

THE ANGELICA ADVOCATE

JUNE 2008

THE NEWSLETTER OF ANGELICA PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

HONORS

Angelica Earns Accolades

THE NEW YORK State Therapeutic Recreation Association (NYSTRA) awarded Angelica Organization of the Year for 2008. Presented at NYSTRA's annual conference in Saratoga Springs, New York, the award recognizes an organization that supports and promotes Therapeutic Recreation, in particular for underserved populations.

Amidst stiff competition, Angelica won the award due to

the positive patient outcomes that have resulted from its programs and special events. Programs ranging from The Duet Bicycle and Healthy Starts Cooking Programs to Horticultural Therapy and the Coler Art Studio have led to improvement in cognition, social skills, mood, sense of self, physical functioning and opportunities for creative expression. Empowering the residents by giving them the opportunity to coordinate this year's Sweetheart

Ball, was also a major factor in winning the award.

On April 24th, Angelica received the Goldwater Auxiliary Volunteer Award for consistently supporting programming efforts as well as building strong community relationships through volunteering. The Goldwater Auxiliary, a group of community volunteers, is a non-profit organization that raises funds for special projects at the hospital. Angelica Board

member Nicole Breck, accepted the award. Nicole shared the story of Tamika, the patient who inspired the founding of Angelica. Tamika's zest for life and her ability to get the most out of life, despite her medical conditions, gave testimony to the value of individual life and the importance of sharing what you can with and for others.

We are very proud to receive these awards, and they inspire us to keep up the pace.

HOSPITAL HAPPENINGS

Patient Power

FOR THE THIRD annual Sweetheart Ball, Angelica offered Coler-Goldwater patients the opportunity to plan the event rather than relying on Angelica's event planners. For the first time, a Planning Committee of seven patients created the event for eighty-plus party-goers. Residents enjoyed sandwiches, drinks and Valentine's Day cupcakes in an auditorium filled with pink, white and red balloons. A disc jockey spun some tunes while guests had their photos taken through a heart-shaped photo booth.

Highlights of the evening included the announcement of the Sweetheart Ball's King and Queen, who were nominated by the Planning Committee and elected via popular vote. Love poems written by patients were displayed on the walls. Another highlight was a singing contest in which rock, reggae and spirituals were performed. Winners were



elected according to length and depth of applause.

Angelica will continue to find ways to empower patients. We hope that this new initiative will result in skills development, increased self-esteem and a sense of community.

NEW ADDITIONS

GOING GREEN

Angelica recently funded a Meditation Garden at Goldwater, which will create a relaxing space for communing with nature, watching and caring for gardens and sitting among the birds and the butterflies. This transformation of a cement patio will also enhance the lives of adult dementia patients who need a place to walk and benefit from multiple sensory experiences. Additionally, small group programs and individual areas to rest and meditate will be offered once the garden is complete.

About thirty-five extraordinarily generous employees of American Express have volunteered to clear the area and plant flowers and bushes, to convert the existing space into the Meditation Garden.

HAPPY HOUR HEAVEN

DOWNTOWN TAVERN Woody McHale's hosted a Happy Hour fundraiser in April to benefit Angelica.

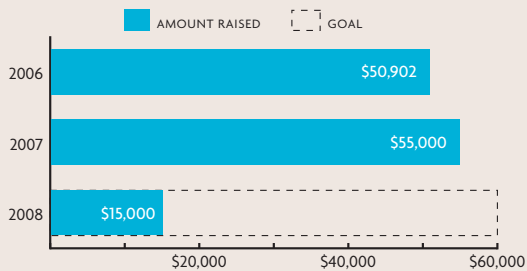
Guests listened to music played on Woody's renowned Internet Jukebox and watched the Yankees play the Detroit Tigers on three high-definition TVs. The drinks flowed and Woody's Nachos were crowned the unanimous Angelica favorite, leaving no room for sampling Woody's famous Fried Twinkies.

Donations to Angelica and ten percent of Woody's food and beverage sales for the evening will fund Angelica's upcoming programs and projects.

Our thanks to Woody McHale's for hosting our inaugural happy hour. Be sure to stop by for great food and good cheer at Woody's at 234 West 14th Street, between 7th and 8th Avenues.

FUNDRAISING

Keeping the Pace



ANGELICA EXCEEDED its fundraising goal of \$55,000 for 2007, resulting in total contributions of more than \$100,000 since Angelica's inception in November 2005. For 2008, Angelica set a goal of \$60,000, and we've raised approximately \$15,000 through May. Please make a gift to Angelica and help us meet our goal. One hundred percent of all donations go directly to help the patients of Color-Goldwater.

Please visit www.nycharities.org to make an online donation. Type "Angelica" in the search area and click "Donate now." Any contribution made is much appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP

Angelica is thrilled to welcome new members Mary Athridge, Nicole Breck, Kathleen Cavanaugh, Anne Fallon, and Kevin Noonan. These five members will focus on website development, finances, public relations, and community outreach. For information about membership and volunteer opportunities, please contact AngelicaProgram@gmail.com.

Angelica has recently begun an outreach program to connect with the Roosevelt Island community. We have met with Virginia Granato, President of the Roosevelt Island Disabled Association and the offices of New York State Assemblyman Micah Kellner and City Councilwoman Jessica Lappin. We hope that our future collaboration with these RI representatives will enable us to increase our impact on the community, including bringing more events and activities to the patients.



HOSPITAL HAPPENINGS

Living Out Loud

THREE NEW YORK City high schools launched Live Out Loud (LOL), a new program sponsored by Angelica to provide entertainment and special events for patients. LOL is currently focusing on bringing local high school students to the hospital to provide top quality, high energy entertainment, including live music, dance, choral performances and musical theater.

At LOL's inaugural event, the American Tap Dance Foundation's Tap City Youth Ensemble performed at both Coler-Goldwater auditoriums, bringing the joy and exuberance of tap dance to residents.

Our second event featured Moore Catholic High School's production of Frank Loesser's *Guys & Dolls*, based on the story by Damon Runyon. More than 30 students came to the hospital

dressed as gangsters, hot box dancers and save-a-soul missionaries to perform this musical theater classic. A 15-piece live band featured a pianist, bass, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, percussion and more.

At our most recent event, the Brooklyn High School Chorus sang at Coler in May. About 30 students drew a crowd of about 50 patients, who enjoyed a harmonious morning of gospel music.

Hats off to these generous and talented young actors and actresses, singers, dancers and musicians!

Angelica plans to build relationships with high school and other performing arts groups throughout the New York City area. For more information, or if you have ideas for future events, please contact Jill Alcott at jill@alcottpartners.com, or call 212-692-5996.

The mission of the Angelica Patient Assistance Program is to enhance the lives of economically disadvantaged patients in need of long-term medical care and to support long-term medical care facilities.

For more information about Angelica, contact AngelicaProgram@gmail.com.

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