



insight

Fall/Winter 2014

CLC PROGRAMS:

St. Joseph's School for the Blind
Early Intervention (EIP)
In District Support Services
Adult Services (RAP)
Early Childhood Education

CONCORDIA LEARNING CENTER AT ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LIONS CLUB THANKSGIVING
LUNCHEON 2

INSERRA SUPERMARKETS,
INC. SUPPORTS SJSB 2

THANKSGIVING FOOD
DRIVE 2

JERSEY CITY/HOBOKEN
STUDIO TOURS 3

HUDSON COUNTY GRANT
BRINGS DANCE TO CLC 3

UNICO HOLDS BENEFIT TO
SUPPORT CONCORDIA 3

HUDSON COUNTY TREE
LIGHTING 4

HOLIDAY EXPRESS SETS THE
STAGE FOR MAGIC 4

SJSB CHORUS BRINGS
HOLIDAY CHEER TO THE
WESTIN 5

RAY BULIN AND THE
LIBERTY BOARD OF
REALTORS® 5

EYES OF HOPE HELPS
SPREAD HOLIDAY GIVING 6

WEST NEW YORK LEONES
CUBANOS DE HUDSON
LIONS CLUB 6

DONOR CORNER
FEATURING THE DAWAR
FAMILY 7

GIVE BY SHOPPING 7

MISSION STATEMENT

CONCORDIA LEARNING CENTER AT
ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND
IS COMMITTED TO THE EDUCATIONAL,
PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND
PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONS
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN AN
ENVIRONMENT OF CARING,
ACCEPTANCE AND RESPECT FOR EACH
INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHTS AND DIGNITY.

TOYS“R”US CHILDREN’S FUND AWARDS \$25,000 GRANT



Concordia Learning Center at St. Joseph's School for the Blind was recently awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Toys“R”Us Children's Fund to support the school's Early Intervention Program (EIP). The successful program provides special educators to teach infants and toddlers (birth to 3 years of age) in a natural setting how to compensate for any reduced or total lack of vision to prepare children to not fall behind their sighted peers.

According to Concordia's Executive Director Judy Ortman, “The Toys“R”Us Children's Fund is a dedicated community partner, whose philanthropic mission includes supporting children with special needs and the broader community of their families and caregivers. Due to the company's generous support, our Early Intervention Program has continued to expand and now serves infants, toddlers and their families across 10 counties within New Jersey.

Kathleen Waugh, Chairman, Toys“R”Us Children's Fund said, “The Toys“R”Us Children's Fund is pleased to provide this grant to enhance the Concordia Learning Center's Early Intervention Program, furthering its meaningful work to keep kids safe throughout our state and help them in times of need.”

For more information about Toys“R”Us, Inc. charitable giving and the Toys“R”Us Children's Fund, please visit Toysrusinc.com/charitable-giving.

PUMPKIN PICKING AT DEMAREST FARMS



Students from Class 3 took a field trip to Demarest Farms in Hillsdale, New Jersey for a day of fresh air, pumpkin picking and hayrides. Demarest Farms was founded in 1856 and currently features an ice cream parlor, country bakery and delicatessen—all stocked with unique gifts and gourmet items. Our students and staff thoroughly enjoyed their day preparing for our Thanksgiving Festival.

As an added bonus, Demarest Farms donated 55 pumpkins to carve or decorate at our school's Thanksgiving Festival.

LIONS CLUB THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

A very special thank you to Paula Tarantino, 2nd Vice District Governor of the Ridgefield Park Lions and Bob Moore, District Parliamentarian of the West Milford Lions for providing Concordia Learning Center a delicious feast in honor of Thanksgiving 2013.



INSERRA SUPERMARKETS, INC. SUPPORTS CLC

Every fall, our faculty spends countless hours planning, preparing and setting up for our annual Tricky Tray event to benefit special programs. With the help of Inserra Supermarkets Inc.'s generous donations, our school raised funds to support special programs that serve individuals from birth to adulthood.

