

# Center Stage

The Center for Great Expectations

Volume 18

19B Dellwood Lane • Somerset, NJ 08873 • Tel: 732-247-7003

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## THANK YOU FOR OUR PLAYGROUND!



Thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters a new playground is taking shape for the children of the Center. Before long the sound of laughter and squeals of delight will be heard as the children enter their safe, fenced in yard filled with fun to play with toys.

The children of the Center are watching the construction of our new playground with great excitement! The daycare center has two big sliding glass doors, and the children run to look outside whenever anything is happening. They press their little faces to the glass and investigate everything. It has been interesting to them to see all the measurements taking place and all the flags being placed by the electric company and the solar panel company so that digging can take place without disruption. They also love it when the men from Tom DiDario's Company, Landscape Maintenance, jump on their big mowing machines and zip around the yard cutting the grass. As many as four machines at a time are whizzing by and the children love to watch. Tom is also providing the safe mulch for the swing area. Tom's services to the Center, both summer and winter, are without charge, a very generous gift for us.

The playground project has met the requirements of DYFS (Division of Youth and Family Services), the Township of Franklin, and is on track to be finished in a few weeks. The yard will provide many hours of enjoyment for the children of the Center. Plans include play equipment for our older children as well as the children of Katy's Place.

This play yard could not have happened if it weren't for you, our donors, who are always there for us. We hope you will all feel the joy of knowing you helped to provide this wonderful place for our children to have exercise, fun and interaction that will help them to grow into strong healthy youngsters. Thank you for helping us, and by all means if you would like a tour of the facility and our new play yard, give us a call at (732) 247-7003 Ext 33. We would love to show you the Center.

## THE KEN DANEYKO GOLF CLASSIC

The Ken Daneyko Golf Classic was a smashing success. Held at the Suburban Golf Club in Union, the weather held as golfers and celebrities joined together for a great day of golf to support the women and children of the Center. Led by Chairman Ed Stankiewicz, the day unfolded with a big welcome from the Devils mascot and Trudy Stetter, President of the Devils Fan Club. The putting contest was so competitive a play off was necessary and golfers were reporting great scores on the A.J. Tillinghast course. A beautiful brunch sent the golfers off with a good start to the day. When the last hole was shot, everyone joined together in the dining

room for a great dinner, a moving speech from a resident and some great auction prizes. Celebrities joined the golfers to support the mission of the Center, including Ken Daneyko, Gerry Cooney (boxing champ), Ron Duguay (Rangers), Jim Dowd (Devils) Bart Oates (Giants) and Rob Skrlac (Devils). Thank you to everyone who supported this event. We couldn't help our mothers and babies without you.



Peg Wright, president of the Center wishing the guys good luck.




Left to right, Ken Daneyko, chairman Ed Stankiewicz, Gerry Cooney and Tom DiDario.



A very hot, but happy group.



# THE GIFT OF HOPE



The always spectacular **Gift of Hope Gala** is on the horizon. This year, the Gala will take place on Friday evening, November 12, at the Palace at Somerset Park. Tickets are \$300 per person. The Gala features wonderful food, a fantastic (can't sit in your seat) band called the Greaseband, and a silent auction that has something for everyone. Honorary chairman of the event, Steve Kalafer, explains why he accepted the position. "When I heard who was being honored, I knew it would be a privilege to be Honorary Chairman." For his support and many years of assistance to the Center, Dale Florio, founder of Princeton Public Affairs Group will receive the Humanitarian of the Year Award. Sister Sheila Murray SSJ, for over 10 years of dedicated service to the Center, and 50 years of service as a Sister of Saint Joseph, will be presented with the Outstanding Service Award. Kalafer points out "These are two amazing people who have made a difference to their community, the Center, and the women and children they serve. I am proud to assist in making this event an evening to remember."

As always, one of the Center's residents will speak to the audience relating her experiences before coming to the Center and what being at the Center has meant to her.

To attend the event or find out more, visit our website at [www.thecenterforgreatexpectations](http://www.thecenterforgreatexpectations) or call 732-247-7003 Ext 33.

## *Remembering a Wonderful Man*

### **Scharffenberger Memorial Ceremony**

On September 16, at 7:00 pm in the evening, the Center staff, residents, friends and members of the Board of Directors will gather at the Center to dedicate the Len Scharffenberger Memorial. The memorial will rest in a quiet little grove of trees in front of the Center. There will be benches for sitting among the flowers and shrubs to rest, or quietly contemplate. This memorial and park-like grove was made possible by Tom DiDario, friend to the Center and to Len Scharffenberger.

