

October 18, 2024
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Honora Banks
914-937-3800 ext. 416
honora.banks@cpwestchester.org

Cerebral Palsy of Westchester and Pioneer Social Club Celebrate 75 Years of Service to IDD Community

Barbera Bellantoni and The Osterer Family Honored

RYE BROOK, NY - Cerebral Palsy of Westchester (CPW) held its 75th Anniversary Celebration and The Pioneer Dinner Dance at the Surf Club on the Sound, New Rochelle, NY on Wednesday, October 16, 2024. Longtime community supporters enjoyed dancing the night away with the entire CPW family – Program Participants, Staff, Board, Family and Friends. Wine and spirit tastings were provided by lead beverage sponsor Aries Wine & Spirits (owners and long-time CPW supporters Tony Russo and Andrea Kish.) Desserts were provided by local businesses: Greyston Bakery, Seth Greenberg's Just Desserts, White Plains Bake Shoppe, Martine's Fine Bake Shoppe; and fresh scoops of ice cream from Longford's Ice Cream in Rye. Sponsorship of the event was by Countywide Transportation and many local businesses. Two honors were presented at the height of the evening: The Legacy Award and The Martie Osterer Award. NYS Assemblyman Steven Otis presented a proclamation declaring October 16 as CPW Day.

The Legacy Award was presented to **the Osterer Family** for their extraordinary commitment, dedication, and lifelong service to Cerebral Palsy of Westchester. Richard N. Osterer "Richie," CPW Board President, accepted the award on behalf of his children and grandchildren, many of whom were present at the event. The Osterer family embodies a strong legacy of service and generosity that began with Richie's parents. In 1949, Richie's mother, Martie, saw a piece in the local paper about a young girl who needed a ride to St. Agnes Hospital for therapy, and she volunteered to help. For 75 years since that young girl, each member of the Osterer Family has lent a helping hand in support of this community. Working at the CPW summer camp and schools, pitching in at fundraisers with flowers and music, and helping the individuals CPW serve, find placements in programs. The Osterer family is the heart and spirit of CPW which has been



The Osterer Family. Top (L-R): Marty Osterer, Kim Osterer, Jana Osterer, Rod Osterer, Richard N. Osterer, and Venita Osterer. Bottom (L-R): Miles Osterer, Max Osterer, Jack Osterer, Toby Osterer, and Sammy Osterer. Photo Credit Warren Rosenberg Photography.

able to give so much to so many for the past seventy-five years.



L-R: Barbera Bellantoni, Lisa Ferri, CPW Recreational Coordinator, Wendell Rones, CPW Recreational Specialist.

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 was **Barbera Bellantoni**. Barbera Bellantoni lives at OPWDD's King Street House. According to staff at her residence, she tends to portray the mother figure for her housemates by cooking simple meals, watching movies together, or chatting with them about their day. Barbera attends every Pioneer Club event and once there, is very enthusiastic about her involvement in the special activities. She loves to sing and is usually the first one up on the dance floor. When dancing, she displays a very smooth style of dancing. Barbera is very fashionable and takes pride in her appearance. In honor of her special love of shopping, she was presented with a shopping spree at TJ Maxx on behalf of the club.

CPW's **Pioneer Social Club**, organized in 1949 by a small group of individuals living with disabilities looking for social and recreational activities in their community, today serves over 100 members. The club's bimonthly gatherings provide a friendly, life-changing environment, one that evolves to meet the needs and requests of its members, who come from Westchester and the surrounding area, including NYC, Connecticut and New Jersey.

Celebrating its 75th year in 2024, **Cerebral Palsy of Westchester** advances the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of people living with all developmental disabilities including autism, neurological impairments, intellectual disabilities, epilepsy, and cerebral palsy. CPW's main campus is located in Rye Brook, NY, housing a special education school, an adult day habilitation program, and recreational, social, and advocacy programs. CPW operates the United Preschool Center in White Plains, as well as seven group homes throughout Westchester. Through a comprehensive network of educational programs, day services, residential sites, therapeutic services, employment training, recreation programs and advocacy the agency helps thousands of children and adults in Westchester and Fairfield Counties live more productive and satisfying lives. The organization's motto is: *Realizing Tomorrow's Potential . . . Today!* For more, visit cpwestchester.org.

###

For more information and high-resolution images, contact Tia Levinson, CPW's Director of Development and Public Relations, at 914-937-3800 ext. 353 or email tia.levinson@cpwestchester.org or contact Honora Banks, Development Associate, at 914-937-3800 ext. 416 or email honora.banks@cpwestchester.org

###

Additional images on following page



Photo 1: Pioneer Social Club Officers. Photo 2: Assemblymember Steve Otis presenting proclamation. Photo 3: Longtime CPW Supports Wayne and Wendy Soifer and Christine Padavona from Countywide Transportation with CPW Executive Director Linda Kuck.



Pioneer Social Club members dancing in the Surf Club ballroom.