

EVNY Launch of New Candle Business: A Great Success!

EV extraordinary VENTURES

NEW YORK

For two decades, FECA has been actively involved in supporting programs that help individuals with autism in the metropolitan New York area through the establishment of a school and a partnership supporting a day habilitation program for adults.



Brett, Matt, Brian and Max proudly celebrate a new business!

Our next adventure is already bearing fruit! With seed money from FECA and generous support from our Extraordinary Ventures mentors in North Carolina, Extraordinary Ventures New York (EVNY) was launched this year as a separately incorporated nonprofit. EVNY's mission is to respond to the enormous void in employment opportunities, despite the vast potential of individuals with autism and other disabilities to work within their communities.

EVNY's first venture was launched November 7th at the enormously popular Craft and Gift Fair at the Robert E. Bell Middle School in Chappaqua. It proved to be a spectacular success as the candles made by EVNY's first employees, Max Kimmel and Brett Schaffran, were sold with charming salesmanship by Brian Kirk and Matt Koch!

The booth was clearly one of the most popular among the nearly one hundred vendors, as customers purchased creatively

packaged and heavenly scented candles for the holiday season. A holiday fair in Bedford at St. Patrick's Church on November 21st provided another opportunity.



Brian makes the first sale of the day!

The candle business provided a challenge to test both the interests and abilities of prospective employees for this kind of endeavor. It was also a particularly rewarding opportunity for direct interaction with a community that has long supported but

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Opportunity Network for Employers and Employees (ONEE) Program – Two Years and Going Strong

Well into its second year, FECA's Opportunity Network for Employers and Employees (ONEE) continues to make progress towards its mission to create new opportunities for adults on the autism spectrum. The ONEE program was created in 2013 to fill a void that service providers, in the course of fulfilling their daily duties, were struggling to provide. The task requires an enormous commitment of time and effort to first identify a new site and then work together with designated staff and job coaches to determine which tasks would both enhance the workplace and match the skills and interests of the individual volunteer.



Sam and Anthony prepare a mailing at Reform Temple of Putnam Valley.

Moreover, most day hab providers are constrained by staff ratios and travel time.

It is most beneficial to have sites that will accept several workers at a time, thus making the task of securing opportunities even more onerous.

Towards that end, Lisa Keogh, FECA's long time grant writer, was brought on board as a consultant dedicated to the task of finding new sites. Thus far, the ONEE program has enabled the Devreux Adult Program (DAP) to expand to more diverse sites throughout the county, including the Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, Strategies for Wealth in Rye Brook, and through Lisa's efforts, Croton Auto Park in Croton on Hudson, Reform

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FECA Spring Gala 2015 – an Event to Remember

On Thursday evening, March 19th, The Foundation for Empowering Citizens with Autism (FECA) welcomed nearly 300 guests to the elegant grand ballroom of the Pierre Hotel in New York City for their 20th annual Spring Gala. The event raised more than \$200,000 to help FECA continue its mission of ensuring that individuals with autism-spectrum disorders lead meaningful and productive lives.



Phil Orlando, Event Chair, addressing the crowd.

The benefit was chaired by Elise & Phil Orlando and Melanie & Drew Schaffran, bringing together supporters to celebrate both the achievements of our young people and FECA's broader new mission to create employment opportunities for them.

Gina DeCaprio once again chaired a magnificent silent auction full of must-have items, including orchestra seats to popular Broadway shows, autographed sports memorabilia and tickets, exotic travel (including a Las Vegas get away), fine wines, golf outings, jewelry and designer handbags.

The silent auction contributes significantly to the financial success of the annual event, as most of the items are generously donated and secured by the Benefit Committee and Board Members, with only a few consignment items. Several items were hotly pursued, as guests were in a feeding frenzy to go home with their coveted prize.

Because the night of the benefit was also the kickoff for college basketball's "March Madness," FECA accommodated its guests by having a jumbo screen television, so attendees could simultaneously keep an eye on their brackets while working the silent auction.