This dedication is being made to honor the man who spent hours and hours planning and overseeing the building of our current facilities. His loyalty and determination that these buildings would be built was inspirational and energizing. He never let challenges or difficulties

that arise with any construction project deflect his vision. He was motivated by his belief that the women and children belonged together, under one roof, and that great things would happen when they were. He couldn't have been more correct. Sadly, Lenny died just two weeks before the opening of the buildings for which he labored so lovingly. For those of us who worked with him, and remember him, the buildings stand as a reminder of what can be accomplished when a group of people are led by one totally committed person.

The Grove and Memorial to Len will be a place to rest, appreciate nature, recall fond memories and to rejoice in the life of a man who made a difference.

# A Second Chance

It isn't only the moms who come to the Center who have a second chance at life. The children of the women we serve are equally impacted by their stay at the Center. In a few cases, our children have been separated from their mother for months or perhaps longer. It is because their mother has come to the Center for help that the chance of reunification of mother and child is possible. Part of the program at the Center is to reunite mothers and children who have been separated due to poverty, addiction or homelessness. By participating in our program, a mother can illustrate her dedication and desire to reunite with her baby or child. When she does, she is better equipped to parent her child because of the parenting education she has received at the Center. Ongoing, hands-on parenting supervision takes place during her continued stay after her baby arrives. In addition to the parenting skills our mothers are taught, they are learning how to provide a good home and a future life for themselves and their children. Through learning to create a budget, to purchase and to cook nutritious food, to learn essential skills like ironing and washing clothes, things that we take so for granted, they can emerge from their stay at the Center to provide the care their

children need.

The other way in which our children receive a second chance is at Katy's Place, our child development center. When our children arrive at the Center, they can be developmentally delayed. They might not be doing the expected tasks of their age level. Each child is personally evaluated upon arrival, after which a plan is created just for them that will bring them to their expected age level ability, and, in some cases, beyond what is expected. This means that when they leave the Center to emerge into a nursery school or public school system, they will have the chance to perform at the same level as their peers.

While mothers are changing their lives and breaking the cycle of the past, our children are doing the same. They are changing and growing so when both mother and baby leave the Center at the end of their stay, they leave having the best chance they have ever had to have a normal, productive life. It is the optimum result that before coming to the Center was highly unlikely. It is a beautiful thing to watch, and we are grateful every day to provide the program that makes it all a reality for mothers and children who have had a difficult past. Again, all made possible through your generous support.



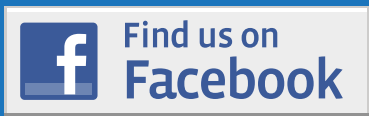
Top to bottom: All residents at the Center have a baby shower before giving birth. Looks like a girl!; It is a girl! Resident "Nellie" welcomes her beautiful baby girl, Avenellie.; Resident Nicole thinking about her speech to attendees at the golf outing while her son reads the golf journal for further information.; Volunteers often come to the Center to instruct our residents. Here, the residents learn skin care and how to use the products provided by the volunteer.; Volunteers created an exciting fun time for our residents and children when they provided "Christmas in July" for everyone.

### RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

Residential treatment for homeless, pregnant adolescents, and their children, and homeless pregnant women with substance use disorders and their children.

### INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT PROGRAM

For pregnant and post-partum women with substance use and co-occurring disorders.



**Be a Facebook Friend.** Join the Center on Facebook, “friend” us, and ask your friends to do the same. If you don’t have an account, click on the link on the Center’s website to see recently updated pictures and happenings here.



Ethicon volunteers sprucing up the "vehicle fleet" at the Center.



The Board of Directors of the Center discussing future plans.



Members of a large group from Ethicon cleaning the kitchen in one of the houses.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

November  
12

Gift of Hope Gala

## ZIP NOTES

**Please remember the Center in your estate planning. Wondering how?**  
Please call us. Our number is 732-247-7003 Ext. 33

**Does your company have a matching gift program?**

If so, you may be able to double your gift to the Center. Your Human Resource Department can tell you. We do all the work - you just send us the form with your gift.

**Have an old car?**

We will pick it up at your home or business regardless if it runs or not! You pick the time and we'll be there. It is a turn-key operation. Call us at 732-247-7003 Ext 33 to speak to Cathy.