Dear Families and Friends,

Reflections...

As I sit in my overstuffed armchair, I have lots of time to reflect on the many days of my now almost 92 years. Of course, Melmark comes to mind invariably. To think that it opened its doors nearly 50 years ago!

It seems like only yesterday, when church groups from all different denominations filled the Great Hall with their ladders and paint gear to start the beginning stages of making Melmark “The Home that Love Built”.

Our dinner table grew from a small family of six to over twenty-five each night. Memories of the many friendships that were forged in those early years of building Melmark are amongst some of my fondest reflections. Shoulder to shoulder, we faced insurmountable hurdles and watched Melmark grow and touch the lives of young and old.

Now Melmark has grown to even greater lengths - more than I could have ever imagined - improving the lives of thousands of children and adults diagnosed with intellectual and developmental disabilities. One story comes to mind of Wilfredo, who, through Melmark’s loving hands, made such progress that he is now once again able to spend time at home with his family. You will read his story in this issue of the Messenger, and what a marvelous story it is! It touches my heart.

But my most comforting thought, as I face the last leg of my journey here on earth, is about my youngest, Melissa, my special angel from above. Remarkably, I have peace of mind, without a shadow of doubt, that my Melissa will be loved, nurtured, and cared for by this special place called Melmark when I am gone.

For you see, Melissa thrives at Melmark with all who love and care for her each day. I can close my eyes each and every night in peace, knowing that ALL IS WELL because Melmark is still the dream that Paul and I had so many years ago for Melissa. I know in my heart that she will be fine. What more can a mother want? Can you put a value on this gift to me - at my age or at any age? No, it is priceless.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart to all of those at Melmark whose mission it is to make a difference in the lives of our children.

Miggy Krentel
Founder
Dear Families and Friends,

Here at Melmark, we are always looking for service gaps and doing our best to design and implement programs to fill those gaps. This Messenger is dedicated to illustrating some of these new programs and services.

Designing new programs, creating new program spaces and residences, as well as intensive staff training, all must be in place before a new population, such as children in crisis, can be admitted. Once begun, these new programs go through intensive monitoring, data collection, feedback and redesign, as necessary. This process underlies our functioning through all aspects of our organization, administrative and clinical.

Inside our existing classrooms, change is constant too. For example, evolving technology is allowing our experts in Applied Behavior Analysis to utilize new teaching tools to foster communication and problem solving skills. During commencement ceremonies for The Melmark School, many of the 2012 graduates used iPads to communicate their messages of thanks and love to their parents, siblings and teachers. With a touch of the screen, a voice application announced their individual messages, compiled with the help of Melmark staff. Imagine being the parent of a child who had never been able to utter a word. When my own, previously non-verbal sister, finally was able to say “Joanne” I cannot describe how much closer to her that made me feel. I was amazed at the impact this one word had on our relationship.

In the pages ahead, you will read about our new Neurobehavioral Residential Treatment Facility in the beautifully remodeled Schoemaker House, located at Melmark PA. When all phases of renovations are complete, 21 children in behavioral crisis will live here, where they can receive intensive assessment and treatment. Two-way mirrors between treatment rooms allow for maximum observation, training and supervision.

In Melmark New England, services are being expanded to include a pilot adult residential program. This new adult residence, made possible by a grant from The Yawkey Foundation, is helping graduates of Melmark New England’s school program transition into adulthood.

With these changes and the many more you will read about in this edition of The Messenger, Melmark is poised to expand its reach to the ever growing number of children and adults who so desperately need our services. I thank you for all you do to support our programs and the individuals we serve.

My warmest personal regards,

Joanne Gillis-Donovan, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Fred Weber and his daughter, Karen

Since its founding in 1966, Melmark has been very fortunate to be included in the will and bequests of faithful friends and family members. This generous provision of support has directly benefited the children and adults we serve through enhanced programs, services and facilities.

In order to recognize these donors in their lifetime, we have created the Paul and Mildred Krentel Legacy Society.

The advantages of naming Melmark in one's will are significant:

- You make a gift with no impact on your finances today. Often a bequest is the most significant gift one will make to the organization.
- A bequest is fully revocable up to the death of the donor.
- A donor will be acknowledged for their gift while they are alive through the Paul and Mildred Krentel Legacy Society.
- Bequest gifts will provide a significant financial foundation to Melmark well into the future.

