

matheny Matters

Summer 2015



MILES FOR MATHENY 2015

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 **matheny**
enriching lives. growing abilities.

New VP of Patient Care and Safety

Vincent Barba, MD

Vincent Barba, MD, has been named vice president of patient care and safety at Matheny. Dr. Barba previously was chief quality officer at University Hospital and assistant professor of medicine and preventive medicine and risk management steward at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in Newark.

In his new position at Matheny, Dr. Barba's role will be to provide leadership, direction, and administration for all patient care services including oversight of medical services, nursing, social services, psychological care and the rehabilitative and therapeutic services departments. He will also provide overall direction in ensuring quality care, patient safety, fiscal management, and clinical competency of staff. Dr. Barba will participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of clinical programs and services and will be implementing initiatives to achieve measurable improvements in these services.

In welcoming Dr. Barba to the Matheny staff, CEO Kendell R. Sprott, MD, JD, cited *"his dedication to quality improvement and safety in patient care, evidenced by his extensive resume consisting of academic and hospital appointments, publications, awards, and memberships, all too many to list."*

Dr. Barba received his Bachelor of Science degree from Seton Hall University and his Doctor of Medicine from New Jersey Medical School. He also holds a Graduate Certificate in Public Health from UMDNJ School of Public Health and a Graduate Certificate in Health and Hospital Law from Seton Hall School of Law. He completed residency in internal medicine at New Jersey Medical School, where he also served as chief medical resident.

He is a resident of Roseland, NJ where he resides with his wife, Theresa, and two children.



Vincent Barba, MD

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Save the Date!

Full Circle 2015: Perspectives

3 – 6 p.m.

Saturday, November 7, 2015

Robert Schonhorn Arts Center

Unlocking Communications Skills

“He can now let us know his needs and preferences”

Shortly after Joshua Rincon of Hillsborough, NJ, was born, he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, and his father Jairo recalls that, “We were told he would always need extra help.” When Joshua arrived at **The Matheny School** in August 2013, it was clear to his teacher, Dawn Williams, that, “he wanted to communicate and had been frustrated by his limited ability to do so.” The key to unlocking his communication skills, according to Williams, has been, “encouraging him to use a variety of positive forms of communication including PECS (Picture Exchange Communication Systems), real pictures and objects, voice output switches and, perhaps most successful of all, using his pointer finger to make choices.”



Joshua works on improving his communications skills with speech-language pathologist Emily Teed, right, in collaboration with his teacher, Dawn Williams, center.



Nearly two years later, his father Jairo says Joshua, “can now let us know his needs and preferences. He has learned how to use his utensils, he is also able to play and entertain himself, and his behavior has improved.” Matheny, his father believes, is the correct environment for Joshua, because of the level of attention and interaction that is required. The teachers and therapists, he adds, are “excellent. Their level of expertise is very high. They are always bringing new ideas about Joshua’s education and his physical progress.”

The Matheny School serves students with a diverse range of medically complex developmental disabilities. Through its fully integrated program of special education combined with therapeutic, social, and health services, the school is dedicated to ensuring that each child reaches the maximum potential for learning and independence.

Joshua with his family at Matheny’s annual picnic. Clockwise, from left, brother Nicolas; father Jairo; brother Adrian; and mother Grecia.

Miles for Matheny 2015

New Format Creates Festival Atmosphere

The 18th annual Miles for Matheny returned to Liberty Park on Sunday, May 31, with some new twists, reaffirming the event's **focus on engaging event attendees with Matheny's patients and students throughout the day.**

As usual, the morning began with the extensive *Breakfast of Champions* hosted by The Friends of Matheny. Attendees then went off to do the Miles each in their own way, whether it was Cycling on one of the five different bike routes through Somerset Hills, power-walking in the new one-mile Fitness Walk,

sprinting in the Kids Fun Run for children ages 3-10, or accompanying the 100-plus patients and students who "wheeled" through the streets of downtown Peapack along with their families and staff members.

