

## SPRING 2010 **INSIDE:**

- ❖ Honoring Our PALS
- ❖ Thanking Our Funders
  - ❖ Auction Update
  - ❖ Meet Our Newest Board Member



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*First Choice Bank*
- Zachary A. Chester  
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\* Corporate/organization names for identification, not endorsement, purposes.

## 25 Years of PEI Kids

### *A Letter from Executive Director Evelyn A. Gill*

Dear Friends of PEI Kids,

Twenty five years ago, I had a dream of providing personal safety prevention programs to the children of our community. Seven women supported that dream, six as board members and one as director of programming. To them I will always be grateful for having the confidence and commitment to share the dream.

Over the years many have asked why – why did I take the risk to start an agency committed to the safety and well-being of children? Why was I willing to spend the greater part of my life fighting the funding and recognition battle? For me, it was and is simple – children are our greatest resources, and they deserve the tools to help keep them safe, the support when they are abused and the help to turn their lives in another direction. I believed this 25 years ago, and I believe it still today.

But it is time... time for someone new to take up the challenge and reward of leading PEI Kids into the future of providing services to our children... So in the early Fall, I will retire with the belief that during these past 25 years, PEI Kids has made a positive difference in the lives of thousands of children.

#### *How do you say thank you...*

To my staff who have committed their lives to working with the children of Mercer County providing personal safety programs in the schools, crisis counseling for child victims of sexual abuse, classes for juveniles on probation who are not yet deep in the system, and visits for children in foster care.

To PEI Kids' incredible Board of Trustees

who committed their time, talent and resources to ensure that we would have resources to accomplish our mission.

To our longtime donors whose consistency in good times and bad have made a tremendous difference in the health of PEI Kids, and our newer donors who consider us worthy of their support.

To my many colleagues, some of whom have wished at times that I would stop having an opinion and others who have been available over the years when I needed a listening ear and calm advice.

AND to my family and friends who have stood with me from the beginning.

Please know that each and every one of you have made a difference in my life. Life is a journey and I have been blessed that so many of you have traveled with me along the way. **Thank you!**



Please note that PEI Kids has established a Search Committee led by Nola R. Bencze, Esq., President of the Board of Trustees. Job description will be posted on [www.peikids.org](http://www.peikids.org) under Job Openings.

## Cherishing Marie

The Mercer County Commission on Abused, Neglected and Missing Children and the Cherish the Children Foundation honored seven individuals and two organizations at the 24th Annual "Cherish the Children" Awards Banquet on April 28. Each year, Mercer County partners with the Commission on Abused, Neglected and Missing Children and Cherish the Children Foundation -- which seek to improve the quality of life of children in Mercer County

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## PEI KIDS HONORS PALS

An anniversary is a wonderful time to reminisce about the people who mean so much. Over the past 25 years, PEI Kids has made so many friends, so many people that have made our agency into what it is today. That is why we decided to honor our first ever group of PALS - People Appreciated for Long Service.

The first group of PALS, honored at this year's auction, included past board members, committee members who have done everything from make our special events so very special to finding our agency a new home (and renovating it), and one dear lady who left us way too soon whose legacy still lives on in the smiles of the kids we send to camp each year in her honor. Below is some information about the PALS and their impact on PEI Kids.



### **Thomas A. Bartlett**

joined the PEI Kids' Board of Trustees in 1998 and in 2001 agreed to co-chair our Capital Campaign Committee resulting in the facility we have today. He was a member of our Financial Development Committee, Audit and Board Development Committees. His calm approach to situations and opportunities that came before the Board was invaluable during a period of agency growth.

**Brig. Gen. Robert S. Dutko, Sr., USAF Retired** secured the course at McGuire Air Force Base's Falcon Creek Golf Course for our first ever annual golf event, and due to Bob's commitment, we've been there ever since. In 2001 he served as a member of our Capital Campaign Committee which supported our purchase of our present home.

**Eunice K. Jadlocki** is a founding Board member, serving from 1985-1993, who continues to support the work of the agency. She served as acting executive director and then assistant director following her tenure as a Board member. Leaving PEI Kids as a staff member to start The

Wellness Community of Central NJ, she continued as an event volunteer serving on the Dinner/Auction Committee and Resource Development Committee (RDC) for many years.

**Vince J. Scozzari, Jr.** was a member of the PEI Kids Board from 1993-2007, serving as president of our Board of Trustees from 1996-1998. He supervised the multiple renovations to our building and was our resident expert on all construction and building repairs. As part of the

committee tasked with changing the agency's name, Vince made sure we kept the children we serve as primary focus during discussions.

