A groundbreaking ceremony took place at College of Staten Island which is the former location of the Willowbrook State School which closed its doors in 1987. Diane Buglioli, Deputy Executive Director, was one of the speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony. Diane, who was a former Willowbrook employee, spoke about her first day of work in 1969 and her concerns on what might lay behind all the locked doors. She was given a heavy steel key that she keeps to this day which was used to unlock the heavy, steel doors at the institution. She spoke about having seen such injustice behind those doors and that one must ensure that it is never repeated.

Also at the groundbreaking ceremony was TV journalist Geraldo Rivera and Assemblyman Michael Cusick who also spoke about the former Willowbrook State School.

The Willowbrook Mile is a collaboration among the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Council Planning Committee. Committee members include Diane M. Buglioli, Lorraine De Santis, William J. Fritz, CSI President and in the center bottom Bernard, a former resident of Willowbrook State School.

The vision of the property is to create a pathway for everyone to share the history of the property. The Willowbrook Mile creates an educational and fitness walking trail that connects the three neighboring properties. There are ten reflection stations at different sites along the pathway. Each station includes information about the Willowbrook site, with interactive kiosks. At each station, visitors will be able to experience the history of the Willowbrook State School. The grounds are home to CSI, the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Council and the Elizabeth Connelly Resource Center, all of which united to create the Willowbrook Mile.
Holiday Happenings

Visit with SI Lions Club
Thank you to the Staten Island Lions Club for their generous donation to the residents of the Supportive Apartments on December 15th. It was a fun night of eating and singing. All who attended had a wonderful time.

Holiday Extravaganza
The After School Program had their annual Holiday Extravaganza on December 16th. They had such a fun time singing many holiday songs for their families, friends and AVSP staff. They did a fantastic job!

Community Center Holiday Party
On December 19th the Community Center program celebrated the holidays with their annual holiday party at Li Greci’s Staaten on Forest Avenue. A great time was had by all. After enjoying a delicious meal they had a wonderful time dancing it up on the dance floor.

at Supportive Apartments
at Benton
at Xylan
at Amboy
at Jefferson
On December 9th, the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Council (SIDDC) held their annual Celebrating Achievements award ceremony. Congratulations to Sonny who received an award for his hard work and determination on obtaining a job at Canlon’s restaurant.

A very special thank you to all our gracious supporters of AVSP during the holiday season. The Staten Island Lions Club celebrated with the individuals of the Supported Apartments this year. Time was spent with the residents and staff and presents were distributed. An assortment of toys and stuffed animals were also received from The Staten Island Biker’s Association, U.S. Marines Toys for Tots, Office of Judge Robert J. Gigante, John & Jackie Ruggiero and Alan Magnotti. Tickets to two different holiday shows were received from the St. George Theater and The Staten Island Ballet. Your kind donations to the individuals in our programs are so well received and so much appreciated.

Our thanks to the South Beach Civic Association who presented AVSP with a donation during their 17th Annual Holiday Party in December. Thank you for all that you do for the community on Staten Island.

Employer Gift Matching

Many companies offer matching gift programs to encourage their employees to contribute to charitable organizations. Most of these programs will match contributions dollar for dollar, and some will even double or triple the amount of your gift.

Here’s how to find out if your company is one of them:

1. Go to www.matchinggifts.com/rit/
2. Type in your company in the search box
3. Once you locate your company, click on the link to the Matching Gift Form URL
4. Fill out the appropriate form (paper or online)

It’s that easy! So go online today and see if your company is listed. You can also check with your Human Resources office and see if they participate and simply obtain an application from them and return it with your donation.
Let Us Do The Cooking For You!

Pre-Order Your Dinner for the Big Day
March 17th

Soup, Corned Beef & Cabbage with Sides, Dessert & Irish Soda Bread

$20.99

Must place order by Noon on 3/17

Orders of 10 or more place by Noon on 3/16

Land & Sea Specials
Come in every Friday and Saturday Night in March for a Three Course Dinner (3/17/17 not included)
Includes Salad, Entrée, Dessert, Coffee and a Complimentary Glass of Wine!

Now Offering New Cocktail Menu!
Come in and try one of Harvest Café’s 7 New Cocktails.

Visit Harvest Café website! - Check us out on the web at www.harvestcafe-si.org
Harvest Café held their annual Brunch with Santa on December 10th, 11th and 17th. Mr. and Mrs. Claus stopped by and all the children took photos and received a gift while telling Santa what they would like for Christmas.

Magician Mike Lane was also there and put on a great show for the children. They were so excited watching him perform his magic tricks. It was another great brunch at the Café.

A special thank you to Frank Wilkinson of Rab’s Country Lanes for the donation of AVSP bowling shirts and tote bags. The Community Center bowlers loved their new bowling attire and are so proud to wear them while they play.

PROGRAM AND SERVICES DIRECTORY

New Dorp Lane Habilitation Services 634 New Dorp Lane
Milton Avenue Habilitation Services (718) 351-6129
AVSP Executive Offices 49 Cedar Grove Avenue
Family Reimbursement (718) 987-1234
Residential Services
Self Directed Services-Fiscal Intermediary
Employment Training Alternatives 55 Quintard Street
Recreation and Respite Services (718) 979-4744
Residential Habilitation
Service Coordination
Senior Services
Harvest Café 694 New Dorp Lane
(347) 857-6888

AVSP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daniel R. Wheeler, President
Kevin Hunt, Vice President
Marion Tasso, Secretary
Maria Formica, Treasurer
Steven P. Callan
Daniel B. Davis
Gus DiLeo
Terrence C. McCormick
Susan Montella
Jean R. Ringhoff
Richard Travers

EXECUTIVE STAFF
Genevieve R. Benoit, Executive Director
Diane M. Buglioli, Deputy Executive Director
Laura Delin, Associate Executive Director
Dotty Kroft, Associate Executive Director
Jackie Scarcella, Associate Executive Director

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY BOARD
Ruth Vivian Acosta, Linda Carpenter, Kevin Fogarty, Joseph Reali, Joyce Wong