



THE FRIENDS OF MATHENY

Message from the President

Fall 2010

Dear Friends and Fellow Members

I am truly honored and delighted to serve our community as the President of the Friends of Matheny. Looking back on the accomplishments and milestones achieved by our Past Presidents, I know I have some very big shoes to fill. Our most recent Past President, Pamela Cembrook, presided over the most successful fundraising year in the history of the Friends. Thank you, Pam, for your leadership and excellence.

With the help of countless members of the Friends, we were able to present Matheny with a check for \$300,000.00 this year. Under the leadership of Cathy Wild, Andrea Szott and the unending commitment of the New York Jets, our fundraising committee held an incredible event at the Jets training facility.

The Matheny Bowl proceeds have allowed us to fulfill our pledge of \$500,000.00 toward the therapeutic pool and gym. This goal was achieved in just three years. What a wonderful way to prove to ourselves that when we chose to “Do Something” and we “follow our hearts” great things and dreams can come to fruition. Thank you to all of our volunteers, Board members, Friends and Junior Friends who continue to make a difference in the lives of our children and young adults at Matheny.

We know that you have a wide choice of organizations to support and contribute to, and I am so pleased that you have chosen to continue to be a valuable partner with The Friends of Matheny. In these challenging economic times the proof of the extraordinary standing of our community, our State and our Nation is how we treat the least able among us. You, our “Friends”, are a shining example of the strength and size of the Hearts of Americans. I look forward to seeing all of you throughout the year as we all choose to do something positive and as we continue to grow our hearts in service to others.

Remember that you can be the change that you want to see in the world and I trust we will continue to work together to achieve our common goals.

Best wishes,

June Cioppettini

*Somerset
County
Office for
the
Disabled*

2009

*Disability
Advocate
Award
Recipient*

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Pamela Cembrook
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Junior Friends of Matheny

The Junior Friends of Matheny is an organization

of students from Bernard's and Ridge High Schools whose main goal is to help the kids at Matheny Medical and Educational Center through fundraisers and events, while at the same time teaching acceptance of disabilities. Beginning its fourth year of operation, the JFOM has increased its membership to approximately 40 students from both Bernard's High School and Ridge High School. The current board officers for 2010-2011 are as follows: Jaqueline Cembrook and Sami Weber, co-presidents; Sara Schneider, secretary; Will Sisto, treasurer; Anthony DeVergillo and Lauren Desatnick, fundraising chairs; Emily Quintana and Emily Katz, volunteering chairs; and Taylor Coli, historian.

This fall, the JFOM have been raising monies by selling Halloween decorations to be decorated by the purchaser and then collected to be hung at Matheny. Besides brightening the residents' hallways, this fundraising effort will help the Juniors fund three items from the Friends of Matheny's allocations list. They recently approved the funding of Belgian waffle makers to allow the Matheny residents to have special weekend breakfasts, a CD player to be used in exam rooms to play soothing music, as well as healing CD's for home use for out-patients. Besides fundraising, the Juniors will also be busy this fall and winter volunteering at Matheny. They will be on hand to help at Full Circle, the fine art exhibition to be held at Matheny on November 6th, as well as the Holiday Boutique and the Holiday Express. If you would like more information regarding the Junior Friends of Matheny, please visit their website at jfom.info.

Friends New Website

The launch of the website

www.friendsofmatheny.org in 2010 provided the Friends of Matheny a tool to inform and promote the services of their organization via the web. Our site was designed and developed by Anthony DeVergillo of Anthony's Abilities www.anthonysabilities.com Anthony will continue to develop and maintain all aspects of the website this year.

Our goal for 2010-2011 is to provide more content on the website and promote upcoming events. We would like to establish a "News" feature allowing users the ability to view the latest headlines of the Friends of Matheny. In addition, we would like to create a "Get Involved" feature to assist in volunteer opportunities. Finally, we would like to incorporate Facebook and Twitter into our site as well.

We welcome any feedback to the website and hope you will enjoy the updates throughout the year. Please send any comments or questions to marcellacriscola@gmail.com



Second Chance Thrift Shop

The Second Chance Thrift Shop has gotten off to a great start this season a bit ahead of where we were at this time last year. As always, the merchandise is varied- neither the customers nor the more than 100 volunteers know what to expect to see offered for sale when they arrive at the shop. Of course, everything is “one of a kind” so we recommend buying now and thinking later!

There are still a few morning slots available for new volunteers from 9:30 – 12:45, and room on the sub list for anyone who might be available at odd times.



There is a need for good quality ski clothing (children’s and adult sizes) to be used for the adaptive ski and ice skating programs at Matheny which are sponsored by the Friends.

We are also gathering gift items for student purchase for family and friends at the annual Christmas Boutique.

Please drop off these items at Second Chance marked “Ski/Ice Skating programs” or “Christmas Boutique”. Any items not appropriate for use at this time will be sold.

Come to Second Chance and bring your luncheon buddies, bridge group, friends and neighbors. We are also willing to host small shopping events for teens or scouts . Questions can be directed to Lindaehorton@comcast.net.

Allocations

Each year the Friends of Matheny allocates funds for specific items submitted by the staff at Matheny via their annual “Wish List.” This year there were 22 requests for items not covered under the usual operating budget at Matheny.

At a meeting on October 6, the board of the Friends of Matheny voted to allocate \$37,424 toward 17 items, with the Junior Friends of Matheny agreeing to raise money for three additional items from the list totaling \$292 (three Belgian waffle makers, a CD player, and soothing CD’s).

Major expenditures this year include a Smart Table (an instructional tool), a TouchSmart computer, adapted ice skating equipment, five adapted skiing trips, and a Game Cycle (upper extremity exerciser).

In addition, the Friends provided funding for four switch-activated cameras, the annual Matheny yearbook, a Workstation Easel on wheels, a cello, a therapeutic harp, choir robes, equipment for swallowing studies, weekend entertainment, a kitchen cart and accessories, as well as continued support for community connections and volunteer services.



The SMART Table provides increased flexibility, both in terms of content and teaching style. Instructors can create an almost limitless supply of activities for the Matheny interactive learning center by customizing ready-made activities and creating new ones. As students learn, instructors can refine and redesign activities to keep students challenged and engaged.

Founded 1983

Friends Matter

THE FRIENDS OF MATHENY

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Artwork by Hedwig Pfreundschuh.

The purpose of the Friends of Matheny shall be to aid in the support of and render services to the Matheny Medical and Educational Center.

Matheny Bowl

On May 22, 2010 more than 300 people attended the Friends of Matheny's fundraiser held at the New York Jets Training Center, in Florham Park. The event, co-chaired by Andrea Szott and Cathy Wild, raised \$250,000 and included a tour of the Jets Training Center, with VIP ticket holders provided a tour of the Jets locker room, weight room and a private cocktail hour hosted by the Jets players.

Guests, welcomed by the Jets flight crew, had the opportunity to meet several of the players including, Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez, tight end Dustin Keller and defensive tackle Mike Devito along with head coach Rex Ryan and General Manager Mike Tannenbaum.

Annie Brady, a past Chair of the Matheny Board of Trustees, was the Matheny Bowl honoree. In recognition of Annie's volunteerism, devoting countless hours to the Matheny Medical and Educational Center and befriending many of the residents the Iris Award was presented to her at this time. When presented with the Iris Award the message she addressed those attending was "Thank you for making Matheny a part of your lives".



President Pam Cembrook, Co-Chairs Andrea Szott & Cathy Wild