**Gloria S. Teti** served as founding chair of our Resource Development Committee (RDC) and remained in the position for the next 7 years. She chaired the first PEI Kids' Annual Dinner and was the one who encouraged us to start our annual golf event. She also created the Kid's Helping Kids project for children

our community to collect stuffed animals for our clients.

**David B. Thompson** also joined the Capital Campaign Committee in 2001 helping to raise the funds needed to purchase our building. When the campaign ended Dave continued his relationship through sponsorships and event attendance. His company, Phoenix Advisors, LLC contributes auction items and sponsorships for both the dinner and golf events.

**Elaine B. Zeitz** was a founding Board member, our second President and our social service conscience. Elaine was committed to the mission of PEI Kids and consistently kept the needs of our clients in the forefront at Board meetings. When it came to "doing something for the kids," Elaine was one of the first to volunteer. Elaine passed away much too young in 2005. Her legacy lives on through the Zeitz Campership Scholarships which allow PEI Kids to send several underprivileged children to camp each summer.

PEI KIDS IS DEDICATED TO PROMOTING AND MAINTAINING A  
SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL CHILDREN.

PEI KIDS WORKS WITH THE CHILD, FAMILY AND CAREGIVER TO PROVIDE  
PREVENTION, EDUCATION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAMS RELATING TO PERSONAL SAFETY,  
SEXUAL ABUSE AND THE OVERALL WELL-BEING OF THE CHILD.

# Zachary A. Chester Joins PEI Kids' Board of Trustees

PEI Kids is proud to announce the addition of Zachary A. Chester to its Board of Trustees. "I am honored to serve on the Board of Trustees," said Zachary. "Children are a gift from God that needs to be protected at all times. PEI Kids has a rich history of serving children and families in Mercer County. It is very important that PEI Kids continue to provide a high level of service to all in the county."



Zachary is a graduate of Norfolk State University in Virginia, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management and later obtained a Master's degree in Business Administration at Madison University in Mississippi. He is a Community Relations Coordinator for Capital Health. This position allows him to develop community outreach efforts, which enhance communication between Capital Health and the residents and businesses that they serve.

In addition to his work with PEI Kids, he volunteers and assists many area organizations. He serves on the Grants Committee of the Princeton Area Community Foundation. Zachary also previously served as President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Trenton Chapter. He is also a former Democratic Committeeman in Trenton and resides in the city with his wife, Alysia Welch-Chester.

"We at PEI Kids are excited about Zachary joining the Board of Trustees," said Nola R. Bencze, Esq., President of PEI Kids' Board of Trustees. "We are pleased that such a strong community leader has chosen to join us in carrying out our efforts on behalf of children and families in Mercer County." Welcome aboard, Zachary!

## More Board of Trustees News....

PEI Kids is also excited to announce that longtime Board of Trustees member Nick Ventura is now serving as treasurer. Nick is the founder and Managing Principal of Ventura Wealth Management where he is the firm's lead portfolio manager. Nick's career spans over thirty years, and many of the firm's clients have been with him since the start. We are grateful to have a proven leader like Nick overseeing our finances and we are also thankful to James Bortolotti, Nick's predecessor, for doing a superb job as treasurer.



## OUR FUNDERS, WE THANK YOU!



Like many nonprofits, PEI Kids has struggled to secure funding during these uncertain financial times. Fortunately, our longtime funders have continued to support our programs and services. Since our last issue of *Postings*, we received several grant awards, and we want to take the opportunity to thank these funders for continuing to believe in our mission and our work.

PEI Kids was awarded a Greater Mercer Grant, a competitive program for projects benefiting residents of Mercer County and the immediately adjoining areas of surrounding counties, from The Princeton Area Community Foundation (PACF) to support CJOOS (Comprehensive Juvenile Offenders Outreach Services). PACF is a longtime supporter of PEI Kids' programs, and we are grateful for all they do for our community. PNC Bank generously provided an award to fund PEI Kids' presentations of the "No More Bullies, No More Victims" program in third grade classrooms in the Trenton School District. Because of the award from PNC Bank, approximately 1,000 students will receive the NMB program. The intent of NMB is to assist school districts, like Trenton, in reducing the incidence of bullying and violence in their school community.

In recent months, PEI Kids was the recipient of two grants from the Lawrence Township Community Foundation. The first grant was awarded in the fall to support the Lawrence Township Stationhouse Adjustment Program (LTSHAP), an alternative program for youth who have committed minor crimes that could result in criminal charges being filed. The second grant was awarded this spring and will be applied to the costs associated with Lawrence Township residents participating in PEI Kids' Crisis Intervention for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse Program.

