

Prevention mattersSM

Prevention | *first*SM

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A Message From New Board President, Grace Hanlon

Dear Friend,

I truly hope and pray that with God's help as the new president of Prevention First's Board of Trustees, I will be able to reach everyone in our community and extend my sincerest thanks to you for supporting Prevention First and keep you inspired to stay involved and continue to support this very special organization - "special" because of the staff who I know personally. I see how hard they work to get into the schools and after-school programs, to implement programming we know works to help children develop the skills not to do drugs, try alcohol or join a gang and to stop the bullying that has led to so many tragedies.

It sounds so daunting but the staff of Prevention First is making it happen every day - working hard everyday - making Monmouth County a safer place for all of our children. Prevention First is on the front line!

My vision is to see Prevention First in more schools in Monmouth County. We can do more, we can do better and we can reach more children with the creativity and generosity of the friends of Prevention First. In our community, the sky is the limit! Our supporters are a generous and wonderful resource to Prevention First, and for your dedication to the organization, I thank you!

Sincerely,



Grace M. Hanlon
President



Grace Hanlon with Executive Director and CEO Mary Pat Angelini (left) and the other newly elected officers, Eric Hinds, Secretary, John P. Szeliga, Treasurer and Domenick M. Servodio, Vice President.

Get Revved Up for Our Annual Gala!

It is with great pride that on May 9, 2008, Prevention First will honor Kim and Tom Widener at our annual gala, themed *The Road to Success*. Michael and Diane Gooch and Shant and Hilde Hovnanian will be serving as honorary co-chairs for the event. The evening will give us an opportunity to honor these extraordinary friends and distinguished individuals for their significant contribution to our organization and the entire Monmouth County community.

The Road to Success is a tribute to drive and ambition – a celebration of achievement and paving the way for our youth – and will be hosted in the sleek showroom of Circle BMW on Route 36 in Eatontown.



Kim Widener (right) also served as gala co-chair last year. Pictured here with Mary Pat Angelini (left) and co-chair Michelle Baratta.

For over 40 years, Prevention First has been paving the road to success for the children of Monmouth County by providing educational programs to over 10,000 children annually, teaching them to make smart life choices in difficult circumstances. All proceeds from the gala are used to further Prevention First's mission of strengthening the foundations of children and families by empowering them to successfully handle difficult, everyday life situations as well as extraordinary challenges such as violence and substance abuse.

For more information on attending or sponsoring the event, please contact Lauren McCabe at 732.663.1800 ext. 213 or email her at lmccabe@preventionfirst.net

Prevention First would like to thank those who have already generously contributed their support for this year's gala:

2008 SPONSORS

Diamond Sponsorship

Tracy and Nick Brown

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Silver Sponsorship

Commerce Bank
The Mill at Spring Lake Heights

Bronze Sponsorship

Brookdale Public Radio
The Brunetti Foundation
Meridian Health
Monmouth Medical Center
NJ Natural Gas

Wegmans Quits Tobacco Sales

The family-owned supermarket chain sets an example for the food industry.

Wegmans, the local upscale supermarket chain, discontinued the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products on February 6th of this year. This decision highlights the chain's decision to protect public health.

In a statement, Wegmans CEO Danny Wegman said, "As a company, we respect a person's right to smoke, but we also understand the destructive role smoking plays in health." Prevention First, a Monmouth County based non-profit agency and stakeholder in the statewide community partnership initiative through the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services' Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program, applauds Wegmans for putting community health above profits. The stores will also offer a smoking cessation program to their employees throughout the year.



Barbara Sprechman, director of Community Services (Prevention First), Valera Smith, perishable manager (Wegmans of Manalapan), Arlene Green, Community Partnership coordinator (Prevention First).

...strengthening your child's foundation through life skills education.SM

In Loving Memory of Pam Reo

The following appeared in the Asbury Park Press on February 8, 2008:

Pamela Franklin Reo, 47, of Farmingdale, passed away Monday, Feb. 4, at home. Born in Lakewood, she resided in Howell most of her life before moving to Farmingdale four years ago.

