



WINTER 2007

ISAACS CENTER

Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center, Inc.
415 East 93rd Street, New York, NY 10128 • Tel. 212-360-7620 • www.isaacscenter.org



Isaacs Center Afterschool youth enhance their math skills with the help of new Study Buddy computers.

Thanks to the Brick Church, the Isaacs Afterschool Learning Center program is getting a technology upgrade!

The Brick Church, a long time Isaacs Center supporter, recently awarded a \$100,000 grant to our afterschool program — a gift that enabled us to purchase and incorporate new technology into our afterschool

Brick Church Grant Aims to Enhance Isaacs Afterschool

curriculum, ensuring that at-risk children have access to the same resources that are common in middle-class homes and schools. Our objective is to enhance learning based on individual needs.

The new technology, including online tools such as Brainchild and BrainPOP, allows Isaacs afterschool staff to tailor activity plans and programs to better address the children's needs.

Our kids are especially excited about "Study Buddy," a handheld, portable computer with interchangeable math and language cartridges specific to New York State's standards.

These technology additions to our afterschool program keep with our mission to provide innovative programming that promotes growth and self-reliance. Isaacs Afterschool

Learning Center brings educational enrichment programs to children living in the East Harlem/Yorkville community.

"This grant will make a tremendous difference in the services we can offer our youth," said Esther Grant-Walker, Director of School-age Programs. "Our Brick Church friends are committed to providing low-income youth with the same opportunities all kids deserve, and together we look forward to making Isaacs Afterschool Learning Center one of the best in the country."

In recognition of their 40-plus years of support and to celebrate the lives they have changed through their generosity, faith and spirit, we are honoring the Brick Presbyterian Church members at our May 17th Annual Gala. ✧

Merrill Lynch's Holiday Gift of Conversation

Mary is 81 years old and participates in the Isaacs Center's Meals on Wheels program. Her son, who lives in Kentucky, couldn't make it up north for Christmas this year. But thanks to the Merrill Lynch Christmas Calls Program, Mary was still able to spend quality time with her son on Christmas Day.

"My mom doesn't have long distance, so every time she calls my brother in Kentucky, it must be collect," says Mary's daughter Gilda, "except on Christmas through this Merrill Lynch program. It is a very good program, very thoughtful. They let my mom and brother speak for about 20 minutes, which is very generous."



Merrill Lynch's Christmas Calls Program enables Meals on Wheels seniors to connect with their loved ones.

This is the 26th year Merrill Lynch has arranged free calls for homebound seniors to anywhere in the world on Christmas Day. "It is a special day for thousands of employees and other volunteers who take time from their holiday celebrations to support the seniors," said Ahmass Fakahany, Vice Chairman and Chief Administrative Officer of Merrill Lynch. "It has become a favorite event and a tradition here."

We thank our Merrill Lynch partners for this innovative program that brings the families of our homebound seniors just a little bit closer on Christmas Day. ✧



From the Executive Director

Meeting the needs of every senior and young person in our Isaacs Center community may seem to some an unrealistic New Year's resolution. But with the unwavering support of

friends like you, and with the partnerships we have built with so many caring neighborhood organizations, I have great hopes that 2007 will be the most rewarding year in our 42-year history. I know it will be our most challenging!

Thanks to our friends at Brick Church, our **Afterschool Learning Center** will receive a much-needed technological upgrade in 2007. Our current small computer lab is inadequate to serve all the 75 children in our program. With this upgrade, we will be able to incorporate new technology into our **Afterschool** curriculum and ensure that we are promoting the growth and self-reliance of our kids.

For our seniors, we plan to address a growing concern — identity theft. Now the fastest-growing financial crime in America, identity theft often targets the unsuspecting elderly. Given the increasing numbers of thefts — exacerbated by emotional distress and helplessness — noted by our caseworkers, we must provide seniors with the knowledge and resources they need to protect their finances and identity.

Our new **Identity Crime Prevention Program for Seniors**, funded by the David and Minnie Berk Foundation, will offer a series of workshops to area seniors. Participants will learn how to detect and prevent identity theft to avoid the financial and emotional distress caused by this heartless crime.

