water in the pool is heated to a therapeutic

temperate between 91 and 93 degrees. This allows the children being treated to relax, which, in turn, enables their therapists to better stretch and elongate their muscles," Sue said.

"Aquatic therapy is different from any other exercise," explained Maria A. Pici, M.D., the clinic's Medical Director. "When you eliminate gravity and facilitate movement you can accomplish a lot and you can do it in a fun environment," she said. Sue agreed. "It's so beneficial for our patients to learn and practice new skills in the water before they are strong enough to move against gravity on land," Sue added.

Improvements to our pool would not have been possible without the

generosity of the St. Vincent de Paul Foundation, Inc., Sisters of Charity, The Laura B. Vogler Foundation, Inc., The Children's Dream Foundation and CVS Caremark Charitable Trust. "We are so grateful," said Sue. "The redesign and updates that were made will better serve our patients' needs in a much greater capacity."



Photo by Anthony Mairo/Healthcare News



SAVE THE DATE

Fall Festival

Sunday, October 16, 2016

John A. Coleman School

Children's Rehabilitation Center

White Plains, N.Y.

SAVE THE DATE

Wine Tasting

Thursday, October 27, 2016

Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center

Yonkers, N.Y.