Pam was a certified nurse midwife for the past year with Dr. Kenneth Skorenko, MD of Long Branch; previously she was with North Dover OB-GYN Associates for 13 years. She served on the Board of Trustees for Prevention First and was a member of the Ski Club of West Long Branch and the New Jersey Midwives Association.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Amanda, in 2003 and her brother, Henry Franklin Jr., in 2007. Surviving are her beloved parents, Henry L. and Joan Franklin Sr. of Whiting, Manchester and her loving sisters, Peggy Somers and Helen Knapp, both of Whiting, Paula Miele of Manahawkin, Patricia Franklin of Morganville and Joanie Ruggerio of Point Pleasant.

Pam Reo was a kind, loving woman, a devoted mother and a wonderful human being – she was truly remarkable. A staunch



supporter of our work and our mission, Pam had a seat on our Board – and a place in our hearts – and we will be forever grateful for the gift of having known her.

Pam's daughter, Amanda Faith Reo, was a beautiful, vibrant 17 year-old who loved life and all it had to offer a soulful young woman with a great sense of humor, and it is in her memory that a very special event began last year, The Annual Amanda Faith Reo Health Walk.

This year, the walk will be held in commemoration of both Mandy and Pam.

To remember their vibrant spirit and passion, along with raising awareness for Prevention First, this very special event will be held in late October at the Manasquan Reservoir.

For more information about the upcoming Annual Pamela & Amanda Faith Reo Health Walk, or to make a donation in memory of Pam and Mandy or someone else who has somehow touched your life and your heart, please contact Lauren McCabe at 732.663.1800 ext 213 or lmccabe@preventionfirst.net.

Asbury Park Students are Special Guests at NBA Game!



The group of Project Vision students were chosen to participate in the game "High-Five Line" where the students greeted the NBA players as they entered onto the court.



Twenty-six Project Vision students were awarded tickets to see the NJ Nets play the Seattle Supersonics on January 9, 2008. The tickets were donated by a member of the Prevention First Board of Trustees who has an affiliation with the Nets Organization. The students were able to meet the players and get autographed merchandise, as well as take a tour of the building and the locker rooms.

Project Vision is the after-school program created by New Jersey Attorney General Peter C. Harvey and run locally by Prevention First in order to provide safe havens for local children and teens. The mission of Project Vision is to prevent gang violence by surrounding the youth with supportive and compassionate adults who spend their time mentoring the students.



Three of the Project Vision students pose for a photo op in front of NBA star Vice Carter's locker during their all access tour.



Help Support Prevention First and WIN a 2008 BMW ROADSTER



Valued at \$39,700 MSRP

Jet black with black leatherette interior, fully automatic soft top, heated front seats and steptronic automatic transmission.

\$100 PER RAFFLE TICKET – Only 650 tickets to be sold!

**Winner will be drawn 4 pm, October 20, 2008
at the Prevention First Golf Outing
at Eagle Oaks Golf & Country Club
20 Shore Oaks Drive, Farmingdale, NJ.**

Taxes and licensing fee not included. Winner is responsible for all taxes and plate and processing fees upon receipt of prize and need **not** be present to win.

No substitution of the offered prize may be made • No Cash In Lieu of Prize

For more information, contact Lauren McCabe at 732.663.1800 ext. 213 or lmccabe@preventionfirst.net.

ID # 359-4-34138 RL #004

Please complete & return stub with payment. Ticket(s) will be mailed to address below once payment is received.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____ Phone* #: _____

* Winner will be notified by phone.

Please charge to my credit card: Amex VISA MasterCard

Acct#: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature _____

No. of Tickets _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to *Prevention First*.

