

## ***Cerebral Palsy of Westchester's Annual Pioneer Social Club Dinner Dance Honors Stanley Bells and Mark Haden***

Rye Brook, NY – On Wednesday, September 26, 2018, Cerebral Palsy of Westchester (CP/W) held its 69th Annual Pioneer Dinner at *The Surf Club on the Sound* in New Rochelle, NY. The evening's event was filled with dancing, laughter and the recognition of two extraordinary individuals who have helped CP/W grow in different ways, Stanley Bells and Mark Haden.

**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 Stanley Bells. Stanley currently lives at Hudson House in Ossining (a residence program of the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities/OPWDD) and loves his residence and the other participants and staff who live and work there. He is a very social young man, who enjoys music, video games and visiting his family during the holidays. Stanley Bells attends the day program at The Keon Center in Peekskill, where he earns weekly paychecks. Lisa Ferri, CP/W's adult recreation coordinator and director of The Pioneer Club, remarks, "*Stanley's beautiful smile can light up a room. When he enters a party, he is swarmed by admirers, in part due to his enthusiastic nature. When you meet this wonderful man, you may immediately notice that he is a free and independent thinker. His gentle nature and willingness to improve and grow make Stanley Bells a perfect candidate for this honor.*"

**The Friendship Award** is presented annually to an individual who has given their time and energy to help others. This year's recipient is Mark Haden. Four years ago, a friend showed Mark Haden a flyer for the annual CP/W Golf Classic. As a self-described golf fanatic, he found a willing foursome sponsor and played in the event on a glorious spring day. Mark says, "*I was impressed by the top-quality event (the food, the golf!), but I was more impressed to learn about the extraordinary work CP/W has been doing for over 69 years to improve the lives of children and adults with disabilities.*" He was determined to get more people involved in supporting this wonderful organization through the golf event. Mark and his friend and CP/W Golf Classic co-chair Ed Delaney both work in broadcast TV. Together, they spread the word through their professional community, raising awareness,



Stanley Bells and Mark Haden, Cerebral Palsy of Westchester's 2018 Pioneer Social Club Awardees

participation and sponsorships. Due to Mark's extraordinary efforts, the CP/W Golf Classic has sold out for the past two years, bringing in record contributions.



*Tab Butler, Mark Haden, CP/W Board President Richie Osterer and CP/W Executive Director Linda Kuck at the Pioneer Social Club Dinner Dance*

Mark Haden was raised to treat people the way he would like to be treated. He believes in giving, and for CP/W, he gives the greatest gift of all: his time. The payoff has been astronomical. Mark is making a true difference for people facing special challenges. His interest and dedication to CP/W

continues to grow. Mark Haden lives in Stamford with Maribel, his wife of 29 years. Their three grown daughters live in Stamford, Chicago and Japan. The Hadens have taught their girls the importance of giving, whether it's time, money, or simply caring and listening.

### **About the Pioneer Social Club**

The Pioneer Social Club is a social recreational program that provides adults with disabilities the unique opportunity to get together and participate in organized activities with their peers. With a membership of over 200, Pioneer Club members plan activities with the assistance of CP/W staff, under the direction of adult recreation coordinator Lisa Ferri. Membership is available to adults 18 years or older who have a disability and reside in Westchester or a surrounding county. Members take part in a variety of activities including theater, talent and magic shows, movies, bingo nights, arts and crafts, overnight weekend trips, summer barbeque, and holiday and theme parties.

For more information about The Pioneer Club, please contact Lisa Ferri at 914-937-3800 ext. 345 or email [info@cpwestchester.org](mailto:info@cpwestchester.org)

### **About Cerebral Palsy of Westchester**

CPW's mission is to advance the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of people with Cerebral Palsy and other developmental disabilities. For 69 years, the non-profit organization has provided essential educational services, vocational training, recreation, rehabilitation and advocacy to thousands of children and adults in Westchester County.

**For more information, and for high resolution photos from the event, contact Tia Levinson at (914) 937-3800 x353 / [tia.levinson@cpwestchester.org](mailto:tia.levinson@cpwestchester.org)**

###