

PRESS RELEASE
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Glen Cove Optometrist Puts New Glasses and a Smile on Teen's Face

For most teens, being style conscious and looking as good as possible rank high on their top 10 list. Jonathan Almendarez is no different. The 14 year-old, a student at Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, didn't think his eyeglasses fit the style bill. He began refusing to wear them this year, especially since he never had a say in picking them out in the first place. So, Karen Carlson-Sorrentino, School Counselor at Mill Neck, began a quest to locate some "cooler" eyeglass frames that Jonathan might consider.

Carlson-Sorrentino posted flyers at school and reached out to several organizations that collect and donate old eyeglasses. The problem with the donated frames was none could accommodate Jonathan's lenses from his old glasses. Insurance would not cover the cost of new ones at this time.

Enter Dr. Gary Galante, an optometrist located in Glen Cove. Carson-Sorrentino was referred to Dr. Galante by Lisa Kivlen, Music Teacher at Mill Neck, and Dr. Galante's sister. When contacted, the optometrist did not hesitate to have Jonathan come in for an exam and fitting at no cost, and the junior high schooler was encouraged to choose new frames. Dr. Galante's generosity also included ordering the required new lenses. Recently, Jonathan picked up his new glasses, expressing his thanks with a smile. Dr. Galante, returned the smile, simply stating, "I'm happy to do it."

Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf is part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, a not-for-profit group dedicated to serving Deaf and hard of hearing individuals through educational, vocational and spiritual programs and services. For more information about any of its programs, please call (516) 922-4100 or visit <http://www.millneck.org>.

Photo Caption:

1. Mill Neck Manor student Jonathan Almendarez wearing his new and “approved” glasses, courtesy of Dr. Gary Galante.



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