Mail or fax to: Attn: L. McCabe, Prevention First, 1405 Highway 35, Ocean, NJ 07712 Fax: 732.663.1698

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Prevention First Announces New Officers at Annual Meeting

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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EMERITUS

Mary Ann Martin

In mid January, Prevention First held its annual meeting at The Mill at Spring Lake Heights. During the meeting, the agency elected its new officers as well as introduced the organization's new board and leadership cabinet members.

Grace Hanlon, MS.Ed, the president and founder of the educational video production company, Edvantage Media Inc., was



2008 Prevention First Board of Trustees



Robert Angelini and Lucia Baratta provided entertainment for the evening.

elected as the agency's board president. Joining Hanlon are Domenick M. Servodio, vice president of Commerce Bank Government Banking Division, as vice president, Eric Hinds, vice president and wealth management advisor for Merrill Lynch, as secretary, and John Szeliga, director of External Affairs for Verizon as treasurer.

Prevention First is also proud to announce new additions to the board including Matt Appel of International Planning Alliance, Tracy Brown of Locust, NJ, Diane Carlton Kazalski, freelance writer, and Michael Mixson, active community member and sailing enthusiast. Given the formidable combination of new officers with board and leadership cabinet members, the agency looks forward to a successful 2008.

Strengthening Families...Changing Lives

Current research has proven that conventional substance abuse prevention programs that target either parents alone or children alone are not as effective as programs that intervene with the family system to promote parent skills, child skills and family skills. Strengthening Families is such a program, and Prevention First is pleased to be offering this program to local communities.

The Strengthening Families program is a research-based family skills training program designed to increase protective factors and reduce risk factors for substance abuse, depression, violence and aggression, delinquency and school failure in high-risk children and their parents. Families meet once a week for fourteen weeks for two and a half hours during which time they share a meal, separate into a parents' group and a children's group to learn a specific skill which they then practice together before leaving the weekly meeting.

Prevention First just completed the Strengthening Families Program with a group of seven families living at Linkages in Tinton Falls. Program participants who completed the curriculum were as young as three years old! Program evaluations have shown success gauged by reductions in problem behaviors, improvements in family relationships and positive impacts on drug use, stress, depression and other factors which may lead to increased risk of substance abuse.

For more information about this program, contact Helen Varvi, director of Children Services, at 732.663.1800 ext 212.



Education Specialist Shannon Murphy works with a group of youngsters on life skills education.



The families enjoy meals together provided by local restaurants.



...strengthening your child's foundation
through life skills education.SM

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Mark Your Calendars!

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008

You are invited to a Public Forum with executives from PNC Arts Center concert promoter, Live Nation. Hosted by Assembly Woman Amy Handlin, Holmdel Mayor Serena Dimaso and the New Jersey State Police.
7:00 - 9:00 pm at Holmdel High School,
36 Crawfords Road, Holmdel, NJ

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2008

Free Alcohol Server Training 4:30 - 6:30 pm in the Club room at Magill Commons, Monmouth University.
West Long Branch, NJ
Dinner will be served.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2008

April Alcohol Awareness Month Celebration
7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Club room at
Magill Commons, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ
Join the effort to reduce underage drinking in Monmouth County by becoming an agent of change in your community!
Free door prizes! Mall gift certificates!

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2008

Prevention First Annual Gala *The Road to Success*
Honoring Tom and Kim Widener
7:00 p.m. at Circle BMW Showroom
500 Highway 36 East, Eatontown, NJ

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2008

How to Create a Smoke-Free Worksite Policy and Support
Employees Who Want to Quit Smoking
4:00 - 7:00 pm at Prevention First

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2008

Prevention First's Annual
Excellence in Prevention Awards Luncheon
at The Renaissance, 111 Valley Road, Ocean, NJ

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

Prevention First's Annual ChessFest!
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Asbury Park
Convention Hall, Asbury Park, NJ

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2008

Prevention First's Annual Golf Outing
Eagle Oaks Golf Club - Farmingdale, NJ.

For more information please visit us online at www.preventionfirst.net.