

CLIFFORD BEERS CLINIC



Spring 2018

THERE YOU GO AGAIN MAKING LIFE BETTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES!

Friends like you never cease to amaze us! In recent years you have made it possible for us to grow things like our Latino services and our care coordination programming -- two incredibly essential interventions that improve health and wellness for children and families.

Just last year, you made it possible for us to reach a very special population: children and their families facing autism and intellectual/developmental disabilities. You read that right! Because of YOU we were able to create, then tweak, then refine a line of services for these families that all led to the 2017 opening of Marne Street Clinic in Hamden, CT!!

We are so grateful for the support you provided to allow us to be as thoughtful and thorough as possible. One terrific aspect of what we've designed is the variety of necessary services we have put under one roof so families can get what they need.

There is a lot of great buzz from families who are accessing MSC care.

"Something like this gives me new hope for my son," says **Cheryl D'Argento** whose son, Michael, is in our care. "It's really for both of us, too. We aren't clients [with Clifford

Beers]. We're treated like family members or familiar friends."

According to Cheryl, it's a real benefit to have everything in one place not just because it cuts down on travel but also because it makes for a smoother care process. "Michael doesn't always adjust well to changes in scenery or surprises, so the consistency at Marne Street is really helpful," she says.



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Cheryl D'Argento and her 13-year-old son Michael Girardi are seen in the occupational therapy/physical therapy room at Marne Street Clinic.

Without you, Cheryl and Michael would feel less connected and less supported -- and that is incredibly lonely.

"There is a real social isolation for the families we're serving at Marne Street," says the clinic's chief medical officer **Dr. Pieter Joost van Wattum**. "What we're doing looks to address that and provide consistency and community."

Your kindness and compassion have made that possible!

Please visit cliffordbeers.org to learn details about the care we provide at Marne Street Clinic. And check back, too! We plan to expand services!

Thank you for supporting all that we do to help children and families move forward!

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THE MAN BEHIND BIG OUTCOMES: ANDY EDER



Andy Eder

**Andy, you have been collaborating
with nonprofits for several years now.
What draws you to do that?**

When I was young I was groomed to handle the family business. I had a lot on my plate, but I also had a lot of energy, and my father and uncle wanted me to appreciate ground-level work. That inspired me to get involved with community organizations, and that exposure led to different life experiences that gave me a lot of insight. It made me ask *how can the things I do have a lasting impact on families in need?* Everyone needs a little help from time to time, but to create a real and *lasting* impact became the goal of a lot of my efforts.

Here at Clifford Beers we treat the whole person while simultaneously treating the whole family. We believe this is the best chance for long-term success. Our philosophies are similar! Did anything specific get you thinking that way?

There have been several “a-ha!” moments, but there is one that really stands out. I woke up one night thinking *there has to be a way to make lasting changes for people*. So I approached United Way of Greater New Haven with an idea of interviewing influential movers and shakers in the nonprofit sector, wanting their opinions on delivering triage and a teamwork approach for lasting solutions. Armed with that knowledge a team was formed and we

A silent force is having explicit impact in and around Greater New Haven. To learn a bit more about that, we recently spoke with **Andy Eder** -- the man behind the noise! Andy's family has been distributing wines and spirits since 1933, but as an individual Andy has been working to make a lasting difference in the community for over 30 years.

got to working on long-term, systems-level change projects. One of those has been supporting the whole-family approach.

We know you give a lot of yourself. You have served on and led several boards, you manage teams, you participate in think tanks, and you are a knowledgeable and thoughtful collaborator. Is there anything you're looking to tackle next?

I recently started working with a local higher education institution. We are developing a nonprofit leadership institute to widen the viewpoint of up and coming nonprofit professionals and provide a safe space for collaboration. We're looking to debunk the idea that nonprofit professionals are driven only by passion. It's true that they are, but it's also true that there is great leadership potential among nonprofit providers. A big goal is to teach nonprofit employees to understand the business of nonprofit work in an ever-changing environment. The first tangible piece that is now underway is a four-week certificate program.

Is there a quote you live by?

No, but if I did it would go something like *you don't know what you don't know*. Every day I am enlightened by listening to others and always willing to learn from them.

Wow, thank you! Thank you for your compassion and commitment to our community.

