

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Staples Donation Brings Holiday Cheer to Mill Neck Services' Family

As many families do in the weeks prior to Christmas, the members of the Iovino family had a wish list of gifts in mind, though they probably didn't expect to be the recipients of so many. When they received a bounty of presents several days before the holiday from employees of the Staples Advantage® team, they were joined by the staff of Mill Neck Services. Part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, Mill Neck Services was on hand to witness an outpouring of generosity toward the Iovinos. The family is among the consumers who are Deaf that Mill Neck Services assists.

Staples Advantage® is the business-to-business division of Staples, Inc and Mill Neck is one of the organizations it serves. William Culberson, the B2B Sales Consultant for Staples who services Mill Neck's account, explained how Staples' corporate culture of giving back to local communities prompted him to reach out to his contacts at Mill Neck regarding a family to sponsor. "We like to give back to the communities where we do business. And especially after Hurricane Sandy, there was lots of need," he said. Culberson added that he looked into choosing someone at Mill Neck because of the working relationship he has with the nonprofit, saying, "It just seemed right." Staples has a history of local giving in which it supports nonprofit organizations through in-kind and monetary donations, in addition to its Foundation grants.

The Iovinos were presented with their gifts at the Mill Neck Manor House, the historic Tudor Revival mansion, which originally housed the Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf. The Manor was, in fact, an appropriate setting for this exchange of Christmas cheer, with seasonal decorations adorning its interior and the association for Carl and Erica, who are both Mill Neck Manor alumni. In addition to Culberson, other members of the Staples team present included District Manager Robert Minervino, Bernadette Early, Michael Rien and Sabina Khanukaev. For their generous donations, Mill Neck extends many thanks to them, and to the members of the Staples Advantage® Team who were unable to attend, namely, Suzanne Earley, Jim Wallace, Jeannie Amitrano and Melisha Osorio.

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As they opened present after present, the Iovinos repeatedly expressed their gratitude, through sign language, which was interpreted by Mill Neck staff to the Staples team. When Charlie Iovino unwrapped a new PlayStation® though, the delighted look on his face needed no interpretation.

When Loretta Murray, Executive Director of Mill Neck Services spoke at the gathering, she began with a poignant comment. “At this time of year, love should shine forth, but unfortunately, sometimes it doesn’t. Today it will,” she said. Murray then drew some laughter when she said she “felt like Santa” in describing the task of choosing from among the hundreds of people on Mill Neck Services’ roster. Chris Oddo, Mill Neck Services’ Associate Director, added that ultimately, the Iovinos were chosen because, “they really would enjoy this.” From their delighted expressions, that only grew as each gift was opened, clearly they did!

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. Mill Neck Services is part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, which also includes Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf and Mill Neck Manor Early Childhood Center. For more information on any of Mill Neck’s programs and services, please call (516) 922-4100 or visit www.millneck.org.

Photo Captions:

1. The Staples Advantage® Team traveled to Mill Neck Manor to present the Iovino family with a bounty of Christmas gifts. Seated, from left: Advantage Team member Bernadette Early with Charlie, Carl, Erica and Linda Iovino. Standing are Sabina Khanukaev, District Manager Robert Minervino, Michael Rien and B2B Sales Consultant William Culberson, all of Staples Advantage®.
2. Erica Iovino appreciated the gift of a new coffeemaker, complete with several varieties of coffee.
3. Young Charlie Iovino shows his delight after finding a new PlayStation® among his presents.

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