At the core of all our services is feeding our community's hungry seniors — a population that continues to grow at an alarming rate. The nutritious meals and social connections we provide through our **Senior Center** and **Meals on Wheels** programs are life sustaining.

Recently, 64 year-old Olga shared with me why she loves coming to the Isaac's **Senior Center**. "Not only do I get to enjoy a nice meal, but I get to spend time with my friends," she said, "they are like family."

With the support from so many partners — especially good friends like you, who have taken our seniors and young people into your family, and into your hearts — I look forward to 2007 with enthusiasm, optimism and excitement. Thank you for making such a big difference in the lives of so many good people in need. I hope the New Year brings you peace, good health and happiness.

Wanda Wooten

Seniors vs. Youth: Chess Anyone?

The Isaacs **Senior Center** is a lively, thriving community with a diverse membership of elders who speak more than 20 languages among them. On weekdays, nearly 150 seniors gather at the Isaacs Center for a hot, nutritious breakfast and lunch, music performances and health and wellness programs, in addition to social and cultural activities.

But rarely do these gatherings include the kind of much-welcomed youth participation that took place at our **Senior Center** last fall when Renee Yarzig and the innovative Cross-Generation Chess Program (CGC) paid a visit to our seniors.

and young people to play chess and brighten the day. The program enables seniors and children to get together to play chess and, more importantly, spend time just talking and laughing. One unique aspect of the program is the introduction of classical music, which is played live in the background as the generations face off in good-natured competition.

Our thanks to Renee Yarzig for bringing this innovative program to the Isaacs Center — and bringing joy into the hearts of so many seniors. Our seniors-cum-chess-experts are already looking forward to a rematch next year! ✧



Cross-Generation Chess: Youngsters and Isaacs seniors alike enjoy an afternoon of fun playing chess and getting to know each other.

CGC arrived at our **Senior Center** armed with chessboards, a pianist

Meet the Newest Members of Our Isaacs Family

The work of the Isaacs Center is like a great switchboard that brings together people from all walks of life. Together — volunteers, supporters, staff and board members — we build the most important connection of all by bringing help and hope to our seniors, youth and families in need.

As we begin a new year of striving to provide the best services possible, we are happy to announce the election of five new members to our Board of Directors. We look forward to their energy, enthusiasm and ideas, and we thank them for giving of their time, resources and talent to help make the Isaacs family even stronger:

N. Lorraine Baker: Lorraine, a California native, serves as an agent for Prudential Douglas Elliman Real Estate. She received her B.S. and M.B.A. both from the University of Southern California.

Glenn McAnanama: Glenn is Senior Manager, Global Market Analytics, Pfizer Pharmaceutical Group. He received his Master of Public Administration from New York



Three of the Isaacs Center's new Board members (left to right): Ray Wareham, N. Lorraine Baker and Fred Rubinstein.

University, and his B.S. from Cornell University. Glenn volunteers with Kaplan SAT tutoring at Norman Thomas High School and New York Cares, and is a mentor with Kids Unique e-Mentoring.

April Dow Michas: A former advertising executive, April currently volunteers with Learning Leaders at P.S. 198. She received a B.A. from the University of Massachusetts.

Frederic A. Rubinstein: Fred is a partner at Kelley Drye & Warren LLP, focusing on emerging growth companies and venture capital. He was included in *The Best Lawyers in America*, Corporate Law Section, 1991-2006. Fred received both his B.A. and L.L.B. from Cornell University.

Raymond N. Wareham: Ray has been head of the Bernstein Wealth Management Group since 2004. He earned a B.A. from Northwestern University and an M.B.A. from Harvard University. He also served as an officer in the U.S. Navy. Ray is a life trustee and past president of the Board of the Spence School in New York. ♦

Isaacs Seniors Enjoy a Bear Stearns Holiday

It's not very often that a fleet of black Lincoln Town Cars pulls up to the front door of the Isaacs Senior Center. But that's how a special occasion began for a group of our seniors, as they were treated to a holiday dinner by our friends at Bear Stearns at their New York headquarters on December 21st.