Last, but certainly not least, we want to thank The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey for a grant that allows us to provide counseling to children that have been traumatized, suffered a loss and/or showing early signs of depression. The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey promotes health, well-being and quality of life in New Jersey's communities. On behalf of PEI Kids, we want to thank all of our funders for continuing to support our programs and services.



## PEI Kids Celebrates Silver Anniversary at Dinner & Auction

PEI Kids celebrated its 25th anniversary serving thousands of children each year throughout Mercer County at its Annual Auction and Dinner on Sunday, April 18 at The Hilton Garden Inn in Hamilton.

Guests perused and bid on an array of silent auction items before feasting on a delicious dinner prepared by Alan Meinster of Marsilio's Catering. Music was provided by Darla Rich Jazz. Live auction items included a sports fan's dream getaway; a package that included learning how to drive NASCAR cars on a professional track; a gorgeous watch from Vecere Jewelers; and of course, "The Bear." A special thanks needs to be given to PEI Kids' good friend, Lisa Forrester, for serving as a last minute replacement as our auctioneer for the evening. Lisa, you did an amazing job! A tradition at the dinner and auction is "Elaine's Table," which honors PEI Kids' founding board member Elaine B. Zeitz. Funds raised from bidding on the auction items on "Elaine's Table" go directly toward scholarships for Zeitz Camperships, which allow children from PEI Kids' programs to attend camp.



PEI Kids honored seven friends of the agency by inducting them into its first ever PALS (PALS – People Appreciated for Long Service) group (see story on Page 2). PEI Kids also honored Melody Powell, Director of Prevention Services, and Robert Fiorello, Juvenile Intervention Services Coordinator, for their 10 years of service to PEI Kids. Guests were moved by the bravery of a former client in the Crisis Intervention for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse Program who told the audience the story of her courageous road to recovery and how PEI Kids helped her on that journey. PEI Kids also received a Resolution in honor of its 25th anniversary, presented by Mercer County Freeholder Pat Colavita, Jr. (pictured, left with Evelyn A. Gill, Executive Director of PEI Kids).

We want to thank the volunteer committee who helped make the event such a success. From soliciting auction items to decorating the room, no job was too small for this amazing crew. Then there was our fantastic teen volunteer crew who worked behind the scenes, organizing and packaging all of the items. Also, a special thanks to our corporate sponsors (listed below), our advertisers in our program booklet and our item donors for their generosity.

**Intervention:** Bloomberg, L.P.

**Hope:** Marty & Beth Deitchman; Phoenix Advisors, LLC; The Tuchman Foundation

**Recovery:** AAA Mid-Atlantic; Tom & Fran Bartlett; Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney, P.C.;

Capital Health; First Choice Bank; Amy Smith; Ventura Wealth Management

**Respect:** Gill Office Systems; Hopewell Township Policeman's Benevolent Association Local

342; Pellettieri, Rabstein & Altman, P.C.; PNC Bank; Riverfront Associates; Roma Bank

**Beginnings:** Mark Mucciacciaro, Morgan Stanley; Nottingham Insurance;

Chris & Denise Pratico (pictured on the right); PSE&G; Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein &

Blader, P.C.; Jennifer Weisberg Millner, Fox Rothschild, LLP; V.J. Scozzari and Sons

Next year's Auction and Dinner will also mark a milestone – it will be our 20th year holding this event. See you at our 20th!



Save the  
Date!

**PEI Kids 13th Annual Golf Outing**  
**Monday, September 20, 2010**  
**Falcon Creek Country Club**  
**McGuire Air Force Base**

Save the  
Date!

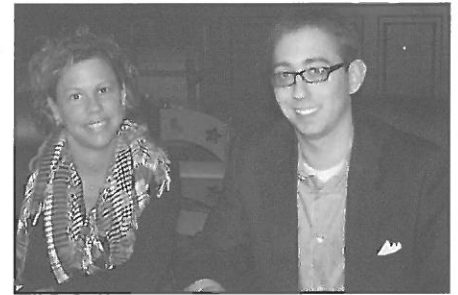
## YBLC + PEI Kids = Great Partnership

The Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce's Young Business Leaders Council (YBLC) has selected PEI Kids as their annual charitable organization to support for 2010. Each year, the YBLC chooses a non-profit organization to aid and assist in numerous ways, such as volunteering for specific events and helping to find donations and sponsorships for specific programs. The YBLC is comprised of emerging business leaders seeking to enhance their leadership skills, network with colleagues, and participate in competitive projects that will benefit them professionally, while at the same time positively impacting the Chamber of Commerce and its surrounding business community.