FECA's always-terrific raffle drawing concluded the evening, in which lucky guest Mike Dieschbourg from Federated Investors won the top prize, a vacation to Cancun.

The highlight of the evening was FECA's presentation to its two outstanding honorees, **Evercore ISI** and **Morgan Lewis**.

• **Evercore ISI**, a prominent investment-advisory and investment-banking firm, has been a consistently generous supporter of FECA's Spring Cocktail Party since its inception. Bill Foley, Evercore ISI's national director of sales, and two sales colleagues, Greg Harr and Brittany Lynch, accepted the award.



Honoree recipients, Gregg Harr, Bill Foley, Brittany Lynch all of Evercore ISI with Phil Orlando.

• **Morgan Lewis** received the **FECA Lifetime Achievement Award**, for the firm's unwavering and enormously generous commitment of pro bono legal counsel and support over the past two decades. Chris Parlo, whose foundation in honor of his son, Bradley Spenser, built the playground at the **Devereux Millwood Learning Center (DMLC)**, accepted the award on behalf of **Morgan Lewis**, where he is a partner.



Honoree recipient Chris Parlo of Morgan Lewis with Drew & Melanie Schaffran.

Congratulations to FECA Scholarship Recipient

Supporting continuing education for individuals working with adults with autism is a critical piece of FECA's Mission. Petrice Haughton, an eight year veteran of both DMLC and the Devereux Adult Program is a FECA Scholarship Recipient who is now working towards both a Master's Degree in Special Education and a BCBA Certification.



Fairwell to a Friend



A heartfelt thank you and farewell to a dear friend of FECA and all of the young people at DMLC and the Adult Program. Jean Kulesa gave DMLC students their first volunteer opportunities at Bethel Nursing Home over a decade ago and then continued her loyal commitment opening the doors wide to the Westchester Medical Center. We wish Jean great happiness in her new home in Connecticut!

Check out FECA's newly designed website, www.fecainc.org. Make sure to follow us and "like" us on our Facebook page, Foundation for Empowering Citizens with Autism!



20th Annual Spring Gala – March 19th, 2015





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ONEE Program

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Temple in Putnam Valley and Cortlandt Healthcare in Cortlandt Manor.

"We can always count on the Devereux team to complete assignments from many different departments at the Medical Center," states Patricia Boyce, Director of Clinical Care at Westchester Medical Center. "The work of the ONEE volunteers not only helps our staff but it enables our patients to receive the best level of care possible." In recognition of their contribution to the hospital, the DAP team received the 2015 Volunteer Program Award.

Louis Giordano, CEO of Croton Auto Park applauded the partnership, stating that "we pride ourselves on our relation-

ship with the community and providing opportunities for a diverse population as it helps us to be good corporate citizens. Our employees enjoy working side by side with workers from the ONEE program and we consider them a part of our family."

FECA's goal is to continue to expand and nurture community partnerships and push the boundaries of what might be possible for the adult population. In the coming months, ONEE will be broadening its efforts to embrace additional service providers and individuals looking for opportunities outside of their day habilitation program.



Matt prepares a mirror for use on the rehab floor at Cortlandt Healthcare.



Jackson helps to take care of the plants in the sanctuary at Reform Temple of Putnam Valley.



John works with Kristina to keep a vehicle showroom ready at Croton Auto Park



Alex takes pride in a job well done in a patient room at Cortlandt Healthcare.

Extraordinary Ventures

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rarely has the chance to witness firsthand the talents and particular charm of our young people.

Follow the progress of EVNY's mission at the newly inaugurated website, www.evny.org. And "like" us on Facebook at **Extraordinary Ventures New York!**



Matt confers with sales coach Liz Oliveto



Brian proudly receives his paycheck for a job well done!

21ST ANNUAL

FECA Spring Reception

Tuesday, April 5, 2016 • 6:30 – 9:30pm

The Yale Club of New York City, 50 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, NY

Cocktail Reception and Silent Auction • Invitation to follow