

CMA's Visit to Albany – Inclusive Democracy in Action!

By Karen Puritano

On June 8, CMA staff and several men and women living in CMA's homes visited the state capital building in Albany to participate in *Inclusive Democracy in Action*—an effort to help protect services for men and women with developmental disabilities.

Inclusive Democracy in Action encourages people to visit Albany during the on-going budget negotiations, to help educate elected officials about the needs of adults with developmental disabilities. Importantly, *Inclusive Democracy in Action* strives to include people with developmental disabilities in the Democratic process by creating opportunities for them to meet and communicate directly with decision makers.

"Our visit to Albany allowed the men and women we serve to *"be heard"*," explains Heather Aylward, Director of Residential Services. "The people we serve understand that the state is in a recession, and that – as beneficiaries of state funding – changes in the budget may impact their day to day lives. They want to better understand the process, and they want to *do something* to protect the services that help them."

Gwen and Anthony live in CMA homes in Port Washington, and both made the visit to Albany. While there was work to do, the day was also a learning experience.

"I liked seeing the room where the politicians vote," Gwen said. "We learned that they vote by giving a "thumbs up" or "thumbs down!"

Anthony agreed. "I liked learning how the state runs."



Senator Craig Johnson
with Adam and Howard

In addition to a tour, CMA's visit included meeting with local politicians. Especially meaningful was meeting with longtime CMA friends Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and Senator Craig Johnson. (As a Port Washington resident, Senator Johnson personally knows many of the men and women living in CMA homes.)

"It was a wonderful experience, to go to Albany and to meet lawmakers and to help the men and women we serve better understand the process." Joann Ainbinder, Director of Quality Assurance, said. "We do not know what changes lay ahead. But thanks to *Inclusive Democracy in Action* the people we serve were invited to be a part of the process."

For more information, please call Joann Ambinder at 516-683-0710.



Adam, Heather Aylward, Brian Welch, Sarah, Howard, Anthony, Dena Pittman, Russel Val, Danny, Gwen, Joseph, Natalie Sandy, Lisa, Cyle Holdip, Joseph, Joann Ainbinder



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CMA's New Home – Countdown to Move-in Day!

On Thursday, May 6, renovations to CMA's newest home began. After months of working to obtain permits, we are pleased to announce that we are almost there! Construction is one of the final steps in the process to open a new CMA home. And it is the result of months and months of hard work as well as the commitment and dedication of CMA's Board of Directors, who had to make difficult decisions during uncertain economic times.



CMA's New Home!

Within the next few months, five men and women will move in, and officially call this new house *their home*. There will be much to share and celebrate during this exciting time, and we look forward to keeping our friends and supporters up to date!



Eric Weigel, Heather Aylward, Rick Glosman & Julie Samkoff

Thank You!

Special thanks to New York Community Bank Foundation for awarding The Sweet Comfort Bakery & Cafe with a \$7500 grant! The foundation's Executive Director, Marian Conway (shown left), joined Julie Samkoff at the bakery to present the check, and enjoy a few sweets...! The foundation has been a long-time friend and we are especially thankful for their continued support.



Anthony C. Imbarrato ~ Conference & Training Center Dedication Ceremony

On April 18, CMA dedicated its conference and training room in memory of our dear friend, Anthony C. Imbarrato. Mr. Imbarrato was devoted to CMA, serving in many capacities, including Board President; Treasurer; co-chair of CMA's Capital Campaign; and fundraising chairperson.

The dedication of the *Anthony C. Imbarrato Training and Conference Center* was attended by Mr. Imbarrato's wife, Vicki, and their three daughters: Donna Kessler of Wainscot; Lori Wend of East Northport; and Antonia of Kings Point; their six grandchildren; many longtime CMA friends as well as members of CMA's board and staff.



Vicki and her daughter's Antonia, Donna Kessler & Lori Wend proudly stand next to a portrait of their beloved father, Anthony Imbarrato.



Left to Right ~ Arthur J. Nastre, Esq., Honorable Joseph Mondello, Vicki Imbarrato, CMA's Executive Director Julie P. Samkoff Jeffrey D. Forchelli, Esq.

