



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Joanne Pentangelo
718-273-2060 ext 154
jpentangelo@sichildrensmuseum.org

Staten Island Children's Museum Hosts a Circle of Friends
2014 Honorees Celebrated at 23rd Annual Business Luncheon

On Wednesday, November 12, 2014, the Staten Island Children's Museum hosts its 23rd annual Circle of Friends Business Luncheon at the Hilton Garden Inn at 11:30 a.m. The annual event demonstrates vividly how the partnership between the Staten Island Business community and the non-profit sector can positively influence the lives of children. Each honoree has contributed to the betterment of the lives of children and families in all of our Staten Island communities.

The 2014 Staten Island Children's Museum Circle of Friends honorees include Northfield Bank Foundation, Richmond County Savings Bank, Staten Island Board of Realtors (SIBOR), and our Kids of Achievement ; Julia Marie D'Alessio and Meghan Ortega.

Northfield Bank Foundation

The Northfield Bank Foundation was established in 2007 with the mission to support charitable initiatives within the communities which Northfield Bank serves – Staten Island, Brooklyn and Central New Jersey. The Foundation focuses its efforts on projects to support education, health and human services, youth programs, affordable housing, senior programs, hunger, individuals with special needs, and other types of community organizations and civic-minded projects that improve the quality of life for our community. Diane Senerchia, the Foundation's executive director will be accepting the award.

Richmond County Savings Bank

Richmond County Savings Bank has been serving those who live and work on Staten Island since October 30, 1886 and has been a member of the *NYCB Family of Banks* since July 2001. Richmond County Savings Bank and the Richmond County Savings Foundation remain an integral part of our community's social fabric. Serving the community has always been in the forefront of the bank's strategy. The bank encourages employees to get involved with local civic and social organizations and non-profits and supports their efforts with donations of goods, services and dollars. Gina Laine, first VP & marketing director at Richmond County Savings Bank will accept the award.

Staten Island Board of Realtors (SIBOR)

The Staten Island Board of Realtors (SIBOR) is the largest not-for-profit trade and professional association on Staten Island. Comprising more than 1,700 members, the organization serves brokers, real estate agents and affiliated professionals throughout the borough and surrounding areas. The Realtors raise money for a variety of community needs throughout the year and have funded a home-building exhibit at the Staten Island Children's Museum and a permanent educational facility at the Staten Island Zoo. The primary goal in all of these activities is giving back to the community. Laird Klein, SIBOR's executive director, will accept the award.

Kid of Achievement

Julia Marie D'Alessio, a senior at St. Joseph Hill Academy, has volunteered for SI Project Homefront since she was in grammar school. While most students enjoy summer vacations, Julia's summer breaks were spent sorting packing and shipping items to our troops. She spread the word amongst her fellow Girl Scouts and her school and church communities and enlisted their support through 2013.

Meghan Ortega is a sixth-grader with wisdom and maturity beyond her years. Meghan lives with Cowden's Syndrome, a genetic disorder, and finds difficulty with most physical activity. Meghan lives each day as an advocate for people with Cowden's and other rare diseases. Through her blog-BeatingCowdens.com, she has become a passionate and effective advocate. Meghan was instrumental in the creation of World Rare Disease Day, a day of awareness and education observed on February 28th of each year.

The 2014 Circle of Friends Business Luncheon Co-Chairs are William Spiezia of Rogers Surveying and Alfredo P. Conti, Esq.

The Staten Island Children's Museum is located on the grounds of Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Gardens, 1000 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10301. The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5 pm during the school year; 10 am to 5 pm weekends, summers and most public school holidays. For more information call 718-273-2060, email info@sichildrensmuseum.org, or visit our website, www.sichildrensmuseum.org.

The Staten Island Children's Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and its operation is made possible, in part, with public funds provided through the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs with support from the Staten Island delegation to the NYC Council and the Staten Island Borough President. Significant operating support is also provided by the NYS Council on the Arts, Corporations, Foundations, the Trustees and Members.