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On Our Island: Viscardi Center hosts star-studded Celebrity Night event By LIBN Staff

The Viscardi Center holds annual Celebrity Night fundraiser

From Broadway stages to ballfields and ice rinks, to television and gourmet kitchens, this year's line-up at The Viscardi Center's annual Celebrity Night fundraiser was star-studded. Headliners included celebrity chef Lidia Bastianich, New York Islander Scott Mayfield, actor Steve Schirripa from The Sopranos and Blue Bloods, New York Mets legend Mookie Wilson, and Broadway stars Chilina Kennedy and Jarrod Spector. This year's corporate honoree was Garden City law firm Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C.; Managing Attorney Patricia Galteri accepted the award on behalf of the firm.

The funds raised support the center's mission to educate, employ and empower children and adults with disabilities.

DDI employees achieve direct support professional certifications

Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) celebrated 16 of its employees successfully earning National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) certifications through the NADSP E-Badge Academy as well as a SUNY partnership. These employees were celebrated at a special DDI event, recognizing their commitment to excellence and professional development.

This achievement is part of a larger statewide initiative, a collaboration between the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), Farmingdale State College and developmental disabilities service providers, including DDI.

FCA spotlights SNUG program with Hempstead community event

About 50 people attended a community information and support event hosted by Family & Children's Association (FCA) to spotlight its SNUG program, an evidence-based violence reduction initiative aimed at disrupting the cycle of gun violence in vulnerable communities, at Kennedy Memorial Park in Hempstead.

The SNUG program guns spelled backward, also known as "Should Never Use Guns" is dedicated to reducing and preventing shootings and killings by collaborating with community residents, businesses and organizations. The program primarily serves individuals aged 12-25 who are involved in high-risk activities, residents of the Village of Hempstead, and those with current or former gang involvement or a gun-related criminal history.

Hospital's Narcan Rescue Station expands to Hampton Bays

Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital (SBELIH) has broadened its lifesaving Narcan Rescue Station program to the businesses in Hampton Bays.

As a result of a presentation on the Narcan Rescue Station initiative to the Hampton Bays Rotary Club earlier this year, club members looked to expand the program through a community training session. Local business owners and concerned citizens gathered at the Hampton Bays Ambulance building to hear firsthand accounts and expert insights from Lt. William Kiernan of the Southampton Town Police Department; Briana Gladding, paramedic with Hampton Bays Volunteer Ambulance; Rick Nydegger, Chief of the Hampton Bays Fire Department; and Dr. Daniel Van Arsdale of Stony Brook Medicine.

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