"All of our seniors looked so nice," said Courtney Pycraft, Volunteer Coordinator of the Isaacs **Naturally Occurring Retirement Community and Senior Programs**. "A few felt like they may have been overdressed before we got there, but once there they felt that they fit in perfectly!"

Upon arrival, our seniors were greeted by Bear Stearns high school interns, who escorted their guests of honor to a dinner of salad, turkey, stuffing, candied yams and apple tarts.

"There was apple cider to drink, with lighted ice cubes that changed colors," said Courtney. "Those ice cubes were a big hit with our seniors! And so were the corsages and (continued on page 6)

**ISAACS CENTER
3RD ANNUAL GALA**

**WELCOME BACK
THE DRIFTERS**

cocktails...
dining...
dancing...
auction...
and
great music!

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2007

All to benefit the Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center.
For further information, please contact
the Development Office at 212-360-7620, ext. 18.

SAVE THE DATE!

Isaacs Center Volunteers Help Make the Holidays Special

Isaacs Center staff and volunteers work extra hard to stand in for family for our seniors on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, filling our Senior Center with love and good food.



day to make the holidays special for our seniors — full of friends, food and song.

The kindness of our volunteers does much more than provide a delicious meal. It enables our seniors to experience the love that comes from being part of a traditional family celebration and creates a memory that will last the rest of their lives.

This holiday season, with the support of 67 dedicated volunteers, we served total of 340 meals to seniors at the Isaacs **Senior Center**, and delivered 712 meals to frail homebound **Meals on Wheels** clients.

All of our staff and volunteers sacrificed being with their own families for part of the

In the true spirit of the holiday season, and on behalf of our seniors, we thank all our volunteers for making this year's celebration the best we've ever had. ✧

Isaacs Executive Director Receives Humanitarian Award

Every day at the Isaacs Center, staff and volunteers alike are inspired by the dedication, commitment and expertise of Wanda Wooten, our Executive Director.

Recently, at the annual benefit of Council of Senior Centers and Services (CSCS) of New York, Wanda's efforts were recognized by her peers when she was awarded the Lott Humanitarian Award for excellence in and dedication to improving senior services in New York City.

Since joining the Isaacs Center in 1984, Wanda has worked tirelessly on behalf of our pioneering and nationally acclaimed **Meals on Wheels** program, launching and expanding innovative programs, such as our **Elders at Home** conference call program and on-site social activities for frail seniors.

The award is named for the Reverend Robert V. Lott, a founder of CSCS who devoted his life to helping less fortunate New Yorkers. He was known for bringing diverse communities

together to develop solutions for senior services and housing, as well as for his wit, spirit and perseverance.

We congratulate Wanda on this well-deserved honor — as well as for her spirit, perseverance and dedication to our staff, volunteers — and especially our seniors. ✧



Edwin Méndez-Santiago, LCSW, Commissioner, NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA), with Isaacs' Executive Director Wanda Wooten and the Lott Humanitarian Award.

WISH LIST

You can support the **Isaacs Center** by donating new items for our programs. If there's something on our **Wish List** that you can provide, please contact Veronica Haywood, Director of Development, at 212-360-7620. Thank you in advance!

Accessories: socks, knee-highs, pantyhose, sun hats, small bags (coin, make-up), pretty scarves.

Art Supplies: markers, paints, canvas, construction paper.

Books: for children, teenagers and adults in English, Spanish and Chinese. Fiction, nonfiction, study and career reference guides. Large print and multiple copies for book groups also needed.

CD Player & DVD Players

CDs, DVDs & Tapes: musicals, oldies and classical.

Craft Supplies: yarn, knitting needles, stencils.

Digital Camera

Exercise Equipment: rubber balls, and elastic bands.

Holiday Decorations

Magazine & Newspaper Subscriptions: *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Craigslist*, *Money Inc.*, *Financial Times*, other news and current events periodicals.

New Cosmetics: lipstick, pressed powder, blush, nail polish, eye shadow, hand cream, soap, etc.

Costume Jewelry

Plastic Storage Containers (medium & large)

Picture Frames (medium & large)

Small Plants: African violets, jades, tropical varieties.