**We cannot do what we do
without people like you, Andy!**

Operation: Happy Holidays

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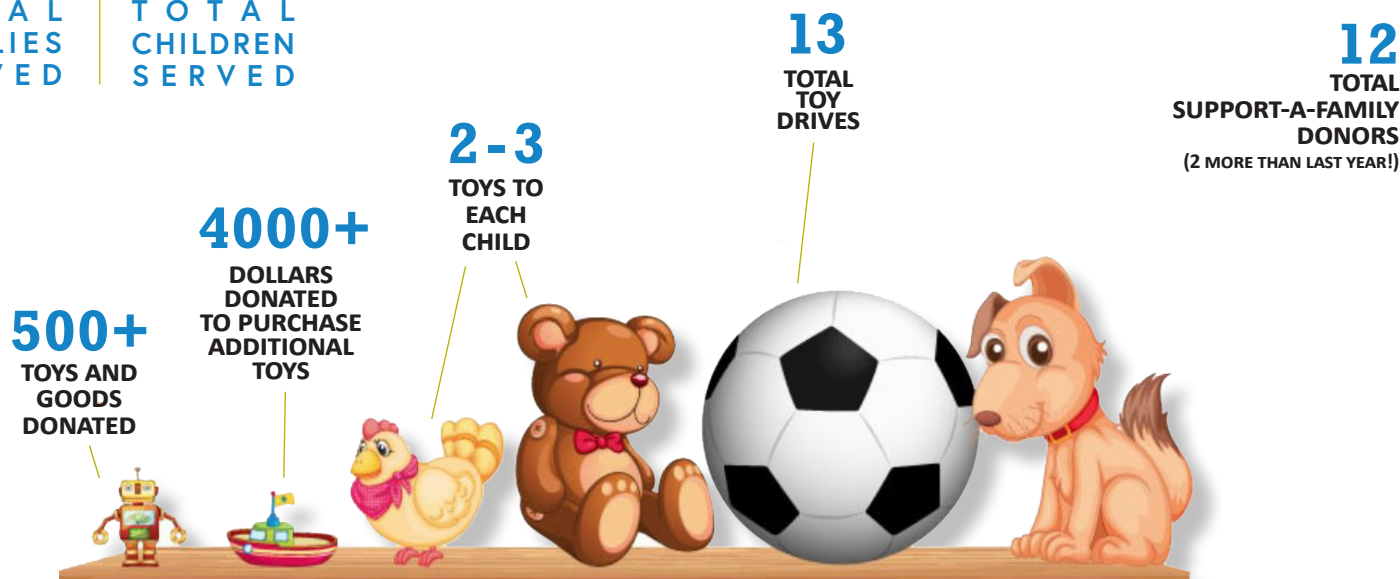
TOTAL
FAMILIES
SERVED

566

TOTAL
CHILDREN
SERVED

"I FELL TO MY KNEES IN TEARS AS I WATCHED THE CARE COORDINATORS COME INTO MY HOUSE WITH BAGS FULL OF TOYS FOR MY CHILDREN. I WAS SPEECHLESS."

-- SIMON, DAD OF THREE



"Mom! I'm Going to Call My Friend Now, OK?"

A small child making such an announcement may not seem newsworthy, but for Jody it was headline material.

"I've had this beautiful, silly daughter who was only known to me for the past seven years," she says. "But then we went to Marne Street, and my Zoe made a friend. A friend!"



"My Zoe made a friend. A friend!"

As she tells us this story, she knows it is your kindness and support that make her cry tears of gratitude.

"It is hard to find the words," Jody says, through watery but happy eyes. "Zoe actually has a friend that she calls and who calls her and they share and they laugh and they're silly. I never thought that would happen."

With an audible sigh of relief, she adds, "It's what we've been

wanting for years, and after four months at Marne Street, it happened!"

Your support of Marne Street Clinic – opened last November and dedicated to helping children and families facing autism and intellectual/developmental disabilities – made this possible.

Zoe and her friend, Jackson, met in the social skills group. Like Jody mentioned, it didn't happen right away. Zoe had severe separation anxiety, and it took several sessions before Jody could actually leave Zoe in group alone. When Jody was able to leave, not only did Zoe connect with Jackson and the rest of the group, but Jody and Jackson's mom, Eleanor, became friends, too!

"It was really organic," says Eleanor, "but we just got to talking. We didn't even know our

kids were becoming friends."

Adds Jody, "Autism is scary and it's lonely. Marne Street hasn't just given my daughter a friend. It has given me someone I can lean on."

From a clinical perspective, the group leader has seen a huge change in Zoe.

"Art therapy is a good example of how far Zoe has come. She used to be shy and scared and copy someone else's drawing, but when Jackson encouraged her to draw and share, over time she did!"

Together in the wait area before and after group sessions, this group of four creates a wonderful and infectious energy!!

We're not sure what's more wonderful – the connection they formed at Marne Street Clinic or your kindness and compassion.

We are so glad, though, that we don't have to choose. **THANK YOU!**

It is a true privilege to write to you about the families whose lives YOU make better . . . the families who move forward so successfully because of your compassion.

Isn't the story of Zoe and Jackson marvelous? It's so wonderful because, well, it's not just about Zoe and Jackson. It's about how they connected to each other as well as to a wider network. Because of YOU, they became friends, and their moms connected. Together, all four have taken those important steps to removing the social isolation experienced by so many families facing autism.

And, let me be clear: your support is behind all of it!

You will find more wonderful successes on these pages. Please enjoy, because it is your kindness that makes it all possible. Without you, their steps toward happiness and wellness do not happen!

With warmth and gratitude,



because of you . . .

our 15th Annual Builders of Hope Breakfast was a SUCCESS!

Thanks to all who attended!
Visit our website for photos
www.cliffordbeers.org.



Rosie King, keynote speaker for the 15th Annual Clifford Beers Builders of Hope Breakfast



Rosie King, center, with (l. to r.): Co-chairs **Karen DuBois-Walton** and **Jilan Crowley**; Rosie's mum, **Sharon King**; and **Tom Sansone**, President of the Clifford Beers Board of Directors



A tender and happy moment between **Rosie King** and her mum, **Sharon King**



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