

Cerebral Palsy of Westchester's Annual Pioneer Dinner Honoring Mercedes Flud and Kiyoko Brown

On Thursday October 5, 2017, C.P.W. held its 68th Annual Pioneer Dinner at The Surf Club in New Rochelle. This year CPW honored two individuals who give in different ways, but make a positive contribution, Mercedes Flud and Kiyoko Brown. The night was filled with dancing, laughter and taking time to recognize individuals who have helped our organization grow in so many ways.

The Martie Osterer Award is given each year to a Pioneer Club member who has made strides to live life to the fullest. This year's recipient is Mercedes Flud. Mercedes currently lives in the Coop City section of the Bronx with St. Dominic's Home. This wonderful agency has noticed incredible growth and improvement in this deserving woman. Mercedes maintains a close relationship with her mother Mary and her sisters Inez and Mary Ann. She looks forward to their visits. Mercedes is a beautiful statuesque young lady and a fashionista. Mercedes loves to shop and she revels in picking out her own clothing. She takes pride in her appearance and fancies elegant and intricate hairstyles, changing her hairstyle monthly. Mercedes is a passionate member of The Pioneer Club. She attends every party and greets her peers with warmth and enthusiasm. She is a fantastic dancer. She uses our parties to debut new dance moves. She enjoys all activities. Mercedes is always sweet and polite, and her enthusiasm is infectious. She is unique, and we hope that she never changes. Mercedes has had difficulties in the past, but she has overcome obstacles. Her willingness to improve and grow makes her a perfect candidate for this honor.

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes extraordinary commitment, dedication, and service to Cerebral Palsy of Westchester. This year's recipient, Kiyoko Brown, exemplifies this high ideal. For over twenty years, Kiyoko has given freely of her time and talents to enhance the lives of the many disabled adults and children we serve. As a Board member, Secretary of the Executive Board, and an active member of numerous fundraising committees, she has been a highly effective force for positive change. When CPW opened their new building, she donated her own work and that of several artist friends to grace the walls and beautify the surroundings. Kiyoko recognizes the universal needs that bring people together and enrich their lives. She sponsored CP/W's toy lending library and the groundbreaking Lekotek Center, which was dedicated in her name. This program, focused on learning through play, uses adaptive toys and technology to promote the inclusion of young children with special needs into family and community life. With her eloquence, Kiyoko described her experience at CP/W. "Once I committed, I knew where I could contribute. Everyone is different. Everyone's experience is different. But it's wonderful to see that the consumers are happy. They're experiencing life to the fullest possible extent, and that's all you can ask." Thank you, Kiyoko Brown, for bringing your particular magic to Cerebral Palsy of Westchester. She was also granted a proclamation from Mr. Kenneth Jenkins, Westchester County Legislator, for all her work with Cerebral Palsy of Westchester.

About Cerebral Palsy of Westchester:

Our Organization's mission is to advance the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of people with Cerebral Palsy and other developmental disabilities. We are a non-profit organization that provides essential educational services, vocational training, recreation, rehabilitation and advocacy to thousands of children and adults in Westchester County.

For more information on this event please contact:

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