For more information on making future provision for Melmark through a will or estate gift, please call John Schlesinger, Director of Individual Giving, at 610-325-4792 or jschlesinger@melmark.org, or refer to our Planned Giving web site at www.melmark.plannedgiving.org

In these times of economic uncertainty, a carefully structured financial plan is essential to provide long term security to you and your loved ones. Families of individuals with disabilities seem to be far more sensitive to these issues.

Fred Weber, father of Melmark Resident, Karen, was a man who continually looked to the future. Melmark and his beloved daughter were key in his plan.

Karen came to live at Melmark in 1976 at the age of 26. It was a time in her parents' lives where they were not as capable of providing the kind of care they felt Karen deserved. They recognized that without Melmark, Karen, as an adult, would have missed out on so many advantages and opportunities.

Realizing that Melmark would play a vital role in Karen’s life well beyond his, Fred was careful to design a plan to help provide ongoing financial support and named Melmark as a beneficiary of his IRA and the future benefactor of his estate following Karen's death.

Sadly, Fred passed away in May 2011, and he is greatly missed by his Melmark family. However, his legacy at Melmark lives on to ensure Karen and many of her friends have the enriched lives that he had seen Karen enjoy for so many years.
Serving Melmark

Dennis “Mickey” Flynn

Dennis “Mickey” Flynn is known to many as a tireless volunteer who sees his participation in Melmark’s programs and service to the Melmark Charitable Foundation Board of Directors as one of many ways to make a difference in the lives of others.

In April 2012, Mickey was elected to serve as the Chairman of the Board of the Melmark Charitable Foundation. In this new role, Mickey melds his incredible passion as a selfless volunteer with his business and management acumen to serve Melmark. His service to Melmark began many years before through his very active participation as a member and leader of the Hubert J. P. Schoemaker Classic Advisory Board. The Classic is an annual golf event that promotes and provides substantial support to Melmark. Since its inception, the event has raised over $2.8 million to support Melmark’s programs.

“Much of the success of the Schoemaker Classic over its seven year history is due to the tireless work of Mickey Flynn,” said Lee Ahrensdorf, founder of the event. “His natural ability to build strong and genuine relationships with executives aligned with the life sciences industry, along with his passion for Melmark’s mission, is a powerful combination and why Mickey has been such an extraordinary Advisory Board member of the Classic.”

Professionally, Mickey has served over 40 years in the life sciences industry. In May, 2010, he retired from his position as president of the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Association (PA Bio), the statewide trade association representing Pennsylvania’s biosciences community. As president, Mickey served as a spokesman and advocate for the Commonwealth’s more than 2,000 bioscience and related companies with nearly 84,000 employees. In this role, he worked with the board of directors and association staff to set Pennsylvania Bio’s strategic direction.

“At PA Bio, he completely revolutionized the organization, bringing in many new members and providing new services to them,” said longtime friend and fellow member of the Melmark Charitable Foundation Board, Denny Willson. “As the leader of PA Bio, he made it relevant to those of us working in the industry by setting up speakers panels, local symposia and bringing the international Bio Convention to Philadelphia. He proactively led the design of PA Bio, allowing it to become a vital resource for the local biopharmaceutical industry.”

Today Mickey, serves in an advisory role for Puresyn, Inc. a Malvern, PA based company that develops, manufactures and markets products and services utilized in the purification of gene-based drugs.

Overall, Mickey has a reputation of bringing dedication and compassion wherever he serves and is always the ‘can do’ person. “Anyone who knows Mickey knows what an enormous heart he has,” said Willson. “He is always willing to help, to counsel or to take the ball and run with it. Mickey is the man everyone would want as a boss, as an employee and, most of all, as a friend.”
Celebrating Change
Wilfredo’s Story

Wilfredo was eleven years old when he came to Melmark’s Children’s Services in April, 2003. Wilfredo presented with intensely aggressive behaviors that prevented him from living at home.

He also faced another challenge: extreme food selectivity. Jackie Turner, Assistant Director for Melmark’s Children’s Residential Program, worked as his Residential Teacher when he arrived. “Wilfredo refused to eat anything except pizza, white bread and butter, chicken nuggets and cookies,” said Turner. But this limited menu was not his biggest challenge.