"The Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce has been a valuable resource to our agency for many years, and the support and expertise of the YBLC in planning our special events in 2010 is greatly appreciated," said Evelyn A. Gill, Executive Director of PEI Kids. The YBLC was soon at work helping with our Dinner and Auction, actively recruiting volunteers, promoting the event and donating auction items. The YBLC expressed to PEI Kids that they wanted to be "hands on" during events, and they were, setting up the auction area, decorating the ballroom, tallying the bid sheets



and working at the checkout table. We are extremely grateful for YBLC co-chairs Lisa Rue and Dan McElwee, along with Alison Stickle, Lynn Nouvel and Jen Cherrington (all pictured) for their help at the event as well as Morgan Hunter, the non-profit chair for the YBLC, for all she did leading up to the auction and dinner.



We are looking forward to working with the YBLC on our two upcoming events – our annual golf outing to be held on September 20 and our wine tasting event in November. The YBLC has already secured us our first hole sponsor for the golf outing – probably our earliest sponsor ever for this event! Thank you again YBLC – we couldn't ask for a better partner.

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-- to recognize local volunteers who have dedicated their efforts toward making a difference in the lives of children. One of the individuals recognized was PEI Kids' volunteer, Marie Borkowski (pictured, below).



Marie called PEI Kids in the spring of 2008 and asked if she could volunteer on a regular basis doing clerical work. This was music to our ears as we always need help in this area. Many people are more interested in volunteering directly with the kids we serve, which is limited because of the type of work PEI Kids does and to protect our clients' privacy. Right from the beginning, Marie has been so flexible and willing to do whatever was asked of her and has been become an integral part of our agency. Marie handles all the copying and preparation of materials for both the children and adult workshops we do each year in the Mercer County schools. Marie has also played essential roles in the planning and execution of our major fundraising events. No job is too small or unimportant for Marie and she brings a smile and her famous efficiency to each task. Marie, a Pennington resident, works at Dollar General in Lawrenceville and was

instrumental in PEI Kids being the recipient of the store's holiday toy drive in 2008 which brought many smiles to the kids we serve.

When PEI Kids was asked to nominate a dedicated volunteer for a "Cherish the Child Award," Marie came to mind immediately and we were so happy when she was selected.

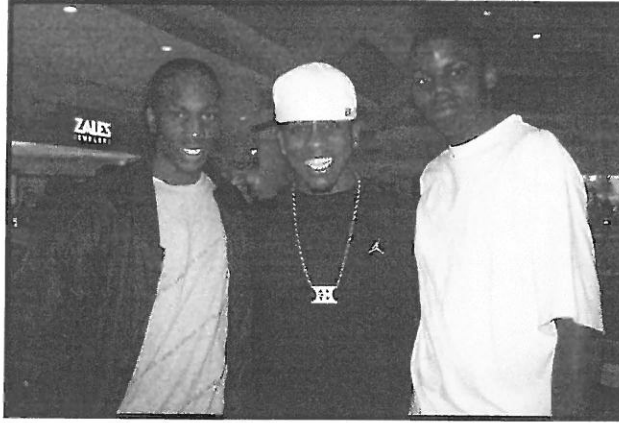
Marie's fan club (pictured, comprised of her proud mom, Olivia, and members of PEI Kids' staff and Board of Trustees) came to cheer Marie on as she received her award on April 28 at the banquet at Mercer Oaks.



Jimmy Carter was talking about Marie when he said "Volunteers are not paid not because they are worthless but because they are priceless." You are priceless to us, Marie!!!

## Santa Wears an Eagle Uniform

During the holiday season, Santa wore green as Philadelphia Eagles' Ellis Hobbs played Santa, and the 'elves' who made this happen were not from the North Pole but from One Simple Wish. Because of this caring corner-back and OSW, two teens from PEI Kids' programs were taken on a once in a lifetime shopping excursion. During December, Ellis (pictured, center) and his Mrs. Claus, Monique, along with OSW Executive Director Danielle Gletow, took 18 youth shopping, giving each child a loaded gift card and helped them as they picked out clothing for school, new shoes, jewelry and games.



how sweet and down to earth the Hobbs family is. The kids had a blast." And what was even nicer was because the day the teens from PEI Kids were scheduled to shop with Ellis was the day of a snowstorm, Ellis rescheduled and was able to take the youth shopping later in the week.

The children who attended the shopping trips were selected by One Simple Wish through their network of Community Partners from agencies including PEI Kids. The children came from all over New Jersey and ranged in age from 6-17. During the shopping trip, Ellis spoke to the boys about the importance of staying in school. Last year, Ellis fulfilled a promise to his mother by completing his college education at

Iowa State University, four years after he left the university to join the NFL.

A special thanks to Ellis and Monique Hobbs and One Simple Wish for making these kids' dreams come true!

United Way  
of Greater Mercer County



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