

**PRESS RELEASE**  
*For Immediate Release*

CONTACT: Michelle Yadoo  
Marketing Communications Coordinator  
(516) 922-4100, ext. 231

23 June 2014

### ***Mill Neck Manor Students Participate in Project for Ill Children***

A few years ago, when John Quartuccio was a senior at Locust Valley High School, he began a service project to help hospitalized children. The project, “Kids Who Care about Sick Kids,” involves the purchase of books, through fundraising and donations, for pediatric patients in local area hospitals. As a way to get other teens interested in joining his cause, John teamed up with seniors at Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, where his mother, Betty, is a speech therapist. The collaboration continues today.

Recently, five Mill Neck students and John traveled to the Glen Cove office of Dr. Catherine Screnci to deliver a batch of donated picture books. Afterward, the group was off to bring more books to one of several hospitals slated to receive donations. The idea for John’s project took root when he endured a brief hospital stay some years ago. Now an undergraduate student at Nassau Community College, John recalled his hospital experience, saying, “Some of the children there were very ill. I wanted to do something, so I eventually created “Kids Who Care about Sick Kids.” He chose to purchase books for the children because, “Young children relate to picture books and books are easily transported from one procedure room to another.” John is hopeful that the books will serve as a measure of comfort and provide a bit of diversion for a child who will likely be frightened while going through medical tests.

*-more-*

The Mill Neck students and John are to be commended for their dedicated efforts, maturity and great community spirit. Aside from relieving a sick child's anxiety, if only momentarily, the donated books let parents know that students in neighboring communities are thinking about them.

Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, founded in 1947 by Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, is part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, a not-for-profit group dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people who are Deaf, or who have other special communication needs, through excellence in individually designed educational, vocational or spiritual programs and services. For more information, please call (516) 922-4100 or visit <http://www.millneck.org>.

Photo Caption:

Several Mill Neck Manor secondary students made a stop at the Glen Cove office of Dr. Catherine Screnci (third from right) to deliver a batch of donated picture books. They were accompanied by Betty Quartuccio, a speech therapist at Mill Neck and her son, John (first and second from right). The project involving the collection and distribution of donated books was started by John.

-###-