“For the first few years, Wilfredo never left Melmark’s campus,” said Turner. “He was afraid of vans, so we had to work to help him overcome that fear.” Melmark staff implemented a shaping procedure to help him become more comfortable around vans. “At first, we just had him stand by the van for a couple of minutes. Then, when he was comfortable with that, we would have him stand on the step to the van. Eventually, he learned he was safe sitting in the seat of a car or van.”

A full year later, Wilfredo took his first van ride to his family’s house in Northern New Jersey. That was four years after he had left home. Wilfredo’s mother says it’s a day she will never forget. “It was incredible to have our son home, together with his grandmother, sister, father and me.” Last Christmas Eve, Wilfredo stayed overnight with his family with no Melmark staff present. His mom says it seemed too good to be true. “His father and I walked into the room so many times that night, just to make sure it was real, that our son was really sleeping in his bed at home. The feeling was so amazing when we all woke up to Christmas morning together.”

Adapting the shaping protocol that was successful for his van rides, Wilfredo’s staff encouraged him to gradually taste new foods. By 2006, he was eating everything on his plate.

Besides taking van trips and eating a more balanced diet, Wilfredo has made remarkable progress in the classroom and at home. He now resides in one of Melmark’s community homes. Lisa Latoche, a Senior Program Manager for the Melmark Children’s Residential Program, works with Wilfredo daily. “He has not engaged in any form of aggression in nearly a year, which is a huge turnaround from when he came to Melmark,” said Latoche. “Wilfredo works hard to reach his community goals and even uses his own debit card to buy movie tickets online.” A teary eyed Latoche went on to say, “we are so proud of his accomplishments.”

Jackie Turner credits Wilfredo as being a big reason she continues along the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) career path. “The day I took him home to his family for the first time in over four years was one of the most amazing memories I have. To see this family sit down together; it was all they had wanted since the day he left home. Nothing could ever feel better than knowing you helped make that happen for such a wonderful family, and to see the fantastic young man Wilfredo has become, it makes me cry every time I think about it.”

Wilfredo’s mom says she has only one way to describe the staff at Melmark: “The people who have worked with Wilfredo, they are my angels. They have changed my son’s life and my family’s.”
Kevin’s Story

As typical children reach developmental milestones there can be many challenges along the way. Such challenges range from childhood illnesses and injuries to peer difficulties and through adolescent “awkward years”. For children on the autism spectrum, developmental challenges are even more pronounced, but with proper services and encouragement, these challenges can be addressed. Kevin, who was ten years old when he first arrived at Melmark New England in 2003, has grown and greatly benefited from the support of his family and Melmark New England’s programs.

Before becoming a part of the Melmark New England community, Kevin was stuck in a stage of defiance. He would isolate himself into a world of video gaming and he would not engage in communication beyond the confines of the gaming world. He had no interactions with peers, friends, educators, family and siblings. During this stage, his family, other loved ones, public school and collaborative educators tried to support him and guide him to a place where he could enjoy meaningful family and peer interactions. However, his behavioral challenges hindered his academic and social development to the point where his family and public school staff realized he needed additional support that they could not provide. Kevin was enrolled in Melmark New England’s day program where he was afforded a more clinically structured environment; after a short period in the day program, it was clear that his needs required more intensive services. The decision was made to enroll him in the 24-hour residential program. Within that residential program, he has been provided with the opportunity and support to reduce his behavioral challenges and motivate him along his path.

Now a 19-year old young adult with clear skin and perfect teeth, Kevin’s resilience and programmatic supports have given him the confidence to move along his path of life. He takes every opportunity to flash his winning smile and now possesses the emotional control, abilities and social skills to engage with his peers, parents, siblings, and staff. He brings joy to Melmark every day!

Kevin’s new found skills have opened many doors for him from working in the community at the Peabody Historical Society, to volunteering at a local church to having meaningful friendships with peers and relationships with his siblings and family members.

Together, we look forward to experiencing the next stages of Kevin’s life and celebrating the milestones he attains along the way.
Creating New Opportunities

The Meadows Too

Due to a growing interest among the families and adults we serve, one of Melmark’s most well known programs, The Meadows, has expanded. Under the leadership of Director, Liza Jones, “The Meadows Too” Program started in November 2011. The program is based on the creative arts and horticulture, and hosts ten participants in a small staff ratio. The environment is supportive and provides a variety of social opportunities and therapeutic work options.