In addition, Inserra's wonderful and kind staff assists our students and clients when shopping at the Jersey City ShopRite location. Our Residence & RAP Director, Maureen Weining, actively engages our students and adults with the friendly staff at Inserra Supermarkets on a regular basis. These frequent shopping trips combined with community interaction is an essential part of our life skills training programs. We are very honored to have Inserra Supermarkets as a community partner and supporter of our mission.



THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE



Students and staff of Concordia Learning Center conducted their Annual Holiday Food Drive to help support community efforts to provide Thanksgiving food baskets for needy families within the Jersey City community.

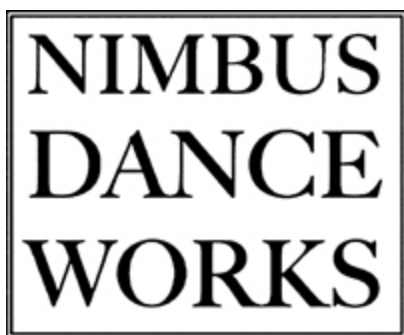
The annual food drive is a very important life lesson according to Executive Director of Concordia Learning Center, Judy Ortman, "Children are never too young to learn to share. Their graciousness and generosity is an inspiration to us all." Students and staff collected an assortment of food items to help make a hearty Thanksgiving meal.

JERSEY CITY/HOBOKEN STUDIO TOURS



CLC participated as an exhibition venue in the October and November 2013 Jersey City/Hoboken Artists Studio Tours which coincided with the 5th Annual Blindness Awareness Month in New Jersey. The Studio Tour is one of the largest cultural events in Jersey City and Hoboken, featuring hundreds of artists, dozens of exhibitions, galleries, museums, live music and performances, food, drink and parties. In the past, our students have had the opportunity to showcase their artwork in two public exhibitions and both were positive experiences. Our theme, *"Beyond the Light...Painting with Feeling"* allows students to go beyond their disabilities and express their emotions through art." Special thanks to Bojana Coklyat, Artist in Residence, for donating her time and beautiful artwork to be on display for both tours.

HUDSON COUNTY GRANT BRINGS DANCE TO CLC



Students who are blind, visually impaired and multiply disabled will soon have the opportunity to experience the art of dance through a unique program designed specifically for their needs. Directed by Samuel Pott, founder and Artistic Director of Nimbus Dance Works, students will learn, through body placement, poses and touch, the sequence of movements in professional dance. As a certified practitioner of the Feldenkrais Method, Mr. Pott will incorporate the gentle movements and directed attention of this methodology to enhance the experience for the students.

This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, administered by the Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development, Thomas A. DeGise, County Executive and the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

UNICO HOLDS BENEFIT TO SUPPORT CONCORDIA

The Jersey City Chapter of UNICO (Italian American Service Organization) held a traditional style Pig Roast for the benefit of Concordia Learning Center and it was a huge success. The event was held in the courtyard of Holy Rosary Church. Thank you to Marianne Costello, Nicholas Grillo (President of UNICO Jersey City), Terry Esposito, Theresa Saltarella, Katy Sista, Gail Cousins and Anthony Catanio for supporting our mission.



HUDSON COUNTY TREE LIGHTING

The St. Joseph's School for the Blind chorus kicked off the holiday season with a concert at the Hudson County Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Brennan Courthouse in Jersey City. The annual event is officiated by Hudson County Executive Thomas A. DeGise.

Each year, chorus members are selected to "turn on the switch" and light the 40 ft. tree. This year, students Star and Robyn were selected and stood alongside Mr. DeGise and other dignitaries to officially start the season.