Video Camera





With Heartfelt Thanks...

In deep appreciation of their financial contributions, bequests and gifts of time and in-kind resources, we thank the following foundations, estates, corporations, organizations, public officials and agencies for their steadfast support, from July 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006, of the Isaacs Center's work with the children, families and elders of our community:

Emma J. Adams Memorial Fund, Inc.
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Thanks to the corporations who recently matched gifts from their employees:

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You can support Isaacs Center programs:

Meals on Wheels, Senior Center, Afterschool — and all Isaacs Center programs — in a variety of ways:

Your contributions, sent in response to appeals, support all our work and offer you opportunities throughout the year to help those in greatest need. Use the enclosed envelope to make a contribution of any size today.

Appreciated stock gifts can reduce your tax liability while providing significant funding for our programs.

Special events let you enjoy a good time while also helping the Isaacs Center. (See page 6 for information about our upcoming Gala.)

Volunteer tutors, computer, math and writing instructors are needed to help seniors, young people and adults learn new skills.

The SINC Thrift Shop will close at the end of February. We thank everyone who has supported this unique effort over the years.

An Important Word about Bequests

We deeply appreciate the far-sighted generosity of the following individuals who made bequests to the Isaacs Center during 2006:

Joseph Arenson	Deborah Hample	Mildred Norian
Vita Barsky	Constance Keene	Lisa Sabin
Helen Blaise	Isabel Maller	Bernice Shawl
Ray Corsini	Emily Mostert	Fannie Sherr

Bequests extend the support of donors into the future — assuring their commitment to their most disadvantaged neighbors — honoring their memory — helping children, adults and the elderly through the Isaacs Center. Bequests may also help reduce estate taxes. Trusts can preserve income for education or retirement.

For additional information about making a bequest, or to make a gift of stock or property to the Isaacs Center, please call Veronica Haywood (212-360-7620) in the Isaacs Center's Development Office. Please also let us know if you have named or plan to name the Isaacs Center in your will.

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Wanda Wooten
Executive Director

Yorkville Artist Makes Good



Curator Ann Fensterstock (left) and artist Frances M. Forster.

On Thursday, January 25th, over 50 people attended an invitation-only donor reception/silent auction at the Isaacs Center to view the paintings, drawings and prints of Frances M. Forster. Born and raised in the Upper East Side's Yorkville neighborhood, Ms. Forster is now an active member of the Isaacs **Senior Center**. The stunning works of art were well-received, with a number of them sold.

We thank Ms. Forster for generously donating a portion of the evening's sales to the Isaacs Center. We also thank Ann Fensterstock of Artview for curating the show; ILevel, Inc., Art Installation and Design for hanging the show; Eli Zabar, Eli's Catering and Ursula Lowerre, Peconic Bay Winery for the evening's refreshments. ♦

In Memory

The Isaacs Center is sad to report that Board member Janet Grimes passed away in November. Ms. Grimes worked for Moody's Investors Services and became an Isaacs Center Board Member in 1983. Her dedication to seniors and children at the Center was deeply appreciated and her legacy will live on through the many lives she touched. Ms. Grimes will be greatly missed ♦

Isaacs Seniors Enjoy a Bear Stearns Holiday (continued from page 3)

boutonnieres that were so thoughtfully provided. Bear Stearns employees went out of their way to make our seniors feel special. Those who attended are still talking about what a nice time they had."

At the end of the evening, each guest received a gift bag, which included coffee, mugs, jam, tea and mints.

Bear Stearns employees have a long history of giving back to the communities where they live and work. Whether through employees who tutor kids in reading, or Partners in Education, in which mentors help students navigate through high school and prepare for college, they have opened doors for so many.

For the door-to-door service, the wonderful food and good cheer, our thanks go out to Bear Stearns for making the holidays so very special for our seniors. ♦

visit our website: www.isaacscenter.org

Return Service Requested

Meals on Wheels Pioneer

CENTER

415 East 93rd Street
New York, NY 10128

NEWS FROM
Stanley M. Isaacs
Neighborhood Center, Inc.



ISAACS