Participants can choose to be involved in swimming programs, stable management and therapeutic horseback riding, as well as the Melmark Players. Participants are also involved in music appreciation and pet-assisted recreation. “The Meadows Too” offers a smaller and more supportive programming option for participants.

On Friday, June 8th, seven graduates from The Melmark School participated in commencement ceremonies. As these young men and women walked to the stage to receive their diplomas, family, friends and Melmark staff stood to applaud their achievements.

While stories of graduation ceremonies across the nation were featured in the news on this day, we were particularly thrilled to welcome 6ABC, WPVI Television to Melmark’s graduation.

The afternoon newscast showed images of Melmark graduates as they reached this milestone - a milestone these young men and women have had to work harder for than most people their age.
Gaining National Recognition

Neuro-Behavioral Assessment Center

After much planning and a major repurposing of space, the Children’s Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) moved to Schoemaker House on Melmark’s Berwyn Campus at the end of April. The newly renovated home provides spacious bedrooms for 15 children with personal bathrooms especially designed for active youngsters.

Other improvements include:

- New treatment and observation rooms for functional analyses in the home
- Spacious living and activity space with large flat screen TV, DVD and XBOX system
- Custom tailored window seats for children and staff to look out on Jami’s Garden
- Office space for Program Managers, Supervisors and Behavior Analysts

The final phase of the Schoemaker renovations will expand capacity to 21 students. It will also provide:

- Space for parent training
- Offices for Melmark’s Senior Clinician and Social Work Case Manager
- A spacious room for Melmark’s Health Care Coordinator and nursing staff

The Schoemaker RTF offers a state-of-the-art neurobehavioral assessment center providing behavior analytic clinical services, as well as comprehensive psychiatric and rehabilitative care to children from throughout the state of Pennsylvania and country.

Melmark’s program has received national recognition for its ability to address the needs of children with extremely complex clinical, developmental and medical profiles. Referrals have come from the Kennedy Krieger Institute at Johns Hopkins, Bradley Hospital, Foundations Behavioral Health and county behavioral health offices throughout Pennsylvania. For further information about this program, contact Suzanne Muench, Director of Admissions and Family Services at (610) 325-2937 or suzannemuench@melmark.org.

Carly works with staff to develop communication skills as part of Melmark’s 24/7 Learning Model

Spacious living areas for active children
Beautiful window seats for picturesque views
Living room with flat screen TV and interactive games
Melmark is dedicated to providing the best resources for its students and adults, as our staff work to increase each individual’s independence, communication and community living skills. A majority of Melmark students in Berwyn, PA and Andover, MA are non-verbal, and many others display only limited verbal abilities.

Melmark students have been encouraged to use their speech generated devices throughout their school day. Many use iPads with the Proloquo2Go application, programmed specifically to meet their personal needs and desires. The Dynavox V is also used. Both of these tools help students and adults communicate with those in their classrooms, workshop areas and in the community.

This technology is helping children and adults socialize with their peers, communicate with new friends in the community and express their feelings to caregivers. The students use their devices in classrooms, community, homes, art, music, gym and during meals. They can independently use at least a 20 button grid overlay which enables them to communicate in complete sentences, using approximately a 200 word vocabulary comprising items or activities categorized into appropriate groupings.

In the community, students use their devices to communicate with unfamiliar people and locate various community helpers, such as store employees. They are capable of navigating through the layout of their speech output system to request assistance and ask for the location of various items within a store, or request and order a particular menu item from counter services and cashiers (e.g., deli counters and post office locations). Many students have targeted this skill, making purchases at various locations, including the grocery store, restaurants, post offices and convenience stores.

Setting goals to communicate with community helpers allows our students to achieve a higher level of independence and greatly increases the individual’s quality of life. It helps to generalize skills taught at Melmark to the greater community, so that a student’s functional communication training may be extended into post school years.
Over past years, many of the individuals who had graduated from the New England school-age program had been well prepared to be successful in adult services. However, several individuals who had complex behavioral profiles did not fare well when they transitioned to adult services. In fact, their quality of life significantly deteriorated. This is something we have heard too often and thus, Melmark New England has developed an adult residential services pilot program.