HOLIDAY EXPRESS SETS THE STAGE FOR MAGIC

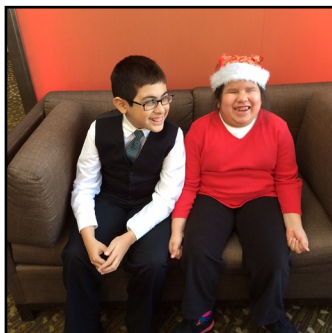
Concordia kicked off the holiday season with a roar as Holiday Express rolled into the school on November 22nd. Holiday Express founder Tim McLoone led the group of singers, musicians, and a bus full of volunteers who made magic happen in the wink of an eye. Santa Claus, Cookie Monster, Elmo and the Grinch were all on hand to bring big smiles to the school's students and staff.

Holiday Express is comprised of more than 1,300 volunteers delivering music, food, gifts, financial support and friendship to adults and children who are physically and mentally disabled, living with AIDS or homeless as well as isolated elderly and others in need. From November through December this extraordinary group brings approximately more than 60 "interactive private parties" to clients who might otherwise be overlooked during the holiday season. A very warm thank you to Tim McLoone and all of our special friends that make up Holiday Express.



SJSB CHORUS BRINGS HOLIDAY CHEER TO THE WESTIN

The SJSB chorus brought a lively concert of seasonal favorites to the Jersey City Westin hotel making the annual event a special stop on their holiday rounds. Thanks to hotel General Manager Colleen Senters and Westin Experience Manager Ben Baldassarre for coordinating the event and bringing staff and guests together to enjoy the show.



RAY BULIN AND THE LIBERTY BOARD OF REALTORS®

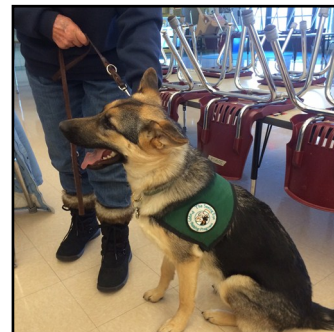
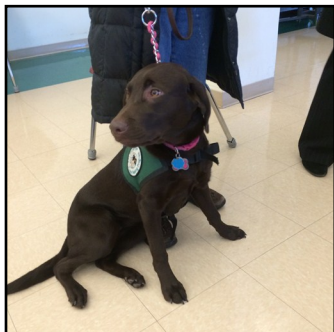
For the past three decades, Ray & Karen Bulin, and the Liberty Board of Realtors have worked tirelessly to give back to the communities they serve by donating their time and support to Concordia Learning Center. And this holiday season was no exception. Ray and Karen Bulin (Santa and Mrs. Claus) along with their friendly elves, delivered gifts and holiday cheer to our Concordia students on a blissful December morning. Each student received a personalized gift and had the opportunity to meet Santa.

Special thanks: Mr. and Mrs. Claus - Ray and Karen Bulin of Bulin Associates, Elves - Norma DeRuggiero of Robert DeRuggiero Realty, Jessica Hellinger of Medina Realty, Erica Sanchez of Bulin Associates and Veronica Siguenca of Bulin Associates.



EYES OF HOPE HELPS SPREAD HOLIDAY GIVING

This worthy organization, a chapter of the Seeing Eye Puppy Project, with the help of Livingston Pack 16 Cub Scouts, collected and donated more than 90 sensory toys for our Early Intervention Program which serves infants/toddlers, birth to 3 years old who are blind/visually impaired and their families from throughout New Jersey. Thank you to both organizations for assisting our children during this holiday season (and pups, Tawny and Olivia)!



WEST NEW YORK LEONES CUBANOS DE HUDSON LIONS CLUB



Each year at Christmas, Santa and his helper elves make a special stop at the school to deliver gifts to our students and recreate a traditional holiday presentation. Our students are absolutely delighted to see Santa and are always so grateful for the personalized gifts the West New York Lions Club donate each year. Once again, thank you to all for making our holidays so merry and bright.

