

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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03 January 2013

Mill Neck Manor Gives and Receives This Holiday Season

As the 2012 holiday season wraps up, the Mill Neck Family of Organizations is pausing to reflect on the goodwill it has received and in turn, fostered among its students, staff and community.

The holidays got off to an early start shortly after Hurricane Sandy with the delivery of a large box to the Deaf Education Center (DEC). Inside, the assortment of donations from the Jefferson-Lewis BOCES school in upstate New York, included candy, hats, hand-drawn cards, small monetary gifts from students and several checks from staff. Upon learning of the storm's devastation, Jefferson-Lewis, which counts several Deaf students among its population, collected donations for Mill Neck Manor. Their generosity allowed Mill Neck to send care baskets home with students and use the additional funds to assist several families who were particularly affected by Sandy's effects.

Students at the DEC were also treated to a holiday party at JFK International Airport, sponsored by the JFK Rotary Club. The event, held for the past 40 years, has been a Mill Neck tradition over the last twenty years. Rudolph H. Auslander, a JFK Rotarian and President of the Mill Neck Board of Trustees, once again arranged for the children to take part in the festivities.

The children at the DEC then spread their own brand of holiday joy with the special show they presented for parents and staff. The students were nothing short of enthusiastic as they performed a skit called, "A Present for the Holidays," which included the kids dressed as bears, soldiers and dolls. Rounding out the show were lively renditions of several seasonal songs, "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer," "I Have a Little Dreidel" and "Jingle Bells," among them.

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The holiday excitement made its way over to the Early Childhood Center too, when Santa stopped in with his big laugh and even bigger sack of gifts. The students could barely contain their excitement when they saw the familiar red suit and beard. Parents attending the event were treated to their children's smiles as each youngster received his/her gift.

Good cheer was evident at the annual staff holiday party held at the historic Mill Neck Manor House located on campus. Guests mingled among the festive decorations arranged by the consumers of Mill Neck Services for Deaf Adults and enjoyed a magnificent smorgasbord prepared by school chef Amy Van Tassel. The celebration was also an occasion to toast Carole Zivanow, who retired at the end of December after 36 years at Mill Neck. As the receptionist at the Administration Building, Zivanow's smiling face was the first to greet visitors to Mill Neck. The Mill Neck Family wishes to extend our best to her for all she's done to make our work days brighter!

Lastly, goodwill toward others was shown also by Mill Neck's Student Government, which collected over 300 coats and delivered them before the vacation break to the Salvation Army in Hempstead. Accompanied by teachers Nicole Romano and Graceanne Wendelken, the students said they enjoyed helping other people and would like to do it again in the future.

The Mill Neck Family of Organizations, which includes Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, the Mill Neck Manor Early Childhood Center and Mill Neck Services for Deaf Adults, is dedicated to serving individuals who are Deaf, hard of hearing and/or have other special needs 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>. 'Like' Mill Neck on Facebook at www.facebook.com/millneck

Photo Captions:

1. At the staff holiday party, Francine Bogdanoff (right), Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf Interim Superintendent and Kathleen Lagalante (far right), Mill Neck's Director of Human Resources were among those who toasted recent retiree Carole Zivanow.
2. Santa delighted preschoolers and parents alike during his visit to the Early Childhood Center.
3. Rudolph H. Auslander, JFK Rotarian and President of the Mill Neck Board of Trustees, pictured with some of the Mill Neck students who attended the Rotary's annual holiday festivities at the airport.
4. After collecting over 300 coats, members of Mill Neck's Student Government delivered them to the Salvation Army in Hempstead.

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