This pilot program has been made possible by the funding provided by the Yawkey Foundation. This funding allowed us to renovate an existing home to suit the specific needs of providing clinically-sophisticated support services to five adults, all of whom have been served by Melmark New England for many years.

Each of these individuals had made remarkable gains during their time in the school program but still required well designed supports in order to maintain their gains. The Yawkey Foundation grant was a great help in covering a capital cost necessary to modify this home. Melmark staff working in the new adult residence are highly skilled ABA professionals, matching the level of expertise provided to clients in our school-age programs.

With a thriving Adult Residential Program already in place in Pennsylvania, Melmark is hoping to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of this model in New England and, more importantly, that individuals with these more complex profiles can have full and productive lives in the community given the proper level of supports.
Melmark New England partnered with the Fall River (MA) Boys & Girls Club to offer a social skills training program for local parents and family members of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Melmark Staff provided additional training to Club staff to give them helpful ideas and concrete examples of how to appropriately and effectively work with children with ASD. These trainings were made possible through funding from the Doug Flutie Jr., Foundation for Autism and Bailey’s Team Foundation.

This training program offered three sets of social skills groups with participants ranging in age from 6 – 12 years old. This program brought together parents and their children throughout the Fall River area to help them create relationships that can be carried on in the future (e.g. play dates, parent support). We were especially excited to expose children with ASD to typical and common social scenarios while providing them with supports and strategies to appropriately navigate these situations. Throughout the weeks, we received multiple and continuous anecdotal reports from parents expressing their children’s excitement and eagerness to attend the groups; parents also reported using quite a few of the strategies at home. We were gratified to find that typically-developing peers were eager to be involved with the programming each week.

The entire Fall River Boys and Girls Club greatly benefited from having a group of students with autism included in the program. It created a sense of community and stronger understanding of autism to club participants. This staff experience will hopefully lead to greater access for youths with ASD to all Club programs.

Restaurant Week Boston founders, the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau (GBCVB) and American Express, selected Melmark New England as their 2012 charitable recipient partner. Restaurant Week Boston® is a dining promotion that takes place throughout the city and suburbs of Greater Boston.

The promotion runs twice a year, in March and August. Each seasonal promotion offers some of Boston’s finest dining at affordable prices as Boston chefs outdo themselves with signature specialties of 3-course prix fixe meals being served at any of the 200+ participating restaurants. When diners used their American Express® Card at participating restaurants, 25 cents per transaction was donated to Melmark New England. In addition, participating restaurants donated a $100 gift certificate that was auctioned off online during Restaurant Week. All proceeds benefited Melmark New England.

We are grateful to the GBCVB and American Express for this wonderful partnership, which raised over $40,000 for Melmark New England and provided enormous visibility to our mission!
Supporting Melmark

Special Events Raise Awareness

Zumba for Autism

Melmark New England held its first Zumba for Autism event on Tuesday, May 22nd, 2012. The event was a huge success with over 100 people of all ages participating and raising over $2,400 for Melmark New England’s programs and services.

A team of guest instructors put their talents, skill and passion for dance and fitness to work, leading the crowd through a series of high-energy dance routines (even some of our students joined in). The team included Ann Saldi, New England Education Specialist for ZUMBA® Fitness who has trained thousands of Zumba Instructors throughout New England; Brian Considine, Cheryl Cabral, Kelli LaVita, Natalie Bayersdorfer, Nela Rivera and Amy Fournier - fitness and health expert with over 25 years of experience and certifications in the most advanced nutrition and fitness programs, including Zumba, yoga, and more.

The Melmark Spring Festival

On Saturday, June 9th, the Melmark Community gathered for a day filled with live music, rides and food, Western Style. The 2012 Spring Festival featured a standing room only performance of Best of Broadway by The Melmark Players. After the performance, children, adults, family members and friends of Melmark enjoyed carousel rides, an inflatable slide, carriage tours, live music by The Green Tea Revival Band and delicious food.
On September 17th, more than 300 leading business and life sciences professionals from the Pennsylvania Main Line and The Greater Philadelphia Region gathered for the 7th Annual Hubert J.P. Schoemaker Classic.

This annual event benefits Melmark and honors the memory of Hubert J.P. Schoemaker, founder of Centocor and advocate for people with special needs. Schoemaker, whose eldest daughter lived at Melmark for 28 years before her passing, dedicated much of his life to giving back to the community.

