

Volunteer Spotlight
Giving Time for a Wonderful Cause...

We are very grateful for all of the people that have volunteered their time to the Foundation. From those who have just recently gotten involved to those that have shown their commitment and dedication since our inception, we would not have made nearly the impact we have without their commitment, passion and loyalty.

In each newsletter we introduce one of the volunteers whose dedication and hard work is extraordinary. In this issue, we would like to introduce an event committee member, **Shirley Cohen Schefter**.

Shirley has been friends with the Esposito family for over 25 years and had a very special and unique relationship with **Billy**. She became involved with the Foundation not only to support the Esposito family, but also to help keep Billy's memory alive through the good deeds of helping others, which is consistent with the way he lived his life.

Shirley lives with her husband, **Jeff**, in **Bellmore** and has three children, **Adam**, **Jordan** and **Marni**, a son-in-law, **Michael**, and two grandchildren, **Casey** and **Sydney**. She is currently employed by **Shanes Trading Corporation** and handles all the buying and merchandising of one of their stores. Her interests include the movies, theatre, travel and spending time with her grandchildren.

Since volunteering for the Foundation, Shirley has been instrumental in helping to acquire items for the auctions and raffles which were used to raise significant donations, as well as in recruiting friends and family to attend the annual fundraising gala. She plans on becoming more involved and committed in 2006 and looks forward to continuing to help the Foundation fulfill its mission.

We are so grateful for Shirley's hard work and dedication and look forward to continuing to have her as a key member of the volunteer team.

Please feel free to contact us to learn more about how to volunteer your time to the Foundation.



Event committee members, Shirley and Jeff Schefter, pose with their two sons Jordan, second from left, and Adam, far right.

Special Thanks
It Could Never Have Happened
without the Help of...

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success of this Foundation. Your support is essential to our growth and progress. If you would like to make a donation to A Caring Hand, The Billy Esposito Foundation, please feel free to send a check made payable to A Caring Hand and mail it to 2352 Legion Street, Bellmore, NY 11710, or visit the donate section of our web site at www.acaringhand.org. All donations are tax deductible.

We would like to thank all of the following corporations and individual sponsors from this past year's *Another Taste of the Perfect Manhattan*:

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Susan Esposito-Lombardo, left, and Michele Feirman, right, pose with restaurant sponsor Bobby Allen of Danal.

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 it's *who* you know



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2005/2006

A Caring Hand, The Billy Esposito Foundation
2352 Legion Street
Bellmore, NY 11710



www.acaringhand.org

Message from the Founder Recapping a Tremendous Year...

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a healthy and happy holiday season. In 2006, we welcome continued growth, success and opportunity for expansion in reaching out to more children in need of our help.

Our **Third Annual Another Taste of the Perfect Manhattan** was a huge success as we raised over \$350,000, which has allowed us to continue the amazing work we are doing with children throughout the world. We have included some photographs throughout this newsletter from the gala, and we hope you enjoy them.

This newsletter has been sent to you to inform you of how many children we have been able to help, thanks to your support. We thought it was also important to include some of the children's individual stories with you. We have also included more information about last year's gala as well as a sneak peak as to what we have in store for this year. Lastly, we have highlighted one of our most valuable volunteers, **Shirley Shefter**.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and are as proud as we are regarding the difference we have made in the lives of children throughout the world. None of this could have been done without all of your love and support. My family and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and we look forward to seeing you and all of your colleagues and friends at the **Fourth Annual Another Taste of the Perfect Manhattan**, scheduled for April 6, 2006.

With Gratitude,
Susan Esposito-Lombardo

Making a Difference - Thousands of Children Have Been Helped Throughout the World...

The mission of the Foundation is to provide financial support for educational opportunities and bereavement counseling to children that have lost a parent. Our hard work and effort has paid off, as we have contributed money to programs that have directly and indirectly helped close to 600 children in the tri-state area and thousands more in **Southeast Asia** and **New Orleans** to help rebuild their schools and the learning system.

We have expanded our support of children's bereavement centers by expanding beyond the **World Trade Center Trauma and Bereavement Program** to **The Alcove Center for Grieving Children and Their Families** and to the **Hope Center**. Each of these centers has trained mental health professionals that provide a range of crisis counseling and educational services that are helping these devastated children rebuild their lives. The programs at these centers also offer the opportunity for families to connect with others experiencing similar loss and have helped over 600 children.

Many children who have lost a parent lose out on the educational opportunities they would have been able to have, had their parent not passed away. We feel this is unfair, and therefore we continue to help

Events Save the Date of April 6, 2006...