Honorable Joseph Mondello, Jeffrey D. Forchelli, Esq. and Arthur J. Nastre, Esq. spoke movingly about Tony, and the crowd was warmly welcomed by CMA's Executive Director, Julie Samkoff.

Mr. Forchelli stated, "As a long time friend and admirer of Tony Imbarrato and his wife Vicki, it gave me great pleasure to participate in honoring Tony's memory by the dedication of the conference and training center at CMA".

"He was a father figure, a confidant, a mentor, and just about everything else a nephew would want an uncle to be -- he was my "go to" guy, whenever I needed advice, counsel, or help with anything, he was always there for me," shared by Mr. Nastre.

"Tony gave so much to CMA," Julie Samkoff shared. "His commitment to the men and women we serve was unwavering. Tony placed such value on education and how to improve the knowledge of CMA direct care staff. Dedicating our training and conference room in his memory was the best way we could think of to honor Tony and all he did for us."



The Imbarrato Family

16th Annual Golf & Tennis Tournament ~ Highest Gross to Date

Thanks to the support and commitment of an exceptional honoree, dedicated committee members and a long list of donors and volunteers, CMA's 16th Annual Golf & Tennis Tournament raised \$318,900.00 ~ *our highest gross to date.*

Led by co-chairs Mark Engel of Sands Point, Gerry Levy of Plainview and Jerry Pinsky of Port Washington, this two day tournament presented an opportunity for many business leaders from Long Island, Bronx, & Manhattan to spend a day of leisure, playing golf or tennis to help a great cause.

Honoree, Stuart J. Kipnes, President of Associated Options, Inc. (located in Chicago) stated, "Community Mainstreaming Associates (CMA) is an organization very close to my heart, whose mission is to improve the lives of men and woman with special needs by providing them with both services and support and on behalf of all the men and women who are able to call a CMA house a "home" and fellow residents their friends, your support of this event sends a resounding message to them and their families that they are not alone in their fight to live more independent and fulfilling lives."



Gerry presents Honoree Award to Stu Kipnes



Julie presenting Gwen with Certificate of Achievement

As guests arrived at the Muttontown Club in East Norwich, they were not only greeted by valet and caddie attendants, they were also greeted by some of the men and women of CMA. They presented all of the attendees with a player gift and proceeded to personally thank them for supporting CMA.

As guests gathered into the ballroom for dinner, Executive Director of CMA, Julie Samkoff, extended CMA's thanks to everyone. "CMA's Annual Golf & Tennis Tournament celebrates friendship & camaraderie... We celebrate what people can accomplish when motivated by love and a determination to befriend others in need. Thank you!!"

CMA residents, Gwen and Paul spoke about what CMA means to them. At our May 10th tournament, Gwen shared that she is close to becoming employed and how she has been working hard to get a job for a very long time. Most impressively, she stated to all in attendance, "Any day now you may see me working in a store like Marshalls or T.J. Maxx. Anytime you see me, don't be afraid to say HI!" At our May 17th event, Paul's message was just as powerful. Paul became employed for the first time in his life on December 16, 2009. "I love working with the people at the Sweet Comfort Bakery & Cafe. They treat me very well and I have learned a lot from them and I am still learning a lot each and every day".



Julie presenting Paul with Certificate of Achievement

A highlight of the event was the presentation of the "High Gross" award. CMA's "High Gross" Award celebrates and honors the memory of Bob Kipnes, a friend of CMA who was also a founding tournament committee member. Neal Berman of Brainstorm Promotions and Jeff Kozarsky of Genatt Associates, Inc. were the proud recipients of this very special award for their dedication and commitment to men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities. (Continued next page)



