



The Life Enrichment Center AT OYSTER BAY

A Month of Inspiration

By Silvana LaFerlita Gullo, Executive Director

When we open our hearts and minds to others we can be inspired by many. Every day at the Center offers opportunities for us to be motivated by our Members, volunteers and friends. Events hosted by the Board of Directors and Senior Advisory Board are a success with a team effort. And joint efforts between staff and volunteers demonstrate how working together can result in great success!

Members Inspire - With each step towards my office I am in awe by what I see. In the library a Member is challenging his brain by learning something new on the computer; while novice painters join accomplished artists to spend a quiet hour perfecting their craft. Volunteer instructors dedicate their time to guiding these classes with loving patience and care. Our fitness room is filled almost every day with Members committed to keeping their bodies and brains fit under the watchful eye of our master instructors. Across the hall in the game room, fun is the #1 priority. Bridge, Mah Jongg and occasional chess players challenge each other filling the room with laughter and brain healthy fun. Once a month painters use this room as their studio and every day all are welcomed to help member Juana work on a jigsaw puzzle which can be found on the corner table near the window. To mark the joint effort the first completed puzzles now hang on the wall.

Cooperative Efforts Inspire - With Christ Church as the perfect backdrop, the **Raise the Roof Concert** offered an inspiring mix of unique style of gospel music and an authentic soul food buffet. With a soundtrack of Jennifer Smith's background vocals, Mercy Seat's Bill "Smitty" Smith delivered a full hour of joyful music and shared stories of the band's history and their music ministry. The meal portion of the event was lovingly prepared and served by our friends from the Hood AME Zion Church. A delicious dinner complete with traditional deserts including Sweet Potato Pie delighted guests. Each Committee Member contributed their time and talent to coordinate this event to raise funds for the Center and help begin a scholarship fund for the Day Break program.

Senior Advisory Board members, Program Coordinator Mary Frignani and volunteers outdid themselves for this year's **Chinese Auction**. A record 140 tickets were sold for the event which featured more than 100 beautiful gift baskets each skillfully designed and wrapped by the Committee. Members purchased and donated funds for items, and Center instructors and their individual classes provided items for themed baskets. With Program Assistant Nancy Farinaccio and a team of volunteers preparing and serving snacks, the evening was a great success.

Every event and activity at the Center would not be possible if not for the collaborative effort of our members, staff and volunteers. Team Work inspires, and every day at the Center is cause for celebration. Thank you for inspiring us!

Silvana LaFerlita Gullo, Executive Director

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