Special thanks to the West New York Leones Cubanos de Hudson Lions Club: Melba Llorente, Vivian Gonzalez, Mario & Miriam Corrales, Manny Reyes, Rafael & Luisa Cardenas, Ed & Myrna Vesga, Danielle Gonzalez, Christina Rakitze, Chris Bolland, and Sandra Paz.

DONOR CORNER FEATURING THE DAWAR FAMILY

Concordia Learning Center at St. Joseph's School for the Blind would like to thank the Dawar Family for their time and generosity serving lunch in our cafeteria and assisting students with Valentine's Day art projects. Our students and staff appreciated your time, company and support of our cause. As a member of the Concordia family, we look forward to meeting with you again soon!



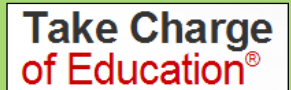
GIVE BY SHOPPING

AMAZONSMILE

You shop. Amazon gives. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support Concordia Learning Center at St. Joseph's School for the Blind by shopping at AmazonSmile.

TARGET: TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION

Target is on track to give \$1 billion for education by the end of 2015. Talk about extra credit! Use the REDcard, and they will donate up to 1% of purchases to help Concordia Learning Center!

**iGIVE**

- iGive is a free service to causes and members.
- iGive really is as simple as it sounds.
- iGive members can generate donations by shopping at any of our 1,400+ Stores.
- There are no costs, obligations, nor any hidden fees.
- When iGive members shop via our special links, an "iGive Cookie" is assigned to your browser. This tells the store, "Here is an iGive Member" using a meaningless member ID number. The store reports back with this number and the amounts for the donation to your cause. We never have access to any payment information.

You don't need to enter any codes, notify the store, or iGive. It's all automatic!

Ways to Use iGive:

- Starting at the iGive.com or iGive.com/mobile sites.
- Installing the [iGive Button](#)
- Installing the [iGive/iPad App](#) (visit the App Store and search "iGive" - free)
- Using links in the iGive [Newsletters](#)
- Search the Web via iSearchiGive.com

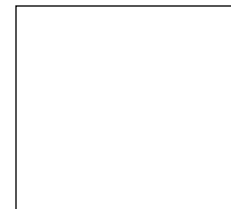


After using an iGive link to the store's website, you shop as you normally would. There are no extra steps, nor iGive notifications when making payments. The donations happen behind the scenes, and often the store's support teams are unaware of the iGive Affiliate Program.



**Concordia Learning Center
at St. Joseph's School for the
Blind**

*A ministry of the Sisters of
St. Joseph of Peace*



761 Summit Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07307
201-876-5432
201-876-5431 fax
www.clcnj.org



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

"DARE TO DREAM" CONFERENCE APRIL 9
ECE SPRING RECESS APRIL 14-21
SJSB SPRING RECESS APRIL 18-23
DONOR APPRECIATION BRUNCH APRIL 30
MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY MAY 26
WALK-A-THON MAY 30

Follow us:

FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/concordialearningcenteratsjsb

INSTAGRAM: @clcnstjosephsnj

TWITTER: @CLCStJosephsNJ

E-NEWSLETTER: Email Ashley Druca at adruica@clcnj.org
for more information

INSIGHT CONTRIBUTORS

JUDY ORTMAN X 112

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
jortman@clcnj.org

BRUCE MOEHLER X 111

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
bmoehler@clcnj.org

ASHLEY DRUCA X 104

PR & COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR / INSIGHT EDITOR
adruica@clcnj.org

ELLEN FELICETTA X 113

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
efelicetta@clcnj.org

JOSEPH SCHWARTZ X 102

PRINCIPAL
jschwartz@clcnj.org

MICKI VIOLE X 101

ECE DIRECTOR
mviol@clcnj.org

MAUREEN WEINING X 170

DIRECTOR OF RESIDENCE & RAP
mweining@clcnj.org

TO BE ADDED/REMOVED FROM
THE MAILING LIST PLEASE CALL:

201-876-5432 x 104