2010 Tennis Participants



May 10th - Sponsors



May 17th - Sponsors

CMA thanks the following for their support of the event: Honoree Stuart J. Kipnes, CBS Coverage Group Inc. and the following sponsors: The Justin Family • Associated Options Employees of Associated Options • Chubb Group of Insurance Companies • Ionic Capital Management LLC • Hanover Insurance Group • Sparrow Real Estate Corp. • Quinn Family Foundation • Bonnie & Jeff Fachler • Abraham Lerner & Arnold, LLP • Aggressive Energy LLC • Tower Group Companies • Affiliated Adjustment Group, Ltd. • Program Brokerage Corp. • Wolinetz Management Co. • Castle Oil Corp. • Genatt Associates • Langsam Property Services Corp. • Empire National Bank • Lift-Tech Ltd. • Aflac • Jet Air Service Inc. • Moritt Hock Hamroff & Horowitz LLP • Harleysville Insurance • Judicial Title Insurance Agency LLC • Huntington Jeep • Cab-Tech Elevator Designs, LLC • Interlink Security & Communications, Inc. • Masters Exterminating & Pest Control, Inc. • Vassalotti Associates Architects, LLP • Fifth Child Foundation • Private Funding Group • HUB International Northeast • Kenneth Coder, CPA • AIU Holdings • Hartman & Craven, LLP • Inter-Reco, Inc. • Mutual of America & YTM, Ltd.

CMA's 2011 Tournament is scheduled for Monday, May 9th and Monday, May 16th at the Muttontown Club. For information about the tournament, joining CMA's Annual Golf & Tennis Tournament Planning Committee or about CMA, please contact Diana Guerin at 516-683-0710, extension 203 or Dguerin@communitymainstreaming.org.

Young Leadership Council's 3rd Annual Winter Cocktail Bash was a wonderful success!

CMA's 3rd Annual Winter Cocktail Bash was attended by more than 50 professionals who joined together to this past March to support CMA and its life-enhancing services for adults with developmental disabilities. CMA's Young Leadership Council consists of young professionals who volunteer their time and considerable talents to help increase awareness and funding opportunities for CMA.

CMA's Winter Cocktail Bash is both a fundraiser and a networking event, allowing young professionals to connect with each other over a shared bond: their commitment to helping people with developmental disabilities live better lives. Led by three energetic co-chairs, Matt Engel of Port Washington; Daniel Mickelson, of Manhattan; and Courtney Quinn, of Forest Hills, the committee consists of like-minded people who want to introduce their friends and colleagues to CMA's important mission – and to each other.

"This is a diverse and highly motivated crowd," said Courtney Quinn. "You have professionals from many different industries, including insurance, real estate, publishing, finance, and more. They are developing relationships and identifying how they can work together, or what they have in common. It is very appealing for this demographic, and it is a lot of fun!"

CMA's Young Leadership Committee developed the Winter Cocktail Bash to provide an alternative to annual fundraising gala's and dinners...and to create an event that would encourage donations, help introduce CMA's mission to new supporters, and be appealing to other young professionals. This years Cocktail Bash was the most successful to date, and we extend our warmest thanks to the entire committee for another great event! Very special thanks also goes out to the event sponsors: Langsam Property Services Corp.; Affiliated Adjustment Group, Ltd., Castle Oil Corp. and Service Directions Inc.

Ready, Set, FUN!!

The annual CMA Olympics were held on Saturday, May 22, and the games were an overwhelming success! Each year, CMA homes play together and compete against each other in our version of the Olympics. This year's event included good natured competition and camaraderie, and events such as a potato sack hop, a pie eating contest, a water relay race, and a *fierce* game of kickball! The below photos are a wonderful reminder of a GREAT day!



Team spirit from the Kings Point Royals



Tonia hopping towards the finish line



Sarah playing kickball



Howard and Joanne Quinn



*Hal flanked by
Courtney Quinn and Jeremy Klug*

THANK YOU! On behalf of all the men and women of CMA, we would like to extend our gratitude to all the foundations, businesses and individual friends for their support. *Your generosity is greatly appreciated!*

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*All gifts received from January 1, 2010
thru May 31, 2010*

Special Thanks...

The winners at our golf and tennis outing received an *extra special* gift this year – custom framed golf flags. What makes this gift extra special is that the men and women CMA serve helped to frame them. Longtime board member Bill Quinn took the time to teach several men and women in CMA's Working Together Program how to frame – and simultaneously produced a great gift for our 2010 outing. We extend our thanks to Bill and to Working Together for their time and talents!



L to R: Gwen, Bill Quinn, Paul, Anthony, and Allison

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NEWSLETTER

Editors: Karen Puritano, *Director of Development*
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