

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Mill Neck Services Day Habilitation Center Gives Thanks at Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon

For the 13th year, Mill Neck Services Day Habilitation Center held a Thanksgiving Luncheon which included Day Habilitation consumers and employees, staff from the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, along with family and friends. This year's feast, once again organized by Mill Neck Services' consumers and staff, was held at a new venue, the Elks Lodge in Massapequa.

While participants enjoyed an afternoon of socializing and traditional Thanksgiving fare, Christine Oddo, Associate Director of Mill Neck Services, explained the need for the move from the Oyster Bay facility where previous luncheons were held. "When we first started, this was a small gathering. Over the years, thanks to much support, the number of people we serve has grown. Of course, we are very thankful to be able to provide services for greater numbers of people, but it did present a challenge to find a space large enough to accommodate our expansion."

Fortunately, as things have a way of working out, we became aware of the association to the Elks Lodge by a family member of one of our consumers. There was no hesitation on the family members affiliation to the lodge in hosting our luncheon. Needless to say, we are extremely grateful."

Through the Day Habilitation Center, Deaf and developmentally disabled adults meet individual goals, become independent in daily living, socialization, communication and leisure activities. The center also encourages consumers to volunteer at local establishments, acquire new skills, develop meaningful relationships, contribute to the community and build self-confidence. Putting together the annual Thanksgiving feast then is a natural ?? "Our consumers went shopping, cooked and serve the food," explained Oddo. All the activities reinforce socialization, food preparation and kitchen skills. Everything you see up here [on the buffet] was prepared in some way by the consumers and I want to thank them for all of the hard work they put into this meal. I

also want to thank the staff for all the great work they do and for helping to serve this holiday banquet.” And to Elks

Established in 1986, Mill Neck Services has placed more than 1,000 Deaf, hard of hearing or otherwise disabled workers in over 400 businesses operating on Long Island. The Mill Neck Services Day Habilitation program helps adults with mental retardation, physical disabilities and medical issues reach their fullest potential through functional, therapeutic and enjoyable activities. Need a mailing to be sent out or some extra hands at a thrift shop? Consider the Day Habilitation Center, a free source of reliable assistance. For more information, please call (516) 922-0730, ext. 3.

Mill Neck Services is part of the Mill Neck Family Organizations, which also includes Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf and Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry. For more information about the Mill Neck Family of Organizations and its programs, please call (516) 922-4100 or visit <http://www.millneck.org>.

Photo Caption:

- 1) Mill Neck Services’ consumers attended the annual Thanksgiving Luncheon and were joined by several staff, including (back row, from left) Caitlin Dold, Service Coordinator, Matt Birn, Coordinator of Habilitation Services and Christine Oddo, Associate Director of Mill Neck Services for Deaf Adults.

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