Accenture was Presenting Sponsor of the 2012 Classic, which raised $312,000 in net proceeds, bringing the seven-year total to nearly $2,800,000.

The Classic was played on three premier golf courses: The ACE Club, St. Davids Golf Club and Waynesborough Country Club. Tournament play was followed by a cocktail reception, silent and live auction.
The 7th annual fore Melmark New England Golf Benefit for Children with Autism was held at the beautiful Andover Country Club on Monday, July 23rd, 2012. Sunshine and warm weather greeted over 200 golfers, sponsors, parents, friends and staff volunteers. With everyone's help and support, over $225,000 was raised for Melmark New England’s programs and services.

This year’s event offered a scramble format with both morning and afternoon flights. New elements to the tournament included a helicopter golf-ball drop and a “Beat-the-Pro” competition. Professional Golfers Association member Rob Oppenheim joined the morning round, with golfers wagering that they could outdrive him; no winners emerged, but everyone had fun trying.

Also new this year, golfers and friends gathered on the back deck of the country club to watch the helicopter release 300 numbered golf balls over a single designated hole. After purchasing a chance, each of the guests were hoping their ‘number’ landed in the hole. A lucky winner won the $1,000 cash prize and helicopter tour of the Boston skyline; the cash prize was donated back to Melmark New England! This generous spirit was repeated by many others throughout the day as participants supported the silent and live auctions, raffles and other sponsorship opportunities.

Melmark New England extends its sincere appreciation to Co-chairs Jim and Angela Alex and all who support our mission.

THANK YOU, and we hope to see you all again next year for our 8th annual event in 2013!
Melmark offers annual speaker series events at the Pennsylvania and New England campuses. These seminars and workshops offer specialized training to special education teachers, parents, school psychologists, guidance counselors, behavior analysts, inclusion specialists and other educational professionals.

The 2011-2012 Expert Speaker Series was our sixth annual offering of these seminars. These monthly events were all open to the general public. This year’s agenda offered attendees a wide range in topics to improve and enhance their professional skills and understanding of working, teaching, interacting and living with individuals with intellectual disabilities, autism and traumatic brain injury.

All presenters are Board Certified Behavior Analysts with a minimum of 15 years experience providing educational and clinical services to children with severe challenging behavior.

This year’s trainings included ‘Identifying & Treating Obsessive Compulsive Behavior in individuals with ASD’ as presented by MNE’s Dr. James Chok. We were delighted to again feature Thomas Zane, Ph.D., BCBA-D as he discussed the ‘Science, Fads, and Applied Behavior Analysis: Why Ineffective Treatments Persist and What We can Do About It.’ The session educated attendees about the power of proper advocating.

Other “standing-room only” sessions were Dr. Mark Sundberg’s ‘Designing and Implementing a Language and Social Skills Intervention Program Based on the VB-MAPP’ and Dr. Bridget Taylor’s ‘Improving Play and Leisure Skills of Individuals with ASD’.

Dr. Mary Jane Weiss presented two sessions on ‘Ethical Practice in Behavioral Analysis’ to audiences in Pennsylvania and New England. Melmark also welcomed Dr. Kelly Kates McElrath to present a workshop entitled, “Verbal Behavior: Practical Applications” while Dr. Frank Cicero presented to parents and professionals on “Addressing Issues of Sexuality with Individuals on the Spectrum.” Several Speaker Series Events focused on the technology of functional assessments including: “Facts and Myths of the Functional Analysis of Severe Problem Behaviors,” by Dr. SungWoo Kahng; “Bridging the Gap Between Best Practice and Common Practice: Application of Functional Assessment in School Settings,” by Dr. Robert LaRue; and “Descriptive Analysis: A Primer,” by Dr. John Borrero.

This year, we also welcomed back Dr. Keith Williams to present innovative strategies for “Using Applied Behavior Analysis to Treat Food Refusal,” and Dr. Mary Lou Kerwin to describe her research on “Managing Individual Behavior through Group Contingencies.”