We are proud to announce that we are in full gear planning the Fourth Annual *Another Taste of the Perfect Manhattan*, scheduled for Thursday, April 6, 2006, at **The Copacabana**. This is our annual fundraising gala, and it is quickly becoming one of the most anticipated evenings on the New York City social calendar. **Last year's event sold out several days before the event, so be sure to purchase your tickets on our web site at your first chance to guarantee admission.**

We are proud to announce that we will be awarding **Darlene Dwyer** with the **2006 A Caring Hand Humanitarian Award** at this year's gala. Darlene is the Executive Director of the **Windows of Hope Family Relief Fund** and has touched the lives of many families of the victims who worked in food, beverage and hospitality professions and were killed on September 11, 2001.

Our Third Annual *Another Taste of the Perfect Manhattan* was held on March 31, 2005, at The Copacabana, and it was our most successful event to date. As mentioned earlier, we raised over \$350,000. The turnout was tremendous, and everyone who attended had a fantastic time. Our dedicated volunteers, board and committee members worked extremely hard to ensure that the day went smoothly.

One of the many highlights of the evening was the presentation of the **2005 A Caring Hand Humanitarian Award** to **Edie Lutnick**, of the **Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund**. Her hard work and dedication is truly amazing, and she is an inspiration to all people that have had the honor to meet her. Special thanks to Edie as well as our event chairs, **Cathy Dantchik**, **Glenda Chesshir**, and **Howard Meltzer**, for their support.

Additionally, guests sampled dishes from many of the finest restaurants

in New York City, sampled beverages from various spirit companies, danced to **Creations Featuring Kim Sozzi**, participated in mini Texas Hold'em poker tournaments, and participated in the silent & live auction as well as our sweepstakes. There were many participating restaurants and beverage companies that graciously donated their products to the event.

Many guests left the party with one of many exciting auction and sweepstakes items, including tickets to a **U2** concert, a dinner reservation at **Raos**, various vacation packages, opening day **Jets** tickets, a private wine tasting for ten by **Stag's Leap Wine Cellars**, and a private dinner for ten hosted by **Tribeca Grill** and **Brooklyn Beer**.

We are working hard to make sure this year's event is the best yet and we hope to see you there.



The 2005 Humanitarian of the Award recipient, Edie Lutnick, joins her brother Howard Lutnick, event chairs, Cathy Dantchik, Glenda Chesshir, and Howard Meltzer, the Esposito family as well as members of the Foundation's Board of Directors and Powered by Professionals.



A Caring Hand beneficiary, Jeanette, left, poses with Susan Esposito-Lombardo.

numerous children afford the education they deserve. Since you are all responsible for the success of this organization, we would like to introduce several of these children and share some of their stories with you. We have left last names out to protect the privacy of these children.

Jeanette lost both of her parents within three years of each other, and she is the oldest of three siblings. We granted Jeanette money to be able to finish her fall semester at **Northeastern University**.

Jonny lost his father on September 11, 2001. He is one of three siblings, and we were able to grant money for him to attend **Bucknell University**.

Christina lost her father on September 11, 2002, from cancer. We granted her money to attend **Monmouth University**.

Evan lost his father in February 2003 after many years of suffering from **Aplastic Anemia and Leukemia**. His mother told Evan that without scholarships he would not be able to attend a college outside of New York. Evan's dream is to become an architect, and we were able to help his dream become reality by granting him money

to attend the **University of Miami** and participate in their architecture program.

Ronald lost his father when he was 11 years old from a heart attack. Ronald is the oldest of three children. While he applied for a grant to be able to attend his sophomore year at **St. Johns University**, his main objective in his grant application was to take some of the financial burden off of his mother so his brother could get the opportunity to get a college education as well.

Sydney was born August 2, 2000, and does not really remember her father much as she was only a little over one year old when he was killed on September 11, 2001. We were able to help Sydney's mom send Sydney to preschool.

Angela lost her mother from cancer when she was 15 years old. Her mother's illness put a financial strain on her father, which made it difficult for her or her younger brother to attend college. We granted Angela money so that she could attend **Nassau Community College** and begin pursuing her dream of becoming a teacher.

Laverne lost his mother in 2004 to cervical cancer. His mom was a single parent, and she worked very hard to allow Laverne to attend the private school **Christ The King Regional High School**. Once she passed, Laverne's legal guardian could not afford the tuition. When we were made aware of this situation, we granted the money to help carry out Laverne's mom's wishes and allow him to attend the school.

Nina lost her father in 2001 and would not have been able to continue in the school she



From left to right, Gina Dwyer, Sara Roter, Susan Esposito-Lombardo and Nicole Kozin

attended prior to her father's death without our financial assistance.

These are just a handful of the children we have helped. Many of them have been interviewed on video, and we plan on presenting the interviews at our fundraising gala on April 6, 2006. These are some amazing children, and we feel so fortunate to have been able to allow these children to obtain the education that they deserve. The sad part is that there are many more children out there with similar situations as the children in this article. The good news is we are working hard to find them and help them.



A Caring Hand beneficiary, Christina