The restructured event, which introduced several new features and an enhanced site layout, enabled Matheny students and patients to be on Liberty Park's grassy areas for the first time ever! The entry of their wheelchairs onto the grass via ramps, meant they could easily interact with event participants, volunteers, entertainers, and other supporters prior to the concluding event of the day, the **Lu Huggins Wheelchair Walk.**

"What a great event and turnout. No shortage of Matheny spirit, that's for sure. We had a great time."



Matheny School teaching assistant Lacey King and student India Jones.



Clockwise from top: Cyclists take off on the 50-mile and 'Hills of Attrition' rides; everyone received a medal in the Kids Fun Run; Fitness Walkers gather at the starting line; Matheny group home residents Faith Stolz and Chet Cheesman with participants from left, Jamie, Victoria, Tom, and Sally Kately.

On the cover: Matheny resident Bianca Mathis with volunteer Melissa Almada and recreation therapist Shannon O'Brien.

In addition to the athletic events, the children and family-oriented entertainment brought more than 1,200 people to Liberty Park in downtown Peapack to enjoy the day with the children, teens, and adults served by Matheny. Kids could explore the Peapack-Gladstone fire truck, enjoy the bounce house, decorate cupcakes and paint on a mural. Attendees enjoyed Good Humor bars from Mike's Ice Cream Truck, live musical entertainment by singer/guitarist, Josh Lafarque, visits by *Captain Supertooth* and mascots from the New Jersey Devils and Somerset Patriots sports teams, as well as a Quest Karate demonstration, and dancing the *Horizon Slide* with Horizon NJ Health's mascot. WCBS Newsradio 880 anchor, Wayne Cabot helped kick off many of the Cycling rides, as well as the Fitness Walk and Wheelchair Walk.

“My Brooklyn family really enjoyed the day - thanks so much for all the great entertainment, wonderful food, and good company”

There were also demonstrations and hands-on activities provided by the Matheny Therapies programs, Matheny's Arts Access Program, and The Matheny School so that everyone could learn about, and actually experience, some of these services.

The approximately \$125,000 raised at Miles for Matheny, to date, will benefit programs and services that enhance the lives of the patients and students at Matheny and serve people with disabilities in the community. Congratulations to the top three fundraising teams: *Team Desatnick*, *Andy "Flash" Lash*, and *That's How Scott Rolls*.

We hope to see you all at Miles for Matheny 2016!



Miles for Matheny 2015

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Thank You!



Home Depot employees, Matheny staff and students gathered in the front lobby after the work and tour were completed.

The Home Depot Gives Back

Helps Spruce Up Matheny Grounds

According to **The Home Depot website**, “Giving back is a fundamental value of The Home Depot and a passion for its associates.” Nowhere was that more apparent than this past spring when a group of about 20 employees from The Home Depot stores in Bridgewater, NJ, visited Matheny.

They created planting gardens for a Matheny School science project and did major makeovers for the nature trail and ball field. And that’s only the beginning. Plans are in the works for more projects in the near future.

After the work was finished, The Home Depot team toured Matheny with Dr. Kendell R. Sprott, our CEO, and had an opportunity to visit with many of the Matheny students and patients.

Thanks, Home Depot!



Home Depot team member Justin Polonia worked on the planting gardens.

Training Future Healthcare Professionals

Rutgers Physical Therapy Students Learn About Treating Patients with Disabilities



Matthew Santoro familiarizes himself with a power wheelchair.

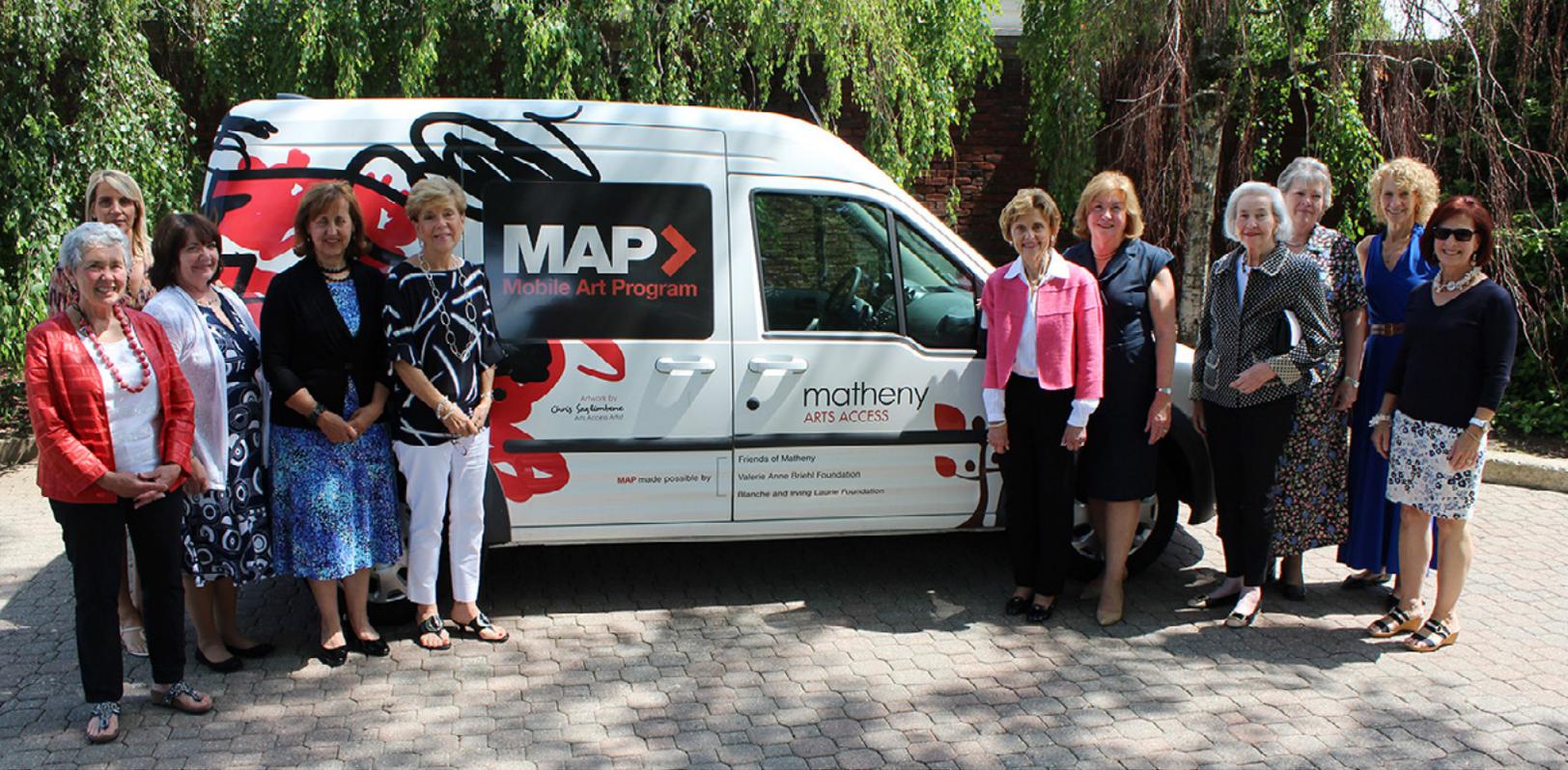
As physical therapy students from **Rutgers New Jersey Medical School** rotated through stations, experiencing everything from wheelchair maneuverability to adapted physical education, they absorbed a sense of appreciation for the challenges facing people with developmental disabilities. The occasion was the students' annual visit to Matheny to learn about the therapies and equipment that help enhance the lives of those with physical disabilities.

Matthew Santoro of Hazlet Township, NJ, marveled at the technology that gives people with disabilities, "some level of independence." And Danielle Shellhammer of Ringwood, NJ, felt the visit was, "a good experience, to see all that's available."

Matheny understands that it can't provide healthcare for everyone with a disability, but it can help ensure that future healthcare professionals understand how to care for and treat people with developmental disabilities.



Christianna Rocco, left, and Danielle Shellhammer learn how to use their heads while playing adapted basketball.



Friends Board members gather around the Mobile Art Program van, which was funded in large part by the Friends of Matheny

The Friends of Matheny

Wheelchair Washer, New Audio System Among Year's Gifts.

On June 3, the Friends of Matheny presented Matheny with a check for \$100,000, proceeds from The Second Chance Shop, the Friends' thrift shop in Gladstone, NJ, which is managed by Linda Horton, a Friends and Matheny Board member. *"Many thanks to Linda and the Second Chance Shop volunteers,"* said Friends president Liz Geraghty. *"Their continued efforts help make this donation possible."*

The money donated by the Friends will be used in the next 12 months to acquire equipment, technology, and other gifts that directly impact Matheny's students and patients. Gifts this past year included a wheelchair washer, a new audio system, and an adaptive tricycle. In addition, the Friends donated new benches for the Friends garden outside the Center of Medicine and Dentistry and a portrait of retired president Steve Proctor, which is now hanging in the CMD. *"We would like to thank Steve for the wonderful relationship we have had over the years,"* Geraghty said.

The Junior Friends of Matheny, consisting mainly of students from Bernards and Ridge high schools, continued to be active as volunteers at the Matheny Prom, Miles for Matheny and events around holidays such as Christmas, Halloween and Valentine's Day. In March, the Junior Friends raised more than \$300 at a pizza fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchens in the Bridgewater Commons Mall.

At the Friends' annual luncheon in June, Geraghty, whose daughter, Bozena, lives at Matheny, spoke about the creativity of the Matheny staff, which enables her daughter and the other residents *"to live lives similar to those of their age-appropriate peers – painting, dancing, listening to music, making pottery. It's quite a challenge."* Bruce Fisher, co-chair of the Matheny Board of Trustees, praised the Friends for their *"unwavering drive to make the lives of Matheny students and patients better."*

Brightening Up the Workplace

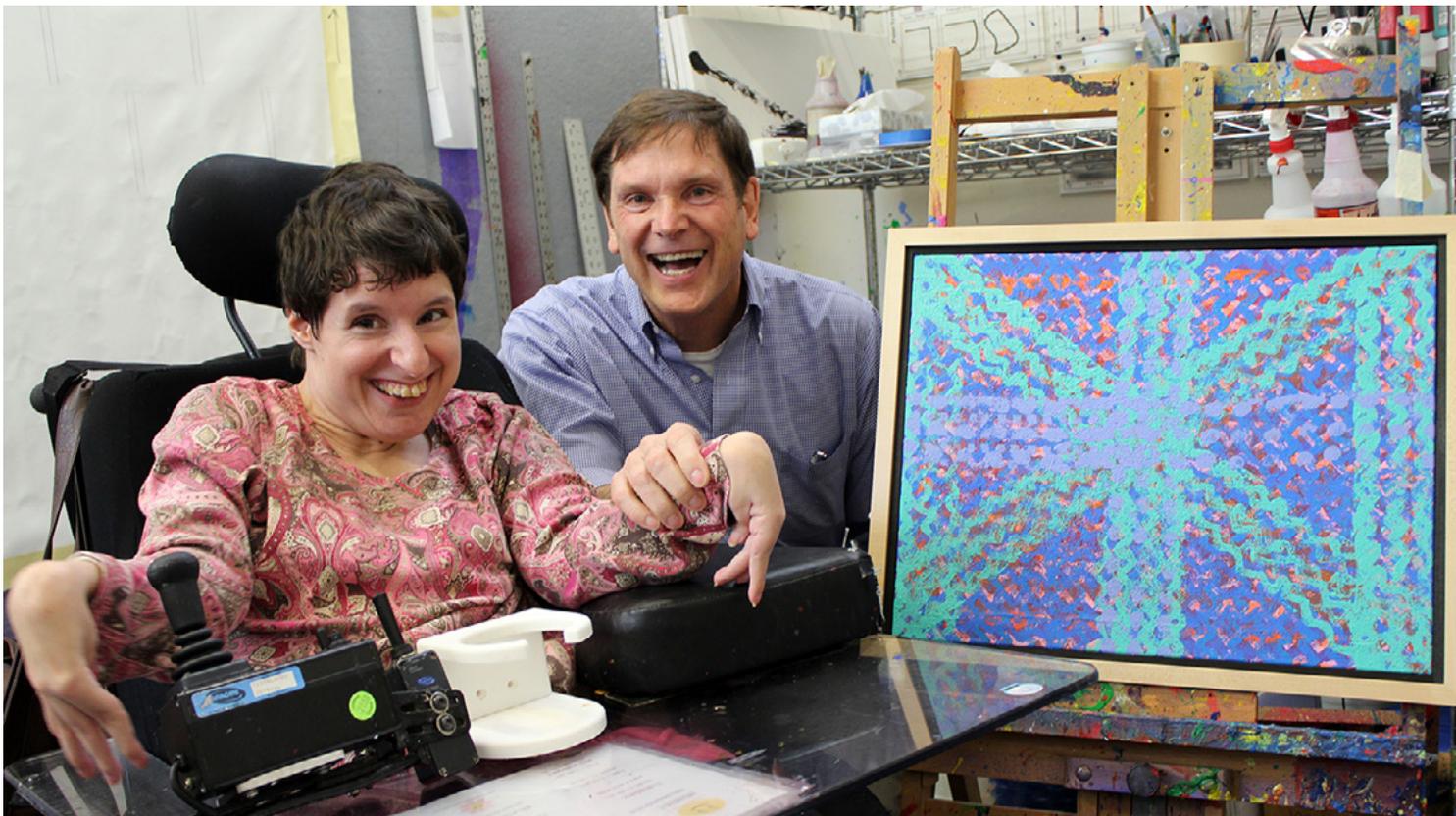
Local Businessman Purchases Arts Access Paintings

Several years ago, Tim Peters, president of Peapack-based Tim Peters and Company and MedActionPlan.com, LLC, purchased a painting by one of the Matheny Arts Access artists at a silent auction. *“Everyone who comes into the office loves the picture and comments on it,”* he says. *“We love how it looks in our office. It brightens up our day.”*

More recently, Peters was reading the Winter 2015 issue of Matheny Matters when he spotted an article about a visit to the Visiting Nurse Association of the Somerset Hills in Basking Ridge by two Arts Access artists. At the bottom

of the page were examples of two Arts Access paintings, *“Spiderweb”* by Jess Evans and an untitled piece by TJ Christian. Peters contacted Arts Access and purchased both. Then, when he came to pick up the paintings, he met with both artists.

Arts Access enables artists with disabilities to create art without boundaries. Tim Peters and Company creates innovative print and software-based programs for the healthcare community. The firm has been on Peapack’s Main Street for more than 30 years.



Jess Evans, Tim Peters and her painting, *“Spiderweb”*.



Matheny's Special Athletes

Nine Gold Medals at NJ Special Olympics

Matheny athletes took home nine Gold and six Silver medals at the 2015 **New Jersey Special Olympics Summer Games** held at The College of New Jersey.

Misty Hockenbury, Lee Lubin and Shaleena Tomassini won two Gold Medals each: Hockenbury and Lubin won their Gold Medals in the 25-meter motorized wheelchair obstacle race, and 50-meter motorized wheelchair slalom; Tomassini won for the 100-meter wheelchair race and the 200-meter wheelchair race. Other Gold Medal winners were Bari-Kim Goldrosen for power lifting; Jameir Warren-Treadwell for the wheelchair tennis ball throw; and Ellen Kane for the 25-meter motorized wheelchair obstacle race.

Silver medals were won by Yasin Reddick in the 30-meter wheelchair motorized slalom and the 50-meter motorized wheelchair slalom; Amanda Kochell and Jason Weiner for bocce mixed doubles; Warren-Treadwell for the 25-meter wheelchair race; and Kane for the 50-meter motorized wheelchair slalom. Kochell and Weiner also won a Silver medal bocce unified, in which they teamed up with two Matheny staff members, recreation therapists Shannon O'Brien and Meghan Walsh.



Misty Hockenbury, left, and Ellen Kane celebrate their wins in the 50-meter motorized wheelchair slalom.

Competition in Special Olympics is part of Matheny's recreation therapy program, which provides students and patients with a variety of recreational opportunities and resources to improve their physical, emotional, cognitive, and social well-being.