We are proud to continue to offer Expert Speaker Series seminars as we continually work to improve the lives of individuals with autism and other intellectual disabilities as well as assistance to their families. For a look at upcoming Expert Speaker Series events offered throughout the 2012-2013 year visit our websites: for Pennsylvania seminar listings visit www.melmarkcontinuingeducation.com and for New England seminar listings visit www.melmarkne.org/outreach-services.
Volunteering Time and Talents

2012 Schoemaker Classic VIP Reception

In May, Melmark hosted a VIP Reception for sponsors of the 2012 Hubert J.P. Schoemaker Classic. At the event, The Melmark Players performed vignettes from their Best of Broadway compilation. Before and following the performance, guests were treated to incredible hors d’oeuvres, provided by reception sponsor, Sodexo.

2012 Melmark Volunteer of the Year Awards

In April, Melmark held a reception at Aronimink Golf Club to thank volunteers for their ongoing support. Volunteers take on many roles at Melmark, from sprucing up living areas for the children and adults who live in our community homes to staffing special events. We would like to give special thanks to this year’s Volunteer Award Recipients:

Chris Cooper, Anne Schoemaker, Dr. Lesley Russell and Denny Willson

Community Partner of the Year, Malvern Federal Savings Bank
Presented to Stephanie Tagye, Vice President of Deposit Services by Cyndie Martin, Director of Corporate & Community Affairs and Dr. George P. Linke, Jr., Executive Vice President and COO

Corporate Partner of the Year, PJM Interconnection
Presented to Patrick Neary, Jr., Project Manager by Cyndie Martin, Director of Corporate & Community Affairs and Dr. George P. Linke, Jr., Executive Vice President and COO

Volunteer of the Year
Mrs. Susan La Palombara

Sodexo staff at the 2012 Schoemaker Classic VIP Reception
The 2012 Melmark Prom

Students at The Melmark School danced the night away at the 2012 Melmark Prom. The annual event was a huge success and included a DJ mixing dance tunes and a Willy Wonka theme. Parents came armed with cameras, snapping photos of their sons and daughters in their prom attire. Melmark staff and volunteers put together this magical evening each year.

COLLAGE Program

Melmark’s COLLAGE Program continues to grow, with new session locations offered at The Upper Main Line YMCA and The Please Touch Museum. Founded in 1987, COLLAGE provides activity-based therapy to enhance social skills in children, adolescents and adults. Also this year, COLLAGE began a new Creative Dramatics Program, which implements theater skills to enhance individuals’ social skills and improve day-to-day interactions with others.

COLLAGE participants learn valuable social skills to help them interact with their peers in school and in the community
On Saturday, May 5th, Melmark held its biennial Dream Maker’s Ball at the historic Hotel du Pont in Wilmington, Delaware. Nearly 400 attended the event, which included celebrity guests, Melmark friends and family and event sponsors.

Pilot Freight Services was Presenting Sponsor for The 2012 Melmark Dream Maker’s Ball, which raised $240,000. This year’s Melmark Humanitarian Award went to Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. Phillips, their family and Pilot Freight Services. Mrs. Phillips received the award on behalf of her family and spoke of her oldest son’s extraordinary life at Melmark. The Phillips are avid supporters of Melmark’s programs and services, and employees at their family company, Pilot Freight Services, volunteer at numerous Melmark events.

Among the guests were Mr. Dave Roberts, formerly of 6ABC Television. Dave and his wife, Patti, are longtime friends of Melmark and co-chaired the Dream Maker’s Ball Committee. Mr. Jim Donovan of CBS3 Television served as Master of Ceremonies, and television meteorologist, Mrs. Karen Thomas was in attendance as well. Miss Maine 2012, Julie Furtado, performed at the event.

The night also included live music, performed by Del’s Groove and a live auction featuring a ski getaway, donated by Mr. and Mrs. David Boreanaz of the hit television show, Bones. But the highlight of the evening was in the prestigious DuPont Theatre, where The Melmark Players took the stage. The actors and actresses received a standing ovation for their performance of Best of Broadway, a compilation of scenes from some of Broadway’s most popular plays.
Thanks to our volunteers who help make Melmark a wonderful place!

Melmark Pennsylvania
- Malvern Federal Savings Bank
- Newtown Square Fire Department
- PJM Interconnection
- PBM Lions Club
- Pilot Freight Services
- Radnor High School
- Vanguard

Melmark New England
- American Express
- Andover High School
- Cambridge Savings Bank
- Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Presentation of Mary High School
- St. John's Prep High School

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