



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Staten Island Children's Museum Hosts Circle of Friends Awards Luncheon

November 8, 2016- On Wednesday, November 16, 2016 the Staten Island Children's Museum hosts its 25^h annual Circle of Friends Business Luncheon at the Hilton Garden Inn at 11:30 a.m. Each of this year's honorees have positively impacted the lives of Staten Island's children and families. The Staten Island Children's Museum is proud to acknowledge our 40 year partnership with the Island's business and nonprofit communities.

The 2016 Staten Island Children's Museum Circle of Friends honorees includes The Bruce G. Geary Foundation, the Meyers Family and our Kids of Achievement, the St. Clare's Transformers.

The Bruce G. Geary Foundation

The Bruce G. Geary Foundation, founded on Staten Island in 2007, provides grants to organizations that benefit animals. From national animal assisted therapy programs, to pet rescue organizations, zoos and the SI Children's Museum, the foundation honors the legacy of Bruce Geary, whose last wishes were to create a foundation to help animals, which he dearly loved. Mr. Raymond Pezzolli, the Foundation's director, will be accepting the award for the Foundation.

The Meyers Family

The late Judy & Howard Meyers of Staten Island modeled philanthropy and community service throughout their lives. Judy was one of the Museum's earliest supporters, serving on the Board of Trustees, chairing committees and providing guidance and leadership during the Museum's growth. Howard provided pro-bono legal advice and assistance whenever needed. Their children, Janet Trzaska and Howard Meyers, continued their parents legacy of support as well. Janet served the museum as a trustee for many years, while brother Howard continues to provide legal aid to the organization. The Museum established a lasting memorial to Judy in the form of the cozy Judy's Booknook in our Block Harbor exhibit as a tribute to her abiding commitment to early childhood literacy.

Kids of Achievement: St. Clare's Transformers

Since forming in 2003, the Lego Robotics Team at St. Clare's School on Staten Island, now known all over the country as "The Transformers," has been winning national & local robotics competitions, learning technology, and volunteering throughout the community to brainstorm and provide real solutions to real problems. The team adopted Jack's Pond in the Bluebelt and spent countless hours designing a system to aerate the pond when they realized oxygen levels were dropping. Together, they designed a local baseball field for children with special needs and they are always an enthusiastic, professional and exciting addition to the Museum's annual Carnival & Science Spectacular. Three time NYC champions in Lego Robotics, and advancing to international competition, this group of middle school students proves every day the value of teamwork, dedication, hard work and fun.

The